

Volume 23, Number 4

April 1st, 2017

East Cross News

Monthly Publication

East Cross

learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey



Like us on Facebook
and receive a daily
devotion each
morning at 6am

Church Office:
918-333-0810

FAX: 918-335-1664

Early Childhood
Center: 918-333-3814

www.eastcross.org



Newsletter
articles for the
next issue are due
in the church office
by noon on
Thursday,
April 20th.

Email articles to
office@eastcross.org

Sunday Worship Information

Sunday, April 2

5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 12:1-11

Mary Anoints Jesus, The King

Communion

Sunday, April 9

Palm Sunday

Scripture: John 12:12-19

Jesus' Coronation as King

Sunday, April 16

Easter Sunday

Scripture: John 20:19-22

Jesus Sends Us Out

Sunday, April 23

Confirmation Sunday

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3-9

God's Gift—Our Salvation

Sunday, April 30

3rd Grade Bible Presentations

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Living a Liberated Life



Holy Week Services

April 13 7:00pm

Holy Thursday
Traditional Music
Communion

April 14 7:00pm

Good Friday
Contemporary Music
A Service of Tenebrae

Childcare for children 4 years and younger available for both services.

Connections will not meet on Wednesday, April 12.

ANOTHER STEP IN OUR JOURNEY...

Learning to Follow Jesus

In a conference I attended last year, I was reminded of this truth: VISION LEAKS. So here is a reminder of the vision that guides us as a congregation.

I find that if I don't intentionally review why we are here as a congregation, that I don't always focus correctly on how to lead this congregation. I know we say it every week as we begin our worship services, but here's a quick reminder of who we are and what should guide our journey together. I know it's the same message we've talked about for three years now, maybe just stated a little differently, but a reminder that each of us needs, continually.

As we journey together, our goal is to be as much like Jesus as we can be. Some of us have been on this journey for years and have learned much about following Jesus. Some of us are pretty new to the journey and feel like we know less about the journey than others do. The fact is that we are all on the journey together and that we all have more to learn about the life, love, compassion, mercy, mystery, and even the judgment of this God-man, Jesus Christ.

As a congregation, we are the first to admit that we are still learning to follow Jesus. We desperately want to follow Jesus Christ more closely, than ever before. I don't think this phrase means that we no longer make mistakes, rather that we are learning from our mistakes and doing more 'right', or maybe not repeating our mistakes.

I have noticed that as many couples spend years and years together they think more alike, act more alike, can usually finish each other's sentences and sometimes even look more alike. If we spend our time seeking God, and learning more about God in Jesus, we also should think more like God, act more like God, and more easily discern God's will in our everyday and special circumstances. Especially in our actions, we should look more like Jesus.

Yes, we are people of God. Let's continue our learning as we follow Jesus.

Pastor Jeff

From the Choir Loft...

Happy Spring, Church! The season of Lent is now in full swing as we prepare our hearts and minds (and voices) for Holy Week. This year, we are going to do things a little differently than we have been the past several years. No, Pastor Jeff is not preaching a Christmas sermon on Easter Sunday or anything like that. This year, the Maundy Thursday service will be a traditional worship experience and Good Friday service will be contemporary. The choir is preparing a beautiful anthem for Maundy Thursday titled "The Table of Forgiveness" by John Purifoy. I would like to share some of the beautiful text from this song that was written by Pamela Stewart. "Could you give this body to be bruised and be crushed like grapes that make the wine? I will drink the cup of tears for you. I will give this body that is Mine. Here at this table of forgiveness, come and taste the mercy that is Mine." Reading this text always brings me back to John 3:16 and makes me think about how awesome our God truly is that he would give us forgiveness through His Son.

Blessings,

Ariel Ortega, Traditional Worship Director

From Pastor Chad...

Like most of us, when I look back on my life or the specific actions of any given day, I like to remember the good things. I like to think about the people with whom I had the opportunity with which to pray. I like to think about the little thing I did to help others that nobody will probably ever know about. I like to think about the smiles that I might have brought to the faces of those with whom I interacted. However, I really do not enjoy recapping the other side of the coin like times that I let someone down or failed a task. Even though it is not something I look forward to doing, I know that if I am to grow into the person that God would have me to be, then I need to do some self-examination before someone else sees my actions and inactions and thinks that is the way that they should be or handle a situation. You see one of the truths of life is that there is normally someone watching what you do and nowhere is this more evident than when it comes to kids. They have a tendency to imitate what they see and learn from others.

