

The F I R S T E D I T I O N

**Loving God, Loving Each Other
Loving Little Rock**

**“Let us love one another,
for love comes from God.” 1 John 4:7**

“I Stay Near the Door”

Sam Shoemaker, an Episcopal minister, was a co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. He had a heart for the lost that still beats today through a poem titled “So I Stay Near the Door.”

*I stay near the door.
I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out,
The door is the most important door in the world—
It is the door through which men walk when they find God.
There’s no use my going way inside, and staying there,
When so many are still outside, and they, as much as I,
Crave to know where the door is.
And all that so many ever find
Is only the wall where a door ought to be.
They creep along the wall like blind men.
With outstretched, groping hands,
Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,
Yet they never find it . . .
So I stay near the door.*

*I admire the people who go way in.
But I wish they would not forget how it was
Before they got in. Then they would be able to help
The people who have not even found the door,
Or the people who want to run away again from God.
You can go in too deeply, and stay in too long,
And forget the people outside the door.
As for me, I shall take my old accustomed place,
Near enough to God to hear Him, and know He is there,
But not so far from men as not to hear them,
And remember they are there too.
Where? Outside the door—
Thousands of them, millions of them.
But—more important for me—
One of them, two of them, ten of them,
Whose hands I am intended to put on the latch,
So I shall stay by the door and wait
For those who seek it.
‘I had rather be a door-keeper . . .’
So I stay near the door.*

***It’s obvious but it’s worth noting that to reach out to others
we have to be in reach of them.***

*All for Jesus with a Smile!
Pastor Bobby*

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 14 - 6:30 p.m.

Reserve this date on your
calendars and make plans now
to attend our fourth annual
Ash Wednesday Service.



During the weeks between
Ash Wednesday and Easter,
the focus is on fasting and praying.
What is God leading you to fast
during this year’s Lenten season?

Details about this year’s Alms Offering
will be shared at this service.

VISION

***We’re moving
Forward in Faith***

Psalms 138:8 is a promise God has given me. As I’ve been praying about the changes for Little Rock First Church, this verse comes to my mind. It says, “The Lord will accomplish what concerns me.” We’re stepping out in faith and it’s exciting to think about what the Lord has in store for us. I believe He will accomplish what concerns us.



*Sandee Phillips
member since 1976*

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries News



Through gifts given by Nazarenes to NCM last year, people received immediate care around the globe when lives were torn apart by hurricanes, earthquakes, mudslides, floods, disease outbreak, and famine. They didn't have to wait for funds to be raised. In many cases, that quick response for care made the difference between life and death.

- * When Hurricane Maria hit Dominica, a Nazarene church opened its doors. While people huddled in the bottom floor, winds ripped the roof off of the top-floor sanctuary and most nearby homes were destroyed. Many of those gathered in the church would have died if the church hadn't been there to open its doors for shelter.
- * When Hurricane Harvey pounded Houston, many nearby Nazarene churches provided shelter and met needs for displaced families as well as assisting with home repairs.
- * When heavy rains in Sierra Leone caused the side of a mountain to collapse, over 1,000 died. Many thousands lost their homes.
- * When earthquakes shook in Mexico, Nazarenes were there to help.

In addition to food, water and medical care given to these displaced families, Nazarene workers provided spiritual care and hope by listening and praying with those who had lost homes, possessions, and loved ones, reminding them that God loves them and is on their side.

Thank you for giving to NCM!!!

Read more about NCM's ministry at www.ncm.org.



Alabaster Offering February 25

The first Alabaster Offering was received in 1949. From 1949 - 2016, Nazarenes around the world have given \$112,424,798 to buy land or purchase buildings for churches, chapels, Bible schools and other school buildings, mission and district centers, hospitals and clinics, and homes for missionaries and national workers.

Your Alabaster Offering will help rebuild in areas affected by storms and earthquakes last year. It will also help build or purchase more facilities for worship and schools for Bible-based education, more medical facilities, and homes for more missionaries and pastors. Most of the funds are used in countries around the world, but some are also used for projects in the U.S. and Canada.

**On Sunday, February 25, bring your offering in your Alabaster box or write a check.
If you don't have an Alabaster box to save your change in, pick one up in the foyer.**

Financial Peace Classes

What if you could be debt free with an emergency fund of 3-6 months of expenses saved all while investing for retirement and planning for your family's future? Sound impossible? It's not! With Dave Ramsey's class, Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money.

If you're interested in learning more about this class, contact Cindy Terrazas or check out their website at <https://fpu.com/1056246> for more details or to register for the class. You may order your materials online or sign up in the foyer to have Cindy order them for you. The class and materials are \$109. A nine-week session will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30, **Feb. 21 - April 18**. The deadline to sign up: Feb. 12. If you've taken the class before, you can bring your book from that class and sit in for free.



First Impression Team

Welcome Lynn & Dana Weaks as our new First Impression Team leaders!

All current team members and anyone else that is interested in being a greeter are invited to a luncheon on Sunday, **February 18**, in Hermon Hall after the morning service.

You will have an opportunity to meet Lynn & Dana if you haven't already done so. If you are new to the team, you can get information on what your duties will be and ask any questions that you may have.

We are so thankful for everyone who greets at the door on Sunday mornings with smiles and warm handshakes. We are also grateful to Lynn & Dana for agreeing to lead this incredible team of people in ministry.

Box Tops for Education

Cut Box Tops off products you buy.
Put the Box Tops (see sample at the right) in the dark brown file box on the Welcome Center that has a Box Top on it or give to Tammy Foshee.



Each box top is worth 10 cents and is used by the Native American Christian Academy in Arizona to purchase items for the school. See the school's latest newsletter on the hallway mission board by Pastor's office.

