

Volume 24, Number 4
April 1st, 2018

East Cross News

Monthly Publication
of East Cross United
Methodist Church



east cross



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www.eastcross.org



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

Email articles to
office@eastcross.org

April 1 Easter Sunday

8:30am and 9:45am—Traditional Worship

11:00am Contemporary Worship

Holy Communion at all services

WORTH THE R I S K



COMMITMENTS THAT LEAD TO LIFE

Upcoming Sermon Series: WORTH THE RISK Commitments that Lead to Life

April 8
Sermon: Risky Life
Genesis 3

April 15
Sermon: Risky Friendship
Leviticus 19:15-18

April 22
Sermon: Risky Family
Matthew 6

April 29
Sermon: Risky Marriage
Ephesians 5:15-33

Another step in our journey...

When we talk about living a committed life, that can mean so many different things. We talk about action that people have committed, having a person committed to an institution, and living a life committed to a person or an ideal. Throughout April we will look at living a committed life, and by that we mean living a life committed to relationships, and ideals. But, living a committed life is actually pretty risky. We can commit, but what about when changes come and we have the opportunity to do something or be with someone 'better' than the object of our current commitment? Is it really commitment if we only commit until a 'better' person or thing comes along?



I hope you will join us as we consider the risk of really committing to a life of following Jesus, committing to friendships, committing to a marriage partner, committing to our family, and committing to our church.

Scripture gives us some great wisdom for these areas of our lives. Don't miss out on WORTH THE RISK: Commitments that Lead to Life.

Pastor Jeff

Traditional Worship

Because He Lives, I can face tomorrow!!! Wow! What a victorious statement of HOPE! Bill and Gloria Gaither are two of the most prolific southern gospel writers of all time. We sing hymns written by them in church often, and they always resonate in the hearts of many. During a very hard winter in Indiana in 1969, Bill and Gloria were expecting a child, but were experiencing some hard times in their lives. Unsettling times in the nation, education, drugs, and racial tension were all over the news. Sound familiar? Bill was very ill and they both were struggling

with bitterness over troubles in their church. It seemed like a very insecure time to be bringing a child into the world. As spring approached, they were making their way across a parking lot to their offices. George, Bill's father, pointed out something that neither Bill nor Gloria had noticed. A blade of grass was pushing its way up out of the concrete towards the sunlight. Instantly, they knew that simple blade of grass was a symbol of how God works in the creation around us. Gloria was inspired to write a song about HOPE that abounds through the resurrection of Jesus!

"God sent His son. They called Him Jesus. He came to love, heal and forgive. He lived and died to buy my pardon; An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives... How sweet to hold a newborn baby; and feel the pride and joy he gives; but greater still, the calm assurance: this child can face uncertain days because He lives... Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living, just because He lives!!!"

Margie Green,
Traditional Worship

From Pastor Chad...

We recently finished up a study during our Wednesday Night Connections entitled “He Choose the Nails” by Max Lucado. It was an amazing study and during the final lesson, Max showed us, by using the story of Easter, how God chose to give us victory. In fact, the Apostle Paul calls it a sweeping victory. He pens these words in Romans chapter 8 (CEB):

³¹ So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him? ³⁵ Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁷ But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through

the one who loved us. ³⁸ I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers ³⁹ or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

We see through the events of that first Easter that there is nothing that can defeat God—not even sin or death. It is also through the events of that first Easter that we can claim the same victory in our own lives. Through tragedy, heartache, pain, and loss. Max says in the study guide that, “We all face tragedy and hardships, but the promise of Scripture is that God is always at work to bring victory and new life, even from the rags of death.” This is what we see back to Romans 8, when Paul writes, ²⁸ *And we know that in all things God works for the good of*

those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Maybe you find yourself needing to claim that victory as you cannot see past the tragedy or heartache that surrounds you. Begin by claiming the victory that has already been won by inserting the tragedy or heartache you are experiencing in place of “all things” from Romans 8:28. It would look like this: We know that in _____ God works for the good of those who love him. Each day make this your prayer. Give that tragedy or heartbreak to God. Continue to trust in God and the power of the Resurrection of Christ as you seek to claim victory in your life.