Being a dad, I have seen a lot of myself in my kids. Sometimes what I see reflected back at me makes my heart glad. However, there are times that what I see reflected back at me makes me stop and think, "Where did he learn that! Oh yeah..." As a parent, I need to think about what I am demonstrating for them. I need to keep in mind that my kids are looking up to me and, as such, I need to model what it means to be a follower of Christ. That does not mean that I need to behave differently just for them. Instead I should live the entirety of my life with Jesus Christ as my example even when I think no one might be watching. To say it another way, I need to practice what I preach. I need to walk the walk and not just talk the talk. Okay trite phrases aside, I need to set the example.

What about you? Have you ever given serious thought to who might be watching you and the example you are setting? As I said, someone is normally watching and learning from your life. It might be your kids. It might be your co-workers. It might be those in your small group. It might even be a friend that you see at the grocery store. What is the lesson that you are teaching without even knowing it? What is the example that you are setting? Titus 2:7 (NIV): In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness.

Set the Example!

Pastor Chad

Contemporary Worship...

In everything we do as a worship team, I hope we are in line with God's purpose. Technology has done some great things for worship in recent years, but it has also made way for new distractions and even what some might call "idols" in the church. The use of lights, cameras, lasers, fog machines, crazy set designs, etc., can easily make people feel like they just attended a concert rather than a worship service. I believe that while all of these things have the potential to enhance a worship service, they cannot be the main focus of our services. Our team has the unique purpose of drawing a body of believers together into a focus on God's will for our lives. I pray that as a church, we are not distracted by what the world sees as worship, but are called to worship God the way he designed us to. A great song that discusses this topic is "Clear the Stage" by Jimmy Needham. If you have some time this month, give it a listen and print out the lyrics or watch the lyric video on YouTube.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1-2

Zack Michel, Contemporary Worship Director

EC Kids...

Easter is seriously my favorite time of year. An act that trumps all acts occurred. Jesus' birth is spectacular, yes. But the fact that he died on the cross and rose again – for US – now that is something to be praised and celebrated. It was the ultimate act of love.

As we celebrate Jesus' life, death, and resurrection this Easter season, we'll be taking a closer look at the way humility shows up throughout the end of Jesus' time on earth. Jesus' ultimate act of humility on Earth was His sacrificial death. He could have called down an angel army to protect Him, but instead, allowed Himself to be wrongly accused and arrested. He could have been worshipped with a gold crown and royal robes, but instead wore a crown of thorns. Jesus deserved praise and adoration, but sacrificed Himself for us. Out of His love for us He chose the humble route and put us first. It cost Him everything.

This month we will dive head first into Humility. And Jesus is the ultimate example.

MEMORY VERSE

"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves." -Philippians 2:3, Nlrv

3rd GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS

3rd Grade Parents, April 30th will be a very special day! This is the day our 3rd grade children will be receiving a Bible as a gift from their church family. You should receive a postcard in the mail with more information. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at aimeeb@eastcross.org.

PICNIC AT THE PARK!

Our first EC Kids Picnic at the Park is Sunday, April 30th, after church. Meet us at Osage Hills for fun, fellowship and a bit of sunshine. More information will be out soon! Don't forget to pack a lunch!

Aimee Hall, Director of Children's Ministries

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■ **NEWS FROM THE NURSERY... "HAPPY EASTER"**

■ Easter is a sign of celebration, growth, fresh starts, life, new directions and a sense of springing into a year that has already started getting away from us. In April the 16mo—3 year old class and the 3 year old—PK class will be learning about the true meaning of Easter through stories, crafts and a movie.

■ On April 9th we will have our Easter egg hunt after the 11:00 service in the gym. Please have your child bring their Easter basket and be ready to have fun.

■ I would like to welcome Christy and Shelly to our nursery staff. They both work for the PDO program at East Cross, have years of experience working with children and are CPR certified. I know the kids and parents are going to love them. The nursery committee meet last month and reviewed the Safe Sanctuary policies and sign in/out sheets and at this time find no reason to change them. You will now find the names of the nursery workers posted outside of each classroom. The committee thought it was important for parents to know who they were leaving their child with.

■ Have a Blessed Easter.

■ *Liz VanDeVenter, Nursery Director*

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EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER...

Another very busy month is ahead in our East Cross Early Childhood Center (ECECC):

Lifetouch Photos – Each child and all 9 classes will have school-year pictures taken on Wednesday, April 5.

