

Volume 26, Number 1
January 1, 2020

East Cross News

Monthly Publication
of East Cross United
Methodist Church



east cross



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that may cause
services to cancel,
check our website
www.eastcross.org,
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Church Office:
918-333-0810
FAX: 918-335-1664
ECC: 918-333-3814



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

Email articles to
linda@eastcross.org

Sermon Series: **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Beginning January 19

New Church Pictorial Directories

We're Creating a New East Cross Pictorial Directory
and We Want You to Be a Part of It!

Photo Session Dates & Times

Tuesday, March 3 through

Friday, March 6 — 2pm to 9pm

Saturday, March 7 — 10am to 5pm

Friday, March 13 — 2pm to 9pm

Saturday, March 14 — 10am to 5pm



Keep an eye on the church bulletin and the East Cross Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/EastCross>) this month for your invitation to sign up for a photo session. This will allow you and your family to be a part of the East Cross Pictorial Directory. You'll be able to sign up online or at church in the Gathering Area.

In addition to being a part of the Directory, you'll receive one 8 x 10 print FREE! You'll also have the opportunity (but NO obligation) to purchase additional photo products. So check your calendar and start thinking about when you'll want to sit for your photo session!

Another step in our journey...

Thank you so much for sharing with each of us during this time of year. Your East Cross staff is blessed to serve with you. We pray God's blessing on you even as you have blessed us at the end of 2019 with your gifts.

Some of the most used words in the life of the church worldwide are the words of what we refer to as "The Lord's Prayer." Many people can quote this prayer along with a group of people even if

they may not have every word memorized.

January and February we will be focusing on The Lord's Prayer as a guide for our worship services and sermon series. This model prayer was given by Jesus to his disciples as a way of teaching them to pray.

Scripture instructs us to give thanks to God for His goodness and the blessings we receive, pray for our needs, and pray for others

who have needs. I hope our focus for the next couple of months will help each of us as we continue to develop our spiritual walk with Jesus and our prayer life.

Pastor Jeff



Traditional Worship

The time from Thanksgiving to Christmas sure has flown by this year. I want to thank all of you for your prayers, words, and cards of comfort in the passing of my father-in-law, Jim Green. His legacy of living a simple life full of love for God, family, and others is a great example. East Cross is a wonderful church full of awesome ministries. Thank you for ministering to me and my husband's family during this time!

Being the Traditional Music Director is such a joy! I am beyond fortunate to get to sing each week with the people in the Sanctuary Choir and share music together in worship. As I have been planning music this season for our Sampler, Advent, and special Christmas Eve services, the wonderful people of East Cross are what make the season so bright. God has been revealed to me over and over through you as you share your many gifts of service in our church each week. I am surrounded by

your love with your kind words, hugs, and thoughtfulness. Thank you for your gift of appreciation this Christmas. It is yet another example of the amazing people that are East Cross. I feel so fortunate to be traveling this special journey together with you.

May each of you be blessed with a wonderful New Year!

Margie Green,
Traditional Worship

From Pastor Chad...

The New Year is here. Let me begin with a question, "What are you working to accomplish in this new year?" I am not simply talking about another New Year's resolution like losing weight or drinking less pop (both of which are on my list). Instead, what are the one or two goals on which you want to focus all your energy? For me, I like to set my year to a theme to help me remember what I am working towards. The most fun theme I did happened five years ago when I was working to get "Fit in 15". By the end of 2015, I had lost over 20 pounds, started working out on a more regular basis, and was way more healthy than I was the year before. However, being "Fit in 15" also extended to my spiritual life as well. By

the end of 2015, I had increased my time in both prayer and the Word of God which led to a renewal of my soul.

This year I have a new theme, "2020-Seeing Clearly". While obviously this is a play on perfect eyesight, this year's theme is all about seeing clearly the path that God has laid before me. This will require some intentionality in my prayer life and in my Bible reading. This will require me to say no to some good things so that I can say yes to the best things that God might have for me, my family and my ministry. "2020-Seeing Clearly" also will require me to lay my anxiety aside and trust God to lead my life. As I navigate this new year, there are two passages from scripture that will serve as my guide. The

first is Psalm 119:105 (CEB): "Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey." The second is Matthew 6:33 (CEB): "Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

In closing, I would like to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you for the generous year end gift. Thank you for the opportunity to serve here at East Cross. Thank you for being a blessing in my life. As we make our way through 2020, I am honored to take this journey with each and every one of you.

