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February 1st, 2019

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 Wednesday, February 20th.

Email articles to office@eastcross.org

Upcoming Sermon Series...

LEGACY: LEAVE YOUR MARK

What mark will you leave on the lives of the people and community you love? A great legacy includes being known for faithfulness to what is important, investing in the next generations, and leaving a mark that outlives our short time on this earth. What will your legacy be?



**LEGACY:
LEAVE YOUR MARK**

February 17
"Legacy of Faithfulness"
Ephesians 4:1, 1 Peter 2:9,
John 14:12

February 24
"Generation to Generation"
Luke 2:25-34, 39-52,
1 Timothy 4:11-16

March 3
"A Lasting Legacy"
Psalm 112:5-6,
1 Timothy 6:17-19

Another step in our journey...

A Simple Church

As our world becomes more complex, I believe there is a need for de-stressing and simplifying our lives. Of course, that may be easier said than done, but I believe it is a worthy goal. One reason it is difficult to simplify our lives is that those around us haven't simplified and many of us have that drive to

keep up with others, whether the "others" be our friends or those we idolize.

We will continue the process of simplifying church life at East Cross. Instead of adding complexity to our lives by adding lots of things we want everyone to attend and do, my goal is to help us be simple and relevant. This is our seventh year to keep

simplicity in ministry as a goal so we can better minister as God calls us.

My prayer for each family and individual at East Cross is that 2019 will be a prosperous year spiritually and relationally.

Pastor Jeff

Traditional Worship

There is a quote that says, "I've found that no matter what life throws at me, music softens the blow." In my career as a teacher, and my time in front of choirs of all ages, I have heard countless stories of how music has helped people through difficult times in their lives. In Christ, we know we can lean on His everlasting arms and He holds us. God's Word tells us to use music as a tool of worship and praise, lifting our voices to Him, but the power of music is also demonstrated again and again as He speaks to us bringing us comfort and hope...healing for our soul!

Where words fail, music speaks! The beauty of the music itself can sometimes be secondary to the beauty of a personal conversation we can engage in with God. Sometimes we can get caught up thinking making music equals performing up in front. Therefore, we are fearful of being exposed or embarrassed and omit the aspect of "singing" completely from who we are accepting the phrase "I can't sing" as truth. What if we transitioned our thinking to let music be more personal? Our "singing" then becomes a resource of joy, a powerful soothing ointment for a broken heart, a comfort to fill

a void from loss, and an endless supply of love ensuring us that we are enough.

There is a sense of joy that comes from lifting up our voices together. There is an extended invitation open to everyone to sing in the choir. Maybe you aren't ready to be up front on a Sunday morning, so you are always welcome to sing with us in a choir rehearsal and be apart of our worship experience on Wednesday nights. We meet in the Chapel at 7:00pm!

Margie Green,
Traditional Worship

From Pastor Chad...

In January, I started working with the youth and I have to tell you it has been so much fun. We have some amazing young people in this church and they have been accepting of this old guy coming in to do ministry with them. During our Sunday nights in January, we worked through a series entitled “Sorry, Not Sorry” which deals with the subject of forgiveness—how we forgive those who are truly sorry and those who are not. We talked about the truth that the more you hold on to a grudge the more it holds on to you. Therefore, in order to have healthy relationships, we need to release the anger and let it go. We talked about how forgiving someone for the wrong they committed towards you seems unfair, but in light of

what Jesus did for us it makes it very doable. The truth is that, in healthy relationships, forgiven people forgive. We finished up by understanding the truth that healing takes time. As such, for healthy relationships to continue, we need to keep forgiving as long as we need to, until our emotions catch up with our decision, and until the hurt starts to hurt a little less.

Forgiveness is never easy. And depending on the level of pain surrounding a given situation it could almost seem impossible. However, the truth is that our relationships depend on it. If we are going to be healthy as individuals, and as a congregation, then we need to be able to forgive—to move past the hurts and focus on what God would have for

us. We need to stop allowing the pain of past hurts to determine how we relate to people here and now. We need to be people filled with love who forgive as we have been forgiven. Paul tells us in Colossians 3:13 (NIV): *Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

Whether those who have done you wrong are Sorry or Not Sorry, who do you need to forgive so that you can be healthy again? I know I have some work to do. How about you?

