



Fort Smith Disciple

February 20, 2019
Volume 56, Number 34

First Christian Church
3501 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

Office: (479) 783-1139

Office Hours:

8:30am –4:30pm

Monday-Thursday

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks

Senior Minister

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Dianna Jackson

Director of Music Ministry

Evan Mino

Organist

Barbara Brown

Secretary

Pam Shelby

Financial Secretary

Randy Alexander

Custodian

Patience Hudlow

Nursery Coordinator

Lesley Fleming

Nursery Attendant

Mission Statement

The mission of First Christian Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas is to lift up Jesus the Christ by:

- Enabling spiritual growth and deepened commitment, both individually and corporately;
- Developing a church family/ community that is accepting and encouraging;
- Serving our community and the world through spiritual, physical, and emotional support; and,
- Reaching out in His name to the unchurched in our community.

On a Crazy, Christ-like Mission

Thank you to all who have pitched in to partner with Earthbound Angels' Executive Director Shelly Pollock on the 14th Street project. The mission statement of Earthbound Angels is a simple, but very broad and inclusive one. It is also a very Christ-like: "Serving the needs of our local community to enrich their lives and to make a better life for all those we meet."

Earthbound Angels provides the following services with unconditional love:

- Emergency Diaper Bank
- Clothing and basic need items for babies and children
- Clothing and household items for those in need

DHS contacted Shelly about the extreme hoarding situation on 14th Street, because it involves an eight-year old little boy. As I said Sunday, "catastrophic", may be a better word to describe the hoarding situation. DHS also contacted Shelly because she was one of the few people they knew who would consider taking on such an enormous project. Some might say, "She was one of the few people they knew who is crazy enough!" But people who know Shelly would say, "She was one of the few people they knew who were guided by a mission that is Christ-like enough."

However, what DHS did not know is that there is also another group of people in town who are also on a Christ-like mission. It is a mission for wholeness in our fragmented world. And yes, it is a mission that some might call "crazy".

Dan Marshall and Steve Parke repaired the front porch. Zena Marshall created beautiful trim pieces for the handrail posts. Tim Randolph hauled away broken appliances and other metal items and got the homeowner a check for scrap metal. Randy Alexander repaired a toilet and replaced another one. John Mundy cleaned out the living room. New FCC member Betsy Kirby cleaned out the dining room. Mickie Matthews, Larry and Elizabeth Vaughn made and brought us lunch one day.

Like Shelly, our church answered the call to serve a need in our local community and to make a better life for someone. We didn't know the homeowner's name. We didn't know their past. We didn't know their economic status, race, religion, ethnicity or anything else about them. We just knew they needed help, and there was a child was involved, and helping them was something that Jesus calls us to do.

Last month, we had several meetings to discuss ways to grow our church. In a sermon a couple of Sunday's ago, I suggested: "You want to bring more people into the church? Then, maybe we need to stop saying or even thinking that we want to bring more people into the church. And just go. Go and selflessly and sacrificially use the gifts God has given us to share the love and grace of Christ with others for no other reason except that is what we have been called to do."

Some may say that sounds crazy. However, I believe many will say that sounds very "Christ-like", and they will be compelled to join us.

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

February 24

“We Need a Slap in the Face”

Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks

Luke 6:27-38

Elders

Zena Marshall and Jack Jackson II

Deacons

Vicki Warren (Foreman), Tim Fleming,
Margot Mundy, LaBeth Riggs, Steve
Riggs, Audrey Stewart, John Warren

Prepare Communion

Brad Kidder, Jr.

Greeters

Kim Kidder and Farreol Hansen

Worship Leader

Zena Marshall

Revelation as Drama Weekly Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, February 20, at 6:00 pm, bring some take-out and sit around tables for an eight-week Bible study on the dramatic and hopeful book of Revelation. The fresh, exciting and relevant interpretation of Revelation will be explored by reading the book as a Dramatic Play with seven acts with seven scenes per act; based on the book *Revelation as Drama* by Dr. James Blevins.

New Sunday School Class – Young Adults

Dr. Banks will begin teaching a new Sunday School class for college-aged and 20-something young adults at **9:30 am this Sunday, February 24**. The class will examine the scripture lesson on which the sermon is based. This week’s scripture is Luke 6:27-38.

Dianna’s Notes

Disciples Bells meet at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary to rehearse.

Music Schedule

February 24 Disciples Bells

No Disciples Bells and Youth Bells rehearsals on Sunday, February 24

Beer and Hymns – Feb. 24

Beer and Hymns is back at Fort Smith Brewing Company this Sunday. We invite people to gather at **6:00 pm** and we start singing at **7:00 pm**. We will sing traditional hymns with some other great songs. We plan to conclude around **8:00 PM**. We are thrilled that The Numskulls Band has agreed to lead us once again!

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus

How can I serve? Where can I serve?

The **Community Outreach Ministry** wants to help you answer those questions.

First, we want to acknowledge FCC and our members who are already serving. The bulletin board downstairs, by the kitchen, will be one way to start. If you are volunteering your time and service in our community, please sign your name and the name of the organization on the board.

