

Volume 25, Number 8  
August 1st, 2019

# East Cross News

Monthly Publication  
of East Cross United  
Methodist Church



# east cross



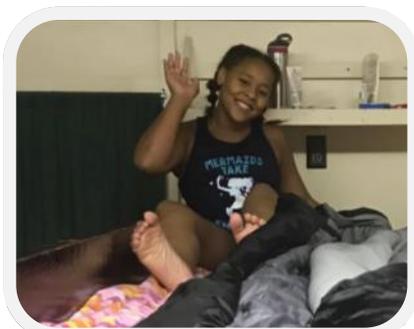
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Newsletter  
articles for the  
next issue are due  
in the church office  
by noon on  
Tuesday,  
August 20th.

Email articles to  
office@eastcross.org



## 3rd-6th Grade at CAMP EGAN

Growing in Faith and Friendships,  
and Celebrating in the Mud Pit!



## Sunday Morning Sermons

August 4

**"The Shunem Woman"**

2 Kings 4:8-37

Communion

August 18

**"Not Alone"**

2 Kings 6:24-7:20

August 11

**"Back to School Sunday"**

Pastor Chad Preaching

August 25 — Sermon Series Begins

Study on the Book of Hebrews

**"A Letter from the Pastor"**

## Another step in our journey...

### AWESOME AND AMAZING!

**T**here are two words I've found myself using time and again this summer: awesome and amazing.

For me this has been a year of renewed recognition of the awesome power of God over nature and circumstances, and of the amazing grace that is given to us that keeps us in right relationship with God. Sometimes I feel like a kid with my mouth open in awe as I watch God work through His people to accomplish His will. And what is even more awesome is that God never overpowers us, or makes us do anything. Rather, God invites us to be a part of what He's doing

in the world and then uses our cooperation to make things work for good. That is so awesome.

And then there's that amazing grace that I never get tired of receiving and watching others receive as God goes out of His way to let us know that He loves us and that we are forgiven if we confess and repent. As I continue this journey of following Jesus Christ, as I strive to be more like Jesus, and continue to be more honest with myself, I see more and more everyday how amazing God's grace really is. I can sing with conviction with John Newton, "Amazing Grace,

how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." God's grace really is amazing.

*Pastor Jeff*

"...this has been a year of renewed recognition of the awesome power of God over nature and circumstances..."

## Traditional Worship

**B**oy it's hot outside! I know the summer season officially has many weeks ahead, but summer vacation for many is coming to an end. The choir will be back to rehearsing and singing in worship soon, and I wanted to make sure you knew that there is an open seat for new singers! We would love to have you join us and be a member of our fun small group!

Together we laugh a lot, encourage each other, and experience JOY in singing. The Bible says the aim of our singing is "to raise sounds of joy" (1 Chronicles 15:16). God does not expect us to have the perfect singing voice, He only calls us to enter His presence and joyfully sing. Experience the JOY of singing with us. The choir will meet together on Wednesday, August 14 for a

meal downstairs at 6:00pm followed by rehearsal at 7:00pm in the chapel. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [greenm@bps-ok.org](mailto:greenm@bps-ok.org).

*"I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being." - Psalms 104:33*

*Margie Green,*  
**Traditional Worship**

## From Pastor Chad...

**O**ver the past few months, I have been making a conscious decision to try and find joy in every situation every day. In fact, I have a little reminder on the bottom of my to-do board in my office that simply says, "Find Joy". Sometimes it works out and sometimes it doesn't, but I have noticed that if I earnestly look for some joy, I will find it. The perfect example of this happened in June at one of my favorite places in the world, Camp Egan.

On Thursday night of Green Country District Camp, I got word that there was something I needed to take care of which would take me away from the event that was getting ready to start. I tried to get online on the banks the Baron Fork Creek, but with only one bar of non-4G service it looked like I would need to find another way. Therefore, I headed up to the Camp Director's house to use Wi-Fi.

With the task complete, I headed back to assume my duties as a small group leader and that is

when I saw a frog jump in front of me. As I stopped to watch the frog, I felt something hit the plastic covering over the heel of my shoe. I quickly turned to see a snake recoiling back with his mouth open in striking position ready to attack again if provoked. I made no sudden movements and gently began to pull my foot away before heading back down the hill. As I walked, I tried finding some Joy in what I experienced, but I kept focusing on the negative and even let it begin to taint the whole camp experience.