"What are you working to accomplish in this new year?"

Pastor Chad

Contemporary Worship

As we embark on this new year, I'd like to thank all of those who made last year such a wonderful success for our team, especially those involved in our Advent and Christmas Eve services. Our congregation is second to none! Our hope is that worshipping at East Cross provides everyone the opportunity to have an encounter with an amazing Savior, and that our church

uses our music to magnify and lift up the Lord! I cannot express how grateful I am for the team I get to lead each week. To all of our musicians, vocalists, sound, audio, and lighting techs, pastors and church leaders, volunteers, members of our worship committee, and our office and support staff who help us week in and week out, I want to give a huge THANK YOU! Your faithfulness to our church and our team means

more than I could ever express! Throughout this next year we will be primarily focused on continuing to grow our worship team! If you have a gift or talent that could be used in our worship service, let us know! We would love to get you involved!!

God Bless,

Zack Michel,
Contemporary Worship

EC Kids

Ready for some fun and games for the new year? Well, come on down!

Many of us have dreamed of being the next contestant on our favorite game show. We all want to “drop some knowledge” and win a fabulous prize. But if you think about it, knowledge is a prize in itself! It’s important for us to learn something new so we can be better at whatever we do.



God is the author of knowledge. Everything we know to be true about the world is because of God. Knowing God is the most important Person to know. And while we may never know all there is to know about God, God gives us lots of ways we can know Him. We can know Him best through Jesus, who showed us how much God loves us. We can pursue knowing more about God through Jesus, who showed why knowledge is so

important. The more we know God, the better we can live His way each day.

We start the month in Luke 2:41-52 as we discover a moment from Jesus’ childhood. For Jesus, studying Scripture was a priority. Our kids are growing up in the information age. There is no lack of information. However, not all information is as equally valuable. We want our kids to discover that when they focus on knowing God first, the rest will fall into place.

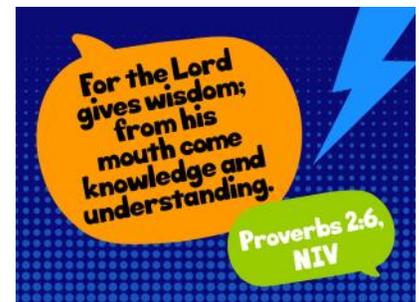
In week two, we find Jesus at the Jordan River. In John 1:19-42 and John 3:22-36. Jesus’ cousin, John the Baptist, is also at the Jordan River preparing the way for Jesus.

After Jesus’ baptism, we head to Luke 4:1-13 and see that Jesus is in the wilderness. In this story, Jesus was tested. Satan twisted what Jesus knew about God and His Word. But Jesus knew better and leveraged God’s truth to fight and win over evil.

In Matthew 11:1-6 we find John the Baptist in prison. John seemed to wonder if Jesus was truly the Savior that God had promised. John

sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus his questions. Jesus responded in love which reassured John that all of God’s promises are coming true.

We never want kids to feel like they can’t ask hard questions about God. Questions about faith are part of growing in your relationship with God. We pray that your kids will find a safe place in our church to ask about what they don’t understand.



Church family, I’d like to take a moment to express my gratitude for your generous donations towards the Staff Appreciation gifts. I am truly blessed to be able to serve at such a wonderful and loving church. Thank you!!

Aimee Hall, Director of Children’s Ministries

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

I am very thankful and appreciative for the generosity of my church family in sharing with me during this recent holiday season. I was certainly very pleased at your thoughtfulness once again this year! *Thank you, once again.*

Our program's center-wide "**Count Your Blessings**" December fundraiser that provides monetary thanks for our teachers was very well received in this our 10th year! *Many* families participated once again and each teacher at East Cross Early Childhood Center received a very nice and welcomed holiday "bonus". The teachers are so appreciative of the generosity our ECC families show towards each of them.

