

THE

ECHO

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

January 25, 2018 Vol. 42, Issue 8



BUTLER'S PANTRY

"Vigil": from the Latin *vigilia* meaning *wakefulness* (Greek: *pannychis*,^[1] παννυχίς or *agrypnia*^[2] ἀγρυπνία),^[3] is a period of purposeful sleeplessness, an occasion for devotional watching, or an observance." (from www.wikipedia.org)

Vigils, in the sense of watchfulness or devotional watching, have a long history. Frequently a vigil is associated with the season of Lent. Often family members and friends will keep vigil when the time has come and a loved one is entering new life.

During the past 19 months or so FCC has kept vigil as we await the announcement and arrival of the new settled pastor. Keeping vigil is hard work. We pray and wait. We wait and pray. We persevere and pray. We pray and persevere. We grow anxious and pray. We pray while becoming anxious. We tire of praying. We pray while becoming spiritually, emotionally, and physically tired.

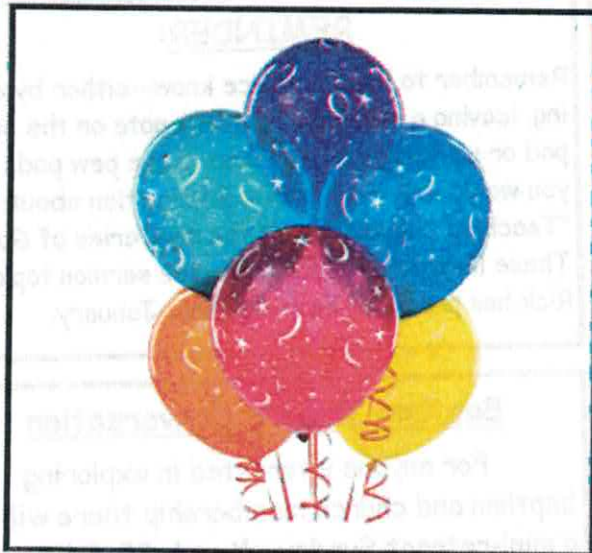
But keeping vigil during this time is vital work for a congregation. The Search Committee works diligently and faithfully. The Committee has surveyed members of the congregation, and will complete the Congregational Profile (a ten page document filled with statistics, descriptions, vision, hopes, history), submit the profile for circulation to regions, receive an initial group of Ministerial Profiles, read them, evaluate candidates, hold phone conference call interviews with several candidates, and check references. If the committee does not reach a negotiation stage with any of the candidates, more profiles will be requested.

Did I mention the members of the Search Committee have prayed together, openly shared thoughts, feelings, questions with one another, fed one another spiritually? Is it any wonder of the need for our keeping vigil around them?

When we keep vigil for a loved one entering new life we pray and speak words of encouragement even when we're not exactly certain where the person is in the process. So, too, as we keep vigil for the FCC Search Committee we pray and speak encouragement as we see the Committee members in worship or at the grocery store or when we talk on the phone with one of them.

BUT we also speak encouragement to one another as we keep vigil. It's hard work. We all need Spirit encouragement.

Grace and peace, Rick



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Janis Slusher	February 2
Kathy Durham	February 5
Jacob Rose	February 5
Dianne DeCamp	February 6
Jean Simmons	February 8
Dana Arbogast	February 11
Genie Anders	February 12
Catherine Barham	February 13
Reba Owings	February 16
Leroy Barker	February 17
Mary Lett	February 17
Kaylyn Seals	February 20
Betsy Kay Tholen	February 23
Karen Kaylor	February 26

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Chris & Stasha Coker	February 4
Alan & Peggy Eoff	February 12

REMINDER:

Remember to let the office know—either by calling, leaving a message, making a note on the pew pad or using one of the notes in the pew pads if you would like the handout information about "Teaching Children about the Mysteries of God". These handouts are based on the sermon topics Rick has preached on throughout January.

Baptism Inquiry Conversation

For anyone interested in exploring baptism and church membership there will be a mini-retreat **Sunday, March 25** following worship. We will meet in the multi-purpose room. Lunch will be provided. The conversation will conclude mid-afternoon.

Several of FCC's young people have been inquiring about baptism. But this conversation time with Rick Butler is open to persons of any age.

If interested please make a reservation by notifying the church office including the participant's name and age. If you wish additional information please contact Rick Butler (816-812-7073 or rebkc@kc.rr.com).

STEWARDSHIP INFO

During the month of February the stewardship committee will be offering a Community of Prayer devotional for each family to use during that month with emphasis on different aspects of stewardship: stewardship of time, talent, of our environment, and our financial resources. Pastor Rick will also be preaching on stewardship in February.

Everyone is also encouraged to bring cans of soup that will be delivered to a local service center at the end of the month.

CWF NEWS

CWF will meet Tuesday, February 6 at noon for lunch and meeting. Carolyn Crabtree is the hostess this month. All women are welcome to join us for yummy food, engaging conversation, and inspirational messages. Please call Verna Brummett at 607-227-0245 if you need transportation.

SOUPER BOWL



Next month is going to be exciting! We're going to kick off the first Sunday in February (February 4) with a Souper Bowl Sunday soup competition. We are asking for volunteers to dig out their favorite soup recipe and make a crockpot full to share after church. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church so we can make sure we have enough. There will be containers for voting by cash donation for your favorite soup and some interesting prizes awarded. Please plan to stay after church for the fun whether you make soup or not. If you would like to volunteer to make a dessert please let Zona know, otherwise the Stewardship Committee will have desserts to share.

That same Sunday, Pastor Rick will be starting a sermon series regarding different kinds of stewardship. We invite every family to pick up a devotion book on stewardship for their family to read and reflect throughout the month of February. This book was suggested by Rick to help us better understand stewardship and will be great for family devotions. Please see one of the Stewardship Committee members if you have not received your book.

The members of the Stewardship Committee are working hard to make this a fun meaningful experience. Feel free to contact any committee member with questions. Committee members follow: Verna Brummett, Susan Mansell, Zona Mitchell, Billy Smith and Laura Walters.

Let's all get our Soup On!

Church Office Info

Rick Butler, Interim Pastor
(816) 812-7073
rickfccodessamo@gmail.com
Angela Smith, Secretary
fccodessamo@gmail.com

Sundays

Sunday School - 9am
Worship - 10am

Wednesdays

Prayer Meeting—10 am
Refuel Dinner—6 pm
Refuel activities—6:30 pm

First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
224 West Dryden Street
Odessa, Missouri 64076



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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

If you feel led to greet or worship lead please let Angela Smith know. You will be added to the rotation. All worship assistants and their contributions are deeply appreciated. Also, many thanks to deacons and elders for their service.

Houston Church Continues Recovery

The following is from The Reverend Darnell Fennell, pastor of the University Christian Church of Houston, TX (a congregation FCC assisted financially in November). "Happy New Year. I hope you are well. As for me, I am trying to stay centered. University Christian Church is doing well, we are now in the process of working to get our floor done. First, we have to make sure the roof is in good shape. We have had quite the journey with our roofer post the storm. Thanks for checking in,"

DISCIPLES MEN'S GROUP

**Men's Breakfast, 8:00 am,
Saturday, February 17, 2018**
All men are invited for
food & fellowship!

Thank you leadership and congregants of FCC for your continuing generosity. Remembering me with the Christmas check was both kind and generous. I very much appreciate you individually and as a congregation. I'm looking forward to our time together in 2018.

Appreciatively,
Rick Butler

REMINDER:

If you need trash bags-they are \$10 per roll and those purchases benefit First Christian Church Youth.