



NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

The Blessed Life

²⁴Some give freely, yet grow all the richer;
others withhold what is due, and only suffer want.

²⁵A generous person will be enriched,
and one who gives water will get water. *-Proverbs 11:24-25*

Did you know that the word *believe* appears in the Bible 273 times, *pray* appears 371 times, and *love* appears 714 times. *Give* appears 2,172 times. It appears that God is very interested in calling us to be giving people. There is something about giving and being generous that is central to what it means to be a Christian. In fact, the more we grow in our relationship with God the more we find that God is generous with us throughout our lives. God has given us life and the gift of creation. God has even given us his only Son so that we might not perish but instead receive eternal life.

In November, we are going to talk about Christian stewardship. As Herb Miller puts it, "Christian stewardship is the faithful management of all that God gives." In our sermon series on ***The Blessed Life*** we are going to look at what the Bible teaches us about financial management. How would Jesus want us to spend our money? How do I decide what percentage of my income Jesus is calling me to give in the next year? How does being a faithful Christian steward relate to being a disciple of Jesus Christ? How is generosity part of living the blessed life? We will try to answer all of these questions as we talk about The Blessed Life.

I want you to know that we are going to have fun as we discuss these important parts of our faith, and I want to invite you to open your heart to what God has to say to you. My hope is that this sermon series will bless you and help you to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Learning Biblical financial wisdom about how to handle money can be one of the greatest blessings we receive. Our church wants to offer people hope for the future in this area of our lives.

Our sermon series on *The Blessed Life* will culminate with our **Consecration Sunday on November 22**. Rev. Darrell Cates who serves as the Director of Conference and Church Relations of The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation will bring the message in worship that day, and we will have a free, catered **Harvest Dinner** immediately following the worship service. I hope you will make plans to be present in worship on the Sundays in November. I am truly excited about all that God is doing in our lives and in our church. May God continue to bless us as we work together *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*.

Blessings,
Dr. Trevor Smith

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, November 1

All Saints Sunday at 8:30 & 10:50

Daylight Savings Ends: Set Your
Clocks Back One Hour

Monday, November 2

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 3

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.

Saturday, November 14

Saturday of Service at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 15

Charge Conference, 2:00 to 4:00

Sunday, November 22

Consecration Sunday, 8:30 & 10:50

Celebration Meal at Noon.

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

**Like us on Facebook
and follow us on Twitter!**



Daylight Savings Time
Sunday, November 1.
 Set Your Clocks Back One Hour.

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.

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

How Can I Be Filled with the Holy Spirit?

For the last couple of weeks in our Alpha Course we have been discussing the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This week, we will be discussing how we can be filled with the Holy Spirit. The first thing to know about being filled with the Spirit is that the Spirit has been promised to us. In Acts 1, Jesus says "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised to you." After this, Jesus ascends into heaven and the disciples wait until the day of Pentecost arrives a few days later.

We have been promised the gift of the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit won't just fill us against our will. It is possible to resist God's Spirit. To be filled by the Spirit, we must relent to the work He is doing in our lives. We must ask for the Spirit to be present and to empower us for the good work of the Gospel. I have found that the Spirit isn't whatever he wants.

King Solomon asks that God would fill him with wisdom and an "understanding mind" in order to better serve the kingdom. Because Solomon has a wise request, God grants him great wisdom and blesses him. The Spirit is ready to move into our lives, sometimes, God is only waiting for us to relent to the transforming work that will happen.

Blessings,
 Matt Patrick

Sunday, November 8 is Christian Education Sunday!

On Sunday, November 8th we celebrate Christian Education Sunday. We value those who take time to organize a Bible Study and share their gifts with others.

According to UMC.org, "Christian education does not happen quickly. Christian education is not something we do once as children—then when we get older, we've simply got it. No, Christian education is a lifelong process of learning, believing, growing, and serving. Christian education is a never-ending process that is enabled in Christian community as Christians continue to study, worship, fellowship, and serve together. The lessons of Christian education make it possible for us to practice love and to live as children of God. How well we learn those lessons day by day will determine what kind of church we are Sunday by Sunday. Christian education is a sacred responsibility. To give Christian education less than our best would be unfaithful to the life God has called us to live and to the world God has called us to serve. If there is ever a generation somewhere, sometime, that does not know the power of God's love, it will be because some generation did not continue to teach and learn." It won't be on my watch. Will it be on yours?



Lauren Matthes

You are a blessing,
 Lauren

We Are The Church

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

My name is Madison Chilless, and I work in the nursery at Nichols Hills U.M.C. I am a junior at The University of Central Oklahoma where I am majoring in biology and hoping to attend dental school at The University of Oklahoma.



One thing I'm extremely excited about since working with Nichols Hills U.M.C. is becoming involved with a church again. I was raised in Norman and grew up at McFarlin U.M.C. where I spent kindergarten through my senior year in the youth choir and was very involved with the youth ministry program. When the opportunity arose for me to work at a Methodist church, I was ecstatic. I hope Nichols Hills U.M.C. becomes a home for me, and it has already started to feel like one!

I love being able to be a part of the children's ministry. Every child I've had the opportunity to meet and spend time with has already shown me their love for God and it's incredible. I can't wait to see how they grow in their faith, and I'm excited to see how they will influence the growth in my faith as well.

We are happy to have Madison in our Nichols Hills U.M.C. family!



The Fall Festival was a hit!

The Fall Festival at Nichols Hills U.M.C. was a hit! There were about 150 people that attended! We enjoyed the chili cook-off, games, pumpkin explosion, s'mores, and the wonderful hayrides! Thank you to all who helped make this event a success!