I finally reached the rest of the campers and that is when I entered into a conversation with Josh Pulver about this very topic, trying to find Joy. That is when it dawned on me that I have been living in Joy all week and did not realize it—literally. My cabin for the week was in Love Circle, which uses the Fruits of the Spirit as cabin names, and I was staying in Joy. Trust me, the metaphor was not lost on me. Here I was focused on one single event and I was about to let it rob me of the Joy I experienced over the entire week.

I paused the conversation for a moment and said a quick prayer letting God know the message was received loud and clear. As I prayed, Matthew 7:7-11 (CEB) came to my mind: <sup>7</sup>"Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door is opened. <sup>9</sup> Who among you will give your children a stone when they ask for bread? <sup>10</sup> Or give them a snake when they ask for fish? <sup>11</sup> If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him."

My hope for you is that you will find some measure of Joy in every situation every day and that Joy will remind you of the goodness of God! However, if you still struggle to find that Joy, remember verse 11 and ask your heavenly Father.

Blessings!

*Pastor Chad*

## Contemporary Worship

**B**eing away from your church family is like a coal that is separated from a fire. Although you may have some time away to rest or "cool down", your light shines brightest when you are with others in the fire. Our hope is that wherever you are finding rest this summer, you are

looking forward to rekindling your fire with us at East Cross. We hope to see you soon!

God Bless,

*Zack Michel, Contemporary Worship*

## EC Kids

**S**pace...the final frontier. But you can't voyage very far if you don't follow the flight plan! In order for a plan to be successful, one must be obedient.

We will be giving obedience a fun twist by theming our environment as a Mission Control center for the month of August. After all, any astronaut will tell you that it's important to trust the people in the control room back home. They can see the whole picture. They know exactly what will make your mission a success. And you can show them you trust them by doing what they ask you to do.

We start the month by helping kids understand the importance of the Bible. In **Psalms 119:105** we read that God's Word can guide us in the way we should go.

In week two, we journey through **Genesis 3:1-23**. God created Adam and Eve to take care of His perfect world. God gave them one simple rule to obey: Don't eat from that tree. But ultimately, they didn't trust God and did what they wanted to do. They broke the one rule, and when they did, it changed the course of history.

Next we head to **Genesis 6-8** to the familiar story of Noah. God saw how the people on earth were choosing to live life on their terms rather than His. God grieved this world and sent a flood to wipe everything out. But Noah was faithful to God, so God instructed Noah to build a giant ark. People must have thought he was crazy, but God honored Noah's obedience and saved him, his family, and lots and lots of animals.

We end with **Genesis 12-21** as

we discover how God promised Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation. He tells Abraham to pack up his family and move. Abraham wasn't exactly sure how things would all play out, but he obeyed, trusting that God would keep His promise. God made a covenant with Abraham. Through many ups and downs, God stayed faithful to Abraham and gave him reminders along the way that He would stay true to His promise.

Our hope is that our kids get overwhelmed by the fact that God is the creator of the world. He's in charge of everything! We show that we trust God by obeying Him and His plan for our life. There's no one else I'd want in the control room of my life!

*Aimee Hall*, Director of  
**Children's Ministries**

### BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Hey, EC Kids! Sunday, August 11 is your LAST Sunday of freedom before school starts! We will be having a Back to School Bash for 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!

Your child will need: Clothes they don't mind getting wet or swimsuits; a towel; and a water gun!

RSVP so we can order pizza accordingly!  
Signup at the EC Kids Check-In Desk or email Aimee at [aimeeb@eastcross.org](mailto:aimeeb@eastcross.org).

### CONNECTIONS WELCOME BACK BASH

Join us Wednesday, August 21 as we celebrate the beginning of Wednesday Night Connections! We will have meaningful worship, a fun lesson and GAMES! Bring a friend!

### PICNIC AT THE PARK

EC Kids (K-5th) is hosting a family picnic! After 2nd service on Sunday, August 25, we will head out to Osage Hills State Park. 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\*\*\* If we have to cancel, it will be posted on Facebook and announced in church.