Blessings on the journey!

Pastor Chad

Contemporary Worship

Thank you East Cross! Last month you voted to move forward with the next stage of our remodel project, which involves several changes to our worship space. I want to thank our church administration for putting this plan together, and want to give major appreciation to our congregation for an overwhelming YES vote on March 11. We are so excited to be able to make our worship space more compatible for the many events and services we host, as well as continuing to look toward the future with every decision we make! God is moving, and we are growing at East Cross!

Our contemporary worship team is currently working on raising around \$4,800 for a new electronic drum set. Evan has been very kind to let us borrow the youth's drum set for the past year, but we don't want to continue to add wear and tear to their set week after week! If you are at all interested in making a donation to help us cover the cost of a new set, please contact the church office or come talk to me personally! Thank you so much for continuing to support our ministry!

God Bless,
Zack Michel,
Contemporary Worship

“Enlarge the site of your tent, and stretch out the drapes of your dwellings; don't hold back. Lengthen your tent ropes and strengthen your stakes. To the right and to the left you will burst out, and your children will possess the nations' land and settle their desolate cities.”

Isaiah 54:2-3 CEB

C3 Student Ministry

Spring Growth

It's officially "Spring" and even though the weather hasn't turned warm quite yet, our hopes for green grass and blooming flowers continues to grow. Easter is right around the corner and I can't help but look to the celebration of Christ defeating death!

We have enjoyed growing together this year by feeding others during our Valentines Day Dinner and talking about relationships throughout February. I pray for our students that are growing up in our church and for the ones getting ready to go on to their next steps in college. We have seen a lot of

change in our church and I have been amazed at how caring this church is for each other. Learning and growing as a community is monumental in our growth with Christ. I had a Great Aunt who was a missionary in Africa until she was 90 years old or so. She would always tell us that once you stop changing is when you start dying. I'll never forget that. She knew the importance of continuing to learn and grow. I encourage my students and I encourage you to look at the Cross at Easter and see where God is pushing you to grow. Whether you need to move on from past sin or think about going on a mission trip to help others in need, whatever it is, God is moving in our church today!

I think if we look at our faith as an egg, we can see how growth takes time and care but can eventually lead to a healthy living thing that will eventually lead to more growth and multiplication of others. God is working this spring and growing us all. Don't forget to look and see what He is doing.

Blessings!

Evan Holmes, Director of Youth Ministries



EC Kids

Have you ever been on a road trip? There's nothing like typing an address into your GPS and heading out on the open road for an adventure. Yet, somewhere along the way, you might hear a tiny voice from the backseat asking the familiar question, "Are we there yet?" As much as the journey is worth it to get to the destination, road trips take time and waiting to arrive can be frustrating. But it's not just with road trips. Doesn't it seem like we're faced with waiting for something or someone—all the time? That's why we're using the idea of a road trip to help kids understand more about what God says about patience.

We will learn that because of Jesus, WE CAN WAIT. Waiting is such a hard concept for kids, especially when growing up in a society that thrives off of instant gratification. To know an answer, instead of learning by finding it on your own, all one has to do is ask Siri. But by learning to wait, we can trust that God has it in control. We can have hope that things will work out in the end. And we can be patient because we know all that God has done.



3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS

Our 3rd Grade Bible Presentation will be here quickly! Bibles will be presented to our current 3rd graders on Sunday, April 29. Please be present for both services. Bibles will be presented towards the end of first service and at the beginning of second service. If you have a 3rd grader, keep your eyes out for a postcard with more information!

Aimee Hall, Director of Children's Ministries

EAST CROSS NURSERY

I love this time of year! 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. At Easter we don't just celebrate our hope for life after death, we celebrate our hope for life now.

