

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Holy Moments

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ "Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹

which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." -*Luke 2:25-32*

God gives us holy moments in our lives. God nudges us and speaks to us, but we have to listen. I have gone to church camp for many years, and on the first night of each of those church camps, I would tell the boys in my cabin what Ferris Bueller once said, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around every once in a while, you could miss it." Then, I would tell them that God was going to do something special in their lives that week, and I invited them to really take advantage of the opportunities they had to grow in their relationship with God. I will tell you the same thing.

We can miss the holy moments in our lives if we are not paying attention. Do you slow down and pay attention? If you slow down and listen, you'll find yourself right in the middle of something God is doing. You'll find that there is someone who needs you to listen to them and pay attention. You'll find that there is someone who God wants to have speak into your life if you'll just listen. You'll find that you end up in just the right place at just the right time for what God wants you to see and experience if you're just paying attention.

That's what happened with Simeon. He was paying attention that day. He made no excuses. He felt like God wanted him to go to the Temple, and he walked the hour long journey to the Temple Courts. While he was there he saw a young couple come in with their box and their baby boy, and he heard a voice say, "It's this family." He approached them. He looked at the baby and announced "This is the long awaited Messiah."

On Sunday, we're going to see the holy moments God gave to Simeon and Anna by letting them see the long awaited Messiah. I hope you will plan to worship with us at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. as we continue our *Christmas Stories* sermon series.

I want to share one more holy moment with you that I experienced on our Consecration Sunday. As I watched so many people come and place their Estimate of Giving Card on the altar, I sensed a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the people in our church. I want to thank you for your generosity. It is exciting to see the wonderful way so many people in our church are growing in generosity. On Sunday I shared with you that 73 persons/families have turned in an Estimate of Giving Card. 34 of those persons/families made a more generous commitment than they did the year before. 18 persons/families made a commitment this year that did not make one last year. That means that 52 of the 73 families or persons who turned in an Estimate of Giving Card are growing in generosity. If you were not able to be with us on Consecration Sunday or if you have not taken time to consider what percentage of your income God is calling you to give, I hope you will do that this week. May God bless you, and may you open your eyes to see the holy moments God is giving to you.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, December 13

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Wednesday, December 16

The Learning Center Music Program at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 20

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Thursday, December 24

Family Friendly Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 5:00
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas! 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.

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,
and Bonnie Miller

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown
Anita Dahlgren

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann and Tom Flesher,
Jess and 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.



Matt Patrick

I wanted to take this moment to thank all of you for your support of this new venture and to ask that you would continue supporting it through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Wednesday, December 9 is our last meeting of the semester, but *Nichols Thrills* will be back next year sometime in January. I invite you to come and participate with us as we continue to grow together in our journey of faith.

Blessings,
Matt

Nichols Thrills

In August, we launched a Wednesday night ministry called *Nichols Thrills* for children, youth, and adults. We have been providing a meal and small group opportunities every Wednesday during the Fall season. It has been a great joy and privilege to see all of the spiritual growth that has taken place throughout our small groups. We have been going through the Alpha Course, which takes an in-depth look at some of the foundational ideas of our faith.



Cocoa and Caroling

Sometimes in this season we forget to take a breath and spend time with God preparing our hearts for the birth of our Lord Jesus. We

had a wonderful time on Sunday evening singing favorite carols that hold special places in our hearts. Cocoa and Caroling



Lauren Matthes

was a wonderful way to begin our Christmas celebrations. I hope you have many opportunities to find that place of peace to breath and prepare your heart for all the joy and wonder that God so graciously provides in this beautiful time of year.



