

Volume 24, Number 8
August 1st, 2018

East Cross News

Monthly Publication
of East Cross United
Methodist Church



Like us on Facebook
and stay connected!

Church Office:
918-333-0810

FAX: 918-335-1664

Early Childhood
Center: 918-333-3814

www.eastercross.org



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

Email articles to
office@eastercross.org



Rice and Beans Ministries

Sunday, August 19



Fred Curry, Director of Rice and Beans Ministries, will be at East Cross on Sunday, August 19 during both worship services.

Fred will share how this ministry serves God by empowering local churches to build relationships in the local community and by helping the poor of Costa Rica.

East Cross partners with Rice and Beans Ministries as our international mission project.



Meet our new staff members...



Jan Watt was recently hired as pianist for our Traditional Worship service. She is married to Dwayne and has one son, Kellen. She is the Accompanist/Assistant for Madison Middle School choirs and enjoys camping, hiking, spending time with her family, and cheering on North Dakota State University who are six-time National Football Champs.

Jan Watt was recently hired as pianist for our Traditional Worship service. She is married to Dwayne and has one son, Kellen. She is the Accompanist/Assistant for Madison Middle School choirs and enjoys camping, hiking, spending time with her family, and cheering on North Dakota State University who are six-time National Football Champs.

We welcome Crystal McCollam to our custodial staff. She is the mother of three youth, Nolan (19), Jada (14), and Jaylynn (12). Her main interest besides spending time with her family is to grow and maintain her personal relationship with the Lord.



We are excited to have Jan and Crystal join our staff and look forward to doing God's work together!

The Journey Continues...

- 2 -

Another step in our journey...

My New Routine

When we make changes in our lives we usually want to make life better for us and for those we love, so we begin, or rework the routines of our lives occasionally for the benefit of us all.

For many of us, we have a school-year routine and a summer/vacation time routine. Now is the time we start the change from our summer schedules to our school-year schedules. What do we

include? What do we push aside? What are our priorities? What do we stop altogether? When children and youth are watching us or are affected by our new routine, they will pick up on our priorities and what is important to us. Many will carry those priorities with them their entire lives.

Before we look back and consider what we could have done better with our lives, consider this year's routine and schedule. Make sure that you put what is really important in

prominent places in your routine. The decisions you make will last so much longer than just one school year.

Learning and inviting,

Pastor Jeff

...children and youth will pick up on what is important to us. Many will carry those priorities with them their entire lives.

Traditional Worship

During the summer, lots of people are preparing for vacation. Some people take vacations to exotic places, places of natural beauty, places to be with extended family, and some stay close to home for a needed break from their regular busy schedule. I will agree, being a very busy person myself, I look forward to getting away from the stresses and worries. Designating a few days during the year for vacation help us

rejuvenate, refresh, relax, and recharge.

Imagine if we truly designated a few moments each day for a mini vacation from the daily stresses and worries to be still and connect with God. Those quiet moments each day are essential to our relationship with God and refresh our spirit.

This week I have been humming the song "Be Still, My Soul". It has reminded me that often we forget to just "be still."

A simple act of taking a break—a vacation—during the day could be the same feeling of rejuvenation on a daily basis that we find ourselves longing for during the year.

"Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side..." Take a few moments for a vacation today to talk with God and recharge.

*Margie Green,
Traditional Worship*

From Pastor Chad...

Wait! What? Summer is almost over? I cannot believe it. To be honest, I was hoping to get a few more things done around the house during the lazy days of summer, but once again it has just sped by. With summer coming to an end, that means that school will once again be starting very soon. For many families, new schedules will need to be put in place and the habit of sleeping in till 11:00am for some of our kids will need to be broken. Fall sports will kick into gear with events like football on Fridays and Saturdays or Cross Country during the week. People will be squeezing in their last vacations before things get too busy again. The temperatures will soon start to decrease forcing us to change our mindset from keeping cool to keeping warm. The truth is that

the end of summer brings with it many changes. However, with summer coming to an end, that also means that our Wednesday night Connections will resume.

I will tell you I look forward to our Wednesday nights together. Not only do we get a fantastic meal prepared by a group of amazing volunteers led by Tammy Shepherd, but we get the time to just be in fellowship with each other before the classes and small groups start. Speaking of classes and small groups, we have something to offer for every age—nursery for those in Pre-K and below, a great time for children in grade K-5th, youth small groups for those in middle and high school, and adult spiritual growth classes for everyone else (for a list of upcoming adult classes, keep an eye on our Facebook page and in

the scrolling announcements at church). We will start back up on August 22 at 5:30pm with a meal and then make the transition at 6:00pm to those classes and small groups that I talked about.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, “¹¹ So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.” Our Wednesday night Connections offer us a time to do exactly that, to be the church—encouraging one another as we continue together on this journey of following Jesus. I want to encourage you to make Wednesday nights at East Cross a part of your weekly schedule. After all, we are better together!