EC Kids | August 25 | Osage Hills State Park | 12:30pm

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

**F**or the fall school-year session, we welcome **25** children into our three **Parent Day Out classes** (*16 months through two year olds*) and **51** children into our four **3 and 4-year old Preschool Classes!** There are **26 first time children that are new to our program.** Twelve of those children have older siblings who attended our program in the past and their families want *them* to have the same great experience. We have a staff of **13** adult

teaching and support persons. As the school-year progresses, the children will learn many new things in our Christian, church-based, part-day program. We are pleased to be in the midst of our **34<sup>th</sup>** year of this ministry to our community.

We *again* ask our East Cross Church family...throughout the coming school-year, as you walk by our classrooms; as you drive by our Early Childhood area in the parking lot or by the church

itself on Madison Blvd; when you see our vehicles here during the day or "after hours"; when you see the children playing on the playgrounds; as you hear the children's laughs and yes, even some crying...we ask that everyone please take a few moments to lift up in prayer the *children, their families, and our staff* so that lives *touched by this ministry continues* to be a very positive, meaningful and valuable part of their lives now, and for many more years to come!

**A**re you a stay-at-home parent that could use a little extra spending money?

Are you a college student needing teaching/classroom experience and spending money?

Are you an empty-nester and want to share part of your spare time with children who would like you to sit and play with them?

Can you model good Christian and appropriate behaviors in a peer group setting?

Our early childhood center is interested in talking with you about the need for you to fill the open positions in our Parent Day Out classes!

***Jesus promised to meet all of our needs (Philippians 4:19) and we realize that He wants to supply these needs for this ministry. Having faith and knowing this is a blessing.***

***We need persons that truly see each child as one made in God's image!***

**The position would be:** Mondays and Wednesdays  
**Hours:** 9:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

### Minimum Qualifications:

- Experience working with young children is a plus but not required;

- Excellent verbal and written communication and organizational skills;
- Compassion and patience working with very young children;
- Willingness to become Pediatric CPR and First Aid certified;
- Willingness to submit to a background check;
- Able to lift up to 35 pounds and sit on the floor.

### General Duties:

- Responsible for planning quality activities in early education, themed-based learning and enjoys outdoor and inside play;
- Responsible for care, welfare, health and safety of children in class;
- Maintain communication with parents.

***We ask that everyone lift up in prayer our classroom teaching needs so that those persons who may feel lead will find their way to us!***

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

**Phone:** 918-333-3814

**Email:** [ecc@eastcross.org](mailto:ecc@eastcross.org)

## EAST CROSS NURSERY

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over and school is getting ready to start. Let's keep everyone in our prayers as they start back. Kids need to know that the things they are struggling with and yearning for have been felt by everyone and that the one constant was, is, and will always be, is GOD. Whether they are dealing with disappointment, a school yard bully, or some other difficult situation, it's important for kids to understand that they can ALWAYS turn to God. As school starts back, knowing that God is faithful and His promises true are often just what a child needs to hear to get through a bad time.

I would like to welcome Ms. Joni who will be working in our 3 year old-PK class and Ms. Hollie who will be in our 16 month to 3 year old class. We are very

blessed to have them and I know they are going to do great things with the children.

The 3 year old-PK class will be finishing the life story of Moses ending with God taking care of His people by giving them food and water in the desert. God loves us and cares for us by giving us what we need, even when we think we are in the desert. Afterward they will focus on the story of Ruth and Naomi.

*God said, 'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.' Genesis 28:15*

*Liz VanDeVenter,*  
**Childcare/Nursery Director**

## WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS BEGINS AUGUST 21!

6:00PM War Room Movie Night

5:30PM MEAL — \$2.00 per adult  
*(Guests, Children and Youth Eat Free!)*

*Childcare available for 4 year olds and younger*

### **Adult Studies Begin August 28**

#### **Going Deeper — Pastor Jeff Burress**

*This class is an ongoing Bible Study based on the scripture references used in Sunday morning worship services.*

*In this setting we can take time to ask questions and learn from each other and grow in our faith.*

### **War Room Bible Study— Rhonda Burress**

*Prayer is a Powerful Weapon*

*Session topics include:  
Dealing with Spiritual Lukewarmness  
Christian Accountability  
Grasping Grace and the Gospel  
Engaging in Spiritual Warfare  
Trusting God in Prayer*