During the months of November and early December our program collected and charitably filled two boxes of items in support of Blue Star Mothers and those in our military. With so many other opportunities this time of year to provide for others, we felt this was an area our ECC families could help with. The recipients were SO appreciative of the simple but meaningful items collected.

As our families return from a wonderful holiday break, our program is now beginning what we call our "Spring Session". These next five months will fly by, just like the previous ones did!

The **Parent Day Out** classes and the 27 children in these three classes will be introduced to the following themes in January:

*Penguins, Teddy Bears,
Snow and Snowmen*
Crafts, songs, storybooks and games are all used to introduce the children to these fun themes!



Our four **Preschool** classes with 49 children are working on:

*Color of the month – BLUE
Shape of the month – Star
Letters – P; Q; R; and S*

The 3-Year Old Preschool classes will begin taking home "Library Books" and learning the value of reading with family members *and* the responsibility of returning those books so as to be able to "check-out" additional ones.

This particular activity may be one of those "dying art" kind of things, but we feel there is still importance and a need in learning this.

In January, preschool classes also begin the always popular "**Star Student**" (3-Year Olds) and "**Favorite Things**" (in the 4-Year Old classes). Each child is highlighted each week with a fun opportunity to share some interesting things about themselves – something they have created, a special book, toy or personal object, or family photos. They are also encouraged to wear their favorite outfit (as you can imagine there are a lot of princesses and superheroes walking in during this time). This is a fun activity for all and helps classmates and teachers to get to know the child even better and gives the child an opportunity to really shine!

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

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



EAST CROSS NURSERY

With the New Year ahead of us, it is always good to look back and see what was accomplished or not accomplished. Hopefully we can learn from our experiences and grow from our mistakes. I cannot move on to this New Year without reflecting on God's goodness and give him the glory that he deserves. The Nursery at East Cross is a wonderful place to serve, and all those involved feel truly blessed to be a part of God's work. We love every opportunity that we are given to share God's love with the children in the Nursery. It is a joy to teach them about the love of God, and build relationships with them and watch them grow.

I would like to thank everyone at East Cross for allowing me to be a part of this amazing church and for everything they have done this past year.

As Advent comes to a close and a New Year brings new hope this month the 3 year old—PreK class will discover stories throughout the bible about hope.

Happy New Year!

Liz VanDeVenter,
Nursery Director



Dear East Cross Family,

Thank you for your generous donations towards our Staff Appreciation gifts! We are truly blessed to be serving a loving and caring church family who is so supportive of one another. We look forward to many new opportunities of service and worship in 2020 and wish each of you a Happy New Year filled with God's blessings!



Sincerely, *Kevin, Jeff, Aimee, Zack, Liz, Chad, Linda, Jon, Margie, Charles, Jan and Coleen*

Wednesday Connections Begins January 8

5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Small Groups For All Ages

Several new Small Groups are being offered in January. Come enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship!

The Case for Christ

led by Gary Howard

Good Grief

led by Debbie Coffee

Going Deeper

led by Pastor Jeff

Adult Bible Study

Room 304

Knitting for Beginners

led by Sharon LaFerry

learning to follow Jesus,
inviting others to join the journey

- 7 -



Dear East Cross,

God shows His love through the warmth and kindness of special people like you. Thank you very much for the monetary gift to help out a family in need in our area with food. They were extremely grateful and so am I!

Love, *Kerry Shaw*

Dear East Cross "Lunch Bunch",

Thank you so much for the wonderful lunch you provided our family after Spence's service. It was appreciated and we enjoyed our fellowship with each other, especially our family members who traveled out of town to be with us during this difficult time. It was the perfect time for us to get to catch up over lunch and not worry about anything! Thank you for your kindness!

Sincerely, *Christina Rigdon*

Dear East Cross Church,

Thank you to my Fellowship class and my East Cross family for cards and prayers during my recent illness. It was uplifting during this difficult time.

Betty Shiers

East Cross Church,

Thank you for your collection of necessities for families at Ray of Hope! It means the world to us!

Rhonda



Dear Friends,

Hello! My name is Susan Tucker, and I am a Biology and French student at the University of Arkansas. This is my senior year, and I am also honored to serve as the U of A Wesley College Ministry president. On behalf of the 75 students involved here, I wanted to thank all of you at East Cross UMC for supporting our ministry! Your gift has allowed my friends and me to grow and connect with each other as we learn more about God.

