



NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Mary of Nazareth

³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon

you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” -Luke 1:30-38

The Christmas story is a story we know so well. At its heart, it is the story of a baby we call Emmanuel—*God with us*. When God came to live among us as one of us, he came in the most unexpected way. He was born to poor parents and laid in a manger. This Advent I want to invite you to join us on *The Journey* in Worship as we walk the road to Bethlehem. Along the way, we will learn more about Mary of Nazareth, Joseph of Bethlehem, Mary’s visit to Elizabeth, and what it was like for Mary and Joseph to make their way from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Then, on Christmas Eve, we will gather around the manger to worship the newborn King. *The Journey* will change your life and help you celebrate the real meaning of Christmas.

We’ll begin by focusing on the way God sent the angel Gabriel to call Mary to serve as the Mother of the Son of God and discuss what this story tells us about the character of God and the Savior who was born in a manger. We will also talk about what Mary can teach us about God’s will for our lives today and here stories about how people in our church are answering God’s call to minister to young people at John Marshall High School.

I also want to invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 on Sunday morning as we begin our all-church Sunday School Class called *Preparing for Christmas*. We’ll begin by talking about the way Zechariah responded when the angel of the Lord told him that his wife, Elizabeth, would bear a son in her old age. We will also here about the way God is transforming lives through our John Marshall Ministries.

Then, on **Sunday, December 10** we will hear about the way our children have developed relationships with needy children around the world through Compassion International and have the joy of watching our **Children’s Christmas Play** at 10:00 a.m.

At Christmas, even people who do not attend church are looking for something more. People are more open at this time to an invitation to attend a worship service or other church events. I want to invite you to share the good news of Christmas with your friends, family members, classmates, co-workers, and neighbors who do not have a church home by inviting them to join us on *The Journey* through Advent and to come with you to our **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 or 5:30 p.m.** Together, we will make a special Christmas memory.

Blessings,
Dr. Trevor Smith

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, December 3

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Preparing for Christmas Sunday School Gathering in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m.
Confirmation at 12:15 p.m.
Girl Scouts at 2:00 p.m.
Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, December 8

John Marshall Market at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 10

Preparing for Christmas Sunday School Gathering in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m.
Children’s Christmas Play in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.
Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13

T.L.C. Christmas Program at 10:00
John Marshall Market at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 17

Preparing for Christmas Sunday School Gathering in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m.
Confirmation at 12:15 p.m.
Girl Scouts at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24

4th Sunday of Advent Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Monday, December 25

Church Office is Closed

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

Are you enthusiastic about our church? If so, this is an opportunity you might enjoy. Please see Alfred Walker for more details.

Newsletter Folders Needed

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room every other week.

Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts provide 4-5 dozen cookies. At the close of the 10:50 Service, the host(s) stand by the cookie table in the Narthex and greet people. To serve, sign-up outside the office.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 3

The coffee host is Janet Jones.

The mission candle is lit by Lindsay Ocker in memory of Bing Crosby.

The altar flowers are given by Lindsay Ocker in memory of Bob Hope.

The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

The acolytes for 10:50 are Graham and Louis Fraley.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 10

The coffee host is Lindsay Ocker.

The mission candle is lit by Cindy Withrow in honor of Phil Withrow.

The altar flowers are given by Turner and Cindy Davis in honor of our grandchildren.

The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

The acolytes for 10:50 are Regan Miller and Gracie Buxton.

Chancel Flower Delivery

We are in need of people to deliver the chancel flowers to homebound members. If this opportunity is for you, please sign-up in the Narthex.

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: Anne Holbrook, Janet Jones, Carol Magness, and Marty Smith.

Birthdays

11/30 Geraldine Raupe
11/30 Mark Sullivan
11/30 Perry Tirrell
12/01 Sarah Butler
12/01 Elizabeth Prosser

Report From John Marshall Ministries



Rev. Matt Patrick

Things have been going really well at our John Marshall Ministries. In our Neighborhood Market, we are now feeding over 250 middle school and high school students. Our Bear Cave Clothing Closet is operating well, and students are starting to use it regularly. I'm really proud of the way our church has responded to this ministry.

During the Advent season you will have the opportunity to give to this ministry by giving any amount to help the ministry continue its normal operations or by giving to help us offer food baskets to families of students at or John Marshall High School and North Highland Elementary School. Each food basket will cost \$150. We are so thankful for a church that has responded to the Holy Spirit through this wonderful ministry. We hope you will respond to these ways to give over the holiday season.

Blessings,
Matt



Children's Ministry

As we are gathered around the table with family and friends during this holiday season, sometimes we may forget what this season is all about. I had a conversation with Kathy Smith, our N.H.U.M.C. Treasurer, while at our annual Charge Conference. She told me a story of how her mother had such a wonderful, open, and giving heart.