*There will be a workbook to purchase.*

## August Outreach News



### **RAY OF HOPE is our NEW RECIPIENT for your GENEROSITY BOX DONATIONS!**

The **RAY OF HOPE Advocacy Center** is now in partnership with DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION SERVICES. RAY OF HOPE is located in the former Grace Epworth United Methodist Church building which was donated to Ray of Hope when Grace Epworth UMC and East Cross UMC joined together to become one congregation. RAY OF HOPE is continuing their high level of care for child abuse victims and their families through the child advocacy program and has now stepped up to the plate to fill a community need offering counseling and group sessions as well as a crisis telephone line to assist in rebuilding lives of those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. The building definitely suits the needs for both its child advocacy and domestic violence clients. Executive Director, Rhonda Hudson, stated that they will continue to respond and ensure that

survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking have access to the same compassionate care with which they've always served.

The staff at RAY OF HOPE feels that at this time their clients would benefit the most from a collection of toiletries for women and children in crisis situations who may be seeking emergency shelter or foster care placement.

#### **Donations such as:**

hair brushes, hair ties, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, body lotion, soap, toothbrush (adult), toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products would be greatly appreciated.

Will you be able to help us fill our Generosity Boxes this month to support this new outreach—**RAY OF HOPE?**

#### **MUTUAL Girls**

Projects are expanding. As previously reported there are more area schools asking to have programs brought into their buildings. Currently, the MUTUAL Gold Program is in nine local schools and we supported about 460 girls in 2018. MUTUAL is expanding age groups — they will be welcoming 1st-3rd grades at

Kane and Wayside elementary schools getting more kiddos involved in this great ministry. New programs are also being offered for women in the community and in the Fall there will be more opportunities for women to connect. If you see any of the staff from MUTUAL be sure and thank them for the job they have done and are doing to serve others.



#### **Tuesday House**

HELP HELP HELP. Did you get that? Yes, we need your help. We need volunteers! Men, please step up and give us a few hours during the week. You can set how many hours and what day or days you can help—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday. We also need cashiers, security personnel, sorters and floaters. Please consider helping with this great mission that financially supports MUTUAL.

East Cross family, thank you for all you do. Continue to pray and get others to join the journey!

## Costa Rica Mission Trip Report

### Costa Rica with Beans and Rice Ministry!

It is the rainy season in Costa Rica and it rained a multitude of blessings from God. Our 11 person team joined 80 other people from around the U.S. to minister to the people of Costa Rica. Our meals and evenings were spent with all 91 of us eating and worshipping together. These were great opportunities to get to know friends from around the United States.



In the mornings, we could have chosen to do construction or VBS. We started out doing VBS and had a great opportunity to really get to know the kids in one neighborhood because we spent all four mornings in the **same neighborhood**. The time with them was precious and the community was very welcoming. Each day we sang songs, did crafts, acted out a Bible story, played games, and fed them lunch. We started the week wanting to help with construction also, but,

we couldn't pull ourselves away from the sweet kids every morning. We now know how to pray more specifically for these dear little ones.

Our afternoons were spent handing out sacks filled with food including beans, rice, masa and powdered milk. Two of the four days it rained in the afternoon including the first day drenching everyone. Tuesday and Wednesday we handed out dresses made by East Cross women and t-shirts provided by members of our East Cross

congregation. The pure joy on the faces of the children receiving a new dress or a new t-shirt was priceless! The parents were thankful for our love and attention as well as our prayers and the food. Your generosity was very evident during this week. Thank you, East Cross, for being a part of this mission trip!!!

We go wanting to be a blessing to the community by sharing God's love yet come home feeling that we were the ones God had blessed. God provides so abundantly that the team returned filled with love for the people of Costa Rica!

*Jeretta Amburn,  
Team Member  
July 6-13, 2019*



“We now know how to pray more specifically for these dear little ones.”



Kevin and Pam Schrader joined East Cross during the 11:00am service on June 23, 2019.

Pam is a school teacher at Ranch Heights and Kevin is employed by Ametek in Tulsa. Their home address is 2741 Braddock Road.



Kevin and Pam's daughter, Brandi Czerniewski, and husband, Joseph, and their children, Penny, Grayson and Heidi are also members of East Cross! Welcome, Kevin and Pam to our East Cross church family!



We also welcome Brett and Cana Mize and their 4 month old daughter, Kennedy to our East Cross family on July 21. Brett and Cana joined East Cross by profession of faith, and, we celebrated the baptism of Kennedy.