Blessings!

Pastor Chad

Contemporary Worship

In Pastor Jeff’s recent series titled “SURE”, we’ve discussed how to be confident in your faith, and as Peter says in 1 Peter 3:15, “...Whenever anyone asks you to speak of your hope, be ready to defend it.” Our hope comes solely from Jesus Christ, who gives us the confidence we need to approach any battle with Him by our side. There is a new song that’s been on the radio for a few months that always comes to my mind when Pastor Jeff is speaking. The song is called “Confidence” by Sanctus Real. Read the words of the first verse and chorus, and you’ll understand why it connects so well to our sermon series. My hope is that the words speak to you of God’s faithfulness as much as they speak to me!

*I’m not a warrior
I’m too afraid to lose
I feel unqualified for what you’re calling me to
But Lord with your strength
I’ve got no excuse
’Cause broken people are exactly who you use*

*So give me faith like Daniel in the lion’s den
Give me hope like Moses in the wilderness
Give me a heart like David, Lord be my defense
So I can face my giants with confidence*

God Bless,

Zack Michel, Contemporary Worship

Student Ministry

It has been an honor and joy to be working with you this past month as we have worshipped and learned together, and, of course, had some fun along the way. There is so much that is coming up that I want to make sure everyone knows about. So I will use the rest of this space to share some dates and information with you so we will all be in the know.

Confirmation classes have started, but it is not too late to join. We meet during the Sunday School hour down in the youth classroom.



Super Bowl Party **Sunday, February 3**

We are asking all youth to bring a snack or a desert to share. We will dismiss at halftime.

Winter Jam, an awesome free concert, is February 10. We will leave the church between 2:30pm and 3:00pm, drive to Tulsa and enjoy some great worship. Bring money for dinner and/or merch.

And the last thing I want to let you know about is...

Young Christian's Weekend at Silver Dollar City the weekend of April 5-7. This weekend is full of worship opportunities and plenty of

thrill rides that will keep you praying. The cost is \$100.00 if you signup and pay before February 10 and \$120.00 if you signup and pay after February 10. Let me know if you will be at any of these events so I can make sure that we have things like transportation and adult servants all worked out and ready to go.

Oh... don't forget about small groups on Wednesdays (5:30pm-meal/6:00pm-groups) and worship and more on Sunday nights from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Have a fantastic February...
Chad, The Old Guy

VIM Costa Rica Mission Trip

Volunteers In Mission **to Costa Rica**

Please pray for our team going to Costa Rica. They will be leaving on July 6 and returning on July 13. There are many ways you can be involved in this VIM. Some of us will be going, some of us will be the prayer

warriors staying home, and some of us will be financial supporters. Many of us will be making dresses for the local girls while some will be providing t-shirts for the boys. This will be an all church project. Pray about how you will be involved!!

Contact Jeretta Amburn at 918-907-0104 or Chad Perceful in the church office to get involved!!



EC Kids

Just like your favorite retro diner, we should be always open — always ready to offer service with a smile. We have the perfect example of service in Jesus. And He wants us to follow His lead. He wants us to look for ways to serve the people around us. He wants us to lend a hand to help someone else. We start the month in **John 13:1-17** where Jesus offered an incredible example of service.

Next, we look at something Peter wrote in **1 Peter 4:10-11**. He reminded people in the early church how God's Holy Spirit gave each of them a spiritual gift. These gifts are not for our own benefit. Rather, they should be used to benefit everyone. When we use those gifts, we can point others to Jesus.

In week three, we discover one of Jesus' most famous miracles recorded in **John 6:1-13**. Jesus saw the large crowd that had followed Him and decided to feed them. A boy offers his lunch: five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus took the boy's gift and used it to feed over 5,000 people. Sometimes kids might look at a situation and wonder if they have anything they can

offer to help. We hope they remember that God can use whatever they have to do some amazing things.

