



NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

John the Baptist was born six months before Jesus, and his father, Zechariah, believed that Jesus would be the long awaited Messiah, a Mighty Savior who would fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament. Zechariah saw that God was going to work through Jesus to bring peace to the world in a way that would allow God's people to *serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness all our days.*

Israel was an occupied state, so in one way, peace meant that Jesus would save them from the violence of Rome, but I have to believe that Zechariah also saw that Jesus would offer us peace in a way that goes beyond our geo-political situation. A life without Jesus Christ is a life without peace, and a life with Jesus Christ brings the peace that passes all understanding.

When John was born, Zechariah held him in his arms and proclaimed a prophecy about the role his son would play in Jesus' ministry. In Luke 1:76-79 Zechariah proclaimed, ⁷⁶ "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." This was precisely what John the Baptist grew up to do: to prepare the way of the Lord and to guide God's people into the way of peace.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear is generally considered to be one of the first hymn carols to emphasize the social implications of the angels' message—that of achieving peace and good will toward our fellow humans in the midst of social difficulty. It might be called a "horizontal hymn" because it called people to live well, to be at peace, and to honor God, but God was neither the recipient of praise nor the central focus of the song. The focus was on the human struggle in this world. The final stanza is the great verse of hopeful optimism that God's peace will reign:

*For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.*

I hope you will invite someone you know to join us for worship on Sunday morning at 8:30 or 10:50 as we learn from Zechariah how following Jesus will lead us to walk in the ways that lead to peace.

I also want to invite you to participate in our church-wide Sunday school gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45. We will begin by sharing with you some of the ways our children are making a Christian difference in our community and in our world. Then, we will have the pleasure of cheering on our children as they perform their Christmas Pageant. Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Dr. Trevor Smith

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, December 16

Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50
Children's Christmas Pageant
at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Girls Scouts at 2:00 p.m.

Monday, December 17

Women's A.A. Meeting at 5:30

Sunday, December 23

Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50
The Real Story of Christmas
All Church Sunday School at 9:45

Monday, December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve
Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.
Women's A.A. Meeting at 5:30

Monday, December 24 - Tuesday, January 1

The Learning Center Closed

Tuesday, December 25

Church Office Closed -
Merry Christmas!

Friday, December 28

Church Office open from 12:00
to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 30

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

Tuesday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 6

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

Monday, January 7

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.
Women's A.A. Meeting at 5:30
Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486
(405)843-1835 Fax
www.nicholshillsumc.org

The Learning Center

(405)842-5325



Ministry Opportunities

Hospitality Greeters

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

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 in the Narthex.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 16

The coffee host is Sandra Smith.

The chancel flowers are given by Turner and Cindy Davis in honor of their grandchildren at Christmas.

The mission candle is available.

The acolytes for 8:30 are Gabriel Ireland and Kate Maloney.

The acolytes for 10:50 are Jimmy Tirrell, Lucy Ann Vaughn, Regan Miller.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 23

The coffee host is Jackie Hall.

The mission candle is available.

The chancel flowers are given in memory of our loved ones.

The acolytes for 8:30 are Gabriel Ireland and Kate Maloney.

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

Chancel Flower Delivery

We are in need of people to deliver the chancel flowers to homebound members. If this opportunity is for you, please call the church office.

Altar Guild

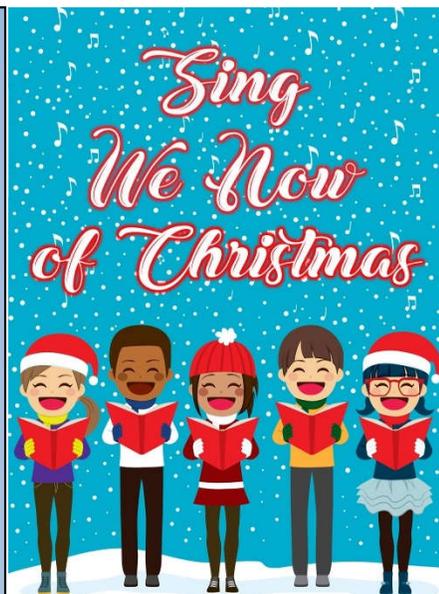
The sacrament of communion is a meaningful and important part of our weekly worship. If you are interested in helping prepare the table, please contact Carol Magness at 405-640-4429 or Janet Jones at 405-627-1566.

Serving in Altar Guild this month are: Anne Holbrook, Janet Jones, Carol Magness, and Marty Smith

Birthdays

12/12 Joe McClendon
12/12 Katie McNeill
12/14 Stephen Heine
12/15 Tom McLain
12/16 Gary Vaughn

Continued on the next page.



