



# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

### How to say, “I’m sorry.”

Have you ever done something that hurt another person? Most of us are a little more hesitant to admit that we’ve often been the offender; because it’s so easy to play the role of the victim. That’s why we hear messages over and over again in the church about how and why we should forgive those who have hurt us, but it’s so much more rare to talk about owning up to the way we have hurt others and how we deal with those. On Sunday we are going to see what the Bible says we should do when we are the person who has hurt or wronged someone else.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus was teaching a very powerful, very important message. He was in a little segment about relationships. He had just said, “You have heard it said before do not murder, but I say to you don’t even hate.” And so, Matthew 5:23 he said: <sup>23</sup> “*So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you...* In other words if you’re in the temple, or in our context, if you’re going to church and you’re offering the gift at the altar... *and you remember that your brother or sister has something against you...* In other words, you have hurt a friend’s feelings or let someone down or disappointed someone or lied to someone, and when you go to worship God you remember, “Oh my goodness. Someone that I love is upset at me, and our relationship isn’t where it’s supposed to be.”

In verse 24, Jesus tells us what to do. He says: <sup>24</sup> “*leave your gift there before the altar and go...* The Greek verb tense for *go* implies an intense action. In other words, it may mean you have to travel or work hard to do it or overcome some obstacles. But Jesus says: *go; first...* In other words, before you give your gift, He says: “*go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.*”

Now, this is really interesting because I can’t think of another time in Scripture where the Bible says there is something that takes place as a higher priority over the worship of God. Before you worship God with your giving, first go and reconcile with the person that you’ve wronged. That’s odd. Most of us have learned that we should worship God first, and then go do something else. Why would Jesus want us to leave and stop worshipping God to go and try to make amends?

When we are fighting with one of our brothers or sisters, God wants us to fix the relationship. That brother or sister is still part of the God’s family, and Jesus says, “No one snuggles up to the Heavenly Father until you get this relationship right!”

So, Jesus is telling us, “Don’t come in and do your little church thing. Don’t go to your Sunday school class. Don’t go do your religious acting thing when you’re not loving and working hard to bring reconciliation in your relationships.”

Jesus says, “There is something that takes priority even over the worship of God and that is to honor God by doing your part to bring restoration in your relationships.”

I hope you will join us in worship at 8:30 or 10:50 on Sunday as we continue our Moving Past Your Past sermon series by talking about how we can actively seek to bring restoration to relationships. Have a great week.

Blessings,  
Trevor

### Ministry Calendar

#### Sunday, January 24

Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Worship at 10:50 a.m.  
Missions Meeting at 12:15 p.m.  
Confirmation at 4:00 p.m.  
Youth at 5:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, January 30

Saturday of Service  
from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

#### Tuesday, February 2

Church Council Meeting at 5:30

#### Sunday, February 7

Scout Sunday at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m.  
Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Worship at 10:50 a.m.  
Youth at 5:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, February 10

Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00

#### Friday, February 12

30 Hour Famine

#### Wednesday, February 17

Nichols Thrills begins at 5:30 p.m.  
Catch begins at 5:30 p.m.  
Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace  
University begins 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

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

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Follow us on Twitter!*

## 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 **January 24 and 31**. To serve, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

### Altar Guild

Serving in Altar Guild this month are: Becky Buchanan, Ann Garrett, Janet Jones, Brenda McDaniel, Ellie Roberts, Marty Smith, Sally Stringer, Kathy Walker, and Jean Warner

## Cares and Concerns

### Epworth Villa

Bill and Katie Alexander,  
Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby,  
and Bonnie Miller

### Town Village

Joanna Garnett

### The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown  
Anita Dahlgren

### At Home

Roger Etling, Ann and Tom Flesher,  
Jess and Bette Harris,  
Beth & Dale Jordan, Frances Lewis,  
Joye McLain David Mueller,  
Maxine Permenter, and Gene Wheeler

## 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. This may just be one of the easiest ways for you to serve in our church and make a Christian difference.



## Moving Past Your Past

Do you feel trapped in your past? Instead of being dragged down and immobilized by the weight of guilt, pain, or a lingering sense of failure, what freedom could you find in laying those burdens down? Pastor Trevor Smith will help us consider how to leave the past in the past and step into the blessings of God's future.

Bring a friend and join us for ***Moving Past Your Past***.

**January 24**

*How to Say, "I'm Sorry."*

**January 31**

*Moving Past Your Personal Failures*



Matt Patrick

## Guests vs. Visitors

I cannot express how important it is for the church to be constantly seeking out and welcoming new people into the life of our community. In fact, I would go as far as to say that it should be our top priority. Everything in our church should be structured around being friendly toward new people.

There are two different words that are used for new people. Many times you will hear "guests," and other times you will hear "visitors." Both words work, but I would like for us to learn to use the word "guest" because of a specific distinction. Generally, a visitor is

someone who shows up at your door or business that you weren't expecting. It's someone who shows up for whom you aren't prepared. A guest is someone whom you are expecting and for whom you have prepared. We are to be a church that is *expecting* God to do great works in our community. We should be *prepared* for the work of God and be ready to welcome and seek out new people, especially as the Easter and Lenten season approaches. We have an opportunity to prepare for God's work on Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup>. From 9:00 a.m. to noon, we will spruce up and clean the church so that it is inviting for all who would come to hear God's good news for the world. Won't you join me?

Blessings,  
Matt



## Saturday of Service

Join us for our January Saturday of Service on January 30 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. We will be cleaning and sprucing up our church building. Sign up in the Narthex or call 405-842-1486 for more information.

## Children's Ministry

This week in Sunday school we are going to focus on how we can pray. We will be using M&M's to help the kids learn this, and if you have kids at home or in Sunday school this can be something you do with them at home too!

