

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Ekklesia: Why Church?

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” -*Genesis 12:1-3*

As a new year begins, I want you to know that I am very grateful to serve in ministry with the fine people of Nichols Hills United Methodist Church. God blessed us in so many ways in 2016. We welcomed 22 new members into our church. The people in our church have committed \$668,714 to empower our church’s ministry in 2017. This is \$34,094 more than was committed in the previous year and represents a 5.3% increase. We ministered to people in our community and beyond through our John Marshall Neighborhood Market, our Memorial Marathon Sunday Services, Mission Madness, our Block Party, our Fall Festival, our Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement, and The Learning Center. I want to thank each of you who have given generously of your time and your resources to be part of the ministry God has called our church to do. We only have to look at the wonderful ways God is at work in the lives of so many people in our church to know that God has big plans for us in 2017.

Could our church change the world? This question is at the heart of our new sermon series, *Ekklesia: Why Church?* Nichols Hills United Methodist Church has an utterly unique mission to fulfill in the world. This mission involves transforming the human heart. I believe that only one power exists on this planet that can do that. It is the power of the love of Jesus Christ, the love that conquers sin and wipes out shame and heals wounds and reconciles enemies and patches broken dreams and ultimately changes the world, one life at a time. What excites me so much about our church is the knowledge that the radical message of that transforming love has been given to the Church. In a world caught in the clutches of sin and death, I believe in my heart that the local church is the hope of the world.

God calls us to help other people find hope in Jesus through the ministry of our church. For the next six weeks we are going to explore some of the most important ways that we can share this message of hope with the people in Oklahoma City. Can you imagine how people will be transformed by connecting to God in worship with us? Can you imagine the way we can help people grow in their faith by inviting them to connect to others in a small group? Can you imagine the way that God can use you to make a Christian difference by connecting to ministry through serving? Can you imagine the people’s hearts we will touch when we connect to the world by inviting people to come to church with us? Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” That is how Jesus works through the church to change the world.

On Sunday we will talk about the way God blesses us so that we will be a blessing to all of the families of the earth. We will also celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday by remembering our baptisms. 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 8

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

Monday, January 9

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.
Women’s A. A. Group, 5:30 p.m.
Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 10

Church Council and Staff Parish Relations Committee at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 11

Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 12

Funeral for Ed Stringer, 2:00 p.m.
College and Young Adult Group at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 13

John Marshall Market, 10:30-12:30

Saturday, January 14

Ande Courtney and Jacob Robertson Wedding at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 16

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

Wednesday, January 18

Nichols Thrills Meal at 5:30 p.m.
I Am a Church Member Study begins at 6:00 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 13, 22, and 29**. 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 Ann Garrett, Jan Pitney, and Jereme Cloud.

The chancel flowers are given by Sue Goodman in memory of John Goodman for his birthday.