We Are The Church

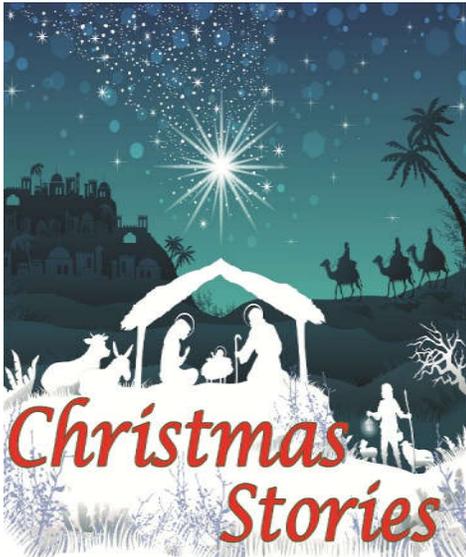
Our church makes a Christian difference through the many wonderful people in our congregation and staff. This week, Ben and Katie Dickey share with us about their life and how Nichols Hills U.M.C. has blessed them.

Our family moved to Oklahoma City from Kansas City in 2012, and we have been blessed with two boys, Marshall, age 3 and Evan, age 1. Ben works for Cerner, a Health Care and Technology company. He primarily works with Oklahoma Heart and Integris Health, helping them connect providers with patients to promote a healthy community. He has had the opportunity to work all over the U.S. and in Europe. Katie is a Physician Assistant. She attended Missouri State and shortly after graduating, returned home to Oklahoma. She is employed by Mercy Health and works in family practice. As a family, we love spending time outside playing at the park. We love to travel as much as possible with two small boys. We recently got back from a trip to the beach where Marshall and Evan got to see the ocean for the first time.



We are thankful for the warm reception we have received from Nichols Hills United Methodist Church. We look forward to worship each Sunday and are eager to work along side our members and community to show God's love to Nichols Hills and Oklahoma City.

We are happy to have Ben, Katie, Marshall, and Evan in our Nichols Hills U.M.C. family!



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.

December 13 *Simeon and Anna's Story*

December 20 *The Shepherds' Story*

December 24 *Mary and Joseph's Story*

Thank You

Thank you to all who have turned in the Estimate of Giving cards! If you haven't turned one in and would like to, please call the church office at 405-842-1486, and we will get one to you.

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30



Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

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!

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service

Thursday, December 24

5:00 p.m. (family-friendly) and 7:00 p.m.

Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.



Tidbits from The Learning Center



The Learning Center has a new teacher named, Tanya (pronounced Tonya) Dunlap. Below, Tanya shares with us about her life

I am an early childhood teacher with 33 years of experience. I have a Child Development Associate certificate and plan on returning to OSU-OKC to work on my associate degree in Early Childhood education. My family consists of six children and five grandchildren. My hobbies are reading and spending time with my family. I enjoy seeing children learn and watching their joy in exploring their world. I am pleased to be a part of The Learning Center family.

We are grateful to have Tanya with us at The Learning Center! Please help us welcome her to our wonderful program!

Serving In Ministry December 13

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

The coffee hosts are Charlette and Jerry Perryman.

Chancel Flower Sponsorships Available

January 10, 17, and 24 are available for flower sponsorship. Reserve your special dates now to honor or remember loved ones. The cost to sponsor chancel flowers is \$70.50 for two arrangements per Sunday. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the church office.

December and January Birthdays

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
01/01	Lisa Franklin
01/01	Lauren Harrah
01/03	Michael Dean
01/04	Graham Jones Anesha Smith
01/05	Bill Alexander Lynn Greene Anne Holbrook Brenda McDaniel Morgan Smith
01/06	Sayde Saunders
01/07	Sherron Evans
01/10	Ian Jones
01/12	Garrett Fraley
01/13	Pam Eales Joan Payne
01/14	Maddy Davis

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: Nichols Thrills will start again in January.

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* - Tom and Brenda McDaniel will speak on Servant Leadership. 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 subject of our class lesson is, "What is an acceptable offering?" Leviticus 22:17-25, 31-32 is the scripture for the lesson. "So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God." Each of us should ask ourselves, "Is my offering a sacrifice or a tip? Even waiters expect 15%. 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.

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