The colors of the M&M's will tell what the children will pray over when they pick up that color.

Yellow will be confessions to God, asking for forgiveness for the things we have done wrong.

Blue will be for giving thanks to God and what He's done.

Green will be giving praise to God and how awesome He is.

Red will be used for telling God our request we have or the request of others.

Orange will be for praying for our friends.

Brown will be used for praying for our family.

After the kids pray for something that goes along with the color they will get to eat 1 M&M of that color.

Prayer doesn't have to be fancy. Jesus encourages us NOT to be like the Pharisees who used a lot of fancy words and phrases. Jesus wants us to be sincere and from the heart when we pray to Him. A child is never too young to learn prayer, and it's something we will be doing a lot in Sunday school!



Madison Chilless

-Madison Chilless

## Job Openings

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church is currently seeking to fill the following positions:

Director of Children's Ministry to lead a dynamic children's ministry. Part-time.

Nursery Attendant to minister to small children. Sundays and Wednesdays. Part-time.

Childcare Teacher for The Learning Center to minister to small children. 35 hours weekly.

For more information, please contact Dr. Trevor Smith at 405-842-1486, or visit our website at [www.nicholshillsumc.org](http://www.nicholshillsumc.org).

Send resumes to [revtrevor@gmail.com](mailto:revtrevor@gmail.com) or 1212 Bedford Drive, Nichols Hills, OK 73116.

## Serving In Ministry January 24

The flowers are given by Kathy and Russ Walker and family in honor of Rosemary Scalpone's 94 birthday.

The mission candle is lit by General Bill Bowden in honor of Evelyn Wilson from Coral Gables, Florida, his first cousin.

## Birthdays

- 01/25 Fletcher Hill
- 01/28 Ken Blakley  
Morgan Hunt  
Stuart Hunt  
Rosemary Scalpone
- 01/30 Nick Berry
- 01/31 Tausha Smith
- 02/01 Christopher Mosz
- 02/05 Bette Harris
- 02/07 Virginia Brown
- 02/08 Steve Forster
- 02/09 Marty Smith
- 02/10 James MacKellar, Jr.
- 02/11 Ann Flesher  
Lillian Straughn  
Olivia Straughn
- 02/12 Lucas Butler  
Carol Sue Manley
- 02/13 Gwen Griffin  
Ken McKinney  
Violet Robinson  
Hannah Story
- 02/14 Joanne Crosby
- 02/15 Nancy Flesher  
Bill Wells
- 02/16 Trent Saunders  
Laura Tirrell

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

## Tidbits from The Learning Center

Each week we have special opportunities for our children at The Learning Center. One of those opportunities is learning about music. Andrea Deeds, music instructor from Munchkins Music, brings songs, finger plays, rhythm and musical instruments to the children for movement and instruction. The infants through pre-k children look forward to their thirty minutes with Miss Andrea. She sends out a monthly plan of some of the songs that will be sung, a listing of YouTube artists for appropriate sites for the parents to use at home, and a list of the skills that will be worked on that month. One month it may be playing and using the triangle correctly, or it might be vocal range (using high and low voices) or vocal dynamics (loud and soft voices.)

Our music program helps to develop self-expression, coordination, memory skills, concentration, teamwork and on and on. The families are given questions to use with their children so they may recall more specifically the activities that were completed. Such questions might be "What color maraca did you use?" or "Was the tempo fast or slow?"

It is amazing to see how well the children respond to these activities and how well they nap on Wednesdays! There is even a Facebook page to check out for more information. We are so very fortunate to have Miss Andrea. She is an accomplished teacher with incredible skills. Our children truly benefit from her lessons each week. Andrea is a blessing to our program.



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* - The Brew is studying Bill Hybel's book, *Too Busy Not to Pray*. Teachers: Tim and Christie Baker.  
Tim (405) 209-5467 and Christie (405) 922-5154

**KIVA Class:** *Meets in the Parlor* - Clark Musser will present "Vignettes of Virtue." Leaders: Buzz McDaniel and Linda Rosser McDaniel.

**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* - Open Circle Lesson on January 24: Our Open Circle Class in 2016 will continue with our Lectionary Scriptures along with special studies during the year. Last week we started a special study on the thirty-five "Miracles of Jesus" found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We covered the "turning water into wine" miracle last week and will study "healing a nobleman's son at Cana" (John 4: 46-54) this coming week. As a class we are planning an outing to see the up-coming movie, "Risen," in the near future. Teacher: John Marshall.

**Roundtable Class:** *Meets in Room 124* - Read John 2:1-12. A wedding is something to celebrate. Jesus and his mother attended a wedding in Cana, which is near their home in Nazareth. Serving wine at a wedding was an important tradition, but early in the celebration the wine was running out, putting the groom in an embarrassing position. Jesus' mother asked Jesus to replenish the supply of wine, which he did in a miraculous way. Join our class and hear how our teacher, Dr. Jerry Perryman, explains the elements of hospitality, crisis, and miraculous solution. Teacher: Dr. 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: Rev. Matt Patrick.

**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.  
Leader: Madison Chillless.

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**Dr. Trevor Smith**, Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Matt Patrick**, Student Pastor  
**Michael Wylder**, Director of Church Music  
**Delaney Sheffield**, Administrative Assistant  
**Michael Hall**, Maintenance/Custodian  
**Dr. Antone Godding**, Organist

**Kathy Smith**, Bookkeeper/Treasurer  
**Louise Glass**, Financial Secretary  
**Denise Buthion**, Director of The Learning Center  
**Alfred Walker**, Sunday Host  
**Randall Blair**, Sunday Host

405-842-1486 • 405.843.1835 Fax • [www.nicholshillsumc.org](http://www.nicholshillsumc.org)  
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