We close out the month with **Matthew 6:1-4**. Rather than making a big deal about our own acts of service, He says to give to others in secret. We hope that kids start to understand that when we decide to give in secret, the act of service becomes totally about the other person and not themselves.

When it comes to serving others, our light should always be on. We're always open — always ready to offer service with a smile.

*Aimee Hall, Director of
Children's Ministries*



EC Kids Mystery Trip

Friday, February 22, EC Kids will be hosting a Mystery Trip for our K-5th grade students! This trip will offer a great chance for our kids to grow closer friendships and have a great time experiencing the mystery together. And the best part? Our kids won't have a clue where we're going until we get there!

Parents will be given an itinerary of the trip as we are piling our students on the church vans. After all, a good Mystery Trip needs to stay secret as long as possible!

Signup for the Mystery Trip at the EC Kids area.



CIA – Project Love

Join us Sunday, February 10 for our next Christians In Action!

For Project Love, we will be creating and decorating Valentine's Day cards for our home bound East Cross members who are unable to attend church each week. Our goal is let them know how loved they are even if we don't see them often. We will also be sending Valentines to soldiers overseas.

CIA is for mission minded children in 2nd-5th grades who want to serve God by sharing His love and being the hands and feet of God!

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



The play that our preschool children have is very valuable and while learning through simple play, life-long skills like cooperation, working together, problem solving, and even STEM – are the beginnings of development and implementation of basic ideas and concepts.”

Even though we are in the midst of our current 2018-19 school-year session, we are already thinking about and preparing for next month’s enrollment opportunities for both our brief Summer Session (June) and for our next School-Year session (Aug 2019 – May 2020)! We are considering and *may*

need to make some revisions when it comes to the youngest aged children we will enroll based on staffing availability for those classrooms. We are very aware that maintaining our program’s commitment to quality staffing is of the greatest importance and we *continue* to be on the search for those persons that fulfill the high standards that our program and it’s ministry provides to the families that *choose us* to be part of their families!

Please note: Early opportunity for enrollment is open to East Cross Church members and those families currently enrolled beginning March 1. Preliminary enrollment for any remaining spots in classrooms will be “open to the public” upon our return from Spring Break, on Monday, March 25.

As you can see, this ministry and the programs we offer are *MUCH more than* “day care!” There are LOTS of learning experiences in addition to quality Christian care offered in our classrooms which is a huge credit to our current sixteen teachers and what they offer and share with their children each day they are with us!

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

Email: ecc@eastcross.org

Phone: 918-333-3814



Job Opportunity at MUTUAL Girls Club...

**MUTUAL Girls Club is looking for a part-time Tuesday House Business Manager.
For more information or to apply go to [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com).**

EAST CROSS NURSERY

East Cross Nursery is off to a great year! What a joy it is to minister to the little ones the love and peace of God! One of the most important things we can hope for in a church nursery is holy peace. That doesn't mean babies won't cry and parents won't agonize over leaving their babies behind, even for a few hours. However, we do offer a place of quiet and peace that both kids and adults will enjoy.

We continue to offer childcare for children birth through PreK. Infants are cared for in Room 100 that is full of stimulating, age-appropriate toys as well as cribs and swings for sleepy babies. Toddlers enjoy their time in Room 101 which is full of books, blocks, toys, music and age-

appropriate toys. Three year olds through PreK are cared for in Room 104 which is full of books, games, music and age-appropriate toys. They also have Sunday school lessons during the Sunday school hour as well as story time. When weather permits, the children go outside to enjoy our wonderful playground.

It is the Nursery's desire that our littlest attenders at East Cross experience their first glimpses of God's kindness through this ministry. We truly believe that children are a gift from God.

Liz VanDeVenter,
Nursery Director

Jane Phillips School Valentines Party!

All needed supplies have been donated and all we need now are volunteers to help!

We will be baking 375 cupcakes on Tuesday, February 12 in the church kitchen. Contact Joleen Ewert or Susan Henning if you would like to help bake.