My time at Wesley has taught me just how important it is to have a solid group of friends based in faith. With more and more college-aged students leaving the church, I see how vital it is for me and for my peers to have a community to rely on and grow stronger together. I am so glad to be a part of a campus ministry that allows me to take a step back and focus on personal relationships and how I can grow closer to God alongside others.

Your partnership has been such a blessing to our ministry and students here at the University of Arkansas. Your gift has helped us put on events like Welcome Weeks, host girls going through sorority recruitment, and made possible our fall retreat. You have also allowed us to purchase Bible study materials, provide a meal before our weekly small group gatherings, fund our graduate student ministry and so much more! Thank you again for all the love and support you've shown us this year!

Faithfully, *Susan Tucker, President U of A Wesley College Ministry*

January Outreach News

Annual Chili Cook-off!

Hey Church Family!

It's time to party again and make some money for the local ministries in Bartlesville! It's time for the annual



Chili Cook-off!! It will be Sunday, January 26 right after the Sunday morning service. Get out your recipe books and perfect that chili recipe. This may be your year to win!! Or maybe you'd rather donate something to the silent auction. We'll take food, or the promise of food, gift certificates, baskets of goodies, tickets to events, fun items, electronics or appliances... Just about anything of value! Or maybe you'd just like to come, enjoy chili, vote and buy some items. We'd love to have your fellowship! This would also be a great Sunday to invite friends. East Cross is an inviting church that's seeking to follow Jesus! Invite your friend to join in!

Volunteers In Missions (VIM)

East Cross is in the process of planning two different VIM trips. You've heard about the trip to Red Bird scheduled for October 16-24, 2020. There's another VIM scheduled to address the disaster recovery going on in the area around us.

There are many families still not in their homes after all of the flooding last year and they need some help with rebuilding and remodeling. You say you don't have any skills??? Well, we'll teach you! All my handyman skills I've learned have been on disaster VIM trips. Seriously!!

This trip will take place June 21-26, 2020. If you are interested, then attend the information meeting on Sunday, January 12 at 2:15pm in Fellowship Hall.

Jeretta Amburn will be leading this VIM and we'll be working in northeastern Oklahoma, close to home!!!

Did You Miss the 1st Redbird VIM Meeting?

The second meeting will be on February 23, 2020 in Fellowship Hall. This is a must make meeting. We have several decisions to make and training to do. The training is required. You may still join the VIM to Redbird which will be October 16-24, 2020. It is a beautiful time of year in Kentucky with the trees in full fall foliage. Please contact Bill Amburn by phone 918-607-9911 or email bill.amburn@sbcglobal.net if you have questions.

Jane Phillips Elementary Valentines Parties

Again this year East Cross is sponsoring the Valentines parties at Jane Phillips Elementary School. We need your to help make this a successful event. You can donate cake mixes, juice boxes, frosting, cupcake papers, or sprinkles for the cupcakes. If you are available, we need you to be part of the team to bake cupcakes on Thursday, February 13 and/or decorate cupcakes on the morning of February 14. Or maybe you'd rather deliver the cupcakes on February 14 as soon as we get them all decorated! Check the sign-up sheets at the welcome center in the gathering area on Sundays. This is a great way to get involved while spreading the love of Jesus to the least of these...the children. Contact Jeretta Amburn 918-907-0104.



TUESDAY HOUSE

FYI — Tuesday House will be closed December 23 until January 6, 2020. No donations or shopping until January 6.

January Outreach News cont'd...

GENEROSITY BOXES

The **LIGHTHOUSE OUTREACH CENTER** will be the receiver of the gifts that we place in our Generosity Boxes in January 2020. Here are some of the items that are currently needed. Personal items such as:

Shampoo and Conditioner
Bar Soap and Body Wash
Deodorant
Razors for both men and women
Hair Brushes
Air Freshener Sprays
Hand Sanitizer
Disinfecting Wipes
Lysol Spray
Kitchen Towels
Dish Cloths
Hot Pads

While shopping for your household, place a couple of extra items in your basket. Drop them in one of the Generosity Boxes at the entrances to East Cross UMC. What a tremendous blessing a new bar of soap can bring to those in need in our community!

