

Volume 23, Number 10
October 1st, 2017

East Cross News

Monthly Publication
of East Cross United
Methodist Church



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Church Office:
918-333-0810

FAX: 918-335-1664

Early Childhood
Center: 918-333-3814

www.eastcross.org



Newsletter
articles for the
next issue are due
in the church office
by noon on
Thursday,
October 19th.

Email articles to
office@eastcross.org



east cross

OVERFLOW:

A LIFE REFRESHED BY GENEROSITY



Sunday Worship Information

Sermon Series

OVERFLOW: A Life Refreshed by Generosity

Sunday, October 1

Holy Communion

2 Corinthians 8:9, 9:8

The Source of Whole-Life Generosity:

A Life Lived in Relationship with God

Sunday, October 22

Mark 4:1-8, 13-20

Openhanded:

*All we are is released to God
for the blessing of others*

Sunday, October 8

I Timothy 6:17-19

God's Plan for Generosity:

*Not what He wants from us,
but what He wants for us*

Sunday, October 29

Acts 4:32-35

Better Together: Generosity

Thrives in Community

— Starting at 11:30am —

All Church Celebration Luncheon

Christian Life Center (Gym)

Sunday, October 15

Matthew 6:30-34

A Freeing Faith:

Overcoming the Fear of Living Generously

**ALL CHURCH CELEBRATION LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**

Serving begins at 11:30am

Downstairs in the Christian Life Center (aka gym)

Be sure to attend and fellowship with our church family!

Free meal for those who attend

ANOTHER STEP IN OUR JOURNEY...

Mindsets

A mindset is a fixed mental attitude or disposition that predetermines a person's response to and interpretation of situations. It is also an inclination or a habit.

Mindsets can be good or bad, depending on their orientation and the situation. For example, a mindset to brush one's teeth after eating can prove beneficial. On the other hand, a mindset to run red lights can prove fatal.

Mindsets — we all have them. They are the product of our environment, our training, our heredity, and the decisions we make along life's way.

Churches have mindsets, too. We're not speaking of the church building per se, but rather, of the group of people known collectively as "a church." Like an individual's mindset, a church's mindset is a product of its people, its history, its leadership, and its environment.

We are told in scripture to have the same mindset as Jesus had. Jesus' mindset was one of extreme generosity. Jesus was so generous that he just OVERFLOWED onto everyone around him. Whether listening, healing, or feeding, Jesus' generosity was a big part of who he was. Since Jesus is God, we don't have a better picture of the personality of our God than Jesus in his extreme generosity.

What should your mindset be as a follower of Jesus? What should the mindset of East Cross United Methodist Church be as part of the Church of Jesus Christ? We should OVERFLOW with generosity and not just because others benefit when we are generous, but our lives are refreshed by generosity and Jesus wants us to be refreshed.

Let's be known as the Generous People of Bartlesville. I think that is what East Cross should stand for in our community. That should be our mindset.

Pastor Jeff

Traditional Worship...

I am so excited to be serving as your Traditional Worship Director at East Cross. Thank you for your patience through this process. I shared with the choir, that sometimes God presents opportunities to use us for His plan. He places us right where He wants us to be for His work to be fulfilled in His time. You may identify with me when I tell you that I've said "no thank you" over and over to His consistent and quiet whispers. I have had lots of excuses like MY plate is already full. MY schedule is already too busy. MY time is already accounted for in a day. When we break down the walls of our own agenda and prioritize God's plan for us, others can be blessed. We can be blessed!!!

God will never bring us to a place and then say, "Good luck with this." Because He is a loving and generous God, He will always work out even the smallest details. When we trust Him, there are no "what-ifs." He has everything planned out and knows the end result.

In October, we will be starting a new series entitled "Overflow: A Life Refreshed with Generosity." We will learn in this series it is not what God wants FROM us, it is what God wants FOR us. Sometimes we think of generosity as a monetary thing, but God also wants us to be generous with our time to bless us and use us to bless the lives of others.

The choir will be singing anthems about being thankful for what God has done, is doing, and can do!!! As always, the door is always open for you to come sing with us! When we lift our praises and sing we are not singing to impress those around us, we are singing for an audience of ONE! Whether it is singing with the choir or serving in another way at East Cross, listening to what God wants from you will generate blessings that OVERFLOW!

Margie Green, Traditional Worship Director

Contemporary Worship...