Blessings!

Pastor Chad

Contemporary Worship

As a worship team, every time we step onto the platform to play an instrument, sing, run media or sound, etc, we have the privilege and opportunity to encourage and lead others to worship God. Each week we try to use everything we have to point people to Jesus. As our congregation, you have been called to do the same!

“So, brothers and sisters, because of God’s mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service.” Romans 12:1 CEB

You may not have a mic to sing, but you have a voice. You might not be at the front of the platform, but you have a posture. Your

outward expression can point people to the goodness of God and inspire others to lift their eyes to Jesus.

We are all called to be worship leaders!

God Bless,

*Zack Michel,
Contemporary Worship*

The Journey Continues...

- 4 -



C3 Student Ministry

Mission

The Apostle Paul talks a lot about Faith and works. He mentions in Galatians 2:16 that a person isn't made righteous by the works of the Law but rather through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. This kind of passage can often confuse the adolescent believer into thinking that we really don't need to do any "service" for others because Paul said you are not saved through "works."



Paul was saying that the works of the Law would not save you but only in Jesus Christ! So, if we were to look at Jesus Christ, who saved us, we would see the work of getting us to heaven has been done. We do nothing to deserve it. BUT, when we are free to live our life through the grace of Jesus, we are now free to serve and to help the poor. Just look at Jesus and his ministry. We can take our cue from Jesus himself and love our neighbors as ourselves. That means; If we were poor and hungry, we would want someone to feed us. If we had our house damaged by horrible flooding, we would love help to get back on our feet again!

In our youth ministry, we put an emphasis on serving others because we believe there are some very key elements to your faith when it comes to serving. Let's break down how Paul says we should follow the "Law." He went on in Galatians 2:19 to say that he died to the "Law" through the "Law", so that he could live for God. So what does that mean?

Missions are more about the freedom that Jesus gives us to be able to practice the golden rule! At East Cross, we have tons of mission opportunities available. Pray for our Mission team going to Red Bird, Kentucky. Pray for Tuesday House. But above all else, use the freedom that Jesus has given you to go serve in a mission!

*Evan Holmes,
Director of Youth Ministries*



EC Kids

Wisdom is more than just being smart. It's more than knowing the difference between right and wrong. Wisdom means learning how to see life from God's perspective. It's finding out what you should do . . . and doing it! When we make the wise choice, we reflect the character of Jesus to people around us. That's why giving kids a strong foundation of wisdom is important. We want them to be equipped to face whatever choices they may need to make in the future. Since God is the source of all wisdom, we want kids to understand that they can always go to Him to find it. We've got to go on the hunt—Goonies-style—because His wisdom is worth searching for. "If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you." James 1:5a



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Sunday, August 12 is your LAST Sunday of freedom before school starts! We will be having a Back to School Bash for the kids going into K-5th grade. Join us at the back parking lot of the church for water games, water fights, pizza and popsicles! And yes, bring a friend! PLEASE RSVP so we can order pizza accordingly! Sign up at the EC Kids Check In Desk, or email aimeeb@eastcross.org.

PICNIC AT THE PARK

Join EC Kids for a family picnic! On Sunday, August 26, we will head out to Osage Hills State Park after 2nd service. Don't forget your lunch! Please bring what you would like your family to eat as the whole family is welcome to attend!



We will meet at the large playground by the swimming pool. Weather pending.

Aimee Hall, Director of Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School June 2018



The Journey Continues...

- 6 -

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Our upcoming school-year session will begin this month on August 20. We will welcome 68+ children into both our **Parent Day Out classes** and into our **3 & 4-year old Preschool Classes**. Twenty-eight of these children and their families are new to our program and its ministry! We DO have a **few** classroom openings still available. Please contact us with any inquiries **or** if there is interest in being added to a classroom waiting list!

Waiting lists for both of our programs are established and maintained. We often fill openings from these lists throughout the year, especially in our Parent Day Out Classes (children that are 6 months of age—2 years of age).

Our nine classes have a staff of 18 adult teachers and support persons. As the school-year progresses, children are “introduced to” and learn many new themed-based concepts in a peer-social setting in our Christian, church-based program. We continue to be a part-day DHS licensed program.

