



March 2, 2016

Volume 24, Issue 60

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Encourage One Another

The Letter to the Hebrews is really a sermon, and the writer is a wonderful pastor who is trying to revive a church. It used to be a wonderful church, but something has happened. For some of the people, the former life is looking better. We all go through this. Faith causes problems. At first they just said, "Believe in Jesus." But then they said, "Now carry the cross."

"I didn't know it was going to be this hard to be a Christian."

The church was facing some persecution, but usually persecution strengthens a church.

The Hebrews pastor is preaching to a congregation that had lost its enthusiasm for the faith. Attendance was down at this church. The people in this congregation had just stopped caring. Oh, they had Vacation Bible School several years ago. They used to have a youth group. Back in their glory days the Sunday school rooms were full. But now, they are just kind of going through the motions.

What was the problem with this church? This church had fallen prey to the sin that was known in Hebrew as *Akedia*. It is usually translated *sloth*, but it really means *to be unconcerned, uncaring, or disinterested*. They just stopped caring. The church was tired. Now, being tired is not usually a theological category, but you should never say, "I was just tired." You're a different person when you're tired. You have a more explosive temper and a shorter fuse. This church was bone-weary tired. Most of the people who turn in the keys don't have a sharp pain but a dull ache all over.

The pilgrimage was longer than they thought it would be. They had believed that Jesus would return during their lifetime. Where is the promise of his coming? "I didn't think it would be this long." This church had lost its *Amen*. It doesn't care anymore, and the members of this church are not on their knees praying for faith.

And yet this church has a pastor who makes a huge effort to save a church and restore its joy. The pastor of this church cares for the church and loves the church. Everything he does and writes is out of care. This pastor cares so much about these people that he makes a huge effort to save the church and restore its joy.

Why does the pastor try to save this church? Why doesn't he just let them go? Some pastors do that. Some pastors are content to just let apathy take over. But this pastor won't let his congregation simply drift away. This pastor makes a huge attempt to call them back because he cares.

In Hebrews 10:24-25, he writes, ²⁴ *And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,* ²⁵ *not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* The word *provoke* means *to irritate or pester*. It is the opposite of just leaving someone alone. When you really care about someone, you can't just sit by and leave them alone. Care is raw. Care interferes. Care intrudes, disrupts, even says the wrong thing. Care never lets anyone go completely.

Stop and think for a minute. How can you encourage someone in your life to grow in faith in Jesus Christ?

I hope you will encourage someone you know to come with you this Sunday to worship at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. as we continue our sermon series on ***The Final Week*** by talking about the way Jesus ate at the home of Simon the Leper and welcomed the woman who anointed him with oil. We'll also take a closer look at why Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, March 6

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Children's Choir Sings in Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Henderson Settlement Mission Trip Meeting at 12:15 p.m.
Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9

Nichols Thrills Meal at 5:30 p.m.
Catch at 5:30 p.m.
Financial Peace University at 5:30

Thursday, March 10

The Learning Center Behavior and Guidance Training at 4:30

Sunday, March 13

Daylight Savings Time
Spring Forward One Hour

Maundy Thursday, March 24

Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30

Good Friday, March 25

Tenebrae Service at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 27

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Family Breakfast at 9:45 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15 a.m.

Tuesday, March 29

John Marshall High School
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

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

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Follow us on Twitter!***

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 **March 20 and all of April.**

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: Brenda McDaniel, Mary Ann Carmichael, Janet Jones, Bette MacKellar, Carol Magness, and Jean Warner.

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Bill and Katie Alexander,
Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby,
and Bonnie Miller

Town Village

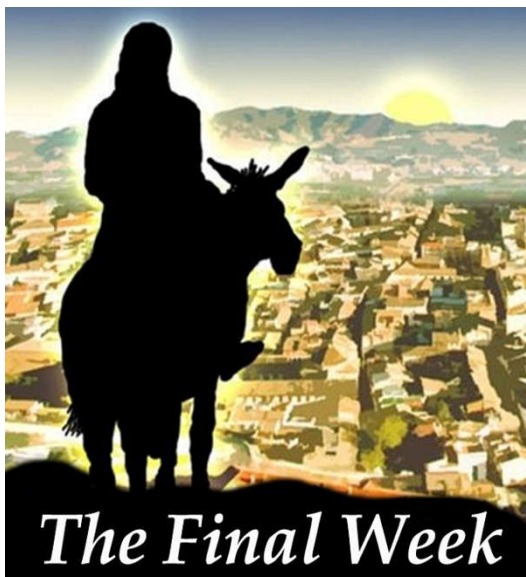
Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown
Anita Dahlgren

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann and Tom Flesher,
Jess and Bette Harris,
Beth and Dale Jordan, Frances Lewis,
Joye McLain David Mueller,
Maxine Permenter, and Gene Wheeler



The Final Week

This Lent join us on a remarkable journey retracing the events of the last six days of Jesus' life. Each week Pastor Trevor Smith will take us to Jerusalem, helping us recall the words Jesus spoke and the things that Jesus did leading up to his crucifixion.

Bring a friend and join us for worship on Sundays at 8:30 or 10:50 as we deepen our understanding and grow in our faith, traveling through ***The Final Week.***

March 6 *Spy Wednesday*
March 13 *Maundy Thursday*
March 20 *Good Friday*

Making Guests Feel Welcome



Matt Patrick

This week in our *Catch* class, we will be talking about ways in which we can make guests feel more welcome within our church. One of the best ways to do this is to understand what it means to be *radically* hospitable. Radical hospitality is going beyond what is expected. It is expected that we have coffee and donuts available as a church. Many churches offer that in our culture. It is expected that we be friendly.