It's hard to express how blessed I feel to worship the way we do at East Cross. God's generosity has been evident in the people he has placed here to lead and serve in our worship services. As you have probably noticed, we have begun to change not only the style of our worship songs in the contemporary service, but also the environment. We have several worship team members and leaders in the church who have generously given hours of their time and money to transform our sanctuary into a place that is both inviting and encouraging for worship. There are discussions in the works for continued improvements in the sanctuary including improving our sound system. I want to thank those who have given generously to make these things happen. I believe that with the overflow of blessings that have been poured out on our church, and the amazing people who choose to give back to God what is already His, the best of our worship experiences are yet to come!

God Bless,

Zack Michel, Contemporary Worship Director

From Pastor Chad...

This month we are focusing on one word: Generosity. It is our prayer that by the end of this month, you will know what it means to serve a generous God by living a generous life. I think that it all starts when we truly take the time to see how generous God has been with us. I witness God’s generosity in my life every day... that is, when I take the time to look for these blessings. Now I am not going to list out all the day to day activities of an associate pastor, but I will tell you that it seems like the work never stops. I run from one meeting to the next. I spend time getting ready for the small groups that I lead. I supervise the children and youth departments. The list of duties continues.

But when I stop to think about how generous God has been in the day to day duties of this role, I am blown away. After all, it is a blessing to go to a meeting with people who care so much about the work that God is doing here at East Cross that they give freely of their time, talents and resources to make it happen. It is joy to do life with so many wonderful people as we meet and grow together in small groups. As a supervisor, God has gifted me with two amazing people who work hard to lead the youth and children’s ministries. When we see past the duties, we begin to see a glimpse of the generosity of God.

It is all about our perspective. Are we looking for the blessings of God or are we focused on the to-do list? As you think about this, consider this passage from Psalm 34:8 (CEB): “⁸ Taste and see how good the Lord is! The one who takes refuge in him is truly happy!” Church, take a moment and, as the old hymn says, “Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done!” Then, out of the generosity that has been shown to us, let us share that same measure of generosity with others.

Blessings,

Pastor Chad

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■ **NEWS FROM THE NURSERY...**

■ We have been truly blessed by the spirit of generosity in our church. The dedication and joy our members have helping others inspires us on a daily basis. We believe that generosity means sacrificing for the sake of God and others. Not only is generosity measured in terms of donations, but also our willingness to donate our time and talent. Every act of generosity that you offer someone ultimately points them to God. We find that when we give to others so that they may flourish, our hearts bloom as well. God’s most generous act was to give us his Son as our Savior.

■ “Be generous: invest in acts of charity. Charity yield high returns. Don’t hoard your goods; spread them around. Be a blessing to others.” Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

■ *Liz VanDeVenter, Nursery Director*

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EC Kids...

When you really allow yourself to think about it, isn't it mind-blowing? God's generosity literally knows no bounds. He overwhelms us with unlimited grace, forgiveness, mercy, time; His time. If I've learned nothing else from working with children over the years it's that all they really want is your time, your attention and your listening ear. Just by sitting and listening, by being generous with my time, I have heard stories from why a child made the tough decision to choose red shoelaces instead of blue all the way to the deep and emotional reasons why a child sat alone every day at lunch. I have heard stories of pain, loss, celebration, happiness and everything in between.

Knowing God is there listening, it makes us all feel safe, secure and like no matter what happens it will all be okay. Can you imagine a child knowing their words are safe with you? Can you see the wonderment in their eyes when they know they have your undivided attention? Can you feel their security when they know you are an ever-present person in their life?

Be that mind-blowing presence in a child's life. It won't only change that child – but it will change you as well.

Aimee Hall, Director of Children's Ministries

Growth in Giving

It would seem uncommon for me to tell you that by giving something away, you would be getting something so much more in return. As I've prepared myself for the coming school year, I've recalled more and more memories from the last 12 months. Our students have served in many different ways the last year and the same truth seems to be evident. The more we give, the more we seem to get something in return.



Our yearly theme in C3 Student Ministry is "Growth." We are challenging ourselves to grow this year as individuals, as a community, and as the Body of Christ. We try to stress the importance of giving throughout the year. We do this by cleaning up leaves in the Fall or supplying Christmas gifts in the Winter. We have a good time packaging cookies for the Kairos ministry in the Spring. We do much more but my point about this is not the acts of service but the heart behind what we do. All of these service opportunities are not just to fulfill our Christian duty but rather fulfill our Christian PASSION!

