

# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

### Digging Ditches and Doing Ministry

So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to Elisha. <sup>13</sup> Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What have I to do with you? Go to your father's prophets or to your mother's." But the king of Israel said to him, "No; it is the LORD who has summoned us, three kings, only to be handed over to Moab." <sup>14</sup> Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, whom I serve, were it not that I have regard for King Jehoshaphat of Judah, I would give you neither a look nor a glance. <sup>15</sup> But get me a musician." And then, while the musician was playing, the power of the LORD came on him. <sup>16</sup> And he said, "Thus says the Lord: 'Make this valley full of ditches.' <sup>17</sup> For this is what the Lord says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink. <sup>18</sup> This is an easy thing in the eyes of the Lord." -II Kings 3:12b-18a

On Sunday we will continue our sermon series on *Elisha - The Miracle Prophet* by talking about a story you may have never heard before in which three kings go to ask Elisha to pray to God to send rain so that their soldiers and livestock will have water to drink. After Elisha prays, he tells the kings that God wants them to do something before God sends down rain. God tells the kings, "Make this valley full of ditches." Why would God want them to dig ditches? Well, only God can send the water, but sometimes God wants you to dig a ditch.

God wants us to understand that so often the way God works in the world is by partnering with people of great faith who trust that God will do what only God can do. We demonstrate this kind of faith through our actions. There is a sense in which God may say to us, "I want you to show me your faith, and I will show you my faithfulness."

When I talk to other pastors about Nichols Hills United Methodist Church they all tell me how much potential they believe our church has to make a Christian difference in our community and in the world. I have also listened to the hopes and dreams so many people in our church have for our church to grow by reaching out to children, youth, and families. I fully believe that God will help us realize these dreams if we are willing to do one thing. We will have to dig some ditches which means that God will call each one of us to be part of doing ministry in our church.

God may want you to invite someone you know to come to church with you.

God may want you to serve at Mission Madness this Saturday from 9:00 to 5:00.

God may want you to cook in the kitchen when we begin our Wednesday night meal this fall.

God may want you to serve in ministry with our Youth Group or our Children's Ministry.

God may want you to help our church start a new ministry that will help us minister to people to whom we are not currently ministering.

I hope you will spend some time in prayer this week asking God this important question: "Lord, how do you want to use me to serve in ministry in our church?"

I look forward to serving with you at Mission Madness on Saturday and worshipping with you on Sunday morning at 8:30 or 10:50. I hope you will invite someone you know to serve and worship with us this weekend.

Blessings,  
Trevor

### Upcoming Events

#### Sunday, July 26

Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Worship at 10:50 a.m.

#### Thursday, July 30

The Learning Center

Paint-N-Station

Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m.

#### Monday, August 3

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.

#### Sunday, August 9

*Too Busy Not to Pray* Study

begins in the KIVA Class

#### Sunday, August 23

Bring A Friend Sunday

Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Block Party, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

#### Sunday, August 30

*Simple Church* Study at 5:00

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

### Mission Madness is this week!

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. Call the church to sign-up to serve.

#### 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 **August 2, 16 and 30**. 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 grow in your faith.

