

Volume 23, Number 7

July 1st, 2017

# East Cross News

Monthly Publication

# East Cross

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



Like us on Facebook  
and stay connected!

Church Office:  
918-333-0810

FAX: 918-335-1664

Early Childhood  
Center: 918-333-3814

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



**Newsletter  
articles for the  
next issue are due  
in the church office  
by noon on  
Thursday,  
July 20th.**

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

## Sunday Worship Information

### Sermon Series: God in Us

#### **Sunday, July 2**

*Holy Communion*

*I Corinthians 12:3*

*Sermon: Baptism of the Holy Spirit*

#### **Sunday, July 9**

*1 Corinthians 12:7-11*

*Sermon: The Gifting Spirit Part 2*

#### **Sunday, July 16**

*Galatians 5:16-26*

*Sermon: The Taste of the Spirit*

#### **Sunday, July 23**

*Ephesians 3:20-21*

*Sermon: The Hope of the Hope  
of the World*

#### **Sunday, July 30**

*Ephesians 4:1-6*

*Sermon: The Spark and Sustainer of the Church*

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

God in Us

The Apostle Paul taught the churches he most closely related to about the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Peter also taught the new believers in Jesus about the Holy Spirit. In their teaching they explained to those new Christians and to us today how the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the third part of the Trinity related to them and us. In four different letters written by these two early church leaders came the following lists of Spiritual Gifts or supernatural gifting of individuals by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12: Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Encouragement, Giving, Leadership, Mercy

1 Corinthians 12: Administration, Discernment, Healing, Interpretation of Languages, Languages, Prophecy, Wisdom, Apostle, Faith, Helps, Knowledge, Miracles, Teaching

Ephesians 4: Apostle, Pastor, Teaching, Evangelism, Prophecy

1 Peter 4: Serving, Teaching, Hospitality

These were not intended to be exhaustive lists, after all each list is different and gifts from God are shared in other books of the Bible as well. Rather, we see that God's Holy Spirit is an active force in and for followers of Jesus Christ. God often places persons with specific 'gifts' in specific places for specific purposes. What are your Spiritual Gifts? Are they on one of these lists or has God blessed you with some other gifts as you serve others?

Throughout July we will continue our series "God in Us" as we learn more about the Holy Spirit and how He works in and through us.

*Pastor Jeff*

P.S. Want to know what your Spiritual Gifts are? Google "Spiritual Gifts Test" and you'll get over 6,000,000 links. I suggest trying two or three tests to find good, consistent results that you can use to help you grow in grace. If you find one that you really like, please share that on East Cross' Facebook page and we'll help each other better understand the Holy Spirit's gifts in us and how to use them as we serve others.

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

Our latest sermon series "God in Us" deals specifically with the Holy Spirit's interactions within our lives. In John 4:24, Jesus declares, "God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth." In this passage, Jesus was trying to convey the fact that where we worship is not important, but *how* we worship is! God desires for our worship to be genuine and true, and we need the Holy Spirit's help for that to happen. More than just singing songs, the Holy Spirit helps us worship by praying for us (Romans 8:26), teaching us the words of Christ (John 14:26), and reminding us that we are loved (Romans 5:5). In a very real way, we cannot even begin to truly worship without help from the Holy Spirit. It guides our daily lives, and allows us to intimately interact with God each and every day. As the Spirit speaks to us through song and our pastors each week, I pray our hearts are open to receiving what He has for us!

God Bless,

*Zack Michel, Contemporary Worship Director*

## *From Pastor Chad...*

As you might know, Pastor Jeff is in the middle of a summer long sermon series entitled “God in Us” where he is looking at the person and the role of the Holy Spirit. And, as you are aware, we are celebrating our independence as a nation this month and all the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Well it just so happens that my daily devotional for this morning talks about the freedom that we can only find as we open ourselves up to the working of the Holy Spirit. You see, for all the freedoms that we have as Americans—freedom of religion, freedom of the press, etc.-- there is only one way that we can experience freedom from our sins and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ. It is only through this freedom that we can get past our past and move into the future that God has for us. So as you celebrate this July, remember these words from 2 Corinthians 3:17 (CEB): The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Lord’s Spirit is, there is freedom.

Isn’t it amazing how God works! Have a blessed and safe July!

Blessings,

*Pastor Chad*

## Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, June 11 we welcomed the Stock family into our church membership. Andrew and Kate have three children; Clair, Lesley and newborn baby boy Dean. Andrew and daughter, Lesley were both baptized during the 8:30am service. Be sure to introduce yourself to the Stock family the next time you see them. Welcome!