Tausha Davison-Beverly,
Director of
Children
and Family
Ministry

Kathy came from a very large family. Her mother, Betty Muller, was from Hartshorne, Oklahoma. Mrs. Muller could have easily said that she only had enough room for her family. Instead her philosophy was that, "There was always another place at the table." Kathy grew up knowing that everyone was welcome at their table no matter how many family or friends, and regardless of their socioeconomic background.

As Christians we should always keep in mind that although we may share our table, our home, or give to our church, we should always position ourselves to move when the Spirit says to bless or encourage one more. It could be through giving or just a thoughtful expression of words. Let's all have a heart like Mrs. Muller and make room for one more because every day is another day to show and express God's love to others.

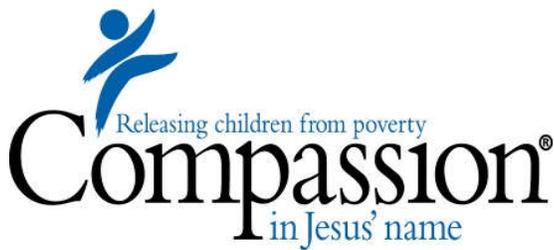
Blessings,
Tausha Davison- Beverly

NHUMC Singers in OCU's Christmas Vespers



The majority of the singers in the NHUMC chancel choir will participate in OCU's annual Christmas Vespers on Friday, December 8 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 9 at 4:00 p.m. The event will take place at OKC's First Presbyterian Church (1001 NW 25th Street) and will feature the Ad Astra Women's Chorus, the Chamber Choir, the University Singers, and the University Chorale, accompanied by organ and a large orchestra. Conductors Randi Von Ellefson and Tony Gonzalez will lead the groups in a wide variety of seasonal music. Tickets are available at 405.208.5227.

Honoring and Remembering Our Loved Ones



Grace



Cristian



Madochee



Moses



Brenda



Kelly



Honoring and Remembering Our Loved Ones

Christmas is a time to remember our loved ones who have passed away and to honor our loved ones who have made a difference in our lives. This year, the Altar Guild has purchased our Christmas poinsettias, but we are giving you the opportunity to honor or remember a loved one this Advent by giving in one of three ways:

- Give \$45 to sponsor one of our Compassion International children for one month.
- Give any amount to support the John Marshall Neighborhood Market.
- Give \$150 or any part of this amount to help purchase food baskets for families of John Marshall High School and North Highland Elementary School students.

Gifts in any amount are appreciated.

If you would like to honor or remember someone in this way, please fill out the form below.

Person to be honored or remembered: _____

Your name: _____

Relationship of the person to you: _____

I would like to donate to (circle one):

Compassion International, John Marshall Neighborhood Market, or Food Baskets

Amount of Gift: _____

The Journey

Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Join *The Journey* at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church as we light the Advent candles, sing carols, prepare our hearts for Christmas, and walk the road to Bethlehem to experience the Christmas story like never before.

Bring a friend and worship with us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m.

December 3	<i>Mary of Nazareth</i>
December 10	<i>Joseph of Bethlehem</i>
December 17	<i>Mary's Visit to Elizabeth</i>
December 24	<i>From Nazareth to Bethlehem</i>
Christmas Eve	<i>The Manger</i>
December 31	<i>What Child is This?</i>



Childcare available on Sunday mornings.

Christmas Drama — Sunday, December 10 at 10:00 a.m.



Preparing for Christmas

Join the Open Circle Class, the Reveille Class, The Bible Class, and The Brew Class for a 4-week study beginning on Sunday, December 3 at 9:45 that will help you Prepare for Christmas. Our senior pastor, Trevor Smith, will highlight some of the ways our church is changing lives in our community and around the world as we hear how we are blessing students at John Marshall High School and North Highland Elementary School as well as how our children connect with impoverished children around the world through Compassion International. Our children will also perform their Christmas Drama for us on December 10 at 10:00 a.m. Sign up in the Church Office.

Candlelight Christmas Eve

This Christmas Eve, connect to the Christmas story like never before. Journey to **the manger** to celebrate the joy and hope that surrounds the miracle of Christmas. It's a chance to hear beautiful Christmas music and old familiar carols with family, friends, and neighbors.

Listen as the cherished Christmas Story of Jesus' birth comes alive through music and scripture in the warm glow of candlelight. We will conclude our service with our cherished tradition of passing the lighted candles as we sing *Silent Night*. It's a Christmas tradition you will not want to miss!

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service
Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

December 24, 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.



Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
 1212 Bedford Drive / Nichols Hills, OK 73116
 405-842-1486 / nicholshillsumc.org

We Are The Church

Our church makes a Christian difference through the many wonderful people in our congregation. This week, Collins and Rachel Peck share with us about their lives and how Nichols Hills U.M.C. is blessing them.

Collins Peck was born and raised in Enid, Oklahoma. He attended the University of Oklahoma and received a degree in Construction Science. After college, Collins went to work for Smith and Pickel Construction, a commercial General Contractor, where he continues to work now. He is Vice President and Co-Owner of the company.



Collins is involved in several civic groups including Rotary Club 29, Allied Arts Catalyst, and Infant Crisis Services Young Professionals. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

Rachel Johnston Peck was born and raised in Oklahoma City. She attended the University of Oklahoma where she was an active member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. After graduating and practicing sonography for 7 years, she decided to return to Oklahoma University Health and Science Center to obtain a Master's Degree as a Physician Associate. She now practices Emergency Medicine as a PA at Norman Regional Hospital.

Rachel is on the Alumni Board of Heritage Hall School. She loves to stay active with their dog, Walter, and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

The Pecks were married on September 30 earlier this year and knew they wanted to establish a church home. After re-connecting with NHUMC through family, they felt drawn to the intimacy and warmth of the church family as well as the opportunities to grow in faith together.

In addition to the weekly sermon, they love the music ministry! The old hymns and singing from a hymnal took them back to their traditional upbringings. They enjoy attending weekly bible studies as well as their Sunday school class, The Brew.

The Pecks are grateful for all of the warm welcomes and look forward to getting to know their church family!

Collins and Rachel joined our church on November 19. We are happy to have them in our Nichols Hills U.M.C. family!

Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,
Director

“Everyone seems to know that grandma’s cookies taste better because they’re made with love, and that phone calls to the cable company are less frustrating when there’s a human being on the other end of the phone. But are these things really true? A University of Maryland psychologist devised a study that put them to the test.” So writes Neil Wagner in his article, [The Power of Good Intentions](#).

Wagner goes on to describe the conclusions of the study: “The result: Food tastes better, pain hurts less, and pleasure is more pleasant when they come with good intentions behind them. And it doesn’t even matter if the intentions actually

exist — it’s the perception that they’re there that’s important.”

“Seeing the world and the people in it as benevolent adds to life; seeing them with a jaundiced eye can turn life into a bitter pill.”

Blessings,
Denise

Source: [The Power of Good Intentions](#) (*The Atlantic*, March 17, 2012)

Birthdays Continued

12/01	Alesha Rogers
12/03	Tony Dyke
12/04	Ronald McLeod
12/06	Jackie Hall
12/06	Nancy Rowntree
12/07	Charlotte Brown
12/07	Matthew Patrick
12/07	Reid Robison
12/08	Maddy Eales
12/09	Larkin Warner
12/09	Phil Withrow
12/10	Denise Buthion
12/11	Kelsey Lyle
12/12	Joe McClendon
12/12	Katie McNeill
12/14	Stephen Heine

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

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Joanne Crosby and Sylvia Miller

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren

Autumn Leaves

Katie Alexander

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann Flesher,
Jess and Bette Harris, Frances Lewis,
and David Mueller

Manage Your Giving Online And Use Our QR Code

Visit the church website at www.nicholshillsumc.org, to make an online donation. Then 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 questions, contact the church.

John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Clothing Closet

We are in need of:

- Individual Bags of Snacks such as Cheez-its, Goldfish, etc.
- Peanut Butter Crackers
- Cheese Sandwich Crackers
- Fruit Snacks (Rollups or Gummy)
- Nature Valley Granola Bars
- New Socks
- Front Zip Hoodies
- Monetary donation for underwear
- New or gently worn shoes
Boys/Men's: 9-12
Girls/Women's: 8-10

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: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. For more information about “The Brew” please contact: Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

Reveille Class: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

Open Circle Class: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. Teacher: John Marshall.

The Bible Class: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*.

Youth Class: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. Leader: Rev. Matt Patrick.

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - Join us as O.C.U. professor, John Starkey, teaches our class. Leader: Bruce Day.

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. Teacher: Lecye Lippoldt.

Children’s Class: *Meets in the Children’s Area*. - Join us for a child-friendly lesson as we learn about the Bible together.
Director of Children’s Ministry: Tausha Davison-Beverly.

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor

Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor

Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music

Tausha Davison-Beverly, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Antone Godding, Organist

Kathy Smith, Treasurer

Louise Glass, Financial Secretary

Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center

Brandon Price, Custodian

Alfred Walker, Sunday Host

Tyral Hayes, Sunday Host

Jessica Mayberry, Nursery Attendant

Ashley Edwards, Nursery Attendant

Marita Barkus, Nursery Attendant