We ask our East Cross Church family, throughout out each school-year, to please take a

few moments each day, week or month to lift up our program, the children and our teaching staff in your thoughts and prayers. *This ministry* continues to strive to be a very positive, meaningful and valuable part of the *many lives we touch*; now and for years to come!

The blessings continue to come our way. Our church Trustees have been working very hard on projects in the Early Childhood Center area. They have painted a new crosswalk coming into our portion of the building to keep children and families safe AND to make everyone that drives this part of the parking lot to be very aware! Trustees are also working on adding wood chips in our larger playground; replacing guttering that feeds a lot of water into the playground; and they continue to schedule carpet cleaning and tiled floor waxing each July. Thank you VERY MUCH to our Trustees for helping us keep our Early Childhood Center a safe and healthy environment!

During July several of our staff (Liz VanDeVenter, Sonia Davis, Shirley Kintner and Becky Balli) spent MANY days doing some deep cleaning. Each classroom’s toys and some smaller equipment have

actually been run through our church kitchen dishwasher to clean and sanitize items. In conjunction with this project, a lot of elbow grease was used to clean cubbies, tables, chairs, shelving, etc. The Resource Room was re-organized as well so things are neat, clean and ready for the teaching staff to use as the school-year progresses!

Thank you to ALL that helped and continue to do so with general upkeep and organization which makes this an inviting area to work in and a safe environment for the many children, their families, and our staff!!!

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

Email: ecc@eastcross.org
Phone: 918-333-3814



EAST CROSS NURSERY

I want to share something with everyone that I ran across a while back. With school starting back up I thought it was the perfect time.

"Today, like millions of other people, I went to work. I didn't design a beautiful skyscraper, I didn't write a proposal to save an endangered species, and I didn't drive a bus or fly a plane, or write a crucial bill that would someday become a law. However, I did spend time with some very important people. I read a story to an

attorney, I sang the alphabet song with a Supreme Court Judge. I ate lunch with a pastor, and patted the back of an engineer until he fell asleep. I taught a policeman how to tie his shoes, and introduced an astronaut to the color red. Tomorrow, who knows whom I'll meet, but one thing is for sure...

They will be very IMPORTANT for they are our precious children, and the hope of our very future."

We never know what our child will grow up to be, but one thing is for sure: Every child is a gift from GOD.

*Liz VanDe Venter,
Nursery Director*



During the month of July, baskets, cubbies and all toys—down to the littlest Lincoln Log—were scrubbed and sterilized to be ready for children and their teachers to begin classes in our Early Childhood Center when school begins on August 20.



The Journey Continues...

- 8-

August Outreach News

Generosity Boxes

Going grocery shopping this week? Concern Food Pantry is in need of:

Jiffy Cornbread Mix, powdered milk, and canned meat.

Could you drop a couple of these items in your basket for the less fortunate? The need gets greater each month and the pantry cannot keep up with the demand. There is a box at each entrance at East Cross for you to just drop items in and these items will be delivered. God asked us to help those in need and love all our brothers and sisters.

Thank you for your generosity in this ministry.

Habitat for Humanity

This is a non profit organization East Cross has supported for some time. Habitat helps build houses, and other needs in Bartlesville and other areas for those less fortunate and struggling. This gift can be split between Bartlesville and other organizations outside of Bartlesville. This year we voted to gift all to our Bartlesville area.



Red Bird Mission

July 21, 4:30am, 14 worker bees loaded up and headed to Kentucky to help some less fortunate. The team will return July 28, tired and full of good stories of experiences during this visit. Pray for their safe stay and travel home. A big thank you to this giving team.

Rice and Beans Ministry

Hope you marked your calendar—August 19 to hear from Fred Curry. Fred will be speaking about this ministry on Sunday morning. We have supported this ministry for some time. Plans are to serve cookies, drinks and accept a love offering.



Lydia Patterson Scholarship

We have fulfilled and delivered our ministry donation to this worthy ministry.

Kairos

There is still not a firm decision on the date of the next Kairos Prison Ministry event but we will continue to monitor and keep you updated. When a decision is made we will need baked cookies, sackers, etc.



Tuesday House

This great place is open Monday and Wednesday from 9-12, Tuesday 8-4, and Saturday 9-12. Donations are accepted on all these days and you can browse and purchase treasures Tuesday and Saturday.

We still need volunteers at Tuesday House!!! Men and women. Come join us for any amount of time you can and be part of a ministry that supports The Mutual Girls Organization. This organization has been growing for more than 50 years and still growing due to the generosity of people like you!

