



# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

## The Blessing Challenge

<sup>10</sup> Bring the full tith into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. -*Malachi 3:10*

What is your standard for giving?

How do you decide what to give to God?

The most biblical standard for giving is the tith which teaches us to give ten percent of what we earn in a year to God.

In the Old Testament there were three kinds of tithes. Each year the prescribed tith amounted to 23 1/3 % of income before any buildings or special offerings. Leviticus 27:30-34 describes the tith that was given annually to support the local priesthood. This is similar to the way we give to support the ministry of our local church today. The tith provides for God's work through God's church.

Deuteronomy 12:1-19; 14:22-27 describes the second kind of tith. This tith underwrote the expenses of the three major Jewish festivals: Passover, Feast of Tabernacles, and Feast of Weeks. Today, we seldom spend funds for any kind of religious celebration except infrequent banquets and fellowship dinners. However, it is in the spirit of this tradition that we have a free catered Harvest Dinner on our Consecration Sunday so that we can celebrate God's generosity to us and our generosity to God's ministry through our church. God is continually blessing our church; celebrating God's blessings is one of the ways that we offer our thanks to God.

Deuteronomy 14:28-29; 26:12-15 describes the third kind of tith. This tith was taken every third year for local communities to help the needy. Today, some of this need is addressed by government programs, public charities like United Way and Boys and Girls Club as well as benevolent and missional giving through the local church. Our church is active in this kind of ministry through our missional work with Skyline Urban Ministry including back to school clothes and canned food drives, Mission Madness, the Angel Tree, the Alfred and Rosella Walker Fund which offers assistance to the needy, some apportionments, and through mission trips. The tith reminds us of the needs of others and helps us grow in compassion for the needy.

In our message on Sunday we will take a closer look at one of the only scriptures in which God challenges us to put God to the test by giving a tith to God. In the coming days and weeks, I hope you will spend some time in prayer asking God, "Lord, what percentage of my income are you calling me to give to you through my church?"

By now you are surely aware that **Sunday, November 22, is Consecration Sunday** for our congregation. I hope that you will make plans to attend the two special events on Consecration Sunday: Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. and the Harvest Dinner which will be served at 11:00 a.m. for those who attend the 8:30 service and Sunday school and at 12:00 for those who attend the 10:50 service. This is a free catered meal, so we need reservations for each person. I want to thank those of you who turned in a reservation card on in worship last Sunday. There will be another opportunity to fill out a reservation card in worship this Sunday if you have not already done so, or you can call Delaney Sheffield in the church office at (405)842-1486. Our goal is to have every member and regular worship attendee present. May God bless us as we continue to grow in generosity.

Blessings,

**Dr. Trevor Smith**

## Ministry Calendar

### Sunday, November 15

Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Charge Conference at 2:00 to 4:00

Church Council at 4:00 p.m.

Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 18

#### Nichols Thrills - 5:30 to 7:00

Fellowship Meal at 5:30 p.m.

Young Adult Group 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.

### Sunday, November 22

Consecration Sunday, 8:30 & 10:50

Harvest Dinner at 11:00 & Noon.

### Wednesday, November 25

No Wednesday night programs  
and The Learning Center Closed



### Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving - Church Offices  
and The Learning Center Closed.

### Friday, November 27

Church Offices and  
The Learning Center Closed.

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

## 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 **December 13 and 27**. To serve, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

### Cares and Concerns

#### Epworth Villa

Bill and Katie Alexander,  
Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby,

#### Town Village

Joanna Garnett

#### The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown  
Anita Dahlgren

#### At Home

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

## How Can We Resist Evil?



Matt Patrick

Whenever a person joins the United Methodist Church, the person makes several vows. One of those vows reads: "Will you resist evil, injustice, and oppression, in whatever forms they present themselves?" The appropriate response is to say "I will."

So what does it mean to resist evil? Why is this so important that each Methodist in our denomination must make this promise? We must recognize that the forces of evil and darkness are alive and a reality in our world.

Everyday, hundreds of millions of people go without access to clean water or adequate nutrition. Everyday, millions of people around the world face horrific violence and injustice. These problems are caused by the evils of greed and overconsumption. There are so many issues in our world for which Christ has a deep compassion, and so should we. The people of God have been called to stand in solidarity and resist evil and injustice. But how? This question and more will be the topic of our Alpha Course on Wednesday night at 5:30 p.m. We pray and hope that you will join us as we discern how we can resist the evil in our world.

Blessings,  
Matt

## So Blessed

We are in the middle of The Blessed Life sermon series. It has me thinking about how truly blessed we are and how it is so easy to see if we watch the news or look beyond ourselves to see there are so many things going right in our lives. We simply need to abide in Him and seek God first. We have a wonderful opportunity to share the blessings we have with others this month through Skyline Urban Ministry.