### **NEWS FROM THE NURSERY...**

- Summer is a time for getting outside and experiencing the world around us – a world designed by God.
- During this time of the year, nature is thriving and it’s full of hints as to who God is and what He wants us to do. God made things in nature not only to help us stay healthy and alive, but also to tell us something about Himself and His relationship with us. The Bible says that nature gives clear testimony to God’s existence—that’s why by teaching children about nature you can help them understand God that much more. So get outside and play, explore and have a great summer.

*Liz VanDeVenter, Nursery Director*

## EC Kids...

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

I've tried several times, but I just can't seem to put this into words without getting a little teary-eyed. I was absolutely blown away by our VBS Volunteers last month. I don't think any of us, myself included, were truly prepared for the number of kids that we welcomed into our church. Thank you for your flexibility, patience and smiling faces. You all are truly special. We ministered to 110 children that week and when I think back, my memories are full of giggles and laughter. It simply could not have happened without you. It was such a humbling experience to see God moving in our church and children as we learned and celebrated His word! Thank you to all!



Coming this month, we are still continuing our Gadgets & Gizmos theme. Because we are uniquely made in God's image, we think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about what that means. This month, we take a closer look at the idea of uniqueness – discovering who God made you to be so you can make a difference.

As we help kids discover more about the way God uniquely created them, we'll look at some people in the Bible and find out how God used their uniqueness to help Him change the world.

*Aimee Hall, Director of Children's Ministries*

### CIA SUPER SERVICE DAY!

Be on the lookout for more information for our CIA Super Service day! It will be on Tuesday, July 11. CIA (Christians In Action) is for mission-minded children who have completed 2-5<sup>th</sup> grades.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER..

*“32 Years of Ahhh.....some”*

Our Early Childhood Center just completed **Summer Session** and we welcomed 45 children into our five separate and age-appropriate classes that were lead by ten adult staff with assistance from one of our long-term, committed, and trained teenager! Each week the classes were introduced to summer fun and learning through weekly themes: i.e. Father’s Day, camping/picnics, and lots of water and ice cream activities!



**July** will bring many “house-keeping” and behind the scene activities. Our **Early Childhood Committee** members have agreed to offer their time and talents by volunteering to re-paint a few of our worn classrooms walls, along with painting several “rescued” shelving pieces to be added to our rooms. We also **thank our church Trustees** for agreeing to construct some additional LARGE hall-way bulletin boards, and have our floors professionally cleaned and waxed!

Our program continually collects the official “**Box Tops for Education**” that are on a *wide* variety of food and personal care products at the grocery store. They are very easy to identify, and, yes, they really do add up to good and easy “extra” money which is used to obtain the *extra things* for the children/classrooms to enhance their learning and play! Thank you very much to those of you that already clip and donate Box Tops to our program. Feel free to place them in the labeled box or Coleen’s mailbox in the church office’s copy room.



**Enrollment for our upcoming “school-year” session** began in March for our Parent Day Out Classes (six months of age through two-year-olds) and our Preschool classes (3-year-old and 4-year-old preschool classes.) Several of these classes are currently full but we encourage families to continue to contact us because we always maintain an active “waiting list” for all ages.

*Our four Parent Day Out classes currently have 23 children attending and our five Preschool classes currently have 52 children attending!*



**“Help Wanted”** – We will have opportunities for a few additional classroom teaching staff this upcoming school-year session. The employment needed is for every Monday and Wednesdays (9:15 – 3:15) and previous “teaching” experience with very young children is not required but a big plus, but of course we *will train* the “right person!” Having a genuine love of working with and caring for children six months of age through two years of age is a major factor when considering a possible employee in our program.



**All** staff are required to go through an interview process, submit to fingerprinting and detailed background checks; we welcome anyone to contact us directly if you or anyone you know would be interested in more information about working in our ministry!



Hello East Cross Family!

For those that don't know, I am this year's youth summer intern, and I'm so excited to be a part of East Cross this summer and meeting every single one of you! I also just want to say thank you so much for being a giving church and for allowing me to "kick start" my own future career and ministry. I was called into youth ministry when I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and ever since then I've been trying to grasp that calling that God has laid on my heart. It's truly a blessing to not only get to know your kids this summer and to watch them grow in Christ, but to be in a church that is investing in me and helping me to get to where God has called me to be. Again, I am very thankful.



