

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Kicking Down the Gates

This Sunday, January 15, will mark my two year anniversary as the senior pastor of Nichols Hills United Methodist Church, and I want to thank each of you for the warm way you have embraced Allyson, Charlotte, Avery, and me. We love being part of the Nichols Hills U.M.C. family. We have received many blessings in the last two years, and we are looking forward to serving in ministry with the fine people of Nichols Hills U.M.C. for many years to come.

In Matthew 16:13, *Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"* It is a simple question. It is not complicated. It is straight and to the point. It is a question that is not asked frequently. He does not ask what people are saying about Him. He does not ask if people are saying He is a nice guy or a great speaker. His question is different. He asks, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ *And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."* Who is Jesus? That is such an important question for us today. Just as in Jesus' time, today there are a lot of people who don't know who Jesus is. Some people will tell you that he was a great prophet. Others will say that he was a teacher. I would suggest to you that in order for us to fulfill our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ, we will need to be able to answer that question, *Who is Jesus?*

Then Jesus asks the disciples the same question. ¹⁵ *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"* Peter, of course, speaks for the entire group. ¹⁶ *Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."* The Hebrew word **Messiah** and the Greek word **Christos** mean **the anointed one** or **the King**. In a world where Caesar was the king, Peter was saying, "I know who you are Jesus. You are the King. Not just any king. You are the King of kings and the Lord of lords. My allegiance to you is higher than my allegiance to Caesar or any other king." This is the fundamental claim we make as Christians that Jesus is Christ. He is the King. When you call yourself a **Christian, a follower of the Christ**, the Messiah, you are a follower of the King. It is a counter-cultural statement. When you become a Christian you place your highest allegiance in him, and you begin to ask, "Lord, what do you want me to do with my life? How do you want me to live? How do I live into your kingdom?"

Jesus loves this response. ¹⁷ *And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven."* ¹⁸ *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."*

Jesus said, "I will call you *Kephas/Cephas*" which usually meant a moveable stone but could sometimes mean an immovable rock. Jesus basically said, "You are *petros* [a stone] and on this *petra* [rock] I will build my *Ekklesia/Church*, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." It's a very powerful statement. The gates of Hades will not overcome it. Hell will not be able to hold back the Church. Jesus says he is going to unleash a movement that will be so powerful and intense that it will be unstoppable. This movement is the Church. It is not an institution, a building, a program, a creed, or a doctrinal statement. This movement is alive and growing. This movement is people. Jesus started the Church, and the gates of hell will not be able to contain it. In other words, the Church is kicking down the gates of hell.

On Sunday we will talk about the way Jesus built the Church and why the Church continues to be an important part of God's mission and ministry in the world. I hope you will invite someone you know to come with you and join us for worship at 8:30 or 10:50. Have a great week.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, January 15

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Monday, January 16

Church Office Closed
The Learning Center Closed
Women's A.A. Group, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 18

Newsletter Folding at 10:00 a.m.
Nichols Thrills Meal at 5:30 p.m.
I Am a Church Member Study begins at 6:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 19

College and Young Adult Group at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 20

John Marshall Market, 10:30-12:30

Monday, January 23

Trustee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
Women's A.A. Group, 5:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 30

Finance Committee at 5:30 p.m.

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

www.nicholshillsumc.org

The Learning Center

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(405)842-5325



Ministry Opportunities

Hospitality Greeters

Do you like to smile and talk to people? Are you enthusiastic about our church? If so, please consider becoming one of the Sunday Morning Greeters. If this is an opportunity you would enjoy, please see Alfred Walker for more details.

Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts provide 8-9 dozen cookies. At the close of the 10:50 Service, the host(s) stand by the cookie table in the Narthex and greet people. We have openings for coffee hosts for **January 22, 29, and all of February.** To serve, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

Altar Guild

The sacrament of communion is a meaningful and important part of our weekly worship. If you are interested in helping prepare the table, please contact Carol Magness at 405-640-4429 or Janet Jones at 405-627-1566.

Serving in Altar Guild this month are: Mary Ann Carmichael, Janet Jones, Carol Magness, and Jean Warner.

Transportation Ministry

Would you like to bring joy to someone by bringing them to church? If you would like to join our transportation ministry contact the church at 405-842-1486.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, January 8.

The coffee hosts are Tim and Christie Baker.