There's no greater feeling than giving up your own self for someone else. John 15:13 says that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for another. As we serve, and hopefully as you serve somewhere this year, remember that it is a PASSION for us to serve someone else because that is just one of the ways to show the great love that God has shown to us. Be passionate this year for others. Be passionate this year about God. And as you do so, see how you GROW in your journey with Christ.



Evan Holmes, Director of Youth Ministries

Generosity

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER..

October is another very busy time within our program...we begin the month with Fire Safety. The 4's Preschool children will travel *to* a local fire station and the **generous** firemen will allow them to tour the firehouse and even do a scavenger hunt there too; our 3's Preschool children will have the firemen and their truck *COME TO US HERE* and they too will be able to see the fireman's bunker gear demonstration and be allowed to climb all over the firetruck – this is always very exciting for the children!

Continuing with the safety idea of the month... Eleven of our staff and two committee members have attended "Emergency Preparedness for Child Care Programs" training which is **generously** offered for FREE to our community via Save The Children®. Manuals with workbooks; program—appropriate emergency plans; and actual tried-and-true action-plans were shared with us so that we can do the best we can when determining what is best for the children and staff in OUR facility!

Preschool Parent / Teacher conferences also are part of this month as well. This is always a time that families **generously** want to spend with their child's teacher, which is always of great value to the parent and for the child's benefit!

The children will also be participating in the ever-popular trick-or treating of our church office staff as they **generously** share various goodies with the "costumed" children.

Also, many thanks to those church members and program families who have recently and **generously** shared with and donated: gently used children's toys and books; arts and crafting supplies; and extra supplies of copy-ready paper – all are appreciated!

- **Collection of Box Tops for Education and donating used ink-jet cartridges with our program is also very generous – again, thank you!**

Remember this... Whoever sows few seeds will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows **generously** will also reap **generously**. Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NIV

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

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



Mountain of Food

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring the annual "Mountain of Food" drive which begins on Sunday, October 15th through Sunday, November 5th. Food will be distributed locally to Concern Food Pantry, Agape, and Lighthouse the week before Thanksgiving. East Cross has always been a **generous** congregation responding to help local people in need. Last year we collected 729 cases of food for a total of \$10,340.00.

To donate complete a form and make your check payable to East Cross United Methodist Church noting "Mountain of Food" on the memo line. Forms will be available in the church bulletin and at the Information Desk outside of the sanctuary. Items are listed by case quantity (number in one case) and price per case. You may place your order in the collection plate on any Sunday, mail to the church or drop it by the church office through Sunday November 5th.

Several small groups will be collecting the food from Aldi's on Saturday mornings and bringing it to the church. If you would like to assist them please contact Kay Ruehlen at 918-815-3564. Volunteers are welcomed and appreciated.

Kay Ruehlen, Outreach Committee

East Cross Generosity Boxes

Our local outreach mission receiving the gifts in our **Generosity Boxes** during the month of October is **Concern Child Learning Center**. What a big difference to each of these children you are making by helping fill our Generosity Boxes with their needs. Their particular needs this month are: **Diapers – size 3 to 6; Pull-ups; Baby Wipes; Toilet Paper; Paper Towels; and Copy Paper**. While shopping, toss a few of these items in your cart. Bring them to church and load the Generosity Boxes located at each entrance to East Cross UMC. What a blessing your items will mean to this local mission outreach!

CONCERN CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Concern has been providing 50 years of continuous, compassionate care for those in our community who have little or no resources. Concern operates four programs. Concern has an emergency pantry that provides food to clients four times a year. The first six months in 2017 they have seen 5501 families representing 10,540 people and distributed 105,143 pounds of food. Concern also provides financial assistance to help avoid utility cut-offs, help with prescriptions and pay for gas to attend a job interview. Money is always paid to the vendor rather than the individual. So far this year they have helped 180 families financially. Concern runs a Representative Payee program that assists individuals who receive assistance from Social Security, but cannot manage their income. Their money is sent to Concern where they have an account and a Concern representative pays their bills and manages their money for them. The Concern Child Learning Center began fifty years ago because there were no day care facilities on the west side of Bartlesville and no day care facilities would accept a black child. Their mission continues to serve those who would not otherwise be able to afford childcare. They will be hosting a fundraiser dinner on Sunday, October 29th at Father Lynch Hall in the evening. The cost of the celebration event will be \$50.00. Please join them in celebrating 50 years of service to those who live in poverty.

