

Volume 24, Number 1
January 1st, 2018

East Cross News

Monthly Publication
of East Cross United
Methodist Church



east cross



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

Email articles to
office@eastcross.org



January 7	<i>Prayer of Moses</i>	Exodus 17:8-13
January 14	<i>Prayer of Daniel</i>	Daniel 6:1-28
January 21	<i>Prayer of Hezekiah</i>	2 Kings 19:8-37
January 28	<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>	Matthew 6:9-13
February 4	<i>Jesus' Prayer of Forgiveness</i>	Luke 23:34, Matthew 18:15-17

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTIONS

Resumes January 10

5:30 Meal—\$2.00 Suggested Donation (Youth and Guests Eat Free)
6:00pm Small Group Classes for All Ages

-**“Going Deeper”** led by Pastor Jeff. An ongoing study of the sermon topic and scripture from the previous Sunday's message allowing time to go much deeper in discussion than what is allowed on Sunday morning.

-**“Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World”** led by Pastor Chad. Video Bible study by bestselling author Max Lucado explores God's treatment plan for anxiety found in Philippians 4:4-8. While anxiety is a part of life, it doesn't have to dominate your life. With God as your helper and his promises at your side, you can discover a life of calm and develop tools for combating anxiety.

ANOTHER STEP IN OUR JOURNEY...

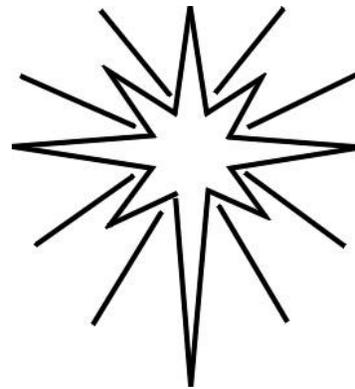
I want to start this New Year with thanking you for your generosity to God and the Church. During 2017, together, we grew in physical numbers of people present at worship services and in our giving. Thank you so much for being faithful and generous.

As 2017 ended you had the opportunity to give toward monetary gifts for your East Cross Staff, who serve you and our community with distinction, and we say thank you to each one who participated in giving. We, probably like you, when we get a little extra this time of year treat ourselves to something special, give a little extra back to the church and maybe even pay extra on a bill, so thank you from all of the East Cross Staff for your gifts.

We will start the New Year off with a sermon series on PRAYER. We are also working toward beginning a Single's Ministry in the near future and are starting to plan toward a third worship service each weekend.

It's great to work together with church family as we let God's light shine through us so we are the light of the world for those who live in darkness.

Pastor Jeff



Traditional Worship...

Being the Traditional Music Director is such a joy! I am beyond fortunate to get to sing each week with the people in the Sanctuary Choir and share music together in worship. As I have been planning music this season for our Sampler, Advent, and special Christmas Eve services, the wonderful people of East Cross are what make the season so bright. The Light of Christ shines through you as you share your many gifts of service in our church each week. I am surrounded by love with your kind words, hugs, and thoughtfulness. Thank you for your gift of appreciation this Christmas. It is yet another example of the amazing people that are East Cross. I feel so fortunate to be traveling this special journey together with you.

May each of you have a Happy New Year!

Margie Green, Traditional Worship Director

From Pastor Chad...

It is a new year. It amazes me how this time of year comes back around every twelve months or so. It seems like we were just kicking off 2017 a few days ago and worshipping and praising God in a newly renovated space. I will tell you, 2017 was a fantastic year and I am so grateful that I got to be a part of the journey.

Therefore, as we begin this new year, I would like to start out with some big THANK YOU's and to challenge you. First of all, thank you for the love and support that you have shown to my family and me. Thank you for the generous outpouring for the staff appreciation gifts. Thank you for the Christmas cards and treats. Thank you for the prayer support. Thank you for all the gifts, but most of all, thank you for the gift of just being you.

As we move into 2018, I want you to think about the gifts you have been given. I am not talking solely about your finances, but about the spiritual gifts with which God has blessed you. God, in his infinite grace and wisdom, has blessed each of us in different ways. In 1 Corinthians 12 (CEB) we read these words:

⁴ There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are different ministries and the same Lord; ⁶ and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.

God has given us all different gifts so that by pulling together we can be the complete body of the church—working and moving in the direction God would have us go. The question is, how are you using the gifts with which you have been blessed?

Maybe you are in doubt as to what gift God has given you. I invite you to take a spiritual gifts inventory online or stop by the church and we can help you figure it out. Maybe you know what gifts God has blessed you with, but are afraid of putting them into practice. Take a moment and look up 2 Timothy 1:7—it might just be the push you need. No matter where you find yourself, know that God has gifted you for a reason. So how are you going to put those gifts into practice during 2018?

