



NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Wiser with Our Future

Proverbs 29:18 - Without vision people perish.

Proverbs 29:18 - Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint.

Every Christian leader who has ever tried to move any group of people into a preferred future has always had deep affection and appreciation for Proverbs 29:18. Without *vision people perish*. This is in the King James translation. How cool is it that a 4,000 year old book of the Bible speaks so clearly about one of the most important dynamics creating organizational movement: that is vision. All of the modern day leadership literature agrees that vision and vision casting is the single most potent offensive weapon in the leader's toolbox. Entire courses at Stanford and Harvard are taught on how to cast a clearer, hotter, and more inspiring vision to move organizations ahead. And here's Solomon lifting up the significance and power of vision 4,000 years ago. It kind of makes you proud to be a Bible-believing person, except for one tiny little thing. What Solomon was actually talking about is a little bit different than what Harvard and Stanford classes teach.

In fact, in the latest, most scholarly translations, Proverbs 29:18 is barely recognizable. It says, *Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint*. That's not nearly as cool, is it?

I did a little digging to figure out what was going on during the time that Solomon wrote Proverbs. This era of history is actually known as the Prophetic Age. Prophets like Eli and Samuel and Nathan were taking their role as prophets very, very seriously. They lived as close to God as they possibly could, and God would speak to them. When they got a clear revelation from God, then they were expected to deliver it from God immediately to the people without editing it or elaborating on it... just the straight scoop from God to the people. The idea was that the people would obey the Word from God that came through the prophets, and if they did obey it, all would be well with them and God.

What was Solomon really saying? Let me try to paraphrase it for you. "Prophets, if it is your job to listen to God and then to tell people exactly what God wants them to do, do your job. Do your job really well. Listen closely to God. Lower the ambient noise of your life in such a way that you can hear God clearly. And then, when God speaks to you, communicate to the people whatever God tells you to say. Communicate God's Words to the people. Otherwise, people are going to miss God's direction, and they're going to wander around aimlessly. They're going to cast off restraint. They're going to do their own thing, and that usually degenerates very quickly into all kinds of bad attitudes and behavior." So, that's what the verse meant in the era that it was written.

I hope you will join us on Sunday at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. as we conclude our *Wiser* sermon series by talking about God's vision for your future and God's vision for our church.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, October 25

Fall Festival, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 26

Finance Committee at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27

Trustee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 28

Nichols Thrills - 5:30 to 7:00

Fellowship Meal at 5:30 p.m.

Expedition Children's Group-6:00

Alpha Course for Adults at 6:00

Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.

Young Adult Group at 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 29

Church Council at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 1

All Saints Sunday at 8:30 & 10:50

Sunday, November 15

Charge Conference, 2:00 to 4:00

Sunday, November 22

Consecration Sunday, 8:30 & 10:50

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

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and 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 all of **November 8, 15, and all of December**. To serve, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 1 we will observe All Saints Sunday by remembering people in our church who have passed away during the past year by lighting a candle in their memory. We will also remember family and friends of the people in our church who have died in the past year. If you know of someone you would like us to remember in this way, please contact the church office.

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Bill and Katie Alexander,
Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby,
Maxine Permenter

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown
Anita Dahlgren

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann and Tom Flesher,
Beth & Dale Jordan, Frances Lewis,
Joye McLain David Mueller,
Barbara Sullivan, and Gene Wheeler



Matt Patrick

Confirmation Season

One of my favorite days in the life of the Church is Confirmation Day. There is so much joy in watching young people go through a process of discipleship and then commit their lives to the cause of Christ. Confirmation is an ancient tradition where young people go through a process to confirm the baptismal vows that their parents made at their baptism. If they have not been baptized, they will decide if they want to be baptized. Confirmation also requires a student to join the church if they decide to finish the process.

Last Sunday, we had four students begin that journey with us. Meg Miller, Jack Love, Gracie Sanders, and Luke Butler have begun the process together that will meet weekly for 16 one-hour sessions. They will learn about the Bible, Jesus Christ, Methodist History, theology, and what it means to walk as disciples of Jesus Christ. I hope that when you see one of these students that you will encourage them in their journey.