The chancel flowers are given by Mary Ann Carmichael in memory of her mother Mary Alice Carmichael.

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby, Bonnie Miller, and Sylvia Miller

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

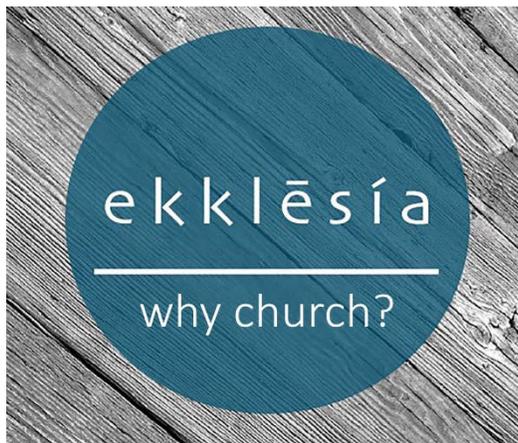
Barney and Virginia Brown
Anita Dahlgren

Autumn Leaves

Bill and Katie Alexander

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann Flesher,
Jess and Bette Harris, Dale Jordan,
Frances Lewis, David Mueller,
and Maxine Permenter



the hope of the world and why being part of the church will bless you and build you up in the year to come.

January 15

Kicking Down the Gates

January 22

Bringing in the Harvest

January 29

Beautiful Feet

February 5

Our Mission

February 12

The Body of Christ



Rev. Matt Patrick

Chicago Mission Trip Slots Still Open

I just wanted to let everyone know that there are still slots open for our mission trip to Chicago from March 11th-17th! We will be traveling to the United Church of Rogers Park to help them get their community garden set up as well as helping with general building maintenance. We will also provide help with their children's after school program.

While in Chicago on mission, we will have the opportunity in the evenings to see the Willis Tower, Navy Pier, and other great Chicago landmarks. If you have never been on a mission trip, this is a perfect opportunity for you to jump in and serve God's people in an accessible way! There are still slots open, and I hope that you will consider praying about this opportunity and how God might work through you. Email me at mpatrick9376@gmail.com or call me at 918-978-9102 if you are interested!

-Matt

Children's Ministry

Our memory verse for January is Ephesians 4:32 which says, "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." I really want to encourage families to practice these verses at home, not just so your child can receive a prize from the treasure box, but so you are talking with your children at home about Christ and His love for us!

I am so excited about the next couple of weeks coming up because during Sunday school we will be talking about how much God loves us and the things we can do to show Him love.

The start of a new year is always a great time to make changes and improvements. So with that, I am committed to making 2017 the year we grow with Christ and set a solid foundation in the kids faith and in our own.

If you're interested in working with the Children's Ministry, please call me at 405-388-3919 or email me at mchillless@uco.edu.

Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday!

-Madison



Madison Chillless

Nichols Thrills is Returning

Nichols Thrills will begin again on Wednesday, January 18 with a meal at 5:30 p.m. and a meaningful study for adults.

Jesus established the Church and calls us into local churches because the local church is the hope of the world. If you have ever wanted to know more about what our church believes about church membership, join Pastor Trevor Smith for a six week study called *I Am A Church Member* by Thom Rainer. Together, we will discover the ways local church leaders have the potential to be the most influential force on planet earth, and how we can work together to help our congregation make an impact on our community and the world.

The price of the book is \$8.00. Sign up in the Narthex after Worship or call the Church Office during the week.



Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion

We are quite delighted to recognize and celebrate staff when they have a “work anniversary.” This week our teacher with the most tenure here will celebrate her TENTH year. Mary Proctor has served in our infant classroom, Cubs, since January 10, 2007. She is such a dedicated employee and provides the highest quality of care possible. Her training hours often exceed the minimum requirement of 20 hours. Rarely is she tardy or absent from work.

Families come to visit the center who’ve had friends tell them about the “baby whisperer.”

When they find out that she is still here, they are very excited. It gives us tremendous pleasure to recognize this professional achievement and say, “Thank you.” We appreciate her years of dedication, commitment, and service to The Learning Center. Naturally we expect her to be here at least another 10 years! Congratulations Miss Mary!