Prayer Needs...

Please continue to pray for our church, country, military, and all those with illness, who are homeless and lost.



Congratulations to...

Joe and Brandi Czerniewski on the birth of their daughter, Heidi Quinn born on June 25, 2018 at 2:43pm. Heidi weighed 6lbs 9oz and was 19" long. She was welcomed home by big sister, Penny, and big brother, Grayson. Heidi was baptized on July 8 and is our youngest preparatory member.



Congratulations to the Czerniewski family!



We welcome Mark Alexander and Rose Loyd who joined our East Cross family in July. Rose transferred her membership from Cherryvale United Methodist Church of Cherryvale, KS. Mark was baptized and joined East Cross by Profession of Faith. Mark and Rose attend the 11:00am service and both have joined our Media Team. Be sure to introduce yourself to Mark and Rose the next time you see them.



**Ice Cream Social and Music on the Grounds
Frank Phillips Historic Home
August 4 7:00-8:30pm
Music: East Cross Worship Team**

Join us on August 4 from 7:00-8:30pm for an "Ice Cream Social and Music on the Grounds" at the Frank Phillips Historic Home at 1107 SE Cherokee Ave! Free ice cream will be served courtesy of Truity Credit Union while you enjoy contemporary Christian music from our very own East Cross Worship Team! Pack a picnic, games, and your lawn chairs for this fun family event!

"It seems to me, after looking closely at the account of the poor widow's gift of two copper coins, that God is extremely pleased by the spirit of love that causes people to give above the government allowance for deductions on taxes. If we are looking to the government as our source, then we must never give above what the government allows us to give. But if we are looking to God as our source, we need to . . . give as the Holy Spirit guides and prompts us. God is our source!"

An excerpt from The Gift of Giving by Wayne Watts

The Journey Continues...

- 10 -

PRAYER LIST

New Prayer Requests...

Doris Danford (Brenda Commons' mother), Allie Zoldoske

Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Kathy Christian, Joan Collins (friend of Pam Knuth), Eddie Danford (Brenda Commons' father), Marcia Goode, Edna Harbison, Vera Hibbard, Barry Knuth, James Kuntz, Louis and Emily Kuntz, Bob Murnan, Mike Paxson (brother-in-law of Coleen Williams), Marie Puckett, Euela Randall, Spence Rigdon, Claudia Rolfs, Lerene Schornick, Jeana Smith (Tim Smith's sister), Joe Smith (Anita Spencer's brother-in-law), Joyce Taylor, Jeremy Waldorf, Glenna Wright (Steve Wright's mother)

Condolences to...

Dwayne, Jan and Kellen Watt on the death of Dwayne's father on July 14.

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	* CPT Derek Smith	Mark Hathaway
* Esn. Lisa Freeman	* <i>deployed</i>	LCDR Eric Rolfs
* Robbie Lawson		CPT Daniel Smith
* SSG Gary Mabry	MAJ Todd Abshire	CDR Robert Staten
* SSG Jared Seat	LTC Darrin Cox	SFC Clifton White

Please pray for 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 Weeze's Café on Saturday, August 4 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**

- 11 -

Weekly Activities at East Cross

Sunday

8:30am	Traditional Worship Service
9:45am	Small Groups for all ages
11:00am	Contemporary Worship Service
11:00am	Children's Church
12:00pm	S.A.L.T. Lunch
5:00pm	Youth

Wednesday

<u>Wednesday</u>	
9:30am-3:00pm	Early Childhood Center (August 22 & 29)
6:30pm	Sanctuary Choir
6:30pm	Praise Band Practice
7:30pm	Praise Band Practice (August 22 & 29)

Monday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
(August 20 & 27)

Thursday

Friday

9:30am-12:00Noon Early Childhood Center PreK
(August 24 & 31)

Tuesday

4:00pm Prayer Group

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

PERIODICALS U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AT BARTLESVILLE, OK 74003
USPS 164-540

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
Margie Green
Traditional Worship Director
Jan Watt, *Pianist*
Zack Michel
Contemporary Worship Director
Jon Colliver
Building & Maintenance Coordinator
Crystal McCollam, *Custodian*

learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey

“Doing Good for Others”



Pastor Jeff challenged us to “do good for someone else” this summer. CIA weeded a garden for a church member and removed old tile from behind our sanctuary; three small groups primed and painted a classroom on the 3rd floor; people from East Cross and other UM churches worked together laying new flooring at the Wesley House at NEO A&M College in Miami, OK. How will YOU “do good”? Share your story on facebook!

