



First Christian Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Fort Smith Disciple

3501 Rogers Avenue • Fort Smith Arkansas 72903-2961 • 479.783.1139 • FAX 479.782.4787

Volume 48, Number 2 July 13 , 2011

Church Staff

- Rev. Randy Jay**
Senior Minister
- Rev. Brad Kidder, Sr.**
Minister of Pastoral Care

- Minister of C. E. / Youth
Dianna Jackson
Director of Music Ministry
- Mary Beth Oliver**
Organist
- Cathy Moser**
Financial Secretary
- Randy Alexander**
Custodian
- Barbara Brown**
Secretary
- Connie Alexander**
Nursery Coordinator

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.

Lectionary Readings

for the week of July 17

- Genesis 28.10-19a
- Psalms 139.1-12, 23-24
- Romans 8.12-25
- Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

Regular Worship Schedule

- Sun.:** 8:30am: Early Worship (casual)
- 9:30am: Sunday School Classes
- 10:45am: Sanctuary Worship
- Wed.:** 6pm: Bible Devotional

For the Record – July 10

Operating	\$	4,943.25
to date	\$	15,455.00
Building	\$	642.00
to date	\$	2,382.00



At one of the most trying times in my life I received a note from one of you who simply wrote, “Hang in there, Sister. You are doing fine.”

Now, I will tell you at that moment, I could not imagine how I was doing fine...plagued by daily details and what-ifs. But, luckily or perhaps divinely, that short message of encouragement lodged securely in my heart and mind. It likely gave me the courage to push on through—even when the answers to questions and the solutions to problems were far less clear than I hoped them to be.

We have all been faced with the overwhelming challenges presented along our life’s journey, personally and corporately. And, we would be pretending if we didn’t acknowledge that this past year at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Fort Smith, Arkansas—in its entirety—has felt a little like that day in high school when there is a test scheduled in every class period (band too). There simply, isn’t enough time to give one subject, one challenge, the time it deserves, let alone a collection of them. One step forward, “hang in there, you are doing fine.” Not convinced? It’s difficult for me too. But, experience does tell me that when we are working toward solutions, options surface. Life and “church” may not go according to our plan. But, there is certainly potential for the spirit of God to work within our midst if we are listening—and listening carefully—for subtle guidance. Author and teacher, Parker Palmer, in his book *Let Your Life Speak* writes about the journey toward the transformative center—the peaceful, confident place where we know without a doubt that we are serving God in the most authentic way that we can. He notes, “But, before we come to that center, full of light, we must travel in the dark. Darkness is not the whole of the story—every pilgrimage has passages of loveliness and joy—but it is the part of the story most often left untold. When we finally escape the darkness and stumble into the light, it is tempting to tell others that our hope never flagged, to deny those long nights we spent cowering in fear.”

No doubt, we have experienced a certain density in the cloud coverage. Visibility is likely to be at least a little diminished in the near future, but it doesn’t have to be interminable. Does it? It’s really our choice. The transformative center, that place where we can authentically be what God calls us to be, exists within our lives as a community. God’s gift of Christ makes it so. God’s promise of presence gives us hope to “hang in there. With God’s help we will be fine.”

Blessings to you dear friends, **Zena**

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time and forevermore. —Psalms 121:8

Volunteers for July 17

Worship Leader

Nick Oliver

Van Driver

Randy Alexander

Nursery Volunteers

Regina Respass

Sunday School & Church

Church Calendar

Sunday, July 17

9am: Mission Express-O Cafe

6pm: Board Meeting

Monday, July 18

5:45pm: Personnel

6pm: Evening Bible Study

Wednesday, July 20

7am: Men's Morning Bible Study

6pm: Bible Devotional

Friday & Saturday, July 22-23

AR DW Retreat

MEMORIALS: We gratefully

acknowledge the following gifts, given as a thoughtful expression of sympathy and of care...

In Memory of **Sid Donaldson** – by Nina Abernathy

In Memory of **Emily Griffith** by Nina Abernathy, Clyde & Leslie Gudermuth

In Memory of **Jane Haley** – by Nina Abernathy, Blanche DeLong, Clyde & Leslie Gudermuth

In Memory of **Bill Sexton** – by Nina Abernathy, Clyde & Leslie Gudermuth, Southside High School – Science Department

In Memory of **Justin Swint** – by Nina Abernathy

In Memory of **Faye Peterson's sister** – by Nina Abernathy

Mission Express O Café - The café

opens at 9:00am each Sunday morning. Join us for cappuccino, cinnamon rolls and fresh fruit. All the proceeds support the Youth Mission trips.

All youth who wish to participate in mission trips need to work the café. Set-up begins at 8:30am Sundays.

Wednesday Night Bible Devotional

This time of Bible devotion and fellowship continues through the summer months. Meet us in the Chapel at 6:00pm on Wednesdays.

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

Our church office bids farewell to long-time church secretary Margot Mundy. But, we rejoice in her continued presence in our church family. Margot has served our congregation faithfully for more than a decade. Please offer her thanks and best wishes as she begins a new chapter in her life's journey. Margot's address is 1911 N Hills Blvd, Van Buren, AR 72956-6500. Barbara Brown was recently hired to assume the responsibilities of the church secretary. More information about Barbara will follow in the coming weeks.