Pastor Chad



C3 Student Ministry

Christmas came and went and I can't believe how tired I am from all of this holiday madness! I love Christmas with my family and seeing all the beautiful decorations. Actually, as I think about it, the thing I loved to do with our church family the most is share the story of Christ during the Christmas season.

We had an opportunity to carol at the Apartment complex next door to the church with our students last month and we had a blast! We made some hot cocoa, sang songs, and handed out candy canes with our church card and Christmas Eve Services on them. It was such a joy to see the joy on the families faces that we encountered as we caroled around the complex. I realized something about the Christmas holiday that I feared I was starting to lose...I felt like my Christmas spirit was dying. And I don't mean the whole Santa Clause and presents thing. It seemed like I wasn't excited about sharing the news of Christ during Christmas. As we caroled and handed out gifts, however, I began to wonder about who might get to meet Jesus this season and I began to get excited. The next Sunday is when it all came together for me.

We had a brand new family that visited our church! They had received one of our cards from caroling and decided to come take a look on Sunday morning! They were greeted by smiling faces and had tons of questions about what was going on at our church. It was at that moment that the Spirit of Christmas returned to me. It wasn't about the gift giving, or the pretty decorations, or going through all of the Christmas traditions for me. It was about the wonder and awe of someone getting to meet the Savior of the world. For me, that is the most exciting holiday gift I think anyone can receive.

A Note From Evan: Dear Church Family,

I want to take a second and thank all of you for your support this last year. We have experienced some amazing ministry and I credit it all to the church body. To God be the glory and may He get all the credit. So thank you from the bottom of my heart and Happy New Year!

Evan Holmes, Director of Youth Ministries

Contemporary Worship...

As we embark on this new year, I'd like to thank all of those who made last year such a wonderful success for our team, especially those involved in our Advent and Christmas Eve services. Our congregation is second to none! Our hope is that worshipping at East Cross provides everyone the opportunity to have an encounter with an amazing Savior, and that our church uses our music to magnify and lift up the Lord!

"Come, let's sing out loud to the LORD! Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation! Let's come before him with thanks! Let's shout songs of joy to him!" -Psalm 95:1-2 CEB

I cannot express how grateful I am for the team I get to lead each week. To all of our musicians, vocalists, sound, audio, and lighting techs, pastors and church leaders, volunteers, members of our worship committee, and our office and support staff who help us week in and week out, I want to give a huge THANK YOU! Your faithfulness to our church and our team means more than I could ever express!

God Bless,

Zack Michel, Contemporary Worship Director

EC Kids...

Happy New Year! 2017 was such an amazing year! Together we laughed, conquered, loved and grew in faith. Growing in faith is not something that happens by simply cramming information about the Bible into a child's brain. The knowledge in their head means nothing if we don't help kids experience what that knowledge can do in their heart. To experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith and that takes commitment.

God committed to keep all His promises. Every single one of them! Because God has kept His promises to us, we can make a plan and stick to it. One of the best plans you can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. This month, we will encourage your child to commit to practicing faith by reading God's Word, praying to Him consistently, talking about Him with friends, and living out their faith every day.

"Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8, NIRV

I'd like to take a moment to express my gratitude for your generous donations towards the Staff Appreciation gifts. I am truly blessed to be able to serve at such a wonderful and loving church. Thank you!

Aimee Hall, Director of Children's Ministries

EAST CROSS NURSERY...

With the New Year ahead of us, it is always good to think back to the year that is behind us to see what was accomplished or not accomplished. Hopefully, we can learn from our experiences and grow from our mistakes. I cannot move on to this New Year without reflecting on God's goodness and give him the glory that is due him. The Nursery at East Cross is a wonderful place to serve, and all those involved feel truly blessed to be a part of God's work. We love every opportunity that we are given to share God's love with the children in the Nursery. It is a joy to teach them about the love of God, and build relationships with them and watch them grow.

I would like to thank everyone at East Cross for allowing me to be a part of this amazing church and for everything they have done for me this past year.

2 Corinthians 5:17 "therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here."

Liz VanDeVenter, Nursery Director

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER...

As our classes return from the Christmas and New Year's holiday break, our **Parent Day Out** class weekly themes will appropriately be Penguins, Teddy Bears, Snow and Snowmen, and Nursery Rhymes! These are introduced through a variety of age-appropriate songs, story books, crafts, games, and even some "science experiments" (think snow activities).



The **Preschool** children will work on their "color of the month" (BLUE) along with the "shape of the month" (STAR); each child is allowed and encouraged to check out books from our "Lending Library"; "Star Student" or "Favorite Things" are shared within their classes; and learning about maps (city, state, country and world) is always a favorite learning lesson in the 4-year old pre-school classes. Another favorite activity happening this month is when the children get to wear their PJ's to school, enjoy hot chocolate and slumber that day!