So, what does it mean to go above and beyond? Radical hospitality is having greeters at all of our doors and even out in the parking lot to help people feel welcomed from the moment they arrive. Radical hospitality is giving a first time guest a gift from our church and giving them a tour of our building. Radical hospitality is following up with a letter or phone call after they visit our church. These are some of the ways in which Nichols Hills U.M.C. can go beyond what is expected to make people feel at home. I hope you will consider joining us for the remainder of the *Catch* class. You can jump in any time! You are welcome!

Blessings,
Matt

Children's Ministry

How can we hear God speak? Every Sunday we talk about God sightings that some of the children saw throughout the week, at school, at the park, at home, or at church.

This Sunday in Children's Church our children are going to learn about how we can hear God. God created us all individually and uniquely, and He talks to us in a unique and special way. God can speak to us through song, an image, a dream, or through nature. This can be a great way we talk to the children about their gifts and discuss the way God communicates with them. We can also learn about the ways God spoke to some of the heroes throughout the Bible. I think this will be a great way to help our children to begin to see how God is at work in their lives.



Madison Chilless

-Madison

Henderson Settlement Mission Trip

Join Pastor Trevor Smith and Pastor Matt Patrick for an informational meeting on Sunday, March 6 at 12:15 p.m. about our Mission Trip to Frakes, Kentucky on July 16 through July 23.

We will be working at Henderson Settlement, a United Methodist Mission, whose purpose is to meet the very basic human needs of people in southeast Kentucky and northeast Tennessee. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining us as we help those in need. Stay tuned for more details!



We Are The Church

Our church makes a Christian difference through the many wonderful people and staff in our congregation. This week, Jessica Castoe shares with us about their her life and how Nichols Hills U.M.C. will be a blessing to her.

Hello. My name is Jessica Castoe, and I am from Glenpool Oklahoma. I am a Junior at U.C.O. majoring in Kinesiology, and I hope to one day become a Physical Therapist for the military. I was invited to Nichols Hills by Monica Farquhar, as we met through our sorority. I am here to help the kids grow spiritually in the Lord and have fun while growing in their faith.

We are very excited to have Jessica in our Nichols Hills U.M.C. staff and family!



Skyline Urban Ministry Donation Request

Toilet paper is the greatest need that Skyline Urban Ministry has right now, and so Nichols Hills U.M.C. is collecting toilet paper to donate to them. The last day for donations will be Sunday, March 20. Thank you for helping Skyline to “impact lives, empower those in need, and address the roots of poverty in Oklahoma.”



Tidbits from The Learning Center

The Learning Center has special celebrations that we enjoy with the children throughout the year. This week is the birthday of one of our favorite authors, Dr. Seuss, also known as Theodore Seuss Geisel. All across America children read his books and share in the delight of his rhymes, whimsy and silliness. Many of the classrooms will have activities like Crazy Sock Day; *Thing One, Thing Two* Day; Silly Hair Day; Unique Birthday Cakes; and so on. These activities are the memory makers for young children. *Cat in the Hat*, *Hop on Pop*, *Green Eggs and Ham* are just some of the standard reading material that delights young children’s imagination. Needless to say, we will have some interesting cooking activities going on as well. Here are some fun photos from last year’s celebration. We will make new memories all week.



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

March 6

The coffee hosts are Bruce and Cara Fraley.

Birthdays

03/08	Jack Berry
03/11	G. T. Blankenship Lauren Heflin Marilyn Keller
03/15	Lydia Hunt Gordon Ryan
03/16	Kathryn Guerra
03/17	Gene Wheeler
03/19	Mary Ann Carmichael
03/20	Kneely Buxton Caleb Magness
03/21	Becky Sims
03/22	Stephanie Henry
03/24	Dick Graves Helen Sullivan Russell Walker
03/27	Buzz McDaniel
03/28	Tom Flesher, Jr. Layton Hill, IV Drake Parsons Charlette Perryman Bruce Rosier Dick Webber
03/29	Ann Brown Judith Flesher
03/31	Preston Parsons

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

John Marshall High School Dinner

**Rescheduled to Tuesday,
March 29 at 6:30 p.m.**

We are pleased to again honor the Winter and Spring sports athletes and coaches from John Marshall High School with a dinner and program. The date has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m. We will need 50 people to decorate, greet, serve in the kitchen, wait tables, host table, etc. Please sign up in the Narthex or by calling the church office, 405-842-1486.

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

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

The Brew Class: *Meets in the Room 131* - The Brew is studying Adam Hamilton's book, *Love to Stay*. Teachers: Tim and Christie Baker.
Tim (405) 209-5467 and Christie (405) 922-5154

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - Bill Bowden is bringing John Starkey, Professor of Theology at O.C.U. to speak to the class.
Leaders: Buzz McDaniel and Linda Rosser McDaniel.

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* - Consistent with focusing on the thirty-five Miracles of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we will study "Healing a Paralytic" in Matthew 9:2-5. Week by week for the past seven weeks, we have now completed seven lessons dealing seven miracles. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 will another scripture. Verse 2: "The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying. "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."
Teacher: John Marshall.

Roundtable Class: *Meets in Room 124* - March 6 the Roundtable Class is studying Mark 9:14-29. This tells the story of the disciples attempting to cure a sick child, but couldn't. Jesus told them they needed the power of prayer. Our lesson stresses the importance of the role of prayer in acting faithfully. Join our group as our teacher, Dr. Jerry Perryman, leads our discussion. 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. Leaders: Rev. Matt Patrick and Matt Eales.

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.
Children's Director: Madison Chilless.

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

Kathy Smith, Bookkeeper/Treasurer
Louise Glass, Financial Secretary
Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian
Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center
Alfred Walker, Sunday Host
Randall Blair, Sunday Host

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