Preschool Parent / Teacher Conferences – Is offered to the children’s families on Friday, April 7.

Scholastic Book Fair – We welcome everyone to shop at our book fair **April 17– 21** because **we love books at ECECC!** We provide *many* opportunities to share books with children AND to get books into their hands. This is a wonderful opportunity to add to any young child’s home library! Another option during this same time period is our “Book Fair Homepage” at www.bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/ececc.

Enrollment for upcoming classes – Summer Session and next School-Year Session are now “open to the public”. We have already received *MANY outside inquiries* and enrollments, filling spots in our classrooms.

- **Summer Session** (June 5-28) is all about “fun”! Be sure to return your child’s enrollment form as soon as possible so they can be part of all the activities we have planned. Space is limited due to the number of staff.

- **School-Year Session** (Aug. 2017 – May 2018) Parent Day Out and Preschool classes for children 6 months of age thru 4 year olds.

- **Preliminary Enrollment Forms** can be found on the church website (www.eastcross.org) via the Early Childhood Center tab, or by contacting the ECC office directly at 918-333-3814 or email ecc@eastcross.org.

We anticipate hiring additional classroom staff to aid in the care and early education of children in our upcoming sessions! Our program employs persons that we feel have the appropriate gifts and talents to share with children while achieving the highest level of service for the Lord within this church ministry and in our community! We have begun **taking employment applications** for adults and college-aged persons that would like to be a part of our staff at ECECC for these areas:

- **This Summer’s Classes** (8 working days) for the month of June; working with children 6 months of age through those entering Kindergarten;

- **Next School-Year Session** (August 2017 – May 2018)

Parent Day Out classes (Mondays & Wednesdays); at least 18 years old with a high school diploma, a general understanding and love for caring for young children (experience is a plus).

3 and 4 year-old Preschool Teacher Aides Basic experience in areas of early childhood education and child care skills, has child care work history and desires to assist the lead teacher.



All applicants offered a position will be required to submit to fingerprinting; background and reference checks; be able and willing to be CPR certified; and go through a multi-step interview process so we can find the “right” person for our program.

If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about our job openings, contact Coleen ASAP!

Coleen Williams, Director @ East Cross Early Childhood Center email: ecc@eastcross.org

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■ **“Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world...”** Do you have a heart for
■ little children too? We are looking for a few volunteers (youth and adults) to substitute for absent
■ teachers and nursery staff during Sunday morning services. This will allow those who minister to
■ our littles ones the opportunity to worship with us periodically. Please contact Nursery Director,
■ Liz VanDeVenter at 918-333-0810 if you are interested. ~ *Nursery Committee*
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C3—Student Ministry

Seek His Face

Psalms 105:1

*Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.*

² *Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.*

³ *Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.*

⁴ *Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.*

During Spring Break, the C3 Student Ministry took a group of students up into the Colorado Rockies for a ski trip. Each night concluded with a message based from Psalms. During the day, students worshipped God, participated in games, and raced down the mountain, of course! The weekend retreat was called, “Seek His Face.”

Psalms 105 begins by giving praise to God. Being up in the mountains and seeing God’s beautiful creation up close and personal always makes me feel slightly closer to God. Maybe it’s the high altitude but I always seem to think about God and how He is at work in my life when I go up there. We finished off the last night by focusing on remembering what God has done and to seek his face in everything we do. Whether you were there to retreat to the mountains like Jesus did many times after speaking to a large crowd or you were just up there to embrace God’s beauty, we were all called up there for a reason.

I feel like there are many ways we can “retreat” back to God. It can be during our personal prayer time in solitude or in the middle of worship surrounded by your brothers and sisters in Christ. The important thing is to remember to retreat to God and Seek His Face. You don’t have to be in the mountains to seek after God. He is always there for you.

Our students returned home after some great skiing adventures. One of my favorite memories from skiing is seeing brand new skiers master a new challenge. We had some pretty tough runs the first day but by the end of the weekend, I saw those that struggled conquer the mountain and become better skiers. I can’t wait for next time!

Evan Holmes, Director of Youth Ministries

SAVE LABELS FOR EDUCATION...