Sing We Now of Christmas

Everywhere we go we hear Christmas songs — on the radio, on commercials, and at the mall. There's just something about Christmas that makes the whole world sing.

Join us each Sunday during Advent as we sing your favorite Christmas carols and take a closer look at the Christmas stories that inspired them.

Each Sunday we'll share familiar carols, scriptures, and messages that offer encouragement and hope. Bring a friend and worship with us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m.

December 16 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*
December 23 *Away in a Manger*
December 24 *Silent Night*
December 30 *We Three Kings*

Childcare available on Sunday mornings and Christmas Eve.

Christmas Pageant — Sunday, December 16 at 9:45 a.m.

End of Year Giving

2018 Donation Deadlines

As the end of the year approaches, we wanted to share some information with you about end of year giving. If you have questions, please contact Louise Glass, our Financial Secretary, in the church office. Thanks for your generosity.

Mail: Mailed donations must have a December 31st postmark date on the envelope to qualify as a 2018 donation.

Electronic: On-line donations made via the church website must be entered on or before December 31st to qualify as a 2018 donation.

Church Office: Donations delivered to the church office must be received by 4:30 p.m. on December 31st.

The Real Story of Christmas

Join the Open Circle Class, the Reveille Class, the Kiva Class, and The Brew for a study that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. During this study, our pastors, Dr. Trevor Smith and Rev. Michael Carpenter, will help us examine how some of our most beloved Christmas traditions began and why we still do them today. We'll also take a look at some of our favorite Christmas movies as we explore **The Real Story of Christmas.**

Our **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be part of our time together on Sunday, December 16 at 9:45 a.m.

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.



Candlelight Christmas Eve

Find renewed hope and joy in the overwhelming love of a God who is with us.

Join us on Christmas Eve as we sing your favorite Christmas carols, tell the cherished Christmas story of Jesus' birth in the warm glow of candlelight, and pass the lighted candles as we sing *Silent Night*.

It's a Christmas tradition you will not want to miss!

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service

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

Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.



Youth News



Rev. Michael
Carpenter

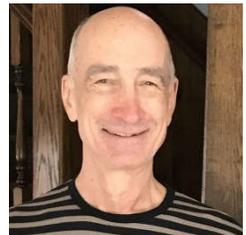
We had a blast at our Youth Christmas Party last Sunday! From food and fellowship, to Christmas-themed "Reverse Charades," to a discussion of where God will show up this Christmas, we had a great afternoon. This was a great way to close out our youth activities for the year as we get ready for semester exams and jam-packed holiday schedules.

Youth families, be on the lookout for an upcoming letter from me with our events for the beginning of 2019. We'll have some opportunities to serve, more opportunities for games and fellowship, as well as some opportunities to grow in our faith. The Spirit is moving in our church, and I believe 2019 will see growth in our youth ministry!

Grace upon Grace,
Michael

Longtime Choir Singer Retires

The NHUMC Chancel Choir will soon say goodbye to veteran singer David Reed, who got married last summer and will relocate to Pittsburgh, PA, at the end of December. David has sung at NHUMC since 1995, beginning under the leadership of Dr. Stephen Coker. Concurrent with his service here, for nearly 20 years he has been a member of OKC's Ambassadors' Concert Choir. A native of Lamar, Missouri, David grew up in Fort Scott, Kansas. He attended the University of Kansas and the University of Central Oklahoma, earning degrees in business, accounting, math, and actuarial science. He has been employed by the American Fidelity Assurance Company for 20 years, a firm for which he will continue to work remotely in Pittsburgh. The Chancel Choir singers will greatly miss this longtime, valuable member of the bass section and wish him the best.



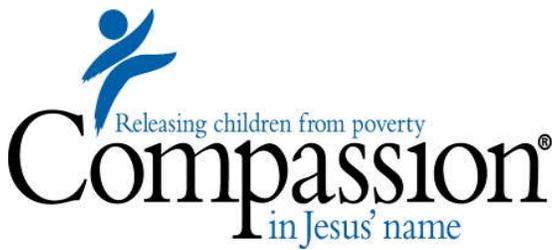
Care Committee

The Care committee serves our church by providing care to our church family through funeral receptions and luncheons, as well as visiting our homebound members. The committee members serve when available and would love to have more people serve with them in this wonderful ministry. The members of the Care Committee are caring and dependable people who welcome everyone!

For more information about the Care Committee, please contact the church office at 405-842-1486.



