

Volume 23, Number 6

June 1st, 2017

# East Cross News

Monthly Publication



*learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey*



Like us on Facebook  
and stay connected!

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918-333-0810

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Early Childhood  
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[www.eastcross.org](http://www.eastcross.org)



# God in Us

## Sunday Worship Information

### Sermon Series: God in Us

#### Sunday, June 4

PENTECOST SUNDAY

*Holy Communion*

Acts 5:3-4

Sermon: *Who Is The Spirit*

#### Sunday, June 11

Romans 8:5-9

Sermon: *A New Mind*

#### Sunday, June 18

FATHER'S DAY

John 1:4-9

Sermon: *Walking in the Light*

#### Sunday, June 25

Acts 2:2-4

Sermon: *The Gifting Spirit Part 1*



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

Email articles to  
[office@eastcross.org](mailto:office@eastcross.org)

## ***ANOTHER STEP IN OUR JOURNEY...***

The words we use during baptisms include, “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” We usually continue with words something like this. “The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.” What do we mean when we say, “the Holy Spirit work within you?”

We readily recognize God, the creator of the universe. Everything we touch, everything good around us comes from our creator. We state that our goal is to learn to follow Jesus, the one who lived 2000 years ago and saves us from sin and destruction. We can read about his life to use as a model for our own lives. But can this same God live inside of us? Is this what The Holy Spirit is about?

Our worship during the summer will focus on “GOD IN US.” When Jesus’ physical body left the early church, he promised to send his spirit in his place. A spirit that, if we believed, would live in us; a spirit that, through us, would do even greater things than what Jesus did in his time here; a spirit that, working with us, would bring God’s Kingdom to this broken world and heal it. That is God’s Plan A for the Church. So what would happen if we lived like this was true, if we fully expected his Holy Spirit to be alive and active in us in our daily lives?

*Pastor Jeff*

### **Contemporary Worship...**

I’m very excited about what is going on in our church! Each week it seems there have been new and exciting things happening in and out of our services. I want our worship to have that same feeling every week. In the past, our congregation has been introduced to a new worship song in our contemporary service about once every month. I love seeing the energy and involvement in learning a new song as a church, and want to see that more often moving forward. We have begun to introduce multiple new songs each month, including two new songs last month: *The Lion and the Lamb* by Bethel Worship, and *All My Fountains* by Chris Tomlin and Passion. This month, we hope to continue with two more new songs: *Chain Breaker* by Zach Williams, and *Not For A Moment* by Vertical Church. We hope these new songs are refreshing and uplifting to you as we continue our journey together at East Cross!

God Bless,

*Zack Michel, Contemporary Worship Director*

## *From Pastor Chad...*

I remember when I was a kid and the yearly countdown that lead up to the greatest time of year—summer vacation. I needed a vacation after working hard for an entire school year. I will tell you, it did not matter if it was hot or extra hot. It did not matter if the sun was shining or if it was raining. It didn't even matter if I got picked last for kickball, I loved every day of those summer vacations. I remember waking each day, leaving the house around 8:30 in the morning, knocking on all my friends doors to see if they could come out and play, playing everything from baseball and football to G.I. Joes and Monopoly with those who were home or not busy doing chores, catching fireflies and placing them in glass jars with holes cut in the top, and then returning home about 8:30 each night just to get cleaned up, head to bed and do it all again the next day. This was my daily routine from mid-May to until mid-August. But, as we know, all good things must come to an end, right? When August hit and the beginning of school loomed in the near future, I began the slow process of saying good bye to the best time of year.

It is summer time once again, but this time I am an adult. However, this year I think I want to try and recapture some of that summer feeling that I had when I was a kid. Now, I know that this summer will not be as carefree as those summers of my childhood. Because as an adult, I know that there will be work that needs to be done. I know that the kids will still need to be fed. I know that there are trips that we need to take. I know that there are bills that need to be paid. However, know all of this, I still want to take a few moments this summer and just enjoy life—to put the worries of the day behind me and just enjoy God's creation. Maybe take a nap in the hammock. Maybe play Monopoly with my family or golf with Jeff, Evan and some others. Maybe just spend some time on the back porch with Lesli enjoying some conversation over a Yeti full of sweet tea.

I want to invite you to do the same thing this summer. Take some time to slow down and witness firsthand the beauty of God's creation that surrounds you. I love how the Message Bible translates Matthew 11:28-30. It says, *"Are you tired? Worn out? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."* I will tell you church, it will be tough to slow down long enough to take this walk with God, so we must remain diligent. But when September rolls around and the weather begins to change, wouldn't it be nice to say that we actually enjoyed a summer once again.

Have a blessed summer!