Red Bird Mission is collecting Labels for Education to obtain a new van for its school. A van requires 1,500,000 Labels for Education. Red Bird has banked 1,200,000 labels and is working on collecting the remaining 300,000 Labels for Education. These must be collected and turned in by the end of this school year. Labels must have both the UPC code and the words “Labels for Education”. These are the products that have the labels: Campbell’s, Pace, Pepperidge Farm, SpaghettiO, Swanson, V8, V8 Splash, V8 Fusion. Some companies are fazing out the Labels for Education on their products, so look through products already in your pantry, and look for stock in the grocery store that still has the label. The labels can be left in the brown wooden box in the kitchen or give to Nancy Arnold, who will periodically mail them to Red Bird Mission.

Thank you for your help!



April Outreach News

Generosity Boxes

Your incredible kindness helping to meet the needs of many in our local community has been impressive! Did you know the FOOD 4 KIDS program continues during the summer and they need items to supplement what they receive from the local food bank? Please grab a few of the following items when you are shopping: vanilla or chocolate pudding cups; fruit cups; applesauce cups; small boxes of raisins; fruit snacks with 100% fruit juice. Generosity Boxes are now located at each entrance to East Cross! Thank you, Darrell Coe, for building, painting and delivering the new Generosity Boxes!

DHS Foster Care Easter Buckets

DHS allows East Cross to give Easter Buckets to children in DHS custody. This was a tradition at Grace Epworth UMC and has become a yearly opportunity at East Cross. Diana Trammel heads up the ministry with help from others. On Sunday morning, choose a bucket and a child's name written on an Easter Bunny. Filled Easter Buckets must be returned to the church by April 9th.

Habitat for Humanity

East Cross distributes thousands of dollars for Habitat for Humanity. Funds are provided from the Sharp Endowment. The funds this year are split between projects in the Bartlesville area and in the Oklahoma City/Moore area where families are in need of housing from tornado damage.

CRU (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) and the International School Project (ISP)

ISP began in 1991 with an education initiative in Russia to help develop Christian morals and ethics with their youth. ISP has a small staff and relies on volunteers which have trained over 65,000 teachers in 14 countries in Christian ethics. Each teacher attending an ISP conference receives the ISP curriculum and a copy of the *JESUS* film in their own language to show to their students plus other resource materials. ISP is conducting training conferences with teachers in Ukraine, Russia, Mongolia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia. East Cross has supported ISP through David Wiley who is one of the staff members and has assisted Warren Neff to travel and help train teachers. Please contact Warren if you are interested in more information.

East Cross Tiling Teams

That is correct. Jean Abshire leads tiling teams several times a year. She has an experienced crew but always needs people to assist and learn a little about tiling. No experience is necessary but the desire to share God's love by your willingness to give of yourself and time. Please check with Jean for more information. The next tiling team is forming and will be working April 24th to 28th.

Lighthouse Meals by East Cross

East Cross serves meals at the Lighthouse on the second Thursday of each month. Honestly, it is easy. The Lighthouse serves the homeless and they need to know that God cares about them. It only takes about three hours for three to four people and you do not need to cook. The meals are prepared and all you do is pick them up at the East Cross kitchen at 4:30pm, deliver them, serve, and return any East Cross pans or serving utensils. Please contact Jeretta Amburn or Warren Neff if you and a couple of friends are willing to share God's love through feeding the needy.

April Mission Prayer Needs

- Bartlesville's Ray of Hope Advocacy Center which works with children who need protection and special care
- International School Project as they recruit trainers and hold conferences this summer
- East Cross tiling team as they work in April

LETTER FROM BISHOP NUNN...

When I came to Oklahoma I was immediately impressed with the scope of ministry that the churches in the conference had committed to support. As the year concluded I was equally struck by the number of churches fully participating in funding 100% of their apportionments in 2016. I believe every dollar is faithfully given to the church to make a difference somewhere in the world.

I write this note to express my gratitude to you for providing me a salary, a wonderful residence, and other benefits as well as sharing in costs for other bishops around the world who need our assistance.

I want to thank you for providing for our District Superintendents and for the staff of the Oklahoma Annual Conference.

And I wish to thank you on behalf of the thousands of people who may not be aware of your support. Some of those people have clean water, some have learned to produce crops for themselves, or have a place they call home because of you. Others are alive because you gave so that they can have needed medical care. Others have received higher education or training they might not otherwise attain. Still others are preparing their lives for Christian ministry and others have advocated for justice for the persecuted or oppressed.

Because of your generosity and our connection, United Methodists proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in ways that share the good news and make a difference in the lives of people and entire communities.

