



# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

### Sing We Now of Christmas

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." -Matthew 1:18-21

Christmas Eve is almost here, and I am looking forward to sharing with you the Christmas stories in Luke's Gospel and Matthew's Gospel. On Sunday morning, our message will focus on the carol, *Away in a Manger*, as we take a closer look at Luke's Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20 and tell the story of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and the way the angels invited the shepherds to come and worship the newborn king who was lying in a manger.

Then, on Monday, we will gather for our Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. Our message will focus on the carol, *Silent Night*, as we take a closer look at Matthew's Christmas story in Matthew 1:18-25 as we talk about the role that Joseph played in God's plan to send his Son to save us from our sins. We will also sing some of your favorite Christmas carols and conclude our services by passing the light and singing *Silent Night*. This year we will give away our entire Christmas Eve Offering to benefit young people at John Marshall High School and children around the world through *Compassion International*. I want to thank each of you who have given generously to children in our community and around the world so that they would experience the hope, joy, peace, and love of Christmas.

I also want to thank you for the generous way so many of you have committed to support our church's ministry in the coming year. As of today, 81 families have committed \$652,942 to empower our church's ministry in 2019. We would be happy to receive any remaining Estimate of Giving Cards for 2019. If you would like to make a charitable donation that will count towards your 2018 taxes, the Church Office will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 26 and Thursday, December 27 and from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 28. Thank you so much for your generosity.

I am looking forward to the opportunities God will bring us in the new year. You may have noticed that we have been upgrading our audio-visual equipment in the sanctuary, the parlor, and the fellowship hall. When our renovations are complete, we will be able to live-stream our worship services on the internet to enable you to participate in worship when you are unable to physically attend. We will also be looking for people in our church to serve as camera, sound, and computer operators during worship. Please let me know if you would like to learn more about these opportunities to serve in ministry.

It has been wonderful to see how God has blessed us this year, and I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you. May God continue to bless you and your family as we gather to worship at the manger.

Merry Christmas!  
Trevor

### Ministry Calendar

#### Sunday, December 23

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.  
All Church Sunday School - The Real Story of Christmas at 9:45

#### Monday, December 24

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

#### Monday, December 24 through Tuesday, January 1

The Learning Center Closed for Christmas Break

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

#### Tuesday, January 1

Church Office Closed - Happy New Year!

#### Sunday, January 6

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

#### Monday, January 7

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.  
Women's Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

#### Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

[www.nicholshillsumc.org](http://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 23

The coffee host is Jackie Hall.

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

The mission candle is available.

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

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

### Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 30

The coffee hosts are Clark and Kay Musser.

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 Charlotte and Avery Smith.

### 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

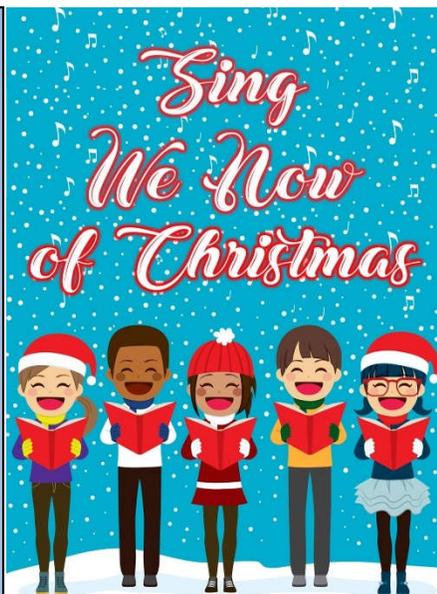
The sacrament of communion is a meaningful and important part of our weekly worship. If you are interested in helping prepare the table, please contact Carol Magness at 405-640-4429 or Janet Jones at 405-627-1566.

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

### Birthdays

12/20 Mark McLain  
12/21 Libby Blankenship  
12/22 Jean Ann Robison  
12/25 Carol Solomon  
12/29 Lida Elkins  
12/29 Taylor McLain

*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 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 postmark date no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> to qualify as a 2018 donation.

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

## 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.*



# Children's Ministry



Tausha  
Davsion-Beverly

On behalf of our Children's Ministry, we would like to thank everyone who came to support our Christmas Pageant, *The Mice and the Miracle*, written by Lecye Lippoldt. This is Lecye's second year directing our Christmas Pageant, and she does such a wonderful job. The children had such a great time presenting this year's pageant told through the eyes of the animals in the stable.

We had many supporters to help make this year's pageant such a success. I would like to personally thank Cara Fraley, our angel on stage and in spirit; Linda Benham, for taking the time to make all of the wonderful costumes; Adam Kenna, and Camryn Clapp, for playing the roles of Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus; Sheridan McMichael, for playing the piano for our performance; Emma Speir; Libby Gober; and our entire staff for making this year's performance a success! Please enjoy some of the photos from the pageant.

