

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

The Way of Peace

Last Sunday we began a four week sermon series called *The Advent Conspiracy* in which we are talking about the four themes of Advent of hope, peace, joy, and love as well as four ideas that can help us celebrate Christmas in a new way. On Sunday we are going to explore how we can walk in the way of peace. For 1700 years, on the second Sunday of Advent, Christians have turned their attention to John the Baptist. During Advent Christians prepare themselves to celebrate the birth of the King, Jesus Christ and also for his second coming when he returns. Since John the Baptist's primary mission was to prepare the people for the coming of the Christ, Christians still turn to his message and say, "What can we learn from John's message that will help appropriately prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas?"

John was born six months before Jesus, and Zechariah had come to believe that Jesus would be the long awaited Messiah, a Mighty Savior who would fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament. Zechariah saw that God was going to work through Jesus to bring peace to the world in a way that would allow God's people to serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness all our days. Israel was an occupied state, so in one way, peace for Zechariah meant that Jesus would save them from the violence of Rome, but I have to believe that Zechariah also saw that Jesus would offer us peace in a way that goes beyond our geo-political situation. A life without Jesus Christ is a life without peace, and a life with Jesus Christ brings the peace that passes all understanding.

When John was born, his father, Zechariah, held him in his arms and proclaimed a prophecy about the role his son would play in Jesus' ministry. In Luke 1:76-79 Zechariah proclaimed, ⁷⁶ "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." This was precisely what John the Baptist grew up to do: to prepare the way of the Lord and to guide God's people into the way of peace.

How was John going to do that? Well, when John was 30 years old, he began to preach publicly to all the people. He believed that salvation was for everyone, and he began to dress like Elijah in camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. He called the people to repentance. As he preached the people recognized that this looked like Elijah. They came out to see him out of curiosity. In part, though, they came to hear John preach for the same reasons many of you come to church. They wanted to experience the peace of God. They felt there was something missing in their life, or they recognized that they had strayed from the path to God and they wanted to come back to God. Or they were anticipating the coming of the Messiah, and they wanted to be ready. But for whatever reason, they came to hear him: first by the hundreds, and then by the thousands. They came to the Jordan River, where John called them to repentance.

On Sunday, I want to teach you a little bit about John the Baptist, and then we are going turn to his message. We are going to hear from one of his actual sermons... the actual words that he spoke. We are going to talk about the way we can find peace this Christmas, and we are going to ask the question, "What does this mean for us today?" I hope you will invite someone you know to come with you and join us for worship at 8:30 or 10:50 as we learn more about the way of peace. Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, December 4

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Youth Visit Epworth Villa at 12:15

Thursday, December 1

College and Young Adult Group
at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 5

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 11

Youth Christmas Party at 5:00

Wednesday, December 14

T.L.C. Christmas Program at 10:30

Sunday, December 18

Children Sing at 10:50 Service
Jesus' Birthday Party at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve
Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Monday, December 26

Church Offices and The Learning
Center Closed

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



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. If this is 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 25 and all of January**. To serve, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

Altar Guild

The sacrament of communion is a meaningful and important part of our weekly worship. If you are interested in helping prepare the table, please contact Carol Magness at 405-640-4429 or Janet Jones at 405-627-1566.

Serving in Altar Guild this month are: Carla Hill, Sharon Ives, Kathy Walker and Jean Warner.

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.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 4.

The coffee hosts are John and Ann Marshall.

The chancel flowers are given by Janice Pitney in loving memory of Thomas C. Pitney.

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby,
Bonnie Miller, and Sylvia Miller

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown
Anita Dahlgren

Autumn Leaves

Bill and Katie Alexander

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann Flesher,
Jess and Bette Harris,
Beth and Dale Jordan, Frances Lewis,
David Mueller, and Maxine Permenter

The Advent Conspiracy Sunday School Class

The Open Circle Class, the Reveille Class, and The Brew Class are coming together for a 4-week study that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday. During these four weeks, Pastor Trevor Smith will help us examine four life-changing ideas:

Spend Less - and free your resources for things that really matter.

Give More - of your presence: your hands, your words, your time, and your heart.

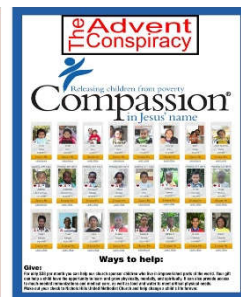
Worship Fully - because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus.

Love All - the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, and the sick in ways that make a Christian difference.



Honoring and Remembering Our Loved Ones

Christmas is a time to remember our loved ones who have passed away and to honor our loved ones who have made a difference in our lives. This year, the Altar Guild has purchased our Christmas poinsettias, but we are giving you the opportunity to help in our **Advent Conspiracy** by giving to either the John Marshall Neighborhood Market or to Compassion International. If you would like to honor someone in this way, please **circle** one of the following:



I would like to give to the

John Marshall Neighborhood Market or to **Compassion International**.