With deep gratitude,

James G. Nunn
Bishop, Oklahoma Area

FINANCE UPDATE

East Cross is blessed to have a congregation that is faithful and committed in the giving of their tithes and offerings. Below is an update of our financial status for the operating budget for the year ending 2016 and for the January 1 - February 28, 2017 time period (all amounts are in \$000):

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over(Under)</u>
2016			
Collections	\$865	\$848	(\$17)
Expenses	\$878	\$846	(\$32)
Net	\$ 13 shortage	<u>\$ 2 surplus</u>	

Praise be to God that for the first time in a number of years we closed the year with an annual surplus (i.e., year's collections exceeded our expenses).

2017	Development of budget is still in process		
Collections		\$119	
Disbursements		\$129	
Net		\$ 10 shortage	

If you have any questions or wish to have more detail information, contact Keith Kliewer, Finance Chair at keith.a.kliewer@gmail.com.

Welcome to Our Church Family...

Carol Ervin joined East Cross during the 8:30 service on February 19.

Carol attends Journey of Hope Sunday morning small group and is the daughter-in-law of Bill and Carolyn Ervin. Her address is 1415 S Dewey Ave and phone # is 918-876-2217.



We also welcome... Michael, Jen, Owen and Maddie May who joined East Cross during the 11:00 service on February 19.

Michael and Jen are members of Crossroads Sunday school class. Owen (4th grade) and Maddie (2nd grade) were both baptized and are active in EC Kids activities. Their address is 2912 Ridge Rd and their phone # is 918-605-6330.



Vernon and Hopie Taliaferro celebrated their 71st Wedding Anniversary on January 24, 2017. They are parents of Claudia and Harland Rolfs.

Vernon and Hopie are former longtime members who now reside at Inverness Village in Tulsa, OK. They wish all their friends in Christ a Happy Easter and say a warm "Hello".

Congratulations, Vernon and Hopie!



RISEN — Daily Lenten Reading Guide and Upper Room Daily Devotionals

Available on the Information Desk
Outside the Sanctuary

**HAPPY
EASTER**

PRAYER LIST

New Prayer Requests...

Norita Akers, Rita Neff, Stan Defehr,
Leon Brammer, Debbie Potter

Alida (Maebeth Furrow's sister), Ann Allen (Lola Norfleet's granddaughter), Alan Beckworth, Alden Beckworth, Michelle Burr, Geoffery Christensen (Eileen Christensen Perrin's son), Kathy Christian, Bryant Collier, Myrna Collier, Joan Collins (friend of Pam Knuth), Val Cottle, Emma Lou Cox, Kim Dilbeck (Linda Thornton's friend), Marcia Goode, Edna Harbison, Bill Henning, Gertrude Hughey, Judy Johnson (Margie Green's mother), Barry Knuth, James Kuntz, Louis & Emily Kuntz, Joe LaFerry, George & Emmalene Lennon and son Jerry, Curtis McLaughlin, Bob Murnan, Mike Paxson (brother-in-law of Coleen Williams), Marie Puckett, Euela Randall, Spence Rigdon, Earnest & Cathe Riggs, Ken Salamy (Tootsie Bryan's nephew), Sandy Shaw, Harriett Smith, Carol Stithem, Greg Swisher, Nita Wakeley, Jeremy Waldorf, Sharon Walker (Helen Shell's granddaughter), Keith Webb, Raymond White, Jr., Bill & Allie Zoldoske

Condolences to...

John, Lisa, Alex and Ava Cary on the death of John's mother, Tommie Joann Cary on Friday, March 10.

Kim, Mike, Michael and Johnathan Wood on the death of Kim's mother, Mary Johnson on March 18.

Pauline Kenton and family on the death of her brother, Doug on March 20.

If you know someone that needs to be added or removed from the Prayer List, call the church office at 918-333-0810.

MUTUAL Tuesday House Resale Shop

Volunteers, men and women, needed at MUTUAL Tuesday House Resale Shop especially on Mondays and Wednesdays to sort, price and unload donated items.

Call 918-336-9154 to volunteer or to schedule items to be picked up.

All proceeds benefit MUTUAL Girls Club.

Sorting at Tuesday House Resale Shop — Monday & Wednesday 9am-12pm

Tuesday House Resale Shop OPEN to Public — Tuesday 8am-4pm

Tuesday House Resale Shop OPEN to Public — Saturday 9am-12pm

Pray for our Military

MAJ Todd Abshire	LTC Darrin Cox	LCDR Eric Rolfs
SSG Gary Mabry	SSG Jared Seat	CPT Derek Smith
CDR Robert Staten	CPT Neil Gorham	Robbie Lawson
Mark Hathaway	CPT Daniel Smith	SFC Clifton White

All persons serving in the military and their families.