Blessings,  
Tausha

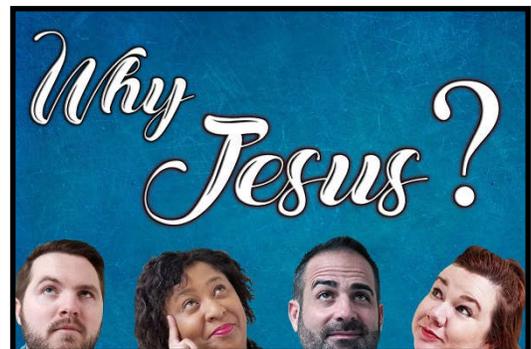


## Why Jesus?

*Why Jesus?* Because in spite of the time and distance that separates his world from ours, he continues to invite men and women to claim the true meaning of their lives by giving themselves away in service to God and others. Jesus continues to fascinate and challenge us, in spite of all the attempts to domesticate his message and ignore his call to follow. In his radical teachings, his self-sacrificial death, and his liberating life beyond death, Jesus teaches and shows us the true meaning and purpose of our lives.

Join us for worship as we answer the question, *Why Jesus?*

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>January 6</b>   | <i>He Calls You</i>    |
| <b>January 13</b>  | <i>He Baptizes You</i> |
| <b>January 20</b>  | <i>He Heals You</i>    |
| <b>January 27</b>  | <i>He Sends You</i>    |
| <b>February 3</b>  | <i>He Teaches You</i>  |
| <b>February 10</b> | <i>He Saves You</i>    |



# 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 two 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.

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** or **John Marshall Missional Ministries**

Amount of Gift: \_\_\_\_\_

# Welcome, Barbara!

We are excited to welcome Barbara Monks to our church family! We hope you enjoy reading about our newest member!

I grew up in Ada, Oklahoma, graduating from Adah High School in 1949. I attended East Central University in Ada for one year.

I married and had three daughters: Dr. Patrice Aston, a pediatrician in Oklahoma City; Dana Aston McCutchen, an educator in Stillwater; and Rebecca Aston Saunier, an accountant in Tulsa. I have ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

After ten years as a full-time mother, I went back to East Central for a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and to the University of Oklahoma for a librarian certification, and I began a twenty-seven-year career in Oklahoma public schools. Other than eight years in the classroom, most of my experience was as a librarian in McAlister High School, Broken Arrow Elementary School, and Fort Gibson Middle School.

In 1980, I married Dr. Herbert Monks, a professor of mathematics at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. After thirty-six happy years, Herbert became ill, requiring us to move to the Mansions at Waterford here in Oklahoma City. Alas, he died on August 30, 2017. Finding this church is such a blessing, and I hope to be of service here!

Barbara began attending our church in October and joined the church on December 2nd. We are excited that Barbara has chosen to become part of the Nichols Hills United Methodist Church family!



## Birthdays (Continued)

12/30	Abe Malone
12/31	Don Wilson
01/01	Lisa Franklin
01/01	Lauren Harrah
01/03	Michael Dean
01/04	Graham Jones
01/04	Anesha Smith
01/05	Lynn Greene
01/05	Anne Holbrook
01/05	Brenda McDaniel
01/05	Morgan Smith
01/06	Sayde Saunders
01/07	Sherron Evans
01/12	Garrett Fraley
01/13	Pam Eales
01/13	Joan Payne

**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*)



Rev. Michael  
Carpenter

## Youth News

As 2018 draws to a close, it is my prayer that you and your family can find time to do something meaningful and memorable. Some of my favorite memories are cherished Christmas traditions that my family did year after year; others are one-time mishaps that we can only look back now and laugh. If you have a youth or child in your home this holiday season, I hope you take a moment to appreciate the memories you are making.

As I become more and more settled into our church, and as I come to know the youth and their families even more, I pray, that you see me as a resource. I am honored to be a companion through difficult times, a caring friend, and even an extra cheerleader at a soccer game or swim meet! The teenage years are hard, so I want our church to be a refuge for youth and parents alike.

Grace upon Grace,  
Michael

## Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,  
T.L.C. Director

Merry Christmas! Our children recently performed their emerging skills in singing and using musical instruments. They are all getting an A+ in jingling bells. We had a fantastic turnout with over 135 family members and friends attending. There is definitely something special about children singing Christmas songs that just makes the season brighter. The Learning Center will be closed December 24 through January 1. Merry Christmas!

-Denise



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 Fellowship Hall* - Join our Adult Sunday School classes for a study called *The Real Story of Christmas* beginning 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 study called *The Real Story of Christmas* 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 study called *The Real Story of Christmas* 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 study called *The Real Story of Christmas* 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 celebrate Christmas. 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 celebrate Christmas. 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