In Sunday school this week, we learned about Abigail feeding David and his troops. David praised God for Abigail – 1 Samuel 25:32. Pam Shdeed pointed out to the children that we all have the opportunity to share our blessings with others through the food drive. She encouraged the children to be like Abigail by each taking a bag to fill with non-perishable food for families that don't have food in their pantry. I praise God for all of you, for He has brought you here to serve our church and community.

Blessings,  
Lauren



Lauren Matthes

## 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? 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 talk about the blessing challenge and learn to live *The Blessed Life*.

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

## Hold My Hand



Hold my hand and never let go. Lead me, comfort me, warm me, save me, and when I fall, raise me up. Through all the turmoil of life and the snares which grab us there is nothing more assuring than having someone to hold on to. Sometimes we latch on tight as if we will never let go; other times we hold on ever so slight knowing that everything will be alright. In times of victory, great joy and accomplishment we join our hands and reach to the sky, a jubilant sign of unity in the face of success. Hold my hand never let go; hold my hand and let the love show.

Holding hands is a very tactile way to feel and offer assurance, but on a more cerebral level music can offer a deep sense of assurance as well. There is something magical about music that transcends all barriers of language and emotion. The organization of sound, suspended in time and space can move us to a deeper understanding of life. Music can move us to tears, cause us to tap our feet, urge us to dance, and inspire us to sing or play along with joy. There is so much power in having a universal language to convey our intent, emotions and beliefs. Making music in a group is like holding every one's hand at the same time and making God's music in church transcend the earth and fill the heavens. Sometimes I want to hold a high note and never let go because I have so much love to show.

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!

## We Are The Church



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

Hi, I'm Rosie. I am 17 years old, and I am a Junior at Edmond North High School. At my high school I am avidly involved in German Club, and I am a Technician Sergeant with their Jr. R.O.T.C. I have a passion for children's ministry and have been a classroom assistant volunteer as far back as 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I believe that even people as young as me can lead children to Christ, and I am a living example of that. I feel that children's ministry is the most important part of my dedication to God and that these small moments I share with the children will cultivate the next generation of avid Christians. Nichols Hills U.M.C. has been very supportive as I began here, and I can't wait to continue my walk with Christ.

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

## Tidbits from The Learning Center



We received our new high chairs for the infant room. The chairs are nine inches off the ground and the children are really enjoying them. They have snack and their lunch together. It is amazing the camaraderie that they are building with each other as they watch one another eat. It appears that they eat more of their food too. The little high chairs come with a life-time guarantee. Isn't that amazing? We are so grateful to make improvements in our program. Soon you will see our new rugs in the classrooms. Come by and take a look.

## Serving In Ministry November 15

The coffee hosts will be Tim and Christie Baker.

The mission candle will be lit by Libby and G.T. Blankenship.

The chancel flowers will be given by Mary Ann Carmichael in memory of Mary Alice Carmichael.

## November/December Birthdays

- 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
- 12/01 Sarah Butler  
Elizabeth Prosser  
Alesha Rogers
- 12/03 Tony Dyke
- 12/04 Maxine Asch  
Ronald McLeod
- 12/06 Jackie Hall  
Nancy Rowntree
- 12/07 Charlotte Brown  
Reid Robison
- 12/08 Maddy Eales
- 12/09 Larkin Warner  
Phil Withrow
- 12/10 Denise Buthion
- 12/11 Kelsey Lyle
- 12/12 Joe McClendon  
Katie McNeill
- 12/14 Stephen Heine
- 12/15 Tom McLain
- 12/16 Liz McNeill
- 12/18 Stephanie Derricott  
Casey Hill, III  
Kay Musser
- 12/20 Mark McLain
- 12/21 Libby Blankenship
- 12/22 Jean Ann Robison
- 12/25 Carol Solomon

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church  
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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.

**Young Adult Group:** Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Join us as we food fellowship, and a meaningful discussion. Leader: Rev. Matt Patrick

**The Alpha Course:** Wednesday, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Join us for dinner at 5:30 and a video called *Why and How Should I Tell Others?*  
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

### 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* - Reid & Jean Ann Robison will introduce Brian Robison and family who will talk about Mission Trips. 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* - The Roundtable Class is reading Acts 17:1-32. These scriptures describe Paul and Silas traveling through Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens as they spread the Good News of Christ. From this story we can learn how we can also share our faith with those with whom we come in contact. Join us as Dr. Jerry Perryman leads us. 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.

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**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

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**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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