



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.

Seeing Christmas

Perhaps we have all heard the frustration of the little boy whose mother was always on his case about washing his hands and saying his prayers. "God and germs, God and germs, that's all I ever hear about, and I've never seen either one of them!" The wonderful truth about our faith is that we have seen God. We have seen him, and we have beheld his glory. God became a human. The Word became flesh and walked among us, says John. This is what we call incarnation. This is what Christmas is all about. We know hope and peace and joy and hope because we know God who became en-fleshed in the body of Jesus of Nazareth who is the living Christ.

And guess who we are called to be? The church is the body of Christ. As the church, we are called to be the embodiment of Jesus Christ in this world. We have an incarnate faith. We are called not only to share the good news of Christmas; we are called to **be** Christmas. We are the manifestation of God in the world. We are the en-fleshed presence of God in this world. We are called to be hope and peace and joy and love to a world which so desperately needs it.

This is the question that I believe the church needs continually to ask: When people see our church, living and working and serving and being in this world, will they see God? Will they see the embodiment of Jesus Christ, living and working and serving and being in this world? When people see us, will they see Christmas?

Jarrett

Christmas Special Offering

Our special gifts at Christmas support the ministries of our Great River Region. Our Region plays a supportive and direct nurture of our church at this time. For example, check out the FCC Youth Fellowship page on the Facebook! Our regional camps awaken the spiritual and mission directive in our youth. Most recently, they were the hands of Christ helping at the Earthbound Angels toy gifting project to over 200 children.

Another regional ministry will help us is in our upcoming ministerial search. We rely on our region to seek out vetted leaders for us to review to call to our pulpit.

Please give generously to this year's offering to support these and the many other ministries of the Great River Region.

New Service Schedule Effective 12/29

No Early Worship Service

8:30 am	Mission Café
9:00 am	Sunday School
10:00 am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Thank You

Dear Church family, Thank you so much for the delicious meal you provided for our family. There has been much discussion in this family about church participation, and at one point I must have said "these are my people". Throughout dad's convalescence and subsequent loss you have prayed for us, hugged us, sent notes and treats, shared scripture and brought communion. So many acts of kindness and compassion demonstrating God's love to us. More than one time while the family was here different members said "Ruth, you really have GOOD people." We cannot find words to express our appreciation for all you have done and continue to do. You are our people, and we love you.

Ruth and Cliff Carson and family

Worship and Education Opportunities

December 22

"Christmas for the Average Joe"
Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks
Matthew 1:18-25

Elders

Dan Marshall and Kaycee Young

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

Dan Marshall

Elder on Call

Dan Marshall—479-806-3073

Dianna's Notes

Prime Time Bells will meet Sunday at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary to rehearse.

Music Schedule

- December 22** Prime Time Bells
- December 24** Disciples Bells
Becki Struble and Lula Hanson,
Bell Duet
- December 29** Bruce Birkhead, Solo
- January 5** Kaycee Young and Robbie
Wilson, Duet

No rehearsals on Sunday, December 22.

On Christmas Eve, Disciples Bells meet at 5:15 pm in the Sanctuary for rehearsal.

Concerns of the Community

- **Jerre Fisher** had hip replacement surgery Friday.
- **Bill Crowder** is in ICU, Mercy.
- **Matthew Mundy**, John's son, is in St. Vincent, Little Rock.

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

- ♦ **Gerre Walker** by Carolyn Haley; Hardie & Ginger Jefferies; Gwen Long
- ♦ **Eckel Rowland** by Hardie & Ginger Jefferies
- ♦ **Terry Oliver** by Hardie & Ginger Jefferies

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 22

- Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Christmas Special Offering
- 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
- 9:00 am Mission Café
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, December 24

- Office Closed**
- 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service

Wednesday, December 25

- Christmas Day**
- Office Closed**

Sunday, December 29

- 7:30 am Elders' Meeting
- Taking down the greens after
Worship service
- 8:30 am Mission Café
- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, January 1

- New Year's Day**
- Office Closed**

**Office will be closed
 Tuesday, December 24, and
 Wednesday, December 25.**

There will not be a newsletter next week.

**Due to the holidays,
 Pastoral Care Group will not meet
 Thursday, December 19.**

For the Record—December 15

Operating Receipts	\$3,827.60
To Date	16,423.15
Endowment	135.00
To Date	445.00
Christmas Offering.....	295.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs	29,118.21

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