I am originally from the small town of McAlester, Oklahoma. If you don't know where that is, we have the state penitentiary...and that's about it! We have signs everywhere that say, "Do not pick up hitchhikers. They can be escaped convicts." No joke! Anyways, I grew up there and I was very active in church and their youth group, as well as sports like baseball and football. Because of baseball, I was offered a scholarship to play at Oklahoma Wesleyan University. I played there for two years and that is when I met Evan Holmes. I won't lie, (and he knows this) I didn't really like Evan when we first met. He annoyed me because he would always tease me and would always pull the "seniority card"; just like an older brother would with a younger brother. But after a while, I found out that we were just alike and that he is an awesome man of God; and I needed a friend like that in my life.

After my first two years at OKWU, I finished my degree in Marketing at the University of Oklahoma. Over the years of living in different towns and even states, Evan and I still remained the best of friends. I had some ups and some BIG downs during the years after I left OKWU, but Evan was always there for me and always pointing me towards the cross when I would fall. If it wasn't for him and by God's grace, I wouldn't be here interning with East Cross this summer.

Before I let you go, (and I need to hurry because I definitely passed the word limit) I want to leave the church family with two things. The first thing that I would like to share is Proverbs 18:24, and it says, "One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Evan was that friend that sticks closer than a brother, and he always made sure that I wouldn't fall into the "ruin". So, I want to challenge you, East Cross Church Family, to find a friend that sticks closer than a brother, or to be that friend! The reason being is because it's life changing, and I know because Evan helped change my life. The second thing is that your kids are in some good hands with Evan. He's got a great vision for the students and they are definitely going to be spiritually fed through his leadership.

Again, I just want to say thank you so very much for allowing me to have this position. I've already learned a lot of what youth ministry looks like in the first few weeks, and I'm so excited for this summer and what is to come! I'll see you guys Sunday!

*Josh Donato, Youth Summer Intern*

## July Outreach News

### East Cross VIM to Frances E. Willard July 13 - 15

Several East Cross members who cannot travel to Costa Rica want to go on a local VIM. Frances E. Willard (FEW) ministry center in Tulsa needs our help and has been waiting for us to help with a variety of projects. FEW is where Pearl's Hope is located. This is a ministry to house and help homeless women and their children. We will be able to help them with painting, tiling, taking out trees, organizing a clothes closet, cleaning, and other projects. VIM team members can work as they have time. You can work a half day, one full day, or all three days as your schedule will allow. You will need a Circle of Care liability release form which can be found in the Outreach mail box. The form must be notarized. There is no cost for the VIM. We will have an ice chest for you to bring something to drink and a sack lunch. Bill Amburn is the team leader and you will need to contact him for more information (918-607-9911) or email [bill.amburn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bill.amburn@sbcglobal.net). He will need to know which days you can serve. Plan to be a part of this mission as we make a difference here at home as well as in Costa Rica!

### GENEROSITY BOXES

While visiting with Kay Martin, director of **Concern Center Pantry**, about our **Generosity Box** donations for July, she said that as a result of a recent canned food drive that they are now extremely low on **POWDERED MILK, SALTINE CRACKERS, and PLAIN TEA BAGS!** While doing your 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 ECUMC? You have no idea how much this simple effort will mean to many of our local families!

### International Dinner at Oak Park UMC

You are invited to Oak Park UMC International Dinner featuring the DR Congo on Friday, July 8 at 6:00pm. The cost is \$10 per person. Contact Jean Abshire (918-766-3484) to make reservations.

New Hope Indian UMC Taco Dinner will be held Friday, July 14 from 11:00am—7:00pm in Dewey, OK.

Engineers in Action will meet August 7th at 6:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at East Cross. Engineers in Action help build wells and provide drinkable water for people in rural areas of South America. Please invite any engineers to come. This is only an informational meeting and there is no commitment.

### Circle of Care

Many people hear or read the term "Circle of Care" but do not know what it is about. This is a ministry specific to Oklahoma United Methodists whose mission is to provide Christian help with healing and hope for children and families who are in crisis situations. Circle of Care provides a safe environment for healing mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. The four sites are the Children's Home in Tahlequah, Boy's Ranch in Gore, Holsinger Home in Enid, and Frances E. Willard in Tulsa. These four locations provide quality temporary housing for children, youth, and families in crisis situations. A portion of our tithes and offerings go to the conference office to support these ministries which God uses to bring healing and draw people to His loving care. For more information go to [www.circleofcare.org](http://www.circleofcare.org).

Outreach committee will not meet in July. Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 8 (2nd Tuesday of August.)

### Summer Prayer Needs

Costa Rica VIM team for travel mercies and God's blessing for each life in Costa Rica and the 25 member team from East Cross

AGAPE as they raise funds for a new and larger facility to meet more people's needs

David Wiley (CRU and International School Project) as he recovers from surgery

This small group is called

**PG**

**Parental Guidance**

If you are not a regular part of small group and have kids of any age, then this is your opportunity to get connected. For more information, contact Chad Perceful or the church office.