Blessings,

*Pastor Chad*

## EC Kids...

Welcome, SUMMER! I don't know about yours, but our family waits patiently all year long for these next three months of fun in the sun. Summertime was where the majority of my childhood memories were created. It meant longer days, sunshine, pools, friends and outdoor adventures. It was when my creativity and imagination ran wild with new ideas to spend my days.

Creativity is a reflection of the character of God.

From the opening pages of Scripture, we encounter God's creativity in action. With words, "Let there be light," the poem of creation unfolds as light gives way to time, oceans and mountains form, galaxies are set in motion, and the earth is filled with birds, fish, and every creature imaginable. But God is not finished creating. God decided that He wanted His image to populate the earth. He created people in His image to take care and develop His magnificent creation. Humans are unique in that we reflect God in how we interact with each other and the world around us. That interaction includes God's creativity. We may not form mountains and oceans, but we create art and music, build cities, solve problems, and innovate technology—all of which starts with our God-given creativity.

We think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about **Creativity**—*imagining what you could do because you are made in God's image*. And summertime is just the time to do it.

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Good news, kiddos. We will NOT be taking a summer break! Our Children's Church, which is a part of the 11am worship service and available for Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students, will continue to meet throughout the entire year!

### SUMMER CAMP

Summer is HERE and in the midst of a busy summertime schedule be sure to consider a camp for your child to attend at beautiful **Camp Egan located near Tahlequah, OK**. Your child will enjoy hiking, swimming, recreation, crafts, small group activities, creative worship and great food! Registration can be made online at [www.okcamps.org](http://www.okcamps.org). East Cross will reimburse 1/2 of the camp cost listed below by notifying me that you have completed the registration process. For more information, email [aimeeb@eastcross.org](mailto:aimeeb@eastcross.org).

Campers entering **1st-2nd grade**, sign up for Sonshine camp July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> (\$79 per camper)

Campers entering **3rd-5th grade**, sign up for Growin' In Grace camp June 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> (\$187 per camper)

*Aimee Hall, Director of Children's Ministries*

### NEWS FROM THE NURSERY...

The Nursery at East Cross is a special place for children ages Birth-PreK. Keep in mind Jesus' instructions to "Let the Little Children Come to Me" in Matthew 19:14. We serve several purposes throughout the week, and all provide an environment that's loving, positive and safe. Our nursery workers demonstrate a genuine love and concern for the well-being of all children which, in turn, personifies a loving and understanding God. Rooms are provided that meet your child's developmental needs with age appropriate toys, books, crafts and Bible lessons.

*Liz VanDeVenter, Nursery Director*

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER..

“32 Years of Ahhh.....some”

Our recent school-year session ended with lots of smiles, hugs and many new friends (children and their families) made in *all* our classes! Our 3-year old and 4-year old preschool classes (with 49 children in five classrooms) shared some of their favorite songs and the Pledge of Allegiance *in sign language* with families and friends that were in attendance at our year ending “Preschool Program.” Thank you to Pastor Chad for helping with this annual preschool activity!

Our **Summer Session** begins June 5<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> and is offered *Mondays and Wednesdays*. Many of the classes offered for children 6 months through those entering Kindergarten *are full but* we still welcome inquiries about **openings** in the classes listed below:

Infant class (*children 6 mos. – 16 mos. of age*); Two’s class (*children 2 years of age*);  
Kindergarten class (*for children entering kindergarten in the next school year*).



Everyone will enjoy a fun time together getting to know one another, celebrate Fathers and their special day; camping & picnicking activities; and the always popular Ice Cream & Water Day to close out the session!



**On-Going Collection Items:** Throughout the year our program collects items that can help supplement the need for those “extras” that can enhance a child’s experience in their classroom.



**Box Tops for Education**  
Used Ink-jet printer cartridges



There is a labeled collection box on the wall in the copy room across from the church office to place the Box Tops and cartridges in *OR* they may be dropped off at the ECC office.

### **Help Wanted**

We have begun interviewing *additional* classroom adult teaching staff for our upcoming school-year session that begins in August! These persons *will work part-time* each Monday and Wednesday (9:15 AM – 3:15 PM); previous “teaching” experience is not required, *but* a love of working with very young children is a significant area of interest when considering possible classroom leader(s) and of course, training the “right person” is a definite possibility! *All* ECECC staff are required to go through an interview process; submit to fingerprinting background checks; and follow our program’s own high standards in conjunction with our state’s DHS regulations as well.

Please feel free to contact me directly for additional information or with any questions you may have at 918-333-3814 or email [ecc@eastcross.org](mailto:ecc@eastcross.org).

~ *Coleen Williams, Director @ East Cross Early Childhood Center*



## Student Led Night

One of my favorite times of the year in our C3 Student Ministry is our student-led night. We hold it every year during the second semester. A group of students, that serve actively in our youth, meet together to plan a night of worship for their fellow students. An upper classmen gives a message for his or her fellow students while activities are planned around the night.