Then at 9:00am on Thursday, February 14 we will decorate all those cupcakes and transport them to Jane Phillips Elementary School to be enjoyed by all those students and their teachers!

If you want to be a part of this great ministry, then join us for either or both of these days at East Cross. We may still need donations of 100% juice boxes. Please check at the welcome desk outside of the sanctuary to sign up to help!

Any questions, contact Jeretta Amburn at 918-907-0104 or Melda Howard at 918-327-9416.



February Outreach News

Chili Cook-Off and Silent Auction — January 27



Thank you to everyone who was involved in our very successful Chili Cookoff!

Many of you donated desserts or items for the silent auction. Some of you purchased items and others donated money as you voted on your favorite chili! Some just came and ate and enjoyed fellowship with your church family! Some of you did all of these things!!! Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!

All the details will be in next month's newsletter...the winners and the \$\$ collected will be announced!

GENEROSITY BOXES

During our recent visit with Kay Martin, Concern Center Director, she said their pantry was in great need of personal care items such as:

TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE, and BAR SOAP.

Kay also mentioned they had a big need for **CANNED TUNA, CHICKEN and CHILI as well as SALTINE CRACKERS.**

Many of their clients are delighted when they are able to receive these personal care items along with the food items they are given. Will you help us put smiles on the faces of some members of our community by placing a few of these items in your shopping cart, bringing those items to church and dropping them in the Generosity Boxes located at each entrance to East Cross? Thank you!



MUTUAL / Tuesday House

Both places are busy! MUTUAL is trying to fix the acoustics in their building. The girls are doing well with lots of activities. Tuesday House has begun a new year with some changes to come. The Saturday Dollar shopping has fallen off so we are looking to make a decision to continue

once a month or quarterly, etc. We could really use you as a volunteer, both men and women. Are you good with money, be a cashier; enjoy sorting, we need sorters; like linens, got a place for you; are you a crafter/sewer, we can use you here; love books, there are lots to sort. You can work hours to fit your life. Tuesday House is open Tuesday 8am-4pm, and Saturday 9am-12noon. Donations are accepted Monday 8am-12noon, Tuesday 8am-4pm, Wednesday 8am-12noon and Saturday 8am-12noon. We also make pickups. This is a very good ministry supporting MUTUAL Girls. Join us and serve!

January Outreach Committee Meeting

Members signed up for ministries and projects. We have room for more people. Join us once a month for 1-1/2 hour meeting to carry out needed projects and ministries.

Are you stepping up and using your talents for our Lord? Remember, he wants us to love one another and serve.



East Cross UMC,

It's sometimes easy to forget that there are nice people out there doing nice things for others. Thanks for being such a special reminder.

Washington County Child Welfare, Foster Parents, and Foster Children

Dear East Cross,

Thank you so much for your continued support of Beyond Relief in 2018! We are extremely grateful. Your donation has meant that so many people have been able to have a better life.

David & Rita Kuntz

Dear East Cross Family,

Thank you for your sympathy cards and prayers with Euela's passing. We are so blessed by your warm wishes and support. Thank you for remembering us at this sad and challenging time.

Jack Randall and family

Small Group Studies

Looking for a study for your Small Group or Sunday School Class? The following have been placed on the shelves of the curriculum library in Room 304 and are available for check out.

By Adam Hamilton

The Call The life and message of the Apostle Paul. 6 sessions with DVD, study guide and hardcover book.

Half Truths God helps those who help themselves and other things the Bible doesn't say. 5 sessions with DVD and leader's guide.

By Adam Stanley

God and Country 2 sessions with music CD.

By John Ortberg

The Life You've Always Wanted Spiritual disciplines for ordinary people. 6 sessions, DVD and study guide.

By Mike Slaughter

Made for a Miracle From your ordinary to God's extraordinary. 6 sessions, DVD and leader's guide.

By Melissa Spoelstra

Elijah—Spiritual Stamina in Every Season 6 sessions, DVD and study guide.

By Lisa Harper

Malachi A love that never lets go. 8 sessions with a DVD, and study guide.