Later, there will be tables set up with information and sign-up sheets.

The community outreach will be looking into obtaining a 42” TV with USB port comparability hopefully later also. This will be used to highlight our members serving.

We want to encourage you to “Become the Hands and Feet of Jesus”.

More to come later. Stayed tuned!

Mission Opportunities

Earthbound Angels Open House: Cookies, Brownies and Cupcakes Needed

Earthbound Angels is celebrating four years of serving the River Valley. Please consider baking some cookies, brownies or cupcakes for their Open House on **March 2**. Please call the church office so we will know what and how many you are planning to bake.

Aunt Reba's Palm Sunday Celebration

On **April 14**, we will host a Spring Festival with games, an Easter egg hunt, a sensory Easter egg hunt, hot dogs, pop corn, and live music. We are inviting the Children's Emergency Shelter, the Boys Home and children from foster homes. We are excited that Central Presbyterian, St. John's Episcopal and maybe a few other churches are helping us this year. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact the church office or email Jarrett at jarrett@fccdoc.org.

Week of Compassion Offering Received February 24

Feeding Dreams

Imagine having a garden, but not being able to feed your family.

Imagine digging into the sand of a dry river bed in search of drinking water.

Imagine your child is diagnosed with stunted growth, a preventable early childhood condition with lifelong consequences.

These are the struggles of the people living in a small village in West Timor, Indonesia. On the bank of an impassable river in monsoon season, which transforms into scorched moonscape at rains' end, the small village of Oebaki is considered one of the poorest communities in the country. The prefix "Oe" means water, but drought has stolen this town's identity. Poverty abounds, and families struggle to feed their children.

Imagine life in Oebaki.

Now imagine the world the way God intends.

God imagines a world where all are fed, everyone has access to clean water, and all children grow up healthy. The author of Ephesians writes, "Now to God be the glory, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine..." (Ephesians 3:20). Your gifts to Week of Compassion help make this world look more like the world God imagines.

In Oebaki, your gifts help support well-trained savings and loan groups that allow families to buy resilient vegetable seeds for farming, yarn for weaving stunningly beautiful traditional fabric, and egg-laying chickens for a sustainable source of protein essential to prevent child stunting. These three enterprises also produce excess goods that families sell to generate income.

Those who once struggled during the dry season and drought can now maintain a diversified diet by eating stored root vegetables from the last harvest, supplemented with greens purchased at the market.

Nelci Tlonaen works hard in Oebaki with her husband and three children—two in elementary school and one entering high school. Despite the current drought, she feels confident that her family will persevere. "Even now, I can afford clothes and food for my children. I don't have any difficulty paying for their school."

That's what happens when we imagine the world as God intends.

Through your gifts to Week of Compassion, our imaginations, and far more, become reality for families in Oebaki and around the world. **Please give generously!**



Announcements

Wedding Shower

There will be a wedding shower for **Ashley Jackson** (Jack & Dianna Jackson’s daughter) and **Erin Speicher** on **Sunday, February 24, at 2:00 pm at Beland Manor, 1320 S. Albert Pike Ave.** They are registered at Zola.com.

Youth

Due to Snoasis, the Youth will not meet Sunday, February 24, for bells rehearsal and youth fellowship.

Church Women United

Friday, March 1, 9:00 am
World Day of Prayer
Ninth St. Baptist Church

Cabinet Meeting – March 3

Because of Lori’s surgery on March 7, Jarrett would like to like the Church Cabinet and Ministry Teams to meet on **Sunday evening, March 3, at 6:00 pm.**

MEMORIALS: We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts, given as a thoughtful expression of sympathy and of care...-

- **Betty Cole** by Nina Abernathy; Mae Harris

Van Drivers Needed

If you are between the ages of 25 and 70 and are interested in driving the van on Sunday morning to pick up riders for church, please call the office.

Church Calendar

Sunday, February 24

Week of Compassion Offering
Snoasis (Camp Couchdale)
7:30 am Elder’s Meeting
9:00 am Mission Café
10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
2:00 pm Wedding Shower for Ashley Jackson and Erin Speicher
6:00 pm Beer & Hymns

Monday, February 25

9:30 am-12:30 pm
Hope Campus

Tuesday, February 26

9:00 am Staff Meeting
11:30 am Lunch Bunch
McAllister’s, Rogers Avenue

Wednesday, February 27

10:00 am Prime Time Bells
3:30 pm Butterfield Worship
4:15 pm Children’s Music
6:00 pm Revelation Bible Study
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, March 1

9:00 am Church Women United
Ninth Street Baptist Church

For the Record – February 17

Operating Receipts	\$ 1,865.25
To date.....	18,157.52
Endowment	110.00
To date.....	679.00
Week of Compassion Off	579.15
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs	31,413.55

Mission Express O Café

The café opens at **9am each Sunday** morning. All the proceeds support the Mission trips. Setup **begins at 8:30am Sunday.** Come join us for fellowship, a cup of coffee and doughnuts.

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