This year our student team decided to conduct a "Cross-Walk." This is an activity where a cross is carried to a destination to help visualize Jesus carrying his cross. Zach Robertson began the night after games with a short description of what the cross we were carrying represented. He went on to explain that the cross we were carrying that night was much lighter than the one Jesus had to burden but the important thing to remember was that Jesus



did all the heavy lifting. We did nothing to deserve the grace that we received. Jake Bilger ended the walk with a message about having tough questions and knowing where to take them. The night concluded with s'mores and a couple campfire songs.

I never get tired of seeing Christ move in a teen. As I've seen teens grow in ministry I've come to find a couple things. The first is that I've never met a teen that I didn't like and never met a teen that didn't have a big heart. The other being that Christ is the one that moves our children. We can show them the light but they must follow the path on their own and Jesus will take care of the rest.

Blessings,

*Evan Holmes, Director of Youth Ministries*

## CONGRATULATIONS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 2017!

Six high school seniors were recognized for their accomplishment during worship on May 21. We wish them well and pray for God's guidance and blessings as they continue their education.

<b>Graduate</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Major</b>
Tyler Gerth	University of Arkansas	Computer Engineering
Cooper Green	Oklahoma State University	Zoology
Madison Hopkins	University of Arkansas	Pharmaceutical Sciences
Melody Brown-Clark	University of Southern California	Neuroscience
Erin Epperson	Creighton University	Accounting
Emma Claiborne	Oklahoma State University	Entomology



Left to Right:

Tyler Gerth, Cooper Green, Madison Hopkins, Melody Brown-Clark, Erin Epperson, Emma Claiborne



## **June Outreach News**

### **Costa Rica Countdown! July 8-15, 2017**

The East Cross Costa Rica VIM team will be leaving in a few short weeks. They will be working with the Rice and Beans Ministries to serve the needy and spread God's love. The Rice and Beans Ministries have been in operation for ten years and has fed over 640,000 people, given school supplies to over 120,000 children, built twelve churches and five homes, and more! Please begin praying for the East Cross team, the ministry, and for the people of Costa Rica. You can also help by purchasing bags of food that will be distributed by our team members to the needy. We, East Cross, are a team supporting God's work whether we go on the team, pray, encourage, or give financially. Pura Vida!

**Engineers – Save the date** of August 7<sup>th</sup> for a meeting at East Cross with “Engineers in Action.” This will be an informative meeting regarding how engineers are helping with water projects in South America.

**The Concern Child Learning Center** will be the beneficiary of the gifts in our Generosity Boxes during the month of June. They have a greater need during the summer months for the following items: Diapers – size 3 to 6; Pull-ups; Wipes; Paper towels; and regular Wash Cloths. Please bring donations to the East Cross Generosity Boxes located at each entrance. What a blessing your items will mean to this mission outreach!

**The Outreach Committee June Meeting** will be held on the first Tuesday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m. and not the second Tuesday. This is due to schedule conflicts. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend Outreach meetings.

**KAIROS Prison Ministry** is beginning to plan Fall Kairos events. Dates have not been set yet but it would be great to meet with potential Kairos volunteers. We have opportunities for both men and women for inside and outside the prisons roles. Inside roles include table discussions leaders and behind the scenes assistance. Outside roles include food preparation and delivery runners. Only men may serve inside men's prisons and women in women's prisons, but both men and women can serve in outside roles. We hope to have a late summer meeting for anyone feeling the call to help with the KAIROS prison ministry.

**Everyone at East Cross contributes** to CONCERN, MUTUAL, East Cross VIMs (mission teams), Samaritan Counseling, Lighthouse and many more. A portion of your tithes and offerings to East Cross goes into the OUTREACH budget and is distributed to the varied mission efforts East Cross supports. Thank you!

### **Lawn care help needed at Tuesday House and MUTUAL**

Lawn care at Tuesday House and MUTUAL is a volunteer opportunity that includes mowing and trimming. On the job training is available! You do not need to help every time but any help is greatly appreciated. Please contact Al Bungee, “Big Al,” for more information.

### **Summer Prayer Needs**

MUTUAL Girls Club summer activities  
East Cross VIM to Costa Rica in July  
Oklahoma UM Conference Volunteer in Missions office as they send and guide summer mission teams  
Samaritan Counseling as they guide and counsel Bartlesville area residents

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Gadgets & Gizmos is almost here!

Join us June 12–16 from 6pm—8pm for our fun-filled Vacation Bible School for children entering Kindergarten—5th grade.



To volunteer or to register a child, please do so at our EC Kids Check In Desk or by visiting our website at [www.eastcross.org/children](http://www.eastcross.org/children).

Our VBS will capture a kid's imagination about our creator so they can discover how they are MADE by God, MADE for a relationship with Jesus, and MADE to love others.