This month the 3 year old-PreK class will be talking about the

Good News of Jesus and learning about some of the miracles he performed in the Bible and is still doing today. The class has also started practicing their song for the Dine and Shine in May.

In March the Nursery had a fire drill and will be doing a tornado drill this month. We believe that children are a gift from God and we intend to keep them safe and

teach them about Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Liz VanDeVenter,
Nursery Director

"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
and no mind has imagined
what God has prepared
for those who love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

April is yet another busy month ahead in our East Cross Early Childhood Center (ECECC).

Preschool Parent / Teacher Conferences will be offered to the 48 preschool children's families on Friday, April 13.

Part of our job at ECECC is to "introduce" many early skills to the children and encourage their development. We recognize that no two children are exactly at the same point in their skills, and that's alright! These conferences are a wonderful way to understand and observe how a specific child learns. Our preschool teachers spend a lot of time gathering, organizing, and even interpreting information about each child's growth and early development. This "progress report" provides support information that enables the teachers to share meaningful and descriptive information with the parents.

Scholastic Book Fair – We welcome everyone (*ECECC families and church families too*) to shop our book fair that will be **available April 13 – 20** because ***we love books at ECECC*** and often provide *many* opportunities to share books with the children AND to get books into their hands. So, we once again offer this opportunity to add to any young child's home library! Another option for this time period is our "Book Fair Homepage" at www.bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/ececc.

Enrollment opportunities for children to enroll into our *upcoming* classes (Summer Session and next School-Year Session) are now "*open to the public!*"

Our **Summer Session** (June 4-27) continues to be all about "fun", so be sure and return your child's enrollment forms as soon as possible so that they can be a part of all the activities we have planned. Note too, we *only accept* enough children's enrollment applications depending upon the actual working staff (*very limited in the summer*) in our summer session so we can maintain appropriate child / staff ratios.

Our **School-Year Session** (August 2018 – May 2019) offers Parent Day Out and Preschool classes for children 6 months-of-age through 4 year old preschool.

ALL our upcoming session's "***Preliminary Enrollment Forms***" can be retrieved on the church website (www.eastcross.org) via the Early Childhood Center tab, OR by contacting the ECECC office directly at 918-333-3814 or email us at ecc@eastcross.org.

We anticipate a need to hire additional classroom staff to aid in the care and early education of the children in our upcoming sessions! Our program employs persons that we feel have the appropriate gifts and talents that they want to share with children and also help achieve the highest

level of service for the Lord within this ministry of the church and to our community!

We have already begun **taking employment applications** for adults (also college-aged persons) that would like to be a part of our staff here at ECECC for these areas:

This **Summer's Classes** (eight working days) for the month of June, working with children 6 months-of-age through those entering Kindergarten.

Next School-Year Session — August 2018 – May 2019

Parent Day Out Classes (Mondays and Wednesdays) Shall be *at least 18 years old* with a high school diploma; general and basic experience, understanding, and love for infants and very young children; and preferably has child care work history.

All applicants that are offered a position will be required to submit to required fingerprinting; background and reference checks; be able and willing to be CPR certified; and go through a multi-step interview process so that we can find the "right" person for our program. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about our needs, please have them contact Coleen ASAP!

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

April Outreach News

Generosity Boxes

The month of April our local mission outreach will be the **FOOD 4 KIDS** program!! Your fantastic kindness in helping to meet the needs of many of our Bartlesville kids has been superb! Did you know the **Food 4 Kids** program will continue through the impending teacher walkout? They are in need of the following items to supplement what they are able to obtain from the local food bank. So while you are shopping, won't you grab a few of these items and toss them in your cart?

Generosity Boxes are located at **EACH** entrance to ECUMC!

