

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Lessons from My Flowerbeds

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned." *John 15:1-6*

Over the last several weeks I have spent a lot of time working in the flowerbeds at my house. First, I worked on digging out all of the old mulch and the dead leaves and debris that fell into the flowerbeds last winter. Then, my dad helped me cut out some bushes and dig out a tree stump. Next, we attacked the overgrown nandinas and cut out many of them in order to give shape to the ones that remained. There is still much to do including removing a few more bushes, trimming back the crepe myrtle trees, planting new flowers and bushes, and laying down new mulch.

Working in my flowerbeds has helped me think about the work we are called to do to build up and grow the church. As Jesus taught his disciples, we are called to bear good fruits and works of ministry.

In his book, *Renovate or Die*, Bob Farr shares six common factors for churches who have begun a new season of ministry.

1. They embrace extraordinary risk and change in order to shift from declining ministry to increased fruitfulness.
2. The primary vision, spiritual energy, leadership, and motivation comes from the local congregation rather than from the annual conference or the denomination.
3. These churches are blessed with excellent pastoral leadership.
4. These churches enjoy streamlined structure and a more permission-giving environment than most mainline churches.
5. They actively engage in one or more community or global outreach ministries that have a significant impact on the lives of people.
6. Most importantly, each has experienced a radical change of attitude, a new clarity of mission, a taste of excellence, and they follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit toward the fulfillment of that mission wherever it leads. They reprioritize ministry, realign resources, reconfigure staff, redefine worship, reorganize structures, and remit to the mission of Christ. With a focus on fruitfulness, they stop doing things that don't work, change things that could work better, and create ministries that reach the mission field around them. They become new creatures in Christ, letting the old pass away and embracing the new.

As I read through this list, I couldn't help but think of Nichols Hills United Methodist Church. In the first half of 2015, we have been engaging in most of things Bob highlights above. Much like my work in the flowerbeds, the Holy Spirit is leading our church through changes that will help us to bear much fruit through our works of ministry.

I hope you will join us for worship on Sunday at 8:30 or 10:50 as we continue our *Elijah* sermon series by talking about how God calls us to turn away from our idolatry and worship and serve the One True God. I'll see you at church.

Blessings,
Trevor

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 28

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, June 29

Mission Committee at 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 1

Church Council at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 2

Open Bible Study at Noon

Friday, July 3

NHUMC Offices and
The Learning Center Closed

Ronald "Buzz" McDaniel and
Linda Rosser wedding at 4:00

Sunday, July 5

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.

Monday, July 6

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.
Finance Committee at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 25

Mission Madness, 9:00 - 5:00

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

Mission Madness is Coming

Make plans to serve in ministry with our children, youth, and adults at our first Mission Madness on Saturday, July 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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. 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 **June 28, July 12, 19, and 26.** To volunteer, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

Small Groups

Sunday School Classes, 9:45 a.m.

Our classes are called the Brew, KIVA, Open Circle, Roundtable, Reveille, Youth, and Children. We hope you will participate in our classes! Descriptions of each class are located on the back page.

Youth Group

Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

Our middle school and senior high students gather for a fun time of food, fellowship, and a meaningful lesson that will help you grow in your faith.

Leaders: Matt Patrick and Matt Eales

Open Bible Study

Thursdays at 12:00 p.m.

Join us as we learn what the Bible teaches us about how to live out our faith in the world. Teacher: Jack High

