



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

252-414-9229

jarrett@fccdoc.org

Dianna Jackson

Director of Music Ministry

Mary Beth Oliver

Organist

Barbara Brown

Secretary

Pam Shelby

Financial Secretary

Randy Alexander

Custodian

Patience Hudlow

Nursery Coordinator

Lesley Fleming

Nursery Attendant

Rev. Howard Marshall

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Randy Jay

Pastor Emeritus

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.

War on Christmas

It always disturbs me that a war is declared every December. “There is a war on Christmas!” “They are trying to take “Christ” out of Christmas!” “I say ‘Merry Christmas,’ not ‘Happy Holidays!’”

This kind of talk is curious to me considering the meaning of Christmas.

Christmas means that God humbly lowered God’s self, emptied God’s self, poured God’s self out by becoming flesh and dwelling among us and among others.

Christmas means that God came to us and others, met us and others, and loved us and others where we are and where they are. Christmas is undeserved and unearned by all. Christmas is grace for all. Christmas is gift for all.

God did not wait for humankind to come to God. God did not wait until we got ourselves right or our religion right. God did not wait until we had the right faith, enough faith or any faith. God came in spite of ourselves and accepted us and loved us nonetheless.

Then tell me why (why anytime, but why especially this time of the year) would anyone who claims to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas treat others (those with other beliefs, other faiths and other religions) with condemnation, arrogance and disrespect?

And why would anyone who truly wants to keep “Christ” in Christmas become so angry as to declare “war” against anyone who treats others with grace, humility, and respect?

Jarrett

Lectionary Readings

For the week of December 8

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-13

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Matthew 3:1-12

Worship and Education Opportunities

December 8

"Christmas for the Entire Creation"

Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks

Isaiah 11:1-10

Elders

Zena Marshall and Carl Warrington

Deacons

Jimmy Hudlow (Foreman), Jesse Bailey,
Terry Hales, Barbara Lynch, Nick Oliver,
Greta Pryor, LaBeth Riggs, Steve Riggs

Prepare Communion

Greta Pryor

Greeters

Jesse Bailey, LaBeth Riggs, Steve Riggs

Worship Leader

Zena Marshall

Elder on Call

Dan Marshall—479-806-3073

Wednesday Night Study

*The final Wednesday night study will
be this Wednesday, December 4.*

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

- ◆ **Terry Oliver** by John & Margot Mundy; Steve & Rebecca Parke
- ◆ **Eckel Rowland** by John & Margot Mundy; Steve & Rebecca Parke

Dianna's Notes

Music Schedule

December 6	11:30 am Prime Time Bells play at Bank OZK
December 8	Disciples Bells
December 11	Children's Choir at Creekmore Park
December 15	Children's Chimes Jubilations Bells Randy Alexander and Jack Jackson II, Bell Duet
December 22	Prime Time Bells
December 24	Disciples Bells Becki Struble and Lula Hanson, Bell Duet
December 29	Bruce Birkhead, Solo

Bill & Jette Lindsay Scholarship

The trustees will offer scholarship money to any student that will be enrolled in college this coming spring semester. Contact the church office for a form or print the scholarship form attached to this email and return it to the church **by Sunday, December 18.**

Concerns of the Community

- Funeral Services for **Eckel Rowland** (Ruth Carson's father) are as follows:
Thursday, December 5, 5:00-7:00 pm
 Visitation at Ocker in Van Buren
Friday, December 6, 10:00 am
 Service at Ocker in Van Buren
- The **Family of Gerre Walker** in her passing. Arrangements will follow in the local newspaper.

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Christmas in the Park

It's that time of year for 'Christmas in the Park'. We will provide hot chocolate and cookies **Wednesday, December 11**. Our own Tim and Lesley Fleming will be Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus! Santa will be handing out gloves and candy canes to the children. We are asking for donations of children's gloves and cookies. There will be a designated box in the hall outside the chapel for early worship and in the narthex for the 10:45 am worship. We will need the gloves by **Tuesday, December 10**. Also, if you could bake cookies, please contact Regina Respass or Connie Alexander. Thank you for your help!