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 our John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Bear Cave Clothing Closet.
- Give \$150 or any part of this amount to help purchase food baskets or provide for emergency needs 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 Missional Ministries, or Food Baskets

Amount of Gift: _____

Children's Ministry



This Sunday, our children will have the opportunity to participate in our Christmas Pageant—*The Mice and The Miracle: A Christmas Story*. Our very own Lecye Lippoldt wrote the play and will direct it. The pageant will feature many children from our church.

The story is about the birth of Jesus told through the animals in the stable. Our play will begin at 9:45 a.m. We are asking all of our children who plan to participate to please be here no later than 9:00 a.m. We would love to see you, your family, and friends come to hear a story about the true meaning of what the Christmas season is all about.

Blessings,
Tausha



Welcome!

We are excited to welcome Barbara Monks to our church family! Barbara began attending our church in October and joined the church on December 2nd. She moved to Oklahoma City a couple years ago after living in Tahlequah for many years. Barbara is a long-time Methodist and is very happy to join our Nichols Hills U.M.C. family. We will share more about Barbara in the next newsletter. We hope you will help us welcome Barbara.



Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,
T.L.C. Director

During the last week of November the teachers met with families for their bi-annual conferences. Each child has his or her own developmental profile (called a portfolio) which documents the child's progress for the last six months. We are required to provide formal feedback twice a year. Our families were impressed with the level of detail, the children's work samples, and the information regarding all their areas of development including physical, emotional, social, and intellectual abilities. Teachers add to the portfolios throughout the session. We are grateful for our families' commitment to The Learning Center and their child's development by attending these family conferences.

-Denise



Birthdays (Continued)

- 12/18 Stephanie Derricott
- 12/18 Casey Hill, III
- 12/18 Kay Musser
- 12/20 Mark McLain
- 12/21 Libby Blankenship
- 12/22 Jean Ann Robison
- 12/25 Carol Solomon
- 12/29 Lida Elkins
- 12/29 Taylor McLain
- 12/30 Abe Malone
- 12/31 Don Wilson

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

Jess and Bette Harris

The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren

StoneCreek

Joanna Garnett and
Ray and Lynn Greene

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann Flesher,
Frances Lewis, and David Mueller

John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Clothing Closet

The best prices on the following items is generally found at the Dollar Tree.

Neighborhood Market

We are in need of:

- Men's and Women's Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes (*prefer the 4-pack at Dollar Tree that can be cut apart*)
- 8 oz. Body Lotions
- 10 oz. Laundry Detergent (*Tide or Gain*)

Bear Cave Clothing Closet

We are in need of help in the Clothing Closet. If interested, please contact Christie Baker at 405-922-5154.

Items needed are:

- Athletic Socks (*above ankle/footies*)
- Men's White T-Shirts (*all sizes*)
- Men's and Women's Jeans (*Small Sizes Please*)
- Sweat Shirt "Hoodies" or Crew Neck
- Men's and Women's Coats/Jackets
- Men's and Women's Sweatpants, Athletic Shirts, Jerseys, T-Shirts
- Men's and Women's Shoes (*Men's 7 - 12 and Women's 6 - 12*)

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: *The Fellowship Hall* - Join our Adult Sunday School classes for a four-week study called *The Real Story of Christmas* beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 9:45 a.m. that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. For more information about "The Brew" contact Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join our Adult Sunday School classes for a four-week study called *The Real Story of Christmas* beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 9:45 a.m. that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. Leader: Dudley Hyde.

Reveille Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join our Adult Sunday School classes for a four-week study called *The Real Story of Christmas* beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 9:45 a.m. that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

Open Circle Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join our Adult Sunday School classes for a four-week study called *The Real Story of Christmas* beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 9:45 a.m. that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. Teacher: John Marshall.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God. During December, we'll meet in the Fellowship Hall to participate in our all church Sunday school class, *The Real Story of Christmas*. Associate Pastor: Rev. Michael Carpenter.

Elementary Class: *Meets in Room 124.* Join us for a fun time with your friends as we grow closer to God and each other and prepare for our Christmas Pageant. Teacher: Lecye Lippoldt.

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 and prepare for our Christmas Pageant. Director of Children's Ministry: Tausha Davison-Beverly.

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor

Rev. Michael Carpenter, Associate Pastor

Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music

Tausha Davison-Beverly, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Delaney Sheffield, Director of Communications

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

Randall Blair, Sunday Host

Jessica Mayberry, Nursery Attendant

Brandy Jones, Nursery Attendant

Ashley Huling, Nursery Attendant