ANGEL TREE UPDATE

Thank you East Cross!! There are many thank you notes coming in from the children who received your gifts from the angel tree. Come by the office if you'd like to read them. These families are so appreciative of your generosity!



CASA // Court Appointed Special Advocates

Every year, thousands of children in Oklahoma are removed from their homes because of evidence of abuse and neglect. They are uprooted from the only family they have known, taken out of schools and away from friends. In short, their worlds are turned upside down.

CASA of Northeast Oklahoma makes sure these children do not face the dependency court and foster care systems alone.

Highly-trained court appointed special advocate (CASA) volunteers get to know the children and are by their side, advocating for their best interests in the courtroom and the community. CASA volunteers make sure each child's

individual needs remain a priority in an overburdened child welfare system. They make sure the child is safe, has the shortest possible road to a permanent home and the opportunity to thrive.

Beginning in January, temporary office space for CASA of Northeast Oklahoma will be located at East Cross UMC. Training for volunteers will also be held at East Cross beginning on January 11.

Lend your voice to an abused child. Become a CASA volunteer.

For more information, contact Emily Bowling, Assistant Director at 918-923-7276.

PRAYER LIST

New Prayer Requests...

Dian Kenton (Pauline's daughter-in-law), Kerry Stanford (Kintner's son's father-in-law)

Chris Ambler (Scott and Martha Ambler's son), Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Pete Bryan, Rhonda Burress, Amelia and Kate Callaway (Drew and Debbie Coffee's granddaughters), Kathy Christian, Muriel Faust (Dave Faust's mother), Summer Flenniken and Tyler Lorenz (Diana Trammel's grandchildren), Marcia Goode, Linda Harjo, Don Keeler, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Pauline Kenton, Barry Knuth, Emily Kuntz, James Kuntz, Steve McAllaster (Joyce Taylor's brother), Emmalene Lennon, Barbara Nissan (friend of Teresa Dietz), Colleen Oldfather, Alfonso Paniagua, Corinne Pichler (Nancy Pichler's granddaughter), Jack Randall, Deb Richardson, Kim Shepherd, Jeana Smith (Tim Smith's sister), Joyce Taylor, Nita Wakeley, Jeremy Waldorf, Chris Watson (Chad Perceful's aunt), Beth Wiley (long-time missionary out of East Cross), Michele Willoughby

Condolences to...

Barbara Bunge on the death of her husband, Al on November 26.

Blessings Yap on the death of her mother on December 1.

Brad, Margie, Cooper and Colton Green on the death of Brad's father, Jim Green on December 5.

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

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



Please relay any updates and/or additions to Melda Howard at 918-327-9416 or email her at gmagdadoward@gmail.com. Please keep our active duty military and our veterans in your prayers.

All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at Eggbert's on Saturday, January 4 at 8am!



Sunday Morning Van Ministry



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

NEW EAST CROSS PHOTO DIRECTORY IN 2020!

Look for signups for your photo sessions beginning in January!

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



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

learning to follow Jesus,
inviting others to join the journey

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January 2020			1 <i>New Year's Day Office Closed</i>	2	3 6:30p S.A.L.T. Fellowship	4 8a Men's Breakfast at Eggbert's
5 <i>Communion Epiphany Sunday</i>	6 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	7	8 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	9	10 6:30p Church Bridge EC Youth Girls Retreat	11
12 Confirmation Class Begins 2:15 VIM mtg 5p PG Small Group	13 6:30p Young Adults 6:30p Miriam	14 7p Outreach	15 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	16 9:30a Rebecca 6:30pm Children's Council	17	18
19 Confirmation Class	20 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Trustees	21 6pm Piecemaker Quilters	22 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	23	24	25
26 Confirmation Class Chili Cookoff 5p PG Small Group	27 6:30p Young Adults	28	29 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	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
5:00pm Youth

Monday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
(not on 1/20)

Tuesday

4:00pm Prayer Group

Wednesday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
(not on 1/1/20)
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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Youth Pastor

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Kevin Graham
Treasurer

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

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

Photo Session Dates and Times

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