Food 4 Kids needs:

- Pudding cups – vanilla or chocolate
- Fruit cups (no applesauce)
- Small boxes of raisins
- Fruit snacks – the ones with 100% fruit juice
- Fruit juice boxes – with 100% juice

DHS Foster Children **Easter Buckets**

Even with the short time frame our East Cross family has done it again. 104 children will receive Easter goodies. Thank all of you so much for showing God's love!

Fred Curry from Rice and Bean Ministry will be here to visit our church family on August 12, 2018.

Opportunities to Serve

Red Bird Cardinal Singers from Kentucky will be performing at East Cross on April 18. If you can provide accommodations for any of our guests, please contact Vicky Beierschmitt 918-914-0271.

Kairos Prison Ministry

Dick Connor Correctional Center
Thursday-Sunday May 3-6
See related article on page 8 for ways you can support this ministry.

Are you serving? If not, the Outreach Committee would welcome you to join us the second Tuesday at 7pm each month.

Do you remember? We are learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey!

Till next month—Love each other.

Outreach Committee Distributes \$\$ from Endowments

At the March meeting the Outreach committee was able to distribute nearly \$20,000 in money from memorials given to the church.

A memorial is a gift given in memory of someone. An endowment is a gift given to a nonprofit organization. So both words are accurate in describing these funds. We call them gifts from God! Because of these gifts by forward thinking individuals and a very good year in investments we at East Cross UMC are able to

further God's kingdom in many ways.

We are sending money to Rice and Beans Ministry in Costa Rica for a building project. We are giving to a school in Haiti called Beyond Relief to help with their building expansion. We give yearly to Habitat for Humanity locally AND in a disaster area because those are the specific directions of the memorial. We are able to provide scholarships to members who need financial help to go on Volunteer In Mission trips. And because the finance committee

tithed from the Haws endowment, we give a yearly gift to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky as well as Rice and Beans Ministry in Costa Rica. These funds are NOT in the budget from East Cross UMC, but special gifts given to East Cross by members like you to be distributed as the giver desires.

A big THANK YOU to those who have given financial gifts to East Cross UMC! We are striving to be good stewards of your gift!!

Kairos Prison Ministry

Kairos Prison Ministry is planning the next ministry event at Dick Connor Correctional Center in Hominy, OK on Thursday through Sunday, May 3-6, 2018. We need help in the following ways:

Baking Cookies – Volunteers are needed to bake cookies. A total of about 3000 dozen cookies are needed for this Kairos weekend event. (Yes, that is 36,000 cookies, not a typo!) Cookies are distributed not only to the Kairos program participants, but also to the entire prison yard population. Cookies are a great “attention getter” to generate interest in the Kairos program. (Cookies are to prisoners what bait is to fish! “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19) Many other churches will also be baking cookies, so we usually need about 200-300 dozen from East Cross Church volunteers. As usual, any cookie recipes are welcome. However, cookies get banged around a lot during bagging and distribution, so we prefer cookies that are not soft, sticky, or crumbly. A recipe sheet with special “Kairos-recommended” recipes is

available for chocolate chip, oatmeal, and peanut butter cookies. Cookies may be baked in advance and refrigerated or frozen. The deadline for cookie baking is Sunday, April 29.

Cookie Bagging – We distribute cookies in bags of one dozen each. The East Cross Youth Group volunteered to help bag cookies as a missions event on Sunday, April 29 starting at 5pm in the gym. Volunteers from other churches will also assist.

Prayer – We need prayer that the weekend goes smoothly and the prisoners receive the ministry God wants to provide.

“Agape” – “Agape” is the word Kairos uses to describe numerous forms of spiritual encouragement we provide to prisoners during the Kairos weekend event. “Agape” is the Greek word for unconditional love. For Kairos, Agape includes prayer links for prayer chains, encouraging spiritual posters, encouraging meal placemats, and sponsorships. Each \$10 contribution sponsors a meal for an inmate during the weekend. Any leftover funds go to support general overhead costs of the

Kairos weekend. We encourage interested individuals, Sunday School classes, or small groups to provide any and all the above Agape items. The personal aspect of Agape is important because it is a tangible demonstration of a major Kairos theme to the prisoners....No matter what you have done wrong, you are not alone and forgotten. God loves you, and wants turn your life around and restore you. Christian people love you, and God sends his Christian followers into prison to minister to you.