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

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

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

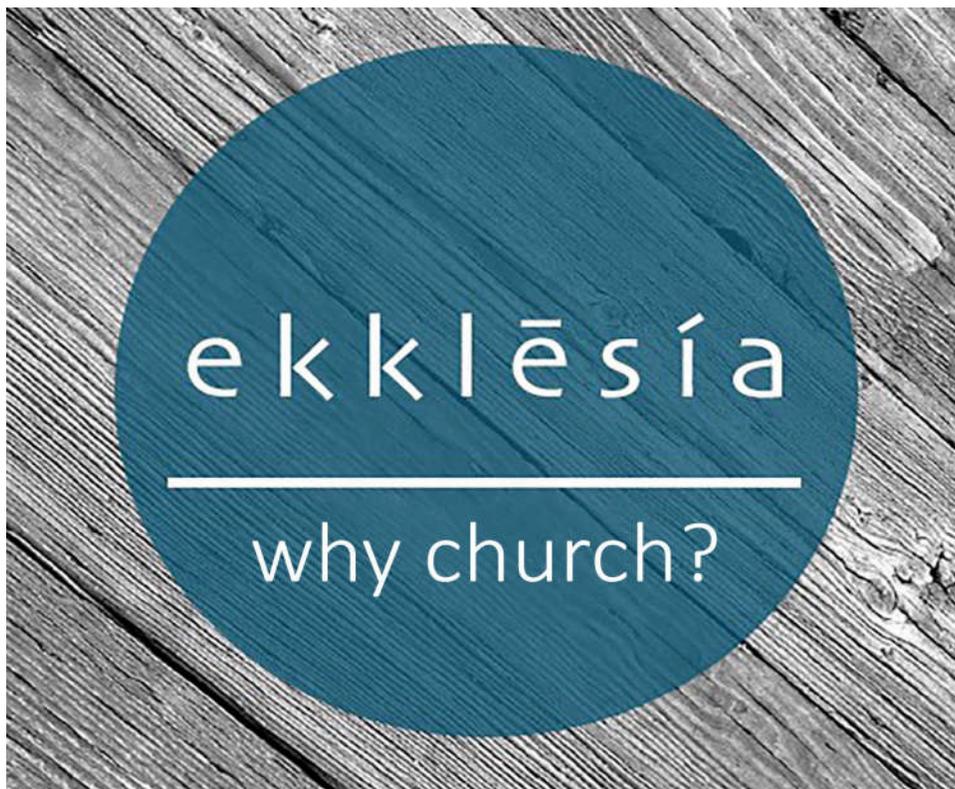
Barney and Virginia Brown
Anita Dahlgren

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



Ekklesia: Why Church?

Why church? It may just be the question you are asking as we begin a new year. Why church? The word *church* comes from two Greek words: *Ek* means *out*, and *Klesia* means *called*. The church is people who are called out by God to serve God and be God's people. Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50 as we explore the belief that *the local church is 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 8	<i>Blessed to Be a Blessing</i>
January 15	<i>Kicking Down the Gates</i>
January 22	<i>Bringing in the Harvest</i>
January 29	<i>Beautiful Feet</i>
February 5	<i>Our Mission</i>
February 12	<i>The Body of Christ</i>



Rev. Matt Patrick

30 Hour Famine

The United Nations has recently reported that we are only a generation away from eliminating extreme poverty from our planet if we make the right decisions. What better way could there be to help this cause than by educating future leaders?

Last February, our church invited youth from all over our district to come together on a Friday evening and Saturday to fast for 30 hours in solidarity with those around the world who go hungry on a daily basis. This event is called *the 30 Hour Famine* and is sponsored by an organization called *World Vision*.

We are going to host the event again this year on Feb. 24th-25th. If you are the parent or grandparent of a student between grades 6-12, you should let them know about this great event. There will be more updates coming as we get closer to the date. I will be looking to our church to help our youth raise money for this great cause. I hope that you will join us in prayer as youth come to our church for a weekend of fasting, education about poverty, and fun!

-Matt

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
Each year the Oklahoma Department of Human Services requires staff members in childcare to attend 20 hours of training. Often The Learning Center provides some of those hours with staff meetings and development on site. Recently we reviewed our training files of the staff for this year. We are proud to share that we accumulated 598 hours of training. This does not include the college classes that teachers are taking.

We have a mandatory training coming up on January 19. It will be a two-hour training on "Safe Sleeping Environments." Every teacher is required to have this in an effort to reduce Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in our state. We are partnering with our friends at St. Luke's United Methodist Church for this training. The training will be delivered by Rainbow Fleet. Wish us well!



-Denise

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. If you are interested in coming, please contact Matt Patrick at 918-978-9102 or mpatrick9376@gmail.com.

We will be staying and serving at the United Methodist Church of Rogers Park in Northeastern Chicago, which at one point in the last decade was the most ethnically diverse zip code in the United States. 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

- 01/06 Sayde Saunders
- 01/07 Sherron Evans
- 01/12 Garrett Fraley
- 01/13 Pam Eales
- 01/13 Joan Payne
- 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* - January 8, Pastor Trevor will present the “State of the Church” update. 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.

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 Chillless

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 Chillless

New Sunday School Class, beginning on January 8! 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.

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor
Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor
Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music
Madison Chillless, 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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