Please join me in praying for our confirmands during this season as they prepare to make the most important decision they will ever make which is to devote their lives to Christ and his work in the world.

Blessings,
Matt Patrick

Pumpkin Prayer

A chill is in the air. Our mornings have become crisp and cool. It's that wonderful season of fall. I have loved carving pumpkins since I was a child and have wonderful memories with my family all trying to create the most elaborate pumpkin of the bunch. As you carve your pumpkin this year, I hope you will share the Pumpkin Prayer with your children and grandchildren.

Pumpkin Prayer:

Cut off the top: Lord, open my mind and fill me with your wisdom and guidance.

Scoop out the yuck: Lord, take out all those seeds of sin, doubt, hate, greed, and fear from inside me, and fill me with your love.

Carve out the eyes: Lord, open my eyes to see all of the beautiful things you have made.

Carve out the nose: Lord, help me to be a sweet fragrance for you.

Carve out the mouth: Lord, help me to always speak your words of love and kindness.

Place a candle: Lord, let me be a light to others for you have filled me with your light.

In his name we pray. Amen.

You are a blessing,
Lauren



Lauren Matthes

Fall Festival

Join us for a Fall Festival on October 25 from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. We will have a Chili Cook-off, s'mores, hayrides, and games for children!

Sign up for the Chili Cook-off by calling the church office.

Come enjoy the night and bring your friends and family to an evening of Fall Fun!



Missions

Saturdays of Service - November 14 - 9:00-12:30. We will be serving at Skyline Urban Ministries. We will volunteer in the Food Resource Center, Clothing Closet, provide and serve a meal and participate in Worship. Sign up in the narthex on Sunday or in the Church Office.

Harvest Food Drive for Skyline Food Resource Center - November 1-15. Skyline Urban Ministry is in particular need of canned fruit, cereal, laundry soap, and toilet paper. They are always grateful for canned meat, hearty soups, peanut butter, pasta products and canned vegetables. Start looking for those sales!



Wiser

Have you ever done something really stupid and then thought, "I'll be wiser next time?"

This Sunday, Dr. Trevor Smith will lead us as we study the wisdom of *The Book of Proverbs* and learn how we can be wiser with our future. Bring a friend and join us as we grow **Wiser**.

October 25 *Wiser with Our Future*

Easy Peasy!!



I love the cookies and punch time after church each Sunday. It is a time when I get to connect with people who have attended church and listen to what they have going on in their lives. Often times, these after church conversations are centered on the music of our church. One of the most frequent subjects brought to my ear are conversations concerning how beautiful the music of our church sounds and how can we get more people involved in this area of our discipleship process. Well I must say, it's Easy Peasy, but sometimes taking the first step to enter the process can be intimidating. The time commitment for singing in our church choir is small in the scheme of our quotidian lives, but the rewards are great.

Take that first step in upping your discipleship game and join us for rehearsal on Wednesday nights at 7:30. I guarantee that your life and the lives of people around you will be enriched by your study of God's Word through music.

Michael Wylder

We Are The Church



Our church makes a Christian difference through the many wonderful people in our congregation. This week, Louise Glass shares with us about her life and how Nichols Hills U.M.C. will bless her.

We want to welcome Louise Glass to our church staff. Louise started on October 1st and is working with Kathy Smith, the Church Treasurer, to maintain the financial records of our church.

Louise was born and raised in Tulsa, and most of her career was spent as a consultant to large international financial institutions in the area of computer and operations system design and implementation. She lived in New York City for 16 years, during which time she earned her MBA

from Fordham University. She left NYC and moved back to Oklahoma to care for her aging mother, ultimately foregoing her consulting practice for a local job requiring less travel. In June of this year Louise retired after 10 years as Director of Administration at New Covenant United Methodist Church in Edmond where she was responsible for the finances and the facility.