BOX TOP for Education™ Collections

Our program's next submission of Box Tops will be February 28! Last October we submitted 1,362 Box Tops and received a check for \$136.20 in December – thank you! These simple funds can help provide some of the supplemental items and supplies in our classrooms.

**We REALLY appreciate the effort
YOU take in helping us with this collection!**



USED INK-JET Cartridge Collection / Recycle

We *continuously*, throughout the year, collect all used ink-jet cartridges! For most cartridges, the amount paid for submission is nominal, but is an easy way for all of us to **recycle** instead of throwing these in the trash. So if have any (from home or work) feel free to leave them in the copy room (across from the church office) or leave them in the basket in the ECC foyer, or drop them off at our ECC office.

Thank you for recycling and helping us earn easy money!

On a personal note, much appreciation to my East Cross Church family for your support and gifts provided to me personally and to the ministry program I have been blessed to serve in for the past 15+ years.

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



Baptism...

We celebrated the baptism of Caroline Call during the 11:00 service on Sunday, November 26.

Pictured with Caroline are her parents, Emily and H.C., and big sisters, Eva and Gracie.

Our East Cross family looks forward to continuing the journey of faith with Caroline and her family.

*Thank
you*

Dear East Cross Church,

Thank you for all you have done this year for the Learning Center. We love and appreciate you.

Concern Child Learning Center, Staff and Children

Dear East Cross Family,

Thank you so much for the Starbucks gift card! It helped me power through finals!

Also, I am so grateful for all of your support and prayers! I hope you all are doing well and Merry Christmas!

Love,
Michael Wood

Dear East Cross Family,

Thank you for your generous donations towards our Staff Appreciation gifts! We are truly blessed to be serving a loving and caring church family who are so supportive.

We look forward to new opportunities of service and worship in 2018 and wish each of you a New Year filled with God's blessings!

Sincerely,
Pastor Jeff, Pastor Chad, Evan, Aimee, Linda S, Linda T, Coleen, Liz, Margie, Zack, Seth and Jon

January Outreach News – Continuing the Mission Ministry!

Generosity Boxes

If you could make somebody's day by providing a plain bar of soap, would you do that? You will have the opportunity to do just that this month. **CONCERN PANTRY** is in need of several items and bar soap is just one of the items. Their specific needs are **bar soap, toothbrushes, powdered milk, and complete pancake mix** (the type that mixes with water). While shopping this month, would you drop a couple of these items into your shopping cart and place them in one of the Generosity Boxes located at each entrance to East Cross? You have no idea how much this simple effort will mean to many of our local families!

Red Bird 2018 Information Meeting

The Red Bird Volunteer In Mission (VIM) will be July 21 – 28, 2018. People wanting to be a part of the team need to attend the informational meeting at 2:00pm on January 14 in the East Cross Christian Life Center. You are not committing to be on the team, but if you do want to be on the team you must attend. Forms and financial information will be key items discussed at the meeting. We will begin organizing transportation, meals, and other duties. Bill Amburn is the VIM team leader.

CONCERN Needs Volunteers

If you have a couple of hours to volunteer Concern could use your help. They are looking to fill a need for a receptionist, intake worker and order filler. Their hours are 11:00am-3:30pm Monday through Thursday. You can volunteer for a two hour shift or a four hour shift one day a week or multiple days. If you are interested in finding out more information contact Kay Martin at 918-336-4693.

KAIROS

Garry Gunter reports that the recent KAIROS weekend at the Dick Connor Correctional Center in Hominy went well. The retreat hosted 36 inmates with twelve inmate graduates joining the retreat daily. The success with reaching these men for Christ has developed a push to expand to additional Oklahoma prisons.

Mountain of Food Summary

Over 7700 cases of food weighing over 16,000 pounds were divided up and distributed to CONCERN, Lighthouse, and AGAPE. We have received "thank you" notes expressing their gratitude from each ministry. CONCERN was close to having empty shelves. Thank you East Cross for your generosity!

Disaster Response – Hurricane Relief Update

The rebuild phase of the hurricane season is now open to VIM teams in Louisiana and Texas areas. Puerto Rico is still in the Disaster Response phase and at this time systems are not in place to receive VIM teams. UMCOR is working directly with the Puerto Rican Methodist church to work through the Disaster Response phase and move into the rebuild phase.

Texas: While Irma victims are still in recovery mode and Maria victims are waiting on damage reports, the Texas Conference is pleading for volunteers to come help. Scott Moore says conference volunteers are exhausted, having mucked and gutted nearly 5,000 homes with thousands more to go. "We need help immediately. The scale of this and the resources we need are going to take years to repair. Volunteers are tired and homeowners are frustrated," Moore said. Despite the rubble piles on the sides of homes, driving around Southeast Texas, it looks like the state has recovered. "In the Texas Conference, you don't see damage until you begin to open people's doors," said Texas Conference Bishop Scott Jones. "Then your heart breaks."