-Denise



Mary Proctor

Upcoming Monday Meetings

There will be a **Trustees Meeting** on Monday, January 23 at 5:30 p.m., and there will be a **Finance Meeting** on Monday, January 30 at 5:30 p.m.



Chicago Mission Trip

At Nichols Hills United Methodist Church, we believe that it is important to not only build the kingdom of God within in our own community, but to also pour into other communities around the world. We have an opportunity coming up this Spring for you to travel to Chicago to accomplish that mission with us.

We are planning a mission trip to serve for one week (Saturday, March 11 through Friday, March 17) at the United Church of Rogers Park in northern Chicago. While there, we will serve at the church’s after school program, prepare a community garden and help with assorted maintenance tasks around the church.

We will be staying and serving at the United Methodist Church of Rogers Park in Northeastern Chicago. There is a great need in this neighborhood, and we will partner with the local Methodist Church.

The cost is \$350. A \$150 deposit is due on Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 and final payment is due on Monday, March 6th.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Matt Patrick at 918-978-9102 or mpatrick9376@gmail.com



Manage Your Giving Online And Use Our QR Code

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Visit the church website at www.nicholshillsumc.org, Click on the blue *Make A Donation* button. Then follow the online instructions.

We also have a QR Code that you can scan with your cell phone to donate. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Glass at the church 405-842-1486.



Birthdays

- 01/14 Maddy Davis
- 01/15 Kathy Griffin
Graham Murray
JoAnn Oakley
Pama Palmer
- 01/18 Cynthia Meyerson
- 01/19 Sue Ann Hyde
- 01/22 Katie Alexander
- 01/24 Mary Crownover
Barbara Dean
Lou Kerr
Mason Martin
Marjorie Polk
- 01/25 Fletcher Hill
- 01/28 Ken Blakley
Morgan Hunt
Stuart Hunt
Rosemary Scalpone
- 01/30 Nick Berry

If your birthday isn't included in our list, please contact the church office (405-842-1486) to be added.

RDS Unite App

We are excited to announce a new app from RDS called Unite that allows you to have access to our church directory, make contributions, change your personal information, change your directory photo, and view your personal contribution history all from your phone!

This app is available for Apple, Android, and Microsoft. It is free for download from the app store on your phone. To find it, search for “RDS Unite.”, download and install it. Then open it and click “Register.” Enter the church code 10081, then your email address, then enter a password of your choice and click “Register.” If you have any questions, contact Delaney in the Church Office at 405-842-1486.

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
1212 Bedford Drive
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73116

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Sunday School Classes - Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

The Brew Class: *Meets in the Room 131* - Bring your coffee and join “The Brew” for fellowship and discussion on topics that provide insight and support for staying on the pathway of a Christian lifestyle in today’s world. For more information about “The Brew” please contact: Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - Professor John Starkey from O.C.U. will teach the class on Christianity and Four Religions.
Leader: Mike and Pama Palmer.

Reveille Class: *Meets in the Library* - Do you like to see how your faith impacts your everyday life? Join us for a discussion of how the Bible speaks to the current events in our lives. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

Open Circle Class: *Meets in the Archives Room* - The Open Circle Class primarily utilizes the Lectionary approach to studying scriptures, which excerpts scriptures from the Bible so that the full Bible is covered every two years. We also study hymns. Teacher: John Marshall.

The Bible Class: *Meets in the Conference Room.* - Join us as we study the Bible through the Adult Bible Study curriculum. Teacher: Dr. Jerry Perryman. For more information, contact the Church Office at 405-842-1486.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Youth Basement* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God.
Leaders: Rev. Matt Patrick and Matt Eales.

Second Graders through Fifth Graders: *Meets in Room 124.* Join us for a fun time with your friends as we grow closer to God and each other. Director of Children’s Ministry: Madison Chilless

Children’s Class: *Meets in the Children’s Area.* - Join us for a child-friendly lesson, snacks, and crafts as we learn about the Bible together.
Director of Children’s Ministry: Madison Chilless

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor
Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor
Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music
Madison Chilless, Director of Children’s Ministry
Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Antone Godding, Organist
Kathy Smith, Treasurer

Louise Glass, Financial Secretary
Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center
Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian
Alfred Walker, Sunday Host
Randall Blair, Sunday Host
Rachel Spear, Nursery Attendant
Shendra Stevens, Nursery Attendant

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The Learning Center (T.L.C.): 405-842-5325