October Outreach News

East Cross members serve GENEROUSLY in many ways to help others. Below are some of those ways.

MUTUAL Girls Club provides an environment for all girls to learn life skills and develop God given talents while experiencing the love of Jesus Christ. Many East Cross members help in a variety of ways. Tuesday House is the MUTUAL resale shop which raises money for MUTUAL. You can donate items to Tuesday House or volunteer to help. Please contact MUTUAL if you would like to volunteer to help.

Concern (Churches United for Community CONCERN) provides support to individuals and families needing assistance through contributions of faith and civic organizations, generous individuals, corporate partners and grants. Concern distributes food and other assistance and runs the Concern Child Learning Center which is a day care facility for the needy. East Cross members serve in both Concern and the Child Learning Center. Both need additional volunteer help with relatively easy jobs. Please contact them to find out what you can do to help.

Lighthouse Outreach Center is a Christian based homeless shelter in Bartlesville and has served thousands of people since its founding in 1992. The maximum capacity is 75 people and is the only 24-hour homeless shelter within a 50-mile radius. Residents at the Lighthouse are given three meals a day and are required to attend weekly Chapel services on-site if they are not working. Each resident has assigned chores to keep their home clean and safe. East Cross members supply a monthly meal and some have volunteered to help in other ways.

Bartlesville Area Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit Christian housing ministry that works in partnership with people who need help to build or renovate and purchase a home of their own. East Cross has several members who help on a weekly or monthly basis.

Generosity Boxes at East Cross provide members the opportunity to give to specific needs at MUTUAL, Concern, Concern Child Learning Center, and Agape. Agape provides meals for the needy and weekend food for school children who are from families who are struggling. Please take a look at the East Cross entrances to find the Generosity Boxes and what members can provide. Lerene Schornick and her small group, with our help, take the lead in this project.

Fall Dates to Know!

Mountain of Food: October 15 – November 5

Kay Ruehlen is the point person for this project. East Cross members annually purchase cases of food in the fall and distribute the food to Concern, Lighthouse, and Agape. These organizations feed those in Bartlesville who are less fortunate.

Red Bird Craft Fair: November 4 and 5

Vicki Beierschmitt is the point person for this event. The crafts are made from cottage industries in the Red Bird valley in the Appalachian mountains of southeastern Kentucky. This is the livelihood for many people and they make unique products that are great for Christmas and birthday presents. A free lunch will be served on Saturday.

Angel Tree: November 15 – December 10

Jeretta Amburn is the point person for this project. East Cross members will be given the opportunity to pick an "angel" which is a child who may not have Christmas presents without our help. Watch for the Christmas tree in mid-November.

October Outreach News...continued

Return to Red Bird in July 2018

Preparations have begun for the 2018 VIM to Red Bird, Kentucky. The VIM will be July 21 – 28, 2018. Please be prayerfully considering God's plans for you to join the team or to help the team in other ways. We will have an organizational meeting in January.

Prayer Needed

VIM teams and volunteers to help people in disaster areas. 80% of all help comes from the faith based community and volunteer organizations.

People in the hurricane disaster areas.

Volunteers who help in the Bartlesville area. The organizations need more help!

Outreach Committee October Meeting will be held on the second Tuesday, October 10th, at 7:00pm. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend Outreach meetings.

RECOVERY IN OKLAHOMA CONTINUES



In the spring of 2013 several tornadoes tore across Oklahoma leaving many families, without the ability to recovery on their own, in need of volunteer help. The Oklahoma United Methodist Church rose up and a fully staffed grant funded Disaster Response ministry was formed. Since that time Oklahoma has not been without families in need of recovery from natural disasters.

As this newsletter is distributed there are over 200 families from the spring 2015 disasters that are still in need of recovery. These families, without volunteer mission teams, will experience their third winter without a safe, sanitary, and secure home. Volunteer teams are needed now and for the foreseeable future to help all those in need of recovery.

Jean Abshire has been leading tiling teams to help get families back into their homes. Please check with Jean for more information.

*Thank
you*

Red Bird Mission will soon receive its 29th and final van from Campbell's Labels for Education Program. Thank you to all that sent labels for this project over the past year.

Red Bird Mission; Beverly KY

PRAYER LIST

New Prayer Requests...

