



NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

New Beginnings

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? -*Isaiah 43:18-19*

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." -*Jeremiah 29:11-13*

I'm getting excited about all of the new things God is doing in our church. In the next week we will begin several new ministries, and I want to invite you to participate in each of these new beginnings.

August 23 is our **Bring A Friend Sunday**, and I know so many of you have been praying for the people you know who do not have a church home. I hope you will step out in faith to invite those friends and family members to come to worship with you as we begin a sermon series called **Overloaded** in which we will take a closer look at the circumstances that cause our lives to be so busy. We will also examine some of the principles in the Bible that can help us to find a healthier rhythm for our lives.

That evening we will host a **Block Party** from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the south end of the church's property at 1212 Bedford Drive in Nichols Hills. The Block Party will include hot dogs, homemade ice cream, music, games, a giant Slip-N-Slide, water games, inflatables, and fun for all ages. It is not too late to sign up to help with the Block Party, and I hope you will come and enjoy a fun evening as we make new friends and grow closer as together.

Nichols Thrills will begin on Wednesday, August 26 at 5:30 with a Fellowship Meal. I will be teaming up with our church staff to provide the meal that night. We will have hickory smoked pulled pork, picnic potatoes, red slaw, hushpuppies, brownies, and cookies. We will be inviting Sunday school classes and small groups to sign up to provide one of the meals during the fall semester. You can really get to know people when you cook together.

Then, at 6:00 p.m. we will offer small groups for children, youth, and adults.

Our Children's Small Group will be called **Expedition** and will meet in the room across from the Parlor which we have named Creation Station. If you would like to help with our Children and Family Ministry, please contact Lauren Matthes. Sign up your child in the church office to be part of this exciting new ministry.

Adults and youth will have the opportunity to participate in the **Alpha Course** which is an opportunity for anyone to explore spirituality from a Christian perspective. Relaxed, non-threatening, low-key, and fun, Alpha is a place to ask anything—no question is considered too simple or too hostile. Alpha guests share meals, listen to a series of talks, and then have small group discussion. Each talk covers a fundamental question like, *Who is Jesus?*, *Why did Jesus Die?*, and *Does God Heal Today?* Our hope is that Alpha will help our church reach out to the Nichols Hills community and let people know that Nichols Hills United Methodist Church is a church where they can bring their questions about Jesus and the Christian faith. It is a way that we can invite people to learn about God and become part of our congregation. You can sign up to be part of the Alpha Course in the church office.

I am so grateful to be part of the new things God is doing in our church, and I invite you to come and share in God's blessings as we experience these new beginnings.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, August 23

Bring A Friend Sunday
Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Block Party Set-up at 3:00 p.m.
Block Party, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 24

Finance Committee at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 26

Nichols Thrills - 5:30 to 7:00

Fellowship Meal at 5:30 p.m.

Small Groups at 6:00 p.m.

Expedition Children's Group-6:00
Alpha Course for Youth at 6:00
Alpha Course for Adults at 6:00
T.L.C. Open House, 5:30-6:30
Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.
Young Adult Group at 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 2

Parent Training Sessions
at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 6

Reception to Honor
Dr. Antone Godding at Noon.

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.

Greeters provide a welcoming smile to people walking in the door for our Sunday worship services. They encourage newcomers and visitors to get involved in a Sunday School Class, direct people to the restrooms or to the children's nursery area as necessary.

You can sign up to serve for 20 minutes on Sunday morning at one of three time slots: 8:15 to 8:35, 9:30 to 9:50, or 10:35 to 10:55. If this seems like 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 **August 30, Sept. 13, and 20**. To volunteer, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

Small Groups

Sunday School Classes, 9:45 a.m.

Our classes are called the Brew, KIVA, Open Circle, Roundtable, Reveille, Youth, and Children. We hope you will participate in our classes! Descriptions of each class are located on the back page.

Youth Group

Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

Our middle school and senior high students gather for a fun time of food, fellowship, and a meaningful lesson that will help you grow in your faith.