Louise believes local churches are the hope of the world and, in retirement, wants to use her gift of administration to help local churches keep their business affairs in order. She looks forward to working with our staff and congregation to enable Nichols Hills UMC to spread the love of Christ. Louise's part-time schedule includes working at the church on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. If you have an opportunity, please stop by and say, "Hello!" We are happy to have Louise in our Nichols Hills U.M.C. family!

Tidbits from The Learning Center



This week, October 19-23, we begin to prepare for the spring session in 2016. Enrollment time is always busy, but Monday we had people here before our staff arrived. We are so happy that many of our current families are coming more days each week than before which means that we will be seeing more children each day. Part day programs are unique in many ways. Not only are the days and hours varied, but the groups change daily too. Let your friends, families, and others know this week is the time to secure a spot for spring 2016. We always enjoy showing our beautiful church to visitors. For more information please call us 842-5325. See you at the Fall Festival on Sunday evening!

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.

Serving In Ministry

October 25

The chancel flowers will be given by Midge and Paul Lindsey in honor of their daughter Leslie's birthday and wedding anniversary.

The coffee host will be Jeff Cloud.

October/November

Birthdays

- 10/22 Chris Kauffman
Sylvia Miller
- 10/23 Barney Brown
- 10/24 Tim Sanders
- 10/25 Margaux Lavenue
Ashton Niemann
- 10/26 James Tirrell
- 10/27 Suzanne Lavenue
- 10/29 Akiko M. Knotts
David Mueller
- 10/30 Kay Goebel
- 10/31 Keith Jones
- 11/01 Larry Ottaway
- 11/03 Beau Butler
Peter Rosier
- 11/04 Bill Bowden
- 11/05 Joni Flesher
Leigh Huchton
Bennett Murray
- 11/06 Linda Lyle
Kathy Walker
- 11/07 Georgeanne Yehling
- 11/09 Tim Baker
Lew McGinnis
Karen McLain
- 11/11 Mary Ann Sanders
- 11/12 Mary Bentley
Martin Howell
- 11/13 Katherine Buxton
- 11/14 Jack Love
Mary Kate Magness
- 11/15 Ryan Sandfort
- 11/17 Ian Heflin
Susan Morrison-Dyke
- 11/18 John Heflin
- 11/19 Carole McClendon
Frances Thompson
- 11/20 Frank Miskovsky, III
- 11/21 Win Holbrook
Angie Sanger

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Weekly Small Groups

Nichols Thrills Fellowship Meal for Children, Youth, and Adults: Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

The Alpha Course - Adults: Wednesday, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Join us for dinner at 5:30 and a video called *What Does the Holy Spirit Do?* Leader: Dr. Trevor Smith

Expedition for Children: Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Director: Lauren Matthes

Chancel Choir: Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Director: Michael Wylder

Young Adult Group: Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. Join us as we food fellowship, and a meaningful discussion. Leader: Rev. Matt Patrick

Sunday School Classes - Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

The Brew Class: *Meets in the Room 131.* This class is studying *Addicted to Hurry* by Kirk Byron Jones. 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 Parlor* - Mike and Pama Palmer will speak on A Greater Generation? Leaders: Allen and Sherron Evans

Reville 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* - Join us as learn from Bible scriptures and songs. Teacher: John Marshall

Roundtable Class: *Meets in Room 124* - The Roundtable Class is studying Acts 11:1-18 this Sunday. This is the story of how Peter learned that God accepts all people, not just the Jews. A vision showed Peter that God accepts and offers all people His Holy Spirit. We fail to realize how we are prone to judge others and that all God has created is good. The lesson calls us to understand that God's call to salvation is to all people. Join us and hear our teacher, Dr. Jerry Perryman, lead our discussion. 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 God together. Director: Lauren Matthes

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor

Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor

Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music

Lauren Matthes, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Antone Godding, Organist

Kathy Smith, Bookkeeper/Treasurer

Louise Glass, Financial Secretary

Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center

Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian

Alfred Walker, Sunday Host

Randall Blair, Sunday Host

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The Learning Center (T.L.C.): 405-842-5325