January Outreach News – Continued

Chili Cook-Off and Silent Auction



Save Sunday, January 28, for the Chili cook-off lunch at East Cross. Please submit your best chili and come for the fun! We will also have delicious homemade chicken and noodles. Anyone wanting to contribute to the silent auction needs to contact Jean Abshire at 918-766-3484. All proceeds will go to local missions. Come for the food, fellowship, auction, and celebrating East Cross in ministry!

2018 Team Leader Training

East Cross needs a few people who are willing to be VIM team leaders to attend the 2018 Team Leader Training. The Outreach Committee of East Cross will pay for East Cross members registration fee. All Oklahoma Conference mission teams must have a certified team leader and training needs to be renewed every four years.

January 20th at Tahlequah FUMC

February 24th at Wesley UMC, OKC

To register go to <https://okumc-reg.brtpapp.com/vimtraining201671>.

East Cross Covenant Relationship Change

The Outreach team voted to begin a Covenant Relationship with Ngoy Mulanga Kalangwa who is a GBGM missionary in Tanzania, Africa. Like Marilyn Chan, Mrs. Kalangwa works in women's ministries and is the director of the Susannah Wesley Education and Healthcare Center. She focuses on women developing skills such as sewing and other skills to improve the quality of living. Mrs. Kalangwa is the wife of a UMC pastor, Rev. Umba Kalangwa. They work together to impact Tanzania for Christ. The committee realized that many East Cross members feel a connection to Marilyn Chan and invite East Cross members to continue to pray and support Mrs. Chan as we begin a new relationship with Ngoy Mulanga Kalangwa.

Prayer Needed

KAIROS as they expand the prison ministry into additional prisons in Oklahoma
Disaster victims from hurricanes in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and the Caribbean islands
Disaster victims from the wildfires in California

New Year's Question Where will you serve in missions this year?

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 — Monday & Wednesday 9am-12pm

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

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

PRAYER LIST

New Prayer Requests...

Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Edna Harbison

Tammy Baughman, Leon Brammer, Al Bunge, Richard Burress (Jeff's brother), Geoffery Christensen (Eileen Christensen Perrin's son), Kathy Christian, Bryant Collier, Joan Collins (friend of Pam Knuth), Val Cottle, Eddie Danford (father of Brenda Commons), Stan DeFehr, Debbie Dagenette, Ed Gordon, Janelle Hale (Judy Stephens' sister), Janice Holt (Emmalene Lennon's daughter), Gertrude Hughey, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Barry Knuth, James Kuntz, Louis and Emily Kuntz, Mike Paxson (Coleen Williams' brother-in-law), Linda Piersall, Debbie Potter, Marie Puckett, Rita Putney (Becky Bryant's friend), Euela Randall, Sharon Reeves (Linda Thornton's friend), Spence Rigdon, Kay Ruehlen, Carol Stithem, Vernon and Hopie Taliaferro, Kermit Tanzey, Mary Lou Tanzey, Joyce Taylor, Jan Waldorf, Raymond White, Terri Woods

Condolences to...

Virginia Messick, Kay Ruehlen and family on the death of sister, and aunt, Celia McClinton.

Bill and Susan Henning on the death of Bill's father, Dale Henning.

Jewell Baker, Debbie Graham and family on the death of sister, and aunt, Louis Trammel.

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
Esn. Lisa Freeman	PFC Luis Balli	

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.

All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at Weezie's on Saturday, January 6 at 8am!



Sunday Morning Van Ministry



Call the church office at 918-333-0810 and **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.

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
	1 <i>New Year's Day Church Office Closed</i>	2	3	4	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast at Weezie's
7 <i>Communion</i>	8 6:30p Young Adults 7p Miriam Circle	9 7p Outreach	10 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	11 6:30p Children's Council	12 7p Church Bridge	13
14 2p Red Bird Information Mtg 5p PG Small Group	15 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Trustees	16 6p Piecemaker Quilters	17 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	18 9:30a Rebecca Circle	19 7p EC Kids Winter Bash	20
21	22 6:30p Young Adults	23	24 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	25	26	27
28 12 Noon Chili Cook-off 5p PG Small Group	29	30	31 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	<i>January 2018</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
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir
7:30pm Praise Band Practice

Thursday

Friday

9:30am-12Noon Early Childhood Center

Saturday

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Traditional Worship Director
Pianist
Amelia Nash, *Organist*
Zack Michel
Contemporary Worship Director
Seth Weimer
Sound Tech
Jon Colliver
Building & Maintenance Coordinator

learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey

Serving Our Community During The Holiday Season!