Please fill out the form and return to the church office.

Person to be remembered: _____

Person to be honored: _____

Your name: _____

Relationship of the person to you: _____

Amount of Gift: _____

Youth Christmas Party

Christmas can be one of the most joyous times of the year. It is a time to slow down, gather your family and friends and remember what is truly important in life. One of the best ways to do that is to have a Christmas party, and the youth will be doing exactly that on Sunday December 11th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We will be having food, watching a movie, and we may even go look at Christmas lights. If you have a youth in your family, encourage them to join us for the Christmas party!

-Matt



Rev. Matt Patrick

Children's Ministry

We are so excited to let you know that the kids will be singing in the 10:50 Worship Service on December 18th! We will practice with Michael Wylder during Sunday school on December 4th, December 11th, and December 18th, so please make sure kids attend Sunday school so they can learn and practice the songs!

Later that afternoon on December 18th, we will have a Birthday Party for Jesus! The party will start at 4:00 p.m. We would love for you to bring a gift for the John Marshall Neighborhood Market and your favorite Christmas treat! We will have a fun craft for the kids to do! I would love to see you and your family there!

I hope you all are ready for the holidays and getting in the Christmas spirit! See you all on Sunday!

-Madison



Madison Chilless

Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion

We are happy to introduce you to one of our newest additions, Phyllis Davenport. She is married and has four children, two boys and two girls. Phyllis graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. She has lived in Oklahoma City for the last twenty years. She loves being a mother, shopping, going to the movies, reading, and spending quality time with her family. Her favorite sport is basketball, but she enjoys football too. Her favorite teams are OU, the Thunder, and the Dallas Cowboys. Join us in welcoming Phyllis to The Learning Center.

-Denise



Phyllis Davenport

Birthday Party for Jesus

What makes Christmas meaningful to you? Is it spending hours buying gifts that your family and friends really don't need, or is it something else? What could make this Christmas different?

Join us on **Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Jesus' birthday! Children, adults, friends, and relatives, are all invited! It will be a wonderful time!

We will enjoy Christmas treats and sing Christmas carols, and the children will enjoy fun crafts.

To celebrate Jesus' birthday we invite you to bring a gift for our John Marshall Neighborhood Market to give high school students the necessities they need. Some examples are small to normal size containers of deodorant, body lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and large packages of granola bars, cereal bars, protein bars, bars of soap, and feminine hygiene products.

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, have wonderful fellowship, eat yummy treats, help our neighbors in need, and make this Christmas different!



Manage Your Giving Online And Use Our QR Code

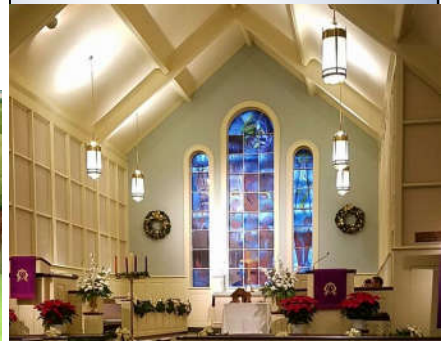
Nichols Hills United Methodist Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Visit the church website at www.nicholshillsumc.org. Click on the blue *Make A Donation* button. Then follow the online instructions.

We also have a QR Code that you can scan with your cell phone to donate. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Glass at the church 405-842-1486.



Thank you!

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for Advent. The church looks wonderful!



Birthdays

| | |
|-------|---------------------|
| 12/02 | Matt Patrick |
| 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 |

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



NICHOLS HILLS
united methodist church

1212 Bedford Drive / Nichols Hills, OK 73116
www.nicholshillsumc.org / 405-842-1486

Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.



Christmas is coming. Deck the halls, peace on earth, and all that stuff. Christmas is: family, love, home, joy, wonderful, cookies, fruitcake, sweaters, crowded malls, this year's i-Phone, 10 office parties, tacky ornaments, long return lines, credit cards, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts.

Take a step back. Breathe. Remember what Christmas is about. Right now, you stand in line to buy things others don't need, while others must stand in line because they can't afford the things they need. Right now you spend hours at Christmas parties you don't want to attend. What if you spent more time with your family... you know, the ones you love.

Let's be honest. More stuff doesn't make us happy. Maybe it is better to give than to receive. What if you bought one less gift this year and gave the money to someone in need? You could give children books so they can learn to read or give a community seeds so they can grow food. The money you spend on postage could feed a third world child for an entire year. There is so much good to do, but only you can do it. This Christmas could be different. Spend less. Give more. Worship Fully. Love all.

Join us for **The Advent Conspiracy** at *Nichols Hills United Methodist Church* on Sunday at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. as we prepare to celebrate Christmas in a remarkable new way.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| December 4 | <i>The Way of Peace</i> |
| December 11 | <i>Songs of Joy</i> |
| December 18 | <i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i> |
| December 24 | <i>The Light Shines in the Darkness</i> |
| December 25 | <i>What Child Is This?</i> |

Christmas Eve
**CANDLELIGHT
SERVICES**

December 24, 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.



Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
1212 Bedford Drive / Nichols Hills, OK 73116
405-842-1486 / nicholshillsumc.org

This Christmas Eve, connect to the Christmas story like never before. Journey to **the manger** to celebrate the joy and hope that surrounds the miracle of Christmas. It's a chance to hear beautiful Christmas music and old familiar carols with family, friends, and neighbors. Listen as the cherished Christmas Story of Jesus' birth comes alive through music and scripture in the warm glow of candlelight. We will conclude our service with our cherished tradition of passing the lighted candles as we sing ***Silent Night***. It's a Christmas tradition you will not want to miss!

Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.



Art Auction

A beautiful Nick Berry painting has been generously donated to the church to be auctioned. The benefits from this auction will be used to help support our ministries of the John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Compassion International. The painting is an 8 X 10 oil on canvas with custom frame, depicting a statue of Jesus Christ. It is titled, *He Walks With Us*. This painting would normally sell for \$1,300.

Our silent auction will begin this Sunday morning, December 4. The painting will be set up in the Narthex for viewing, along with bid sheets.

Chicago Mission Trip

At Nichols Hills United Methodist Church, we believe that it is important to not only build the kingdom of God within in our own community but to also pour into other communities around the world. We have an opportunity coming up this Spring for you to travel to Chicago to accomplish that mission with us. Over Spring Break, we are planning a mission trip to serve for one week at the United Church of Rogers Park in northern Chicago. While there, we will serve at the church's after school program, prepare a community garden and help with assorted maintenance tasks around the church. If you are interested in coming, please review the following information and plan on joining Matt Patrick for an info meeting on Sunday, December 11th at 12:15 p.m.

When? Saturday, March 11th to Friday, March 17th

Where? We will be staying and serving at the United Methodist Church of Rogers Park in Northeastern Chicago, which at one point in the last decade was the most ethnically diverse zip code in the United States. There is a great need in this neighborhood and we will partner with the local Methodist Church.

Cost? The cost is \$350. A \$150 deposit is due on Wednesday, January 15th, 2017 and final payment is due on Monday, March 6th.

How will we get there? We will be taking a van or two and driving to Chicago. It is about a 12 hour drive.

What will we do? We will serve together to help run the after school kids program, do building maintenance and help get the community garden ready for Spring planting.

What fun things will we do? We will get plenty of time to see Chicago. We will have options to go to the Willis Tower, (formerly the Sears Tower) The Navy Pier, and many other options.

What is our purpose? Our purpose is to share the love of Jesus Christ in meaningful ways that make a Christian difference to the people of the Rogers Park.

Why should I go on this trip? God calls us to minister to "the least of these who are members of my family." This is an opportunity for you to serve God and others and to make a Christian difference in the world and in your own life.

Why am I needed on this trip? We need a diverse group of persons. If you have carpentry skills, you are needed. If you can are willing to learn how to fix things, you are needed. If you are willing to help God's people, you are needed. If you can handle money, you are needed. If you love God and want to share God's love with others, you are needed. We will teach you what you need to know.

How Can I sign up? Read and sign the Mission Policy Agreement and fill out all necessary forms that will be provided upon your request. Be sure to turn your money in on time.

Questions? Contact Rev. Matt Patrick at 918-978-9102 or mpatrick9376@gmail.com

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit Number 1226
Oklahoma City, OK



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

The Brew Class: *Meets in the Room 131* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we study *The Advent Conspiracy*. For more information about "The Brew" please contact: Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - The KIVA Sunday School Class is having Our Christmas Book Review hosted by Jean Ann and Reid Robinson. This is really neat and everyone looks forward to having them do this. Also, thanks to Jean Ann and Reid Robinson.
Leader: Hank Bradley.

Reveille Class: *Meets in the Library* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we study *The Advent Conspiracy*. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

Open Circle Class: *Meets in the Archives Room* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we study *The Advent Conspiracy*. Teacher: John Marshall.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Youth Basement* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God.
Leaders: Rev. Matt Patrick and Matt Eales.

Second Graders through Fifth Graders: *Meets in the Children's Area*. Join us for a fun time with your friends as we grow closer to God and each other. Ministry Intern: Laley Braucher.

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.
Director of Children's Ministry: Madison Chilless

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor
Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor
Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music
Madison Chilless, Director of Children's Ministry
Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Antone Godding, Organist
Kathy Smith, Treasurer
Louise Glass, Financial Secretary

Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center
Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian
Alfred Walker, Sunday Host
Laley Braucher, Ministry Intern
Rachel Spear, Nursery Attendant
Shendra Stevens, Nursery Attendant
Randall Blair, Sunday Host

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
405-842-1486 • 405.843.1835 Fax • www.nicholshillsumc.org
The Learning Center (T.L.C.): 405-842-5325