Community Outreach

Volunteers Needed for Toy Giveaway

Volunteers are needed to help at the Earthbound Angels Christmas Toy Giveaway that will be held in Disciples Hall on **December 7 and 14** from 8:00 am. to 12:30 pm. Call or text **Ginger Jefferies at 479-414-2466** or **Regina Respass at 479-651-1566** if you can help.

Angel Tree

This year the Community Outreach committee will put up an Angel Tree. Our church has been so generous in giving and service to others. Please consider taking an Angel from the tree and giving a child a Merry Christmas. Last day to bring your presents to put under the tree will be **Sunday, December 16**. More information will be coming!

Group 3 December Meeting

Group 3 will meet in the parlor at 6:00 pm on **Tuesday, December 11**. Please bring substantial finger foods and enjoy the fellowship. Our mini-mission project for December will be to support the community outreach ministry by choosing an angel from the angel tree and or bringing gloves for the same ministry.

Elizabeth Vaughn

Friendship Class Party

Friendship Class Christmas party will be **Saturday December 14, at 6:25 pm at the home of David & Judy Trent**. All former, present and future class members are invited. Please bring finger food and a gift for "Dirty Santa".

Judy

Youth Activities

The youth fellowship has a will be very busy in the month of December. **December 7 and 14** the youth will be helping Earth bound Angels with their Christmas give-a-way. Please be at the church no later than 7:30 am each day.

Also, **December 14** is our annual Christmas Cookie bake-off and caroling at the nursing homes. We need volunteers to assist the youth in baking and packing cookies and help with caroling. So if you wish to have a day of fun with the youth, please pack the ingredients for your very best cookie recipe. You will be linked up with a youth to mix, bake, package and most of all fellowship. Hope to see you there.

After **December 15**, youth will break until **January 12**, with the exception of a possible lock-in at the church or maybe a trip to Dan and Zena's cabin (weather permitting). Details to follow.

John

Announcements

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Green

8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
9:00 am Mission Café
9:30 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
3:30 pm Disciples Bells
5:00 pm Jubilation Bells
5:00-7:00 pm
 Youth Fellowship

6:00 pm Cabinet Meeting
6:45 pm Ministry Teams

Monday, December 9

9:30am-12:30 pm
 Hope Campus

Tuesday, December 10

9:00 am Staff Meeting
10:00 am Group 1 (Barton Stone Room)
11:30 am Lunch Bunch
 (El Loritos, 70th Street
1:00 pm Group 2 (Calico County)
6:00 pm Group 3 (Parlor)

Wednesday, December 11

10:00 am Prime Time Bells
3:30 pm Butterfield Worship
4:15 pm Children’s Chimes
5:30 –8:00 pm
 Holiday in the Park

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, December 14

1:00 pm Youth Cookies and Caroling
6:25 pm Friendship Class Party
 (Home of David & Judy Trent)

Poinsettias

On Sunday, **December 15**, we will have poinsettias adorning our sanctuary. You can reserve one “*In Honor of...*” or “*In Memory of...*” with your payment of \$10. You can also give \$10 in lieu of a flower.

Your cash / check reserves your poinsettia. Use the small brown envelopes in the pew pockets, or drop your check off in the church office. Please be sure to write out **for whom** and **from whom** the poinsettia is ordered. **December 9** is the last day to order.

For the Record – November 24

Operating Receipts	\$ 2,877.00
To Date.....	20,986.70
Endowment	90.00
To Date.....	594.00
Thanksgiving Offering	245.00
To Date.....	595.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs	29,118.21

For the Record – December 1

Operating Receipts	\$ 8,152.55
Endowment.....	85.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs	29,118.21

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.

Fort Smith Disciple (USPS 206-080) published weekly by
First Christian Church, 3501 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith AR 72903-2961.
Periodical postage paid at Fort Smith, AR.
POSTMASTER: Please submit address changes to
FORT SMITH DISCIPLE, 3501 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903-2961