Leaders: Matt Patrick and Matt Eales

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Bill and Katie Alexander,
Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown

At Home

Jeremee Cloud, Roger Eting,
Beth & Dale Jordan,
Frances Lewis, Joye McLain
David Mueller, Barbara Sullivan,
and Gene Wheeler

Mission Candle

Sponsorships Available

August all of September are available for mission candle sponsorship. Sponsorships of \$25 per Sunday for the mission candle help support our missionary, Rev. Meri Whitaker. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the church office.

Overloaded

Are you busy all the time?

Do you find yourself exhausted at the end of most weeks?

Do you feel overwhelmed by the expectations and obligations in your life?

It may surprise you that the Bible offers relevant answers that have the power to change your life. This important series of messages will help you stop being *Overloaded* and start experiencing peace. Join us for *Overloaded* on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m.

August 23 *Slowing Down in a Hurry Up World*

August 30 *Overloaded*

September 6 *Finding Peace in a High Anxiety World*

September 13 *Less is More*



Matt Patrick

Alpha Course for Youth

On Wednesday August 23rd at 5:30 p.m. we will start Nichols Thrills which is our Wednesday night ministry. Nichols Thrills will consist of a meal and learning opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Our youth will take part in the Alpha Course along with our adults. Alpha teaches and refreshes some of the basic core tenets of the Christian faith. I think it will be really beneficial for you and your student to be apart of these classes simultaneously. This can foster good conversation on the car ride home about what you have learned. I think it could really help our families grow together. I think this will be a fun opportunity for our youth to get engaged on Wednesday nights. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and fellowship and then our group time will last until 7:00 p.m. Please contact me to let me know if your student is interested in being apart of Nichols Thrills!

Blessings,
Matt Patrick

Nichols Thrills is Coming



Nichols Thrills is a mid-week opportunity to meet and grow in your relationship with God. *Nichols Thrills* begins at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26 with a Fellowship Meal for all ages. We will offer small groups for children, youth, and adults from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the Church Office or on our website to enroll for the Fall Semester.

How will you help with our Block Party?

Sunday, August 23, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Bring a friend and a lawn chair and join us for hot dogs, homemade ice cream, music, games, a giant Slip-N-Slide, water games, and fun for all ages!!!

There are lots of ways to help with our Block Party.

Make some home-made ice-cream, brownies, or cookies.

Help with the set-up at 3:00 or the clean-up at 7:00 that day.

Bring a white-elephant prize for Bingo.

Sign up in the Narthex on Sunday to serve at the Block Party.



We Are The Church

Our church makes a Christian difference through the many wonderful people in our congregation. This week, Mark and Jami Cravens share with us about their lives and how Nichols Hills U.M.C. has blessed them.

Mark and Jami both grew up in Oklahoma City. Mark graduated from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and later earned his degree from a liberal arts college in California. Jami graduated from Northwest Classen High School and later received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from O.C.U. and her PhD in Education from O.U. Mark and Jami met through a mutual friend at an outdoor concert.

Jami's mother, Dorothy VanCamp, was an active member of Nichols Hills U.M.C. and greatly enjoyed the Chancel Choir music. Mark and Jami donated the Parlor piano in Dorothy's honor. The plaque is inscribed with these words, "The Music in this Church Made My Mother's Heart Sing!"

Mark and Jami were married in Nichols Hills U.M.C. on November 22, 2014. Mark joined the church in November of 2014 and Jami joined in October of 2003. They are both excited to serve! Mark loves to serve wherever the greatest need may be. He especially enjoyed helping with the John Marshall dinner and packing school supplies into bags for children during Mission Madness. Jami and Mark are both thrilled about the rejuvenation in the Children's Ministry. "This church is the basis of our lives."

We are happy to have Mark and Jami Cravens in our Nichols Hill United Methodist Church family!



Serving In Ministry - Aug. 23

The coffee hosts will be Rob, Tracey, Trent, and Sayde Saunders.

The chancel flowers will be given by Marilyn Keller in memory of her husband, Dr. Dan F. Keller, and her son, Dan W. Keller.

August Birthdays

08/20	Regan Henry Gunnar Lavenue Shawn Love
08/21	Dick Manley Clark Musser
08/22	Madison Dean Caroline Mueller
08/24	Bruce Fraley Tom McDaniel
08/25	Thomas Flesher, III
08/26	Claire Vick
08/28	Allison Jones
08/30	Judy Kauffman
08/31	Sue Hood David Reed



Blessing of the backpacks Sunday, Aug. 16

Children and Family Ministry News



Lauren Matthes

This Sunday is "Bring A Friend Sunday!" IF YOU bring the most friends, I will have a great surprise waiting for you and your guests at Sunday School this week! You don't miss out - so bring your friends!