Questions about Kairos may be directed to Garry Gunter, phone 918-815-0221, or email garrygunter77@yahoo.com.

*“I was in prison
and you came
to visit me.”*

Matthew 25:36

East Cross Family Bereavement Meal Ministry

If you would like to serve your church family in this important ministry, please call the church office at 918-333-0810 or contact Linda Shoemaker at 918-914-2044 or email her at stressalot@aol.com.

Volunteers are needed to help with food preparation (bring a food dish for the meal) and/or to assist with hosting the day of the meal (set tables; make coffee, tea; clean up).

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



Brian Wilson joined East Cross by profession of faith on Sunday, March 11 during the 11:00am service. Brian is active in both S.A.L.T. and Young Adults small groups, volunteers in our Youth Ministry, and helps with lighting during our worship services. His address is 133 SE Greystone and his phone number is 970-412-8376. Welcome, Brian!



Matt and Teresa Garrity transferred their membership from 1st UMC in Ochelata to East Cross on Sunday, March 18 during the 11:00am service. They are active members of New Horizons Sunday morning small group. They reside at 3434 Hawthorne Ct. and their home phone number is 918-336-1733. Welcome, Matt and Teresa!



Congratulations to...

Natalie Davis and Phelan Frey on the birth of their daughter, Ramira Lynn Frey. Ramira was born on February 2. She weighed 5 lbs 14 oz and was 18 inches in length.

Proud grandparents are Phillip and Sonia Davis. Congratulations to all!



East Cross Family,
Thank you so much for your kindness and support in our time of sorrow.
Phyllis Wood and family

Dear East Cross,
Thank you for serving the delicious meal after Raymond White's funeral. The family appreciated it so much.
Laurie and Darrell Paulson

Dear East Cross,
Thank you for all of the compassion and caring you gave to our family. It was a wonderful dinner for a lot of people. May God Bless all of you.
In honor of our dad, Raymond White—Cindy, David, Erma, Lynn

Dear East Cross Nurture Team,
Thank you so much for your card. Your personal note about Mom, Helen Bobbitt, was so welcome and so very comforting. East Cross was a very important part of her life. We appreciate your kindness and your support during this difficult time.
Peace, Maggie and Mark Bobbitt

East Cross,
I wanted to thank you all for such an outpouring of generosity during our Easter Egg Hunt. Not only was our candy-filled Easter egg goal met, but it was far surpassed. Thank you for continuing to invest in our children and in our community! I appreciate each of you greatly.
*Aimee Hall,
Director of Children's Ministry*



PRAYER LIST

New Prayer Requests...

Richard Blasdel, Vera Hibbard, Laverne Lindblom, Doug Pichler, Kermit Tanzey, Harold Yelton

Joe Belden (Jan Waldorf's brother), Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Gary Brown, Pete Bryan, Al Bunge, Richard Burress (Jeff's brother), Geoffery Christensen (Eileen Christensen Perrin's son), Kathy Christian, Bryant Collier, Joan Collins (friend of Pam Knuth), Eddie Danford (father of Brenda Commons), Stan DeFehr, Marcia Goode, Jason Hall, Edna Harbison, Janice Holt (Emmalene Lennon's daughter), Gertrude Hughey, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Barry Knuth, James Kuntz, Louis and Emily Kuntz, Susan Neff (Warren's sister-in-law), Mike Paxson (brother-in-law of Coleen Williams), Marie Puckett, Rita Putney (Becky Bryant's friend), Euela Randall, Spence Rigdon, Tamara Rohlring (Bonnie's daughter-in-law), Helen Shell, Jeana Smith (Tim Smith's sister), Carol Stithem, Kermit Tanzey, Joyce Taylor, Jeremy Waldorf, Amy Wivel (Becke Rake's sister), Terri Woods

Condolences to...