If you have a loved one or a friend currently on active duty in the military and would like them added to our Wall of Honor, please contact Charlie and LeAnne Christensen at chasleanne@gmail.com or 918-327-1226.

Sunday Morning Van Ministry

Call the church office at 918-333-0810 if you need a ride to church. Leave a message on extension 105 **before 7:30am** on Sunday mornings. You may also have a "standing" request to be picked up each week.



All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at IHOP on Saturday, April 1st at 8am!



ONLINE GIVING... You can give electronically by going to our website www.eastcross.org. Click the menu tab on top of the Welcome page and click on "Give Online" OR scroll to the bottom of our Welcome page and click on "Give". Funds can also be withdrawn automatically weekly or monthly by completing a request form available in the treasurer's office.



East Cross also offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image to the left using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> Communion	3 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	4	5	6	7 7:00p Church Bridge	1 8:00a Men's breakfast at IHOP 8
9 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 12Noon Egg Hunt DHS Foster Care Buckets due today	10 6:30p Young Adults	11 7:00p Outreach 7:00p ECC Mtg	12 NO Connections Tonight	13 7:00p Holy Thursday Service with Communion	14 NO ECC or Preschool Today 7:00p Good Friday Service	15
16 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8:30a Service 9:45a Service 11:00a Service	17 Easter Monday Church Office Closed 7:00p Miriam	18 ECECC Scholastic Book Fair This Week	19	20 9:30a Rebecca 9:30a Ruth	21	22
23 <i>Confirmation Sunday</i>	24 6:30p Young Adults 7:00p Rachel 7:00p Trustees	25 6p Piecemaker Quilters	26	27	28	29
30 <i>3rd Grade Bible Presentations</i> 12p Family Picnic Osage Hills			<i>APRIL 2017</i>			

Weekly Activities at East Cross

Sunday

8:30am Traditional Worship Service
9:45am Small Groups for all ages
11:00am Contemporary Worship Service
5:00pm Youth

Monday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center

Tuesday

4:00pm Prayer Group

Wednesday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
5:30pm Connections Meal
6:00pm Small Groups for all ages
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm Praise Band Practice

Thursday

Friday

9:30am-12Noon Early Childhood Center

Saturday

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

East Cross United Methodist Church
820 S. Madison Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006-8533

Rev. Jeff Burress
Pastor
Chad Perceful
Pastor

Evan Holmes
Director of Youth Ministries
Aimee Hall
Director of Children's Ministries
Linda Smith
Ministerial Coordinator
Linda Thornton
Treasurer-Membership
Coleen Williams
Early Childhood Center Director
Liz VanDeVenter
Nursery and Childcare Director
Ariel Ortega
Traditional Music Director
Margie Green
Pianist/Organist
Zack Michel
Contemporary Music Director
Seth Weimer
Sound Tech
Jon Colliver
Building & Maintenance Coordinator

learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey



When Pastor Jeff received the call from Bishop Hayes to come to East Cross, the Bishop said one of the main things he wanted Jeff to do was to grow the Young Adult presence at East Cross.

We started our Young Adult small group five years ago with six young adults! We currently have 16 attending regularly!! Through the years, we have had 46 young adults come and go, either through marriage, job transfer or college!! We've met in our home twice every month on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings. We started with singles and couples with no children. That has changed through the years as the couples started having babies! We added childcare which has been a blessing for these couples!!

Our focus has been to help the Young Adults in their spiritual journey. We have done studies on many topics, a couple of community mission projects and have gone through Financial Peace University program, which made a big impact on them!

One concept the group is demonstrating is to "Worship One, Serve One". This pertains to attending one worship service and working somewhere in the church during another one. So, you will see them on stage, working the Coffee Bar, helping in the new Children's Area and as Youth small group leaders!!! Isn't that just Awesome?!!!

Each time we meet, we have a snack meal, bible study, coffee and lots of great fellowship. Many close relationships have grown from this group. The last three meetings have been in our new Commons/Coffee Bar area at East Cross. We are enjoying the new space and being in the building with childcare.

Pastor Jeff and I aren't going to be directing this small group after our next meeting/cookout. This small group has grown spiritually so much and we feel it's time for them to "take off" on their own!! We can't wait to see what God has planned and where He leads them!!

~Blessings, Rhonda Burress