Thank you for supporting this program. Last year, we sent 1,302 Box Tops. Can you help us send at least 1,500 this year?

Children's News



"Go For the Gold"

Olympians do whatever it takes to be the very best. They spend hours and hours practicing and studying. They are completely committed, focused, coachable, and consistently great. They think BIG!

Join us January 31 - February 28 as we learn to be

OLYMPIANS FOR JESUS!

Individual medals can be earned by:

1. Coming to church
2. Bringing your Bible
3. Bringing a friend who hasn't been to church before
4. Memorizing scripture

When you earn 3 individual medals, your team will earn 1 medal.

Team medals will be earned at church!

The team that earns the most medals will go to the indoor water park at the River Center in Benton!

South Arkansas District Teen Frozen Frisbee Tournament

Saturday, February 3

at Little Rock Christian Academy
(on Highway 10 west of Little Rock)

Contact David for further details.

Meet at the church.

The van will leave at 9:00 A.M.



2017-2018 Missionary Books/CDs

This church year is passing rapidly with only three months left until April 30! How are you doing on completing this year's mission books or CDs? There is still time to read all or even one or two of these to help us reach our goal. The covers are shown below to help you know which ones you still need to complete. Get adult/teen titles from Tammy Foshee or stop by the church office during the week. Get children's books from Ms. Amy. Not sure which title to do if you don't think you can do them all? Ask Tammy, Kathy, or Amy for suggestions or to find out what the books are about.

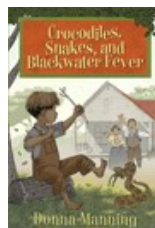
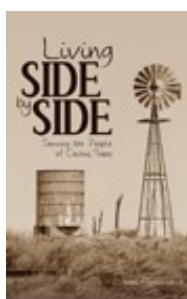
The four adult/teen titles are also in electronic format on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and eBooks on iTunes for \$.99 per book! (download separately). FREE PDF & MP3 versions are available at www.livingmission.com under the NMI missions book tab. Let Tammy know if you complete a book in one of these formats so she can add you to our total.

Also, please check the poster on the mission board by Pastor Bobby's office to be sure you are marked for all of the titles you have completed. If someone else has the book or CD you had, Tammy may not know that you need credit for it.

4 Adult titles

All Kids

Older Kids



Teen News



Sunday, March 11, at Verizon Arena

Tickets are \$15 each

Save this date on your calendars.

Further details will be announced later.

PT Cruisers Luncheon

Friday, February 2

Corky's Barbeque

Bowman Road in W. Little Rock
(12005 Westhaven Dr.)

Meet there at 11:30 AM

Invite a friend to come with you.

Let Connie know if you plan to attend.

Next luncheon: **March 2** at David's Burgers in Maumelle



Teen Fundraiser Luncheon

February 25, 2018



Menu: Spaghetti, Bread,
Salad, Dessert

Cost: your donation

Location: Casey Center

Thank you for your
continued financial support
of the teen department.

District Women's Retreat

"Gathering of the Girls"

Speaker: Donna Kyzer Rice

Retreat Schedule: Friday, March 2, 2018

Bonus Night - 6:00 PM at Larry's Pizza
on JFK, North Little Rock

Dutch Treat (Cost not included in retreat price.)

Weather permitting, ride trolley to LR and back.

(\$1 for trolley; age 65 & up is \$.50)

Saturday, March 3, 2018

at North Little Rock Friendly Chapel

9:00 AM - Continental Breakfast*

10:00 AM - Morning Session

Lunch*

Afternoon Session (ends at 2:00 PM)

* Breakfast & lunch included in registration fee

Cost: \$20 if registered before February 20.

\$25 if postmarked after February 20.

Registration deadline: February 27

(Must register by this deadline to get lunch.)

Registration Forms are on the Welcome Center.

Make checks payable to: SoAR District SDMI

Turn forms/checks in to the church office by Feb. 18
or mail your own to the address on the form.

Assisted Living Center Service

February 11, 5:30 PM

You are invited to Brookdale Assisted Living Center
along with others from First Nazarene to visit, sing,
and have a devotional with some of the residents.
They are so appreciative of the time we spend with them.

Wednesday Meal

February 21, 5:30 PM

On a pew card, write your family's name and how many
will be coming to dinner or call the church office by

Tuesday, 2/20, to make your reservation.

The menu will be pork loin, scalloped potatoes,
slaw, rolls, and dessert.

The cost is \$5/person or a maximum of \$20/family.

Rummage Sale?

The teen department is considering having a yard sale in
late March IF they can get enough items donated.

Please let David Powell know in February if you have
things to donate to help them know if it will be worthwhile.

Do not bring anything to the church at this time.

2018 Calendar Items

*To help you plan, here are some important dates
to mark on your calendars for 2018:*

Scrapbooking - February 16

SoAR District Ladies' Retreat - March 2-3

Registration Deadline - February 27

Daylight Savings Time Begins - March 11

Winter Jam Concert - March 11

Arkansas Travelers Softball - April 21

Ladies' Painting Class - April 27

SoAR Children's Mission Explosion - April 28

Jr. High Camp - July 9 - 13

Kid's Camp - July 16 - 20

Sr. High Camp - July 23 - 27

Children's Family Picnic - September 16

The First Edition

February 2018 Edition

First Church of the Nazarene
1200 North Mississippi
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207
Phone: (501) 225-6632
Fax: (501) 225-6649
website: www.lrfcn.org

Bobby Howard, Pastor
Dr. Jim Daniel, Senior Care Pastor
Rita Powell, Worship Pastor
Amy Howard, Children's Minister
David Powell, Youth Minister