## VIM—Volunteers in Mission

*Are you willing...*

- To work with a cheerful heart, in fun and fellowship?
- To spread the love of Jesus Christ to your teammates and those we serve?

***Then join the Green Country District UM Children's Home VIM Team!***

**When:** Monday 7am June 26 to Friday 3pm June 30, 2017. Transportation provided.

**Where:** Staying at Ferguson Hall at the UM Children's Home, Tahlequah, OK

**What:** Painting, fixing fences, light building repair, grounds-work, and preparing our team meals

**Who:** Anyone within the Green Country District; Team limit is 15

**Costs:** Payments to: Bartlesville First Church "for UMCH VIM"

Estimated cost is \$130, due by June 12, covering transportation, food and lodging.

**Contact:** Sandy Singleton (VIM Team Leader)

Email: [singleton@bartnet.net](mailto:singleton@bartnet.net) Phone: 918-333-6814 or 918-440-6103

## **Food Bags for Costa Rica!**

We have food bags for sale for our Rice and Beans Mission Trip to Costa Rica.

*Each bag costs \$12.00*

What you are buying: Each bag that is bought goes directly to Rice and Beans Ministries and supplies all the food that will go into the bag to feed a family of four.

Food items include: 1 gallon worth of powdered milk. Bag of Rice. Bag of Beans. Etc.

NOTE: You are welcome and encouraged to draw or write on the bags as the families that receive them will re-use the bags for every day activities. For more details, contact Evan Holmes.

## PRAYER LIST

### New Prayer Requests...

Norita Akers, Alida (Maebeth Furrow's sister), Ann Allen (Lola Norfleet's granddaughter), Alan Beckworth, Alden Beckworth, Leon Brammer, 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, Jerry Cox, Stan Defehr, Debbie Dagenette, Marcia Goode, Edna Harbison, Richard Herman, John Hron (father of Kermit and Mary Lou Tanzey's son-in-law), Gertrude Hughey, Judy Johnson (Margie Green's mother), Barry Knuth, James Kuntz, Louis & Emily Kuntz, Joe LaFerry, Sophia Lookout (Rachel Sweeden's mother-in-law), Paul McQuillen, Bob Muman, Mike Paxson (brother-in-law of Coleen Williams), Piersall family, Debbie Potter, Marie Puckett, Euela Randall, Spence Rigdon, Earnest & Cathe Riggs, Ken Salamy (Tootsie Bryan's nephew), Sandy Shaw, Harriett Smith, Carol Stithem, Mike Sullivan (Ruth Montgomery's friend), Nita Wakeley, Jeremy Waldorf, Keith Webb, Raymond White, Jr., Bill & Allie Zoldoske

### Condolences to...

Jessica Butler and family on the death of her grandfather on April 27.

Charlie and LeAnne Christensen on the death of her father on April 27.

Liz McLaughlin and family on the death of her husband, Curtis McLaughlin on May 6.

Evelyn Meade and family on the death of her brother, Harold Meade on May 6th.

Gerald Graham on the death of his wife, Ollie Mae Graham on May 19.

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

## 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.

Best wishes to CPT Dan Smith who has a new assignment in Maryland. He will be at John's Hopkins University doing space research for the Army for the next year and will then move to the Pentagon for two years. Please keep Dan and his family in your prayers as they make this transition to a job, a new community, new schools, and new friends.



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](mailto:chasleanne@gmail.com) or 918-327-1226.

## MUTUAL Tuesday House Resale Shop

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

## 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 Boulevard Diner on Saturday, June 3rd at 8am!**



**ONLINE GIVING...** You can give electronically by going to our website [www.eastcross.org](http://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
<b>JUNE 2017</b>				1	2	3 8:00a Men's breakfast at Boulevard Diner 5:30p Wedding
4 <i>Communion</i>	5 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	6 7:00p Outreach	7	8	9 7:00p Church Bridge	10 10:00am VBS Setup
11	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 6:00PM—8:00PM					17
18 <i>Father's Day</i>	GREEN COUNTRY DISTRICT CAMP 6th—12th grades					24
25	GROWIN' IN GRACE CAMP 3rd—5th grades			29	30	
	26 6:30p Young Adults	27 6p Piecemaker Quilters	28			

## Weekly Activities at East Cross

### Sunday

8:30am  
9:45am  
11:00am  
5:00pm

Traditional Worship Service  
Small Groups for all ages  
Contemporary Worship Service  
Youth

### Wednesday

9:30am-3:00pm  
7:30pm

Early Childhood Center  
Summer Program  
Praise Band Practice

### Monday

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

### Thursday

### Friday

### Tuesday

4:00pm  
Prayer Group

### 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*

*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***

**CHRISTIANS IN ACTION**

Last month, CIA spent two hours in our gardens. They dug, seeded, planted and mulched to give our church a fresh, spring look! As always, a special thanks to our adult volunteers for making events like this one happen!