Eddie Danford (Brenda Common's father), James Kuntz, Ed Long (Wanda Cook's brother), Rita Putney (Becky Bryant's friend), Terri Woods

Alan Beckworth, Michelle Burr, Geoffery Christensen (Eileen Christensen Perrin's son), Kathy Christian, Bryant Collier, Joan Collins (friend of Pam Knuth), Val Cottle, Stan DeFehr, Debbie Dagenette, Janelle Hale (Judy Stephens' sister), Gertrude Hughey, Barry Knuth, Louis and Emily Kuntz, Mike Paxson (Coleen Williams' brother-in-law), Debbie Potter, Marie Puckett, Euela Randall, Spence Rigdon, Carol Stithem, Kermit Tanzey, Jan Waldorf, Jeremy Waldorf

Condolences to...

Richard Herman on the death of his wife, Carol Herman.

Rachel Sweeten and family on the death of her cousin, Greg Duncan.

Family and friends of Barbara Wood who passed away on September 21 in Enid, Ok.

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

Pray for our Military

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

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.

UMW SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, October 5 at 1:30pm

All ladies are invited to attend this meeting to decide the future path of our United Methodist Women association.

All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at Eggberts on Saturday, September 2nd at 8am!



Sunday Morning Van Ministry



Call the church office at 918-333-0810 and **leave message on extension 105 before 7:30am on Sunday mornings.** You may also have a standing request to be picked up each week.

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



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Communion</i> 6:00-8:00pm Children/Youth Bonfire	2 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	3	4 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	5 1:30p UMW Special Meeting 6:30p Children's Council	6	7 8:00a Men's breakfast at Painted Horse
8 5:00p PG Small Group	9 6:30p Young Adults	10 7:00p Outreach	11 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	12	13 7:00p Church Bridge	14
15 MOUNTAIN OF FOOD begins today 3:00p CIA	16 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00p Miriam 7:00p Trustees	17 6p Piecemaker Quilters	18 NO Connections Tonight	19 9:30a Rebecca 9:30a Ruth	20	21
Fall Break — Bartlesville Schools Youth Fall Break Camping Trip—Thurs, Fri, Sat						
22 5:00p PG Small Group	23 6:30p Young Adults 7:00p Rachel	24	25 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	26	27	28
29 11:30a All Church Celebration Luncheon	30	31		<i>OCTOBER 2017</i>		

Weekly Activities at East Cross

Sunday

8:30am Traditional Worship Service
9:45am Small Groups for all ages
11:00am Contemporary Worship Service
5:00pm Youth

Monday

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

Tuesday

4:00pm Prayer Group

Wednesday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
5:30pm Connections Meal
6:00pm Small Groups
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir
7:30pm Praise Band Practice

Thursday

Friday

9:30am-12Noon Early Childhood Center
(Not meeting on 10/20/17)

Saturday

EAST CROSS NEWS (USPS 164-540)

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Nursery and Childcare Director

Margie Green

Traditional Worship Director

Pianist

Amelia Nash, *Organist*

Zack Michel

Contemporary Worship Director

Seth Weimer

Sound Tech

Jon Colliver

Building & Maintenance Coordinator

learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey

Meet Margie Green — Our new Traditional Worship Leader and Choir Director!



Margie Green is the Vocal Music Director at Bartlesville High School. She also holds the positions of Vocal Music Department Supervisor for grades 6-12 for BPS. She has been in vocal music education for 18 years. She recently was named the 2016-2017 Bartlesville Public Schools Teacher of the Year. She was the Vocal Music Director at Tahlequah High School before moving to Bartlesville 7 years ago. Margie was raised in Checotah, OK. She attended Northeastern State University and graduated in 1998 with honors receiving a BA in Music Education. Margie is an active member of Oklahoma Music Educators Association and serves as the Northeast Quad All-State Audition Chair. She is also a member of the Oklahoma Choral Directors Association and is the 2016 past-president of the Northeast Choir Directors Association. Mrs. Green has been a guest clinician for various festival concerts in the region. From 2005-2013, Margie served as the Vocal Director/Arranger for the NSU River City Players Stars of the Summer Series in Tahlequah, OK. Margie has served for six years as the worship pianist/organist for East Cross United Methodist Church, but most recently has been named the Traditional Worship Leader/Choir Director. Margie has been married to Brad for 16 years and has two sons, Colton and Cooper.