Cindy White and family on the death of her father, Raymond White on February 26.

Phyllis Wood and family on the death of her husband, Jerold on March 12.

David and Betsy Faust and family on the death of his father, Phil Faust on March 19.

Jerry and Shirley Kintner on the death of his mother, Lyndell Kintner on March 26.

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

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| * PFC Luis Balli | MAJ Todd Abshire | LCDR Eric Rolfs |
| * Esn. Lisa Freeman | LTC Darrin Cox | CPT Daniel Smith |
| * SSG Gary Mabry | Mark Hathaway | CDR Robert Staten |
| * SSG Jared Seat | Robbie Lawson | SFC Clifton White |
| * CPT Derek Smith | | |

All persons serving in the military and their families.

Please be praying for SSG Gary Mabry and family as he began his deployment to Afghanistan on February 28. We now have five

* deployed service members from our church family.



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 Midway Café on Saturday, April 7 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.

learning to follow Jesus,
inviting others to join the journey

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8:30 Service 9:45 Service 11:00 Service <i>Communion</i>	2 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	3	4 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	5 6:30p Children's Council	6 6:30p S.A.L.T. Fellowship Young Christians Weekend 4/6 - 4/8	7 8a Men's Breakfast at Midway Cafe	
8 5p PG Small Group	9 6:30p Young Adults 7p Miriam Circle	10 7p Outreach	11 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	12	13 5:30p EC Kids Mystery Trip 7p Church Bridge	14	
15 EC Kids Camp Registration Day 2:00p Red Bird VIM Mtg	16 ECECC Scholastic Book Fair This Week			17 6p Piecemaker Quilters	18 5:30p Meal 6:00p Cardinal Singers	19 9:30a Rebecca 11:00a Ruth	20 21
22 12:00p EC Kids at the Park 5p PG Small Group	23 6:30p Young Adults	24	25 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	26	27	28	
29 8:30a / 11:00a 3rd Grade Bible Presentations	30	<i>April 2018</i>					

Weekly Activities at East Cross

Sunday

8:30am
9:45am
11:00am
12:00pm
5:00pm

Traditional Worship Service
Small Groups for all ages
Contemporary Worship Service
S.A.L.T. Lunch
Youth

Wednesday

9:30am-3:00pm
5:30pm
6:00pm
7:00pm
7:30pm

Early Childhood Center
Connections Meal
Small Groups
Sanctuary Choir
Praise Band Practice

Monday

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

Thursday

Friday

9:30am-12Noon

Early Childhood Center

Tuesday

4:00pm Prayer Group

Saturday

EAST CROSS NEWS (USPS 164-540)

Published monthly

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

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

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AT BARTLESVILLE, OK 74003
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Traditional Worship Director

Jan Watt, *Pianist*

Amelia Nash, *Organist*

Zack Michel

Contemporary Worship Director

Seth Weimer

Sound Tech

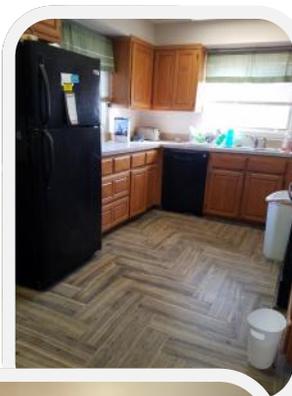
Jon Colliver

Building & Maintenance Coordinator

learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (VIM) Tiling Team at Pearl's Hope, Tulsa 2018

Fourteen volunteers from seven UMCs including East Cross recently served together tiling floors in housing for single moms and their children.



For information on the next VIM tiling mission, contact Jean Abshire or the church office.