Both Brett and Cana are attorneys. Brett is employed with the Washington County District Attorney's Office and Cana is employed with Robinett King Attorneys at Law. They are actively involved in our Monday Small Group for Young Adults. The Mize family resides at 1604 Smysor Dr.

Welcome, Brett, Cana and Kennedy to East Cross!



Dear East Cross UMC,

Thank you for your donation to Egan Camp and Retreat Center and Cross Point Camp. Your gift enables more people to hear God's voice, away from the "busy-ness" of their regular world. We want people to experience God's call on their lives and to be able to respond in loving, faithful obedience.

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness. We simply cannot impact the lives of children and youth without your support. Your in Christ, *Ed Parker, Executive Director UMC Camping Ministry*

### How to Pray for Beth Wiley...

Dave and Beth Wiley are long-time missionaries from East Cross UMC. Beth was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and has had surgery. To follow Beth's story and to learn how to pray for Beth, go to [www.caringbridge.org/visit/beth4](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/beth4).

## PRAYER LIST

### New Request....

Erna Chamley (Heidi Petty's mother), Glenda Driskill, Pauline Kenton, Charlotte Middleton, Corinne Pichler (Nancy Pichler's granddaughter), Kay Riling (friend of Jean Thomson), Beth Wiley (long-time missionary out of East Cross)

Alan Beckworth (Diana Trammel's cousin), Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Amelia and Kate Callaway (Drew and Debbie Coffee's granddaughters), Kathy Christian, Dave Faust (Melda and Gary Howard's son-in-law), Muriel Faust (Dave Faust's mother), Summer Flenniken (Diana Trammel's granddaughter), Marcia Goode, Linda Harjo, Bruce Holt (Emmalene Lennon's son-in-law), Don Keeler, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Barry Knuth, Emily Kuntz, James Kuntz, Barbara Nissan (friend of Teresa Dietz), Colleen Oldfather, Ronda Paxson (Coleen Williams' sister), Jack Randall, Deb Richardson, Spence Rigdon, Jeana Smith (Tim Smith's sister), Greg Spears (Charlene's son), Joyce Taylor, Kaitlynn Thompson (Ms. Ingrid, Nursery Staff), Jeremy Waldorf, Chris Watson (Chad Perceful's aunt), Michele Willoughby, Allie Zoldoske

### Condolences to...

Family and friends on the death of Bob Stine on July 18.

Carol Henry and family on the death of her brother, Terry Barnes.

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

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



Please keep our active duty military and our veterans in your prayers. 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.

**All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at I-Hop on Saturday, August 3 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](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.

learning to follow Jesus,  
inviting others to join the journey

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>August 2019</b>			1	2	3 8a Men's Breakfast at I-Hop
4 <i>Communion Sunday</i>	5 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	6	7	8	9 6p S.A.L.T. Fellowship	10 7p Church Bridge
11 5p EC Kids Back to School Bash 5p PG Small Group	12 6:30p Young Adults	13 7p Outreach	14 6p Sanctuary Choir Potluck 7p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	15 1st Day Bartlesville Public School	16 10a ECC Open House	17
18 3p CIA — Teacher Appreciation	19 9:30a ECECC Back in Session 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Trustees	20 6p Piecemaker Quilters	21 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups 7:30 Praise Band	22	23	24
25 12:30p EC Kids Picnic at Park 5p PG Small Group	26 6:30p Young Adults	27	28 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups 7:30 Praise Band	29	30	31

### Weekly Activities at East Cross

**Sunday**

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

**Monday**

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center  
(August 19 & 26)

**Tuesday**

4:00pm Prayer Group

**Wednesday**

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center  
(August 21 & 28)  
6:30pm (Aug 7, 14) Praise Band Practice  
7:30pm (Aug 21, 28) Praise Band Practice  
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir (not on Aug 7)

**Thursday**

**Friday**

9:30am-12:00Noon Early Childhood Center PreK  
(August 23 & 30)

**Saturday**

**EAST CROSS NEWS** (USPS 164-540)

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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*



**Early Childhood Center  
WATER DAY!**



Children attending the ECC Summer Session ALWAYS look forward to Water Day! Besides floating toys in water tables or “purposefully painting a brick wall”, the biggest treat is when the Bartlesville Fire Department drives up in a ladder truck to SPRAY a gusher of water into the playground for the children to run through!!!