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! Pastor Trevor is sooo excited about the homemade ice cream we will have at the Block Party this Sunday, August 23rd! There will also be a water slide, inflatables, face painting, great food, and bingo with prizes from 5-7 p.m.! Invite your whole class from school and let them share in the fun too!

In a fasted paced life, where even the adults feel overloaded, we can only imagine how our children feed off that energy. We encourage you to come to Nichols Thrills for our Fellowship Meal and Small Groups starting next Wednesday, August 26th. It is a great midweek opportunity to rejuvenate your mind and soul. Give your family the very best by leading them to their eternal salvation and relationship with God Almighty. As we head into this new school year we need to keep our children engaged in church activities even more than the activities that the world will offer. If we don't lead our children to Christ, then surely someone else will lead them to the world. Make an eternal difference for your child and stand boldly in their defense! Children will meet in "Creation Station," which is the room across from the Parlor, from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday following our meal. The Children's Small Group will be called *Expedition*, for we are beginning our great journey with God and all He has created!

You are a blessing!
Lauren

Tidbits from The Learning Center

There are some new faces around The Learning Center. In fact, we have so many new families that we are inviting them all to get to know us better at our Open House on Wednesday, August 26 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Our new Director of Children and Family, Lauren Matthes, will be there as well as our Spanish teacher, Music teacher, Amazing Athletes coaches, and our Tippi Toes dance instructor. Our TLC Management Team, Parent Advisory Committee and the wonderful staff will be introduced. We will review some important policies that families need to hear. Updates on weekly activities and specials will be covered, too. Please join us for some lemonade and cookies. We always appreciate our Nichols Hills United Methodist Church family. Mark your calendars for the Open House and we will see you there!



THE LEARNING CENTER

Parent Training Series

In a sea of self-help and parenting books, *Conscious Discipline® Parent Training* provides a proven and comprehensive approach that will improve both your life and the lives of your children. It empowers you with the self-awareness, brain information, developmental knowledge and useable skills necessary to create safe, connected, problem-solving homes. Learn to see discipline not as something you **do to children**, but something you **develop within them**.

Led by Cristy Roberts.
\$20 per session.

Contact Denise Buthion at dbuthion@nicholshillsumc.org for more information or to reserve your spot.

Sessions will be at Nichols Hills U.M.C. on Wednesdays, September 2, 9, and 16 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.



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

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Sunday School News

The Brew Class: *Meets in the Room 131.* This class is studying Bill Hybel's *Just Walk Across the Room*. The class discussion includes how the Bible applies to current events in our world. Teachers: Tim and Christie Baker. Tim (405) 209-5467 and Christie (405) 922-5154

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Dr. Trevor Smith will lead a Prayer Study using the book "Too Busy Not to Pray" by Bill Hybels. Leaders: Allen and Sherron Evans.

Reveille Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - The Reveille class will be joining the KIVA class this month for the *Too Busy Not to Pray* study. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

Open Circle Class: *Meets in the Archives Room* - The Open Circle Class will have videos called "Early Christian Experiences of the Devine" narrated by Tim Johnson at Emory University. The videos have been provided by one of our class leaders, Fran Rosier. Teacher: John Marshall

Roundtable Class: *Meets in Room 124* - Zechariah 7:8-14 is the scripture for our study Sunday. The 5th century B.C. prophet Zechariah, trying to bring the Hebrew people back together after their exile and desecration of the Temple said, "Make just and faithful decisions; show kindness and compassion to each other! Don't oppress the widow, the orphan, the stranger, and the poor; don't plan evil against each other!" Even today my Palestinian friends say, "Just let us have peace with justice." In America today, we have the same need. Teacher: Jerry Perryman.

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

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor
Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor
Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music
Lauren Matthes, Director of Children and Family Ministry
Dr. Antone Godding, Organist
Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Smith, Bookkeeper/Treasurer
Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center
Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian
Alfred Walker, Sunday Host
Randall Blair, Sunday Host