By Max Lucado

Anxious About Nothing God has a cure for your worries. 5 sessions. DVD and study guide.

Because of Bethlehem (4 Advent sessions) and *He Chose Nails* (5 Lenten sessions) Includes DVD and two study guides.

Before Amen The power of a simple prayer. Includes DVD, study guide and hardcover book.

PRAYER LIST

New Prayer Requests...

Peggy Collins, Don Keeler

Annie Bollinger (daughter of Charlie and LeAnne Christensen), Paul Broerman, Kathy Christian, Joan Collins (friend of Pam Knuth), Dave Faust (Melda and Gary Howard's son-in-law), Muriel Faust (Dave Faust's mother), Don Fleming (Teresa Dietz' friend), Blaine Fraser (Bob Fraser's dad), Jennifer Glisson, Marcia Goode, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Barry Knuth, James Kuntz, Louis and Emily Kuntz, Bob Murnan, Mike and Ronda Paxon (Coleen Williams' brother-in-law and sister), Marie Puckett, Deb Richardson, Spence Rigdon, Helen Shell, Jeana Smith (Tim Smith's sister), Greg Spears (Charlene's son), Kermit Tanzey, Joyce Taylor, Jeremy Waldorf, Chris Watson (Chad Perceful's aunt), Michele Willoughby, R.G. Wilson (Jeretta Amburn's dad), Keith Wyrick (Erville Orndorff's nephew), Allie Zoldoske

Condolences to...

Family and friends on the recent death of LaClaire Powell.

James Baddley and family on the death of his wife, Vanna Baddley.

Family and friends on the death of Doris Howard.

Don and Ruth Howell on the death of Ruth's sister, Betty Moyer.

Steve and Pat Wright on the death of Steve's mother, Glenna Wright.

Jack Randall on the death of his wife, Euela Randall.

Warren and Rita Neff on the death of Warren's father, Leslie Neff.

Susan Adams and Norita Akers on the death of husband and brother, John Adams.

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

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| * Robbie Lawson | SPC Luis Balli | CPT Daniel Smith |
| * SSG Gary Mabry | LTC Darrin Cox | CDR Robert Staten |
| * SSG Jared Seat | Es. Lisa Freeman | SFC Clifton White |
| * CPT Derek Smith | Mark Hathaway | |
| * <i>deployed</i> | LCDR Eric Rolfs | |

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 Midway Cafe on Saturday, February 2 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
February 2019					1 7p EC Kids Winter Lock-in	2 8a Men's Breakfast at Midway Cafe
3 <i>Communion</i> 5p Youth Super Bowl Party	4 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	5	6 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	7 6:30p Children's Council	8 6p S.A.L.T. Fellowship 7p Church Bridge	9
10 2p Youth Winter Jam 3p CIA 5p PG Small Group	11 6:30p Young Adults 7p Miriam	12 7p Outreach	13 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	14 9a Cupcake Decorating for Jane Phillips School Valentine Party	15	16
17	18 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Trustees	19 6p Piecemaker Quilters	20 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	21 9:30a Rebecca	22 5p EC Kids Mystery Trip	23
24 5p PG Small Group	25 6:30p Young Adults	26 6:30p ECECC Committee Mtg	27 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	28		
Called General Conference — St Louis, MO						

Weekly Activities at East Cross

Sunday

8:30am Traditional Worship Service
9:45am Small Groups for all ages
9:45am CONFIRMATION—Youth
11:00am Contemporary Worship Service
11:15am Children's Church
12:00pm S.A.L.T. Lunch
5:00pm C3 Youth Ministry

Monday

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

Tuesday

4:00pm Prayer Group

Wednesday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir
7:30pm Praise Band Practice

Thursday

Friday

9:30am-12:00Noon Early Childhood Center PreK

Saturday

EAST CROSS NEWS (USPS 164-540)

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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

Charles Binau

Coordinator Audio Equipment/Volunteers

Jon Colliver

Building & Maintenance Coordinator

learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey

Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction — 2019