Chili Cook-Off Winners!

1st Place and the winner of the golden spoon award:
Cara Fraley! Congratulations, Cara!

2nd place: Delaney Sheffield. Congratulations, Delaney!

3rd place: Katy Maxwell. Congratulations, Katy!





Consecration Sunday Is Coming

At Nichols Hills United Methodist Church we approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective. We do not view the money people give to our church merely as a way to pay the bills. Rather, we believe that how we handle money is a spiritual issue and that it is important to talk about how the wisdom we find in the Bible teaches us to use our money and our stuff in a way that is pleasing to God. We find that one of the best ways to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God is by helping them to grow in generosity by supporting our church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. In November, our senior pastor, Trevor Smith will preach a sermon series called *The Blessed Life* to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Throughout these four Sundays we will focus on our relationship with God and how God's generosity to us calls us to respond by living a life of generosity. We'll let the Bible speak to us about the role of money and work in our lives and offer you some helpful steps that will help you work towards becoming debt free. We will turn to the Proverbs and the teachings of Jesus to help you more clearly understand what it means to earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can. You will have the opportunity to prayerfully ask God, **"What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"**

Consecration Sunday will be on **November 22**. During our morning worship services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. on Consecration Sunday, we are asking the people in our church to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. Every person who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* will do so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. However we encourage people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure will be done as an act of worship in such a way that no one will feel personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest preacher, Rev. Darrell Cates, will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration in which we will each make our commitments as a confidential act of worship. We will be sharing more information about Consecration Sunday with you in our worship services in November. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform and inspire in our hope that everyone will commit to attend Consecration Sunday for worship and our Harvest Dinner at noon on November 22. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday.

Sincerely,
 Tim Baker
 Chairperson of the Church Council

The Blessed Life

What does it mean to be blessed?

Is the blessed life just about pursuing the American Dream of owning a big house, a fancy car, and the newest iPhone?

Or... is there something more?

Beginning on November 1, Pastor Trevor Smith will help us learn what the Bible teaches about financial wisdom and the way to live *The Blessed Life*. Together, we will discover the generous way God blesses us and the divine truth that it is more blessed to give than to receive. So, bring a friend with you and join us for worship at *Nichols Hills United Methodist Church* on Sundays at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. as we learn to live *The Blessed Life*.

November 1 *The Generous God*
November 8 *Financial Wisdom*

November 15 *The Blessing Challenge*
November 22 *First Fruits Giving*



Everybody Knows Your Name



Michael Wylder

Bigger isn't always better even though it seems to be the trending train of thought. Supersized stores, meals, homes, and churches are commonplace in our lives today, with the illusion of offering more bang for your buck, but if you seek something with a more personal touch you won't have much luck.

For years I shopped at a local Nichols Hills grocery store many of you might remember. It was called Crescent Market. Over time I got to know most of the butchers, stockers, cashiers, and sackers at the market. It was a small, local place and the prices were somewhat more than the huge box stores, but I was willing to pay the price to get the personalized service and products that had a personal touch. After shopping at Crescent, it was also a tradition to swing by Nichols Hills Drug Store, grab a stool, and belly up to the soda fountain for a burger, malt, and fries. The sweet ladies at the fountain always knew what I wanted and how to make it feel like a special treat. They knew my name, as well as my family and child's name.

Nichols Hills U.M.C. is a small local church but it sure does a lot. Over the years it has been an honor getting to know all of our members, their families, and friends by name. I have been touched to participate in life events of our congregation, such as weddings, baptisms, memorial services, and special events. Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they are glad you came. Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and it sure does mean a lot.

Michael Wylder

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!

Tidbits from The Learning Center



We have a new teacher who worked at The Learning Center years ago. Her name is Toneeka Smith, and she is a master teacher. She has a daughter, Lehjen, who has joined our Cheetah class. Toneeka has had the pleasure of working in child care for over 16 years. She has a Child Development Associate certificate (CDA) which makes her a master teacher. Formal education and years of experience are just what we want. Her plan is to work on her director's credential this fall. She has two children, a 17 year old son and her daughter who is five years old. Her hobbies include reading, drawing, and making jewelry. She is excited to return to TLC, and we are happy to have her with us! Please drop by and say, "Hello," to all of the children when you can. There will be some class parties this Friday for Halloween, too.

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

November 1

The coffee hosts will be Michael and Katy Maxwell.

The chancel flowers will be given by Libby and G.T. Blankenship.

The Mission Candle will be lit by Ray and Lynn Greene in honor of their wedding anniversary.

October/November Birthdays

- 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
- 11/27 Sondra Barker
- 11/28 Rich McLain
- 11/28 Alfred Walker
- 11/29 Michael Hall
- 11/30 Geraldine Raupe
Mark Sullivan
Perry Tirrell

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
1212 Bedford Drive
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73116

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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 *How Can I Be Filled with the Holy Spirit?*
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* - The Brew is starting a new book called, *United Methodist Beliefs – A Brief Introduction* by Bishop William Willimon.
Teachers: Tim and Christie Baker. Tim (405) 209-5467 and Christie (405) 922-5154

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - Don Wilson will present a video of the Old Testament called, *The Classical Prophets & the Fall of the Northern Kingdom* by Amy Jill Levine. Leaders: Allen and Sherron Evans

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

Roundtable Class: *Meets in Room 124* - Acts 12:1-11 tells about Peter's miraculous rescue from prison by an angel. We again live in a time when Christians are being persecuted, this time on a global scale. We need to understand that God can, as in Peter's example, rescue us when we seek his providence.
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

405-842-1486 • 405.843.1835 Fax • www.nicholshillsumc.org

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