Coming August 2017

### **CREATE FOR MISSION DAY**

Friday, July 14 9:30am—2:00pm  
East Cross Christian Life Center  
Lunch \$5.00

Project: Cutting and sewing items for area nursing homes

Bring: Sewing machines, Sergers, fabric scissors, rotary cutters and cutting mats

Needed: Sewers, cutters, pinner, pressers, pillow stuffers, assemblers

*Sponsored by: Church Women United*

### **MISSION u 2017**

Weekend School: Friday, July 21—Sunday, July 23  
One Day Plus: Sunday, July 23—Monday, July 24

#### **Topics of Study**

Spiritual Growth Study

Living as a Covenant Community

Climate Justice

Missionary Conferences of the UMC in the United States

Children and Youth

Missionary Conferences of the UMC in the United States

*For more information, contact:*

*Jo Ellen Reed, Dean 405-455-1913; [jreed@sunnylaneumc.com](mailto:jreed@sunnylaneumc.com)*

*Betty Prentice, Asst. Dean 918-825-2081;*

*[bettyjeanprentice@gmail.com](mailto:bettyjeanprentice@gmail.com)*

Sponsored by Oklahoma Conference United Methodist Women and Oklahoma Conference Mission and Service Ministry Team

### **Refrigerator Donation Needed**

Our Early Childhood Center is in need of a reliable, hand-me-down, full-sized, used refrigerator—to replace the one that bit the dust recently! They are hoping that someone has a refrigerator they are not utilizing and would be willing to donate it for the program's use. Contact Coleen to discuss further...918-333-3814 or email [ecc@eastcross.org](mailto:ecc@eastcross.org). Thank you!

Thank  
You

Dear East Cross,  
My family and I have been blessed by East Cross in so many ways for the past seven years! Thank you for your support of the music ministry and for the many ways you have shown appreciation towards me. Thank you for the many prayers and well wishes as I start a new stage of my career.  
Regards, *Ariel Ortega*

Dear East Cross,  
Thank you to everyone for your prayers. I am doing good after the hip replacement.  
Thank you, *Norita Akers*

Dear East Cross,  
Thank you so much for all the prayers, food and wonderful friends.  
Warmest Regards, *Elizabeth McLaughlin*

Dear East Cross Family,  
As a recipient of the Donna Tolin Memorial Scholarship, I would like to thank you for providing me with this generous gift that will help me to further my education. I plan to pursue a degree in computer engineering at the University of Arkansas, and I might possibly go on from there to obtain a master's degree. I am really looking forward to this next stage of my life, and I truly appreciate your willingness to help me pursue my goals! Thank you, *Tyler Gerth*

Dear East Cross,  
Thank you so much for the Wayne Tracy Scholarship. I am so excited for next year. I will be sad to leave my East Cross family behind, though. Thanks for all the support throughout the years. East Cross will always be my church home. Thanks again! *Erin Epperson*

Dear East Cross,  
Just a note of thanks from Cleveland County Habitat for Humanity. We cannot thank you enough. How did your mission committee come to select CCHFH? Did you get a mailing from us? Were you helping the families of Moore?

We are so grateful and it could not have come at a better time. We are currently working on Willie's home. Willie is working to break the cycle of incarceration in his young nephew's lives. He is raising them as his own. He is loving them and is working to put a roof over their heads.

Thank you, your committee and church for caring!!!!!! Just to make sure you know—YOU, your committee and your church are an answer to prayer **today!!**

*Lisa Driskill, Development Coordinator*

NOTE:

East Cross has an endowment that is overseen by the Outreach Committee (missions). The funds are designated for Habitat for Humanity. It is to be split evenly between projects in Bartlesville and another Habitat location. We had a VIM team work by twin lakes in the Shawnee area a few years ago. The committee knows the continued need in the Moore-Norman-Shawnee area and made the decision to send funds to CCHFH to help a needy family. It is amazing how God guides and directs our actions!