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

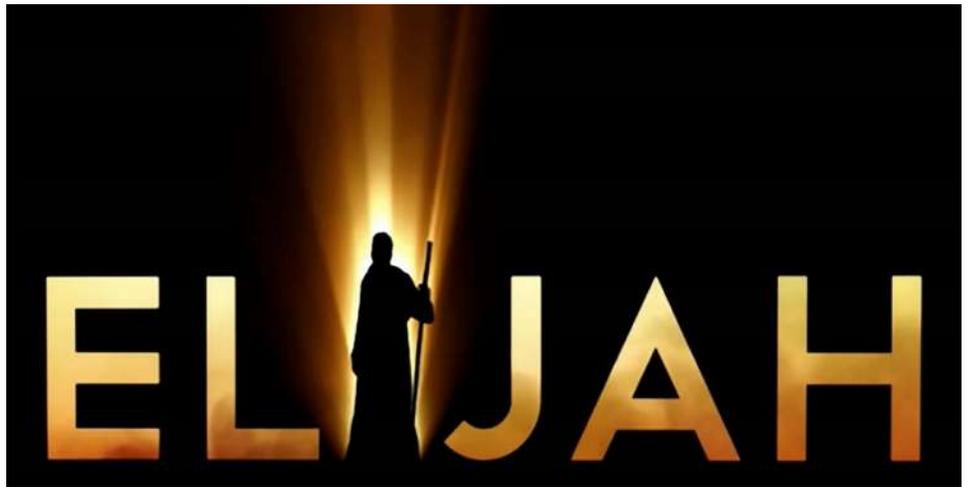
Bill and Katie Alexander, Joanne Crosby

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

At Home

Barney and Virginia Brown,
Roger Eling, Beth & Dale Jordan,
Frances Lewis, Joye McLain
David Mueller, Barbara Sullivan,
and Gene Wheeler



The land is parched.
People are starving.
The king and queen want you dead.

When the world around us is spinning out of control, where do we turn?

Meet Elijah and learn how God can work through the toughest times in your life.

Join us at *Nichols Hills United Methodist Church* at 8:30 or 10:50 on Sunday mornings as we learn from **Elijah**.

June 28 *Which God Do You Serve?*

July 5 *Elijah's Prayer*

July 12 *Dealing with Depression*

Walking the Ancient Path



There is a book that I have been reading recently called *The Ancient Path* by a monk named John Michael Talbot. Essentially, Talbot writes about trying to walk the path God has already walked by doing the things God has already done. I have been very enlightened recently by this idea. Many times in our lives, we struggle with God's will for our lives. We cry out to God and ask what exactly it is that we are to do. I have known people that have struggled with that question for years. However, God's will may not be so complicated. Everyday, we should be walking the ancient path that God has already walked. If we feel called to do something that

God has not already done, then God probably isn't calling us to do it. We know the paths that God has walked. We can look at the life of Jesus and see that he loved, healed, fed, clothed, and quenched. We can see that he sought justice, showed mercy and walked humbly with God. We should strive to do likewise. Don't get hung up on the specifics. If you feel called to something and it matches up with the path God has already walked, then pursue with everything you've got.

Blessings,

Matt Patrick

Job Opening

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church is currently seeking to fill the following positions:

Director of Children's Ministry to lead a dynamic children's ministry. Part-time.

For more information, please contact Dr. Trevor Smith at 405-842-1486, or visit our website at www.nicholshillsumc.org. Send resumes to revtrevor@gmail.com or 1212 Bedford Drive, Nichols Hills, OK 73116.



We Are the Church

Our church makes a Christian difference through the many wonderful people in our congregation. This week, Jerry Jennings shares with us about her life and how N.H.U.M.C. has blessed her.

Jerry grew up in Enid, Oklahoma and later attended the University of Oklahoma. After graduating, she became an airline stewardess for American Airlines. She flew all over the United States and to Mexico City. Jerry married Bill Jennings in 1950. Bill was then recalled to the Air Force. He and Jerry were stationed in Louisiana and in France. After serving in the Air Force, they moved back to Bill's hometown, Healdton, Oklahoma, for a few years and then moved to Oklahoma City. They joined Nichols Hills United Methodist Church in 1960. Jerry said that they loved raising their five daughters at N.H.U.M.C., and she is proud of her 11 grandchildren and 3 great-granddaughters. Jerry is excited about our new senior minister, Dr. Trevor Smith, and the remodel of the "Mother's Nursing Room" into the "Sacristy Kitchen." Jerry currently serves at the church as a newsletter folder and as a rider in the van for the B.I.G. Kids program.



