



# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

## Christmas Stories

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

*-Matthew 2:1-2*

Christmas is coming, and I want to ask you a question. What will make Christmas meaningful for you this year? Will it be all of the shopping, the parties, the family gatherings, or all of the gifts under the Christmas tree? I'm looking forward to all of these parts of Christmas, but if I may answer my own question, I know that what will make Christmas meaningful for me and my family will be the moments when we grasp the awesome truth that our Heavenly Father loved us so much that He sent His only Son, Emmanuel, to be with us and to save us.

Beginning on Sunday, November 29, I want to invite you to join us for a new sermon series called *Christmas Stories*. In worship on these four Sundays we will talk about the people who came seeking the Christ-child. Along the way, we'll meet the murderous King Herod who wanted to kill the baby Jesus, the foreigners we call Magi who came to worship the newborn King, two faithful old prophets named Simeon and Anna who had waited their whole lives for this child to be born, and the lowly shepherds who received a special invitation to come and see the newborn babe the night he was born. Don't miss the opportunity to come and hear the *Christmas Stories*.

At Christmas, even people who do not attend church are looking for something more. People are more open at this time to an invitation to attend a worship service or other church events. I want to invite you to share the Good News of Christmas with your friends, family members, classmates, co-workers, and neighbors who do not have a church home by inviting them to join us for *Seeking Christ in Christmas* on Sundays at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. and to come with you to one of our **Candlelight Christmas Eve Services on Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 or 7:00 p.m.** Together, we will make a special Christmas memory.

On **Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m.** we will have our **Cocoa and Carols**. Come and join us as we go and sing Christmas Carols and see the Christmas lights in Nichols Hills.

We had a wonderful Consecration Sunday and Harvest Dinner. On behalf of our church, I want to thank each of you who generously made your commitment to give to God through our church. It is so encouraging to see how the Holy Spirit is helping so many people to grow in generosity. If you were unable to worship with us on Consecration Sunday we will be mailing you an Estimate of Giving Card this week. I hope you will prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give in the coming year and return your estimate of giving card to the church office next week.

I am looking forward to celebrating a wonderful Christmas with you all. Have a happy Thanksgiving.

Blessings,  
**Dr. Trevor Smith**

## Ministry Calendar

### Sunday, November 29

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

### Sunday, December 6

Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
 Worship at 10:50 a.m.  
 Cocoa and Carols at 5:00 p.m.

### Monday, December 7

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.

### Thursday, December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve  
 Services at 5:00 and 7:00 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

## 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 27 and all of January**. 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, 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.

## Managing Relationships Through The Holidays



Matt Patrick

On Sunday during our youth Sunday school class, we had a great discussion about how to deal with the many different family and friend relationships that we have during the holidays. You can choose your friends, but you can't usually choose your family. As we come into the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, many families begin to struggle with strained relationships due to lack of forgiveness or other disagreements that have occurred over the years. It can be difficult to get the whole family together and try to get along for a few days.

I encourage you to ask God to fill you and your family with grace over the next few weeks as you navigate these relationships.

When someone or something gets on your nerves this holiday season, I pray that you would show the love and grace that Jesus demonstrated and respond with love. This holiday season may give you the great opportunity to reconcile a relationship that has long been sour or to reach out to someone that you have lost touch with.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are holidays for bringing people together and showing grace and love towards each other. It is the time to set aside the worries of this world so that we can remember who holds the world. It is the time when we show grace, hope, joy, and love to family, strangers, and enemies alike. It is the time when we work for "peace on earth and good will towards men." It is the time of year when we await the coming of our Master Jesus and strive to become more like Him. Will you join me?

Blessings,  
Matt

## What's Happening At Your House?

Recently, during Children's Church one of our "littles" asked about Santa Claus. He said he was beginning to doubt. We quickly steered the conversation back to Jesus, but it made me think of the Bible verse Joshua 24:15 which says, "As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

I don't know what is happening in your house. I pray for each child and each family at Nichols Hills UMC. I pray that your family is finding opportunities to talk about what you believe. What are you sharing or not sharing with your children. Do you take the opportunity in your car every morning to share with your children that God will be with them all day and that He loves them more than they will ever understand? How are you helping your child understand that God made the sea and the sky and the universe as a gift for your child and that He counts on us to take care of it?

I am blessed to share faith with your child one or two hours a week. In the business of the season, I invite to sit down and prepare your hearts for advent. Open the Bible and discover the true Story of Christmas with your child.

Blessings,  
Lauren



Lauren Matthes

## December Saturday of Service

Join us for our December Saturday of Service on Saturday, December 5th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall to write cards to the teachers and staff of John Marshall High School, as well as our church members who are in care facilities or homebound. All ages are welcome, and you can sign up in the Narthex.

## Angel Tree

We invite you to participate in our Angel Tree this year. We are sponsoring 35 foster children from Child S.H.A.R.E. which is part of the Circle of Care. Each child has a card with their name on it and their wish list for presents. Please bring your unwrapped gift to church by Sunday, December 13. Thank you!



## Serving In Ministry November 29

The mission candle will be lit by Jeff Cloud in honor of Alfred and Rosella Walker's birthdays.

The poinsettias are given by the Altar Guild in honor of the church staff.

The coffee hosts are Tom and Brenda McDaniel.

## November/December Birthdays

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
12/29	Lida Elkins Joye McLain Taylor McLain
12/30	Abe Malone
12/31	Don Wilson

In the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season it's sometimes hard to find Christ in Christmas. Join us each Sunday during Advent as we explore the stories of those who sought Christ on that very first Christmas - the Wise Men, the Shepherds, even the murderous King Herod. We'll learn how their Christmas stories help us to find Christ in Christmas.

This holiday season, pause in the midst of your Christmas preparations to prepare your heart through worship. Each Sunday we'll share familiar carols, scriptures, and messages that offer encouragement and hope as we truly seek to worship Christ.

**November 29** *King Herod's Story*

**December 6** *The Wise Men's Story*

**December 13** *Simeon and Anna's Story*

**December 20** *The Shepherds' Story*

**December 24** *Mary and Joseph's Story*

## Tidbits from The Learning Center

What a wonderful celebration we had with our families last week on November 19. Parents and Pies was a very busy day. The Zebra classroom prepared home-made apple pies. The little Monkeys (two year olds) cut up apples, added the spices, and poured them into pie shells. The Jaguars made traditional pumpkin pies, and everyone contributed to make it so delicious. The Cheetahs went all out with fresh squeezed key lime pie and chocolate pudding pie. Needless to say they were all delectable. Our younger classrooms (children 6 weeks to 24 months) had pumpkin pies. They were not home-made but delicious all the same. Our family events are well attended in the middle of the afternoon. We are so thankful for the support and participation of our families. It was a fun and joyous day! Happy Thanksgiving to our Nichols Hills United Methodist Church family. We return on Monday, November 30.



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.

**Young Adult Group:** Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Join us for food, fellowship, and an Alpha Course 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 *Does God Heal Today?*  
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* - Jean Ann and Reid Robison will give their annual Christmas book review. 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 18:1-11 and 18-21 tell us about both the opposition and acceptance Paul received while telling about Christ in the areas of Corinth and Athens. The Roundtable Class, led by Dr. Jerry Perryman, will discuss how we should respond when we are rebuffed when telling about the Good News of Christ. We invite you to join 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 the Christmas Story 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

**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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