*Bill Amburn, Outreach Chair*

## PRAYER LIST

### New Prayer Requests...

Twenty-five member Mission Team from EC to Costa Rica July 8-15, Janelle Hale (Judy Stephens' sister), Patti Rameraz, Sherri and Pat (Helen Shell's sisters)

Alida (Maebeth Furrow's sister), Ann Allen (Lola Norfleet's granddaughter), Alan Beckworth, Alden Beckworth, Michelle Burr, Geoffery Christensen (Eileen Christensen Perrin's son), Kathy Christian, Bryant Collier, Myrna Collier, Joan Collins (friend of Pam Knuth), Val Cottle, Jerry Cox, Stan Defehr, Debbie Dagenette, Marcia Goode, Edna Harbison, Richard Herman, John Hron (father of Kermit and Mary Lou Tanzey's son-in-law), Gertrude Hughey, Barry Knuth, James Kuntz, Louis & Emily Kuntz, Joe LaFerry, Paul McQuillen, Mike Paxson (brother-in-law of Coleen Williams), Debbie Potter, Marie Puckett, Euela Randall, Spence Rigdon, Earnest & Cathe Riggs, Ken Salamy (Tootsie Bryan's nephew), Carol Stithem, Jeremy Waldorf, Bill & Allie Zoldoske

### Condolences to...

Patrick, Madison and Landon Fenton on the death of Patrick's father, Richard Fenton on May 29.

Chad, Lesli, Riley and Cameron Perceful on the death of Chad's grandfather, Donald Perceful on May 30.

Rachel Sweeden and family on the recent death of her mother-in-law, Sophia Lookout.

Misti Montgomery and family on the death of her father, Orville Sheline.

Kevin and Debbie Graham on the death of Kevin's brother, Carter Graham on June 19.

Bob Graham on the death of his wife, Pat on June 20.

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

All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at Painted Horse on Saturday, July 1st at 8am!



## Pray for our Military

MAJ Todd Abshire	LTC Darrin Cox	LCDR Eric Rolfs
SSG Gary Mabry	SSG Jared Seat	CPT Derek Smith
CDR Robert Staten	CPT Neil Gorham	Robbie Lawson
Mark Hathaway	CPT Daniel Smith	SFC Clifton White

All persons serving in the military and their families.



If you have a loved one or a friend currently on active duty in the military and would like them added to our Wall of Honor, please contact Charlie and LeAnne Christensen at [chasleanne@gmail.com](mailto:chasleanne@gmail.com) or 918-327-1226.

## MUTUAL Tuesday House Resale Shop

Sorting at Tuesday House Resale Shop — Monday & Wednesday 9am-12pm

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

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

Tuesday House will be CLOSED on Tuesday, July 4th

## 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.



## Upper Room Daily Devotionals

Months of July—August are available on the Information Desk outside the Sanctuary \$1.00 each regular or large print

**ONLINE GIVING...** You can give electronically by going to our website [www.eastcross.org](http://www.eastcross.org). Click the menu tab on top of the Welcome page and click on "Give Online" OR scroll to the bottom of our Welcome page and click on "Give." Funds can also be withdrawn automatically weekly or monthly by completing a request form available in the treasurer's office.



East Cross also offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image to the left using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>JULY 2017</b>						1 8:00a Men's breakfast at Painted Horse
2 Communion	3 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TODAY	5	6	7	8 SONSHINE CAMP July 8-9
9	10	11	12	13	14 9:30a Create for Mission Day 7:00p Church Bridge	15
COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP — Saturday, July 8— Saturday, July 15						
	6:30p Young Adults	9:30a CIA Service Day				
16	17 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00p Miriam Circle 7:00p Trustees	18 6p Piecemaker Quilters	19	20	21	22
23	24 6:30p Young Adults	25	26	27	28	29 10am EC Kids Field Trip
30	31	GROWIN' IN GRACE CAMP 3rd—5th grades				

## Weekly Activities at East Cross

### Sunday

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

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

### Wednesday

7:30pm

Praise Band Practice

### Thursday

### Monday

### Friday

### Tuesday

4:00pm

Prayer Group

### Saturday

**Postmaster: Send address changes to:**

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

Rev. Jeff Burress  
*Pastor*  
Chad Perceful  
*Pastor*

Evan Holmes  
*Director of Youth Ministries*  
Aimee Hall  
*Director of Children's Ministries*  
Linda Smith  
*Ministerial Coordinator*  
Linda Thornton  
*Treasurer-Membership*  
Coleen Williams  
*Early Childhood Center Director*  
Liz VanDeVenter  
*Nursery and Childcare Director*

*Traditional Music Director*  
Margie Green  
*Pianist/Organist*  
Zack Michel  
*Contemporary Music Director*  
Seth Weimer  
*Sound Tech*  
Jon Colliver  
*Building & Maintenance Coordinator*

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



**Makenzie Scott cooling down!**



**VBS friends!**

**VACATION  
BIBLE  
SCHOOL!**



**Oliver Rakes — two thumbs up!**

*How you made me is  
amazing and wonderful.  
I praise you for that.*

**Psalm 139:14**



**James Fitch celebrates!**



**Layla Bloom having fun!**