Tidbits from The Learning Center

We had our wonderful dads come by last Friday for Donuts for Dads. Orange juice and donut holes were self-served. The come and go event was an opportunity to let our dads know how much we appreciate them. Also last week we had a special team building activity at Paint and Cheer. Eleven staff members painted the same picture which will be hung in the hallway. Please come by and see the uniqueness of each picture. We found some hidden talents in this activity as well as getting to spend quality time together. One of the families from T.L.C. owns and operates Paint and Cheer which made the activity even more special. Our school-age children (Sharks) went to Skate Galaxy last Thursday. Circle of Care loaned us their van so we could safely shuttle the children. We are so grateful to Don Batson for sharing his organization's vehicle. Thank you Don! This week the Sharks are going to the Orr Family Farm. We will send photos next week! Only six more weeks of summer session. It is flying by.



Donuts for Dads



Our school-age children at Skate Galaxy

Mission Madness Meeting

Please join us on **Monday, June 29th at 3:00** to help plan Mission Madness which will take place on Saturday, July 25. Mission Madness will have mission activities for all ages both at our church and at off-site locations. Our focus will be on getting our children, youth, and adults to work together to make a Christian difference in our community. We invite you to take part in the planning and in serving at Mission Madness. I know that this day will bless our church family.

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to invite anyone to help us plan a great Mission Madness. Let me know if you would like to serve at Mission Madness.

Thank you.

Stephanie Henry, Co-Chairperson Missions Committee

Chancel Flower

Sponsorships Available

September 6, 13, and 20 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.

Mission Candle

Sponsorships Available

August 2, 9, 16, and 23 are available for mission candle sponsorship. Sponsorships of \$25 per Sunday for the mission candle help support our missionary, Rev. Meri Whitaker. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the church office.

June/July Birthdays

06/27	Mary Forster
06/29	George Malone
07/01	Carla Hill
07/03	Delaney Bradley Tom Klos
07/04	Will Malone Pam Shdeed
07/06	Ronald Elkins
07/07	Sue Goodman Jane Harlow Allyson Smith
07/09	Melita James James Meyerson Michael Palmer
07/10	Nathaneal Crownover
07/11	Torie Carbajal
07/14	Bret Davis Steve Dickey William Sexton
07/15	David Brown
07/17	Margaret Wells
07/18	Jan Womack
07/20	Owen Lafferty
07/21	Stuart, Jr. Hunt

Serving In Ministry - June 21

The mission candle is lit by Bill Shdeed in honor of Pam's 70th birthday on the 4th of July.

The chancel flowers are given by General Bill Bowden in honor of his daughter, Marjorie.

Volunteer Opportunity

We are in need of someone to join our newsletter folding team! We meet on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. to fold the newsletters. Come and enjoy some good fellowship as we help get the good news out to our church. If this sounds like the opportunity for you, please contact the church at 405-842-1486.

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

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Adult Sunday Class News

The Brew Class: (*Meets in the Adult Bible Class room*) - *Bringing the Bible Into Today's World* - Looking for a class that combines today's world with the history of the Bible? Come join us for open discussion on how the teachings of the bible influence our lives in today's world. This class is studying Bill Hybel's *Just Walk Across the Room*. The class discussion includes how the Bible applies to current events in our world. Teachers, Tim and Christie Baker. Tim (405) 209-5467 and Christie (405) 922-5154

KIVA Class: (*Meets in the Parlor*) - Bob Ford will speak on "How I survived Vietnam as a chopper pilot - my story." Leaders, Ken and Linda Howell

Open Circle Class: (*Meets in the Archives room*) - Part of the lesson last week involved an organizational review of the Books of the Old Testament. This week we will do an organizational review of the Books of the New Testament plus touch on the period between the Old and New Testaments from Malachi to Matthew. Our Scriptures for study: Mark 5:21-43 and Samuel 1:1 & 17-27. John Marshall, Teacher

Roundtable Class: (*Meets across from the Parlor*) - In Amos 8:1-6 and 9-10, the prophet advises us to heed God's warnings and be aware of the danger of ignoring them. He writes, "Amos, what do you see?" I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the Lord said to me, "I will never again forgive them." Compare this with a later lesson from Micah 7:14-20. Join us as Dr. Perryman leads us. Jerry Perryman, Teacher

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor
Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music
Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant
Antonio McCarroll, Custodian
Randall Blair, Sunday Host

Matthew Patrick, Student Pastor
Dr. Antone Godding, Organist
Kathy Smith, Bookkeeper/Treasurer
Alfred Walker, Sunday Host
Denise Buthion, Director, The Learning Center

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