Leaders: Matt Patrick and Matt Eales

#### Cares and Concerns

##### Epworth Villa

Bill and Katie Alexander,  
Maxine Ashe, Joanne Crosby

##### Town Village

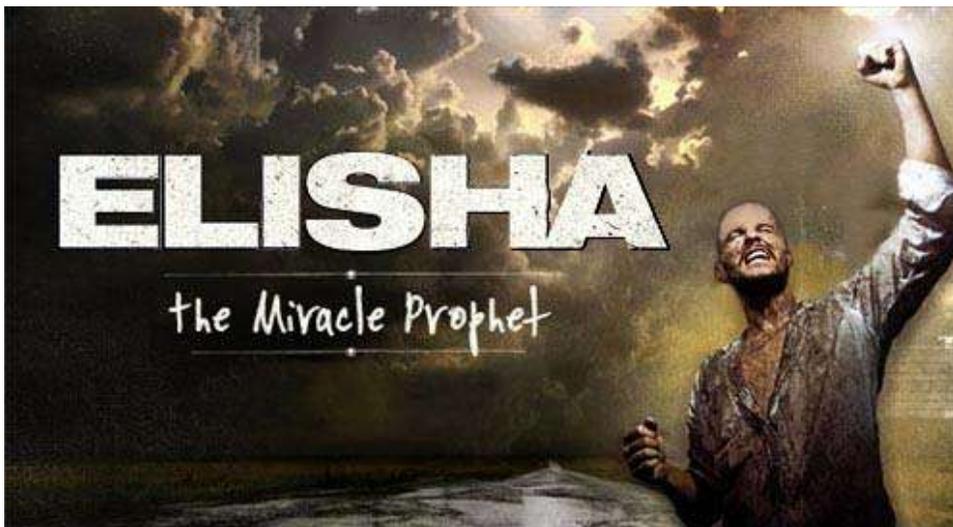
Joanna Garnett

##### The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown

##### At Home

Jereme Cloud, Roger Etling,  
Beth & Dale Jordan,  
Frances Lewis, Joye McLain  
David Mueller, Barbara Sullivan,  
and Gene Wheeler



The Lord sent his great messenger, Elijah, to anoint a prophet to follow him. God chose someone ordinary. Elijah found Elisha, a nobody, plowing his father's field.

And what was Elisha's response? He burned his plow and left everything he knew to answer God's call. Even the ordinary can be called to greatness. His very first miracle repeated his mentor's last. The rest of Elisha's life was original, surprising, bold. More miracles fill the pages of his life story than anyone's but the Son of God himself.

Join us at *Nichols Hills United Methodist Church* at 8:30 or 10:50 on Sunday mornings as we learn from *Elisha - the Miracle Prophet*.

**July 26** *Digging Ditches* • **August 2** *A Lot With a Little*  
**August 9** *Humble Healing* • **August 16** *Finding What You Lost*

## There's a Method to This Madness



While I was teaching our students in Sunday School this last Sunday, I was reminded of an important rule for spiritual growth. I taught them that there are three things that any Christian needs to incorporate into their lives in order to grow in their faith. Every Christian needs "Worship +2." In order to grow in Christ, it is important that we are in worship every week unless we are sick or out of town. Then, we need to find a place to learn and a place to serve. When we combine corporate worship with learning and service, research has indicated that we will continue to grow in faith.

This Saturday is our Mission Madness, and with all the children and adults going from place to place it will indeed be a day of madness. However, we are Methodists. We have a method for growing in our faith, and Mission Madness is a service element of our "Worship +2." We serve because Christ first served us. I look forward to this weekend together as our children, youth and adults all grow in faith through our service. If you join us on Saturday, I hope that you too will find that there is a method within the madness.

Blessings  
Matt Patrick

## Mission Madness July 25

**Nichols Hills United Methodist Church**  
invites you to serve with us at Mission Madness!

- What:** An intergenerational service event for Children (3 years to 5th grade), Youth (6th to 12th grade), and Adults of all Ages
- Where:** Our mission sites will be around the OKC Metro area. Our younger children will serve on site at N.H.U.M.C.
- When:** Saturday, July 25th, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Why:** Because we are called to make a Christian difference.

**MISSION  
MADNESS**

Invite your children, grandchildren, and friends to join us for a great day of service!

For more information or to register, contact Rev. Matt Patrick at 405.842.1486 or [mpatrick@nicholshillsumc.org](mailto:mpatrick@nicholshillsumc.org).

## We Are The Church

Our church makes a Christian difference through the many wonderful people in our congregation and on our church staff. This week, Kathy Smith, our Bookkeeper/Treasurer, is sharing with us about her life and how Nichols Hills U.M.C. has blessed her.

Kathy grew up in Oklahoma City. She celebrated 24 years of marriage with her husband, Buzz, on July 12th. In 1995, they adopted six children and raised them as their own. They are very family oriented. When Kathy isn't working, she loves spending time with her family, writing poetry and songs, and reading. Their oldest nephew calls her, "Khaki," so now all of her nieces and nephews call her, "Khaki," as well!



Buzz worked in construction for the State of Oklahoma, and Kathy has worked in accounting since she was 18. She heard about the Nichols Hills U.M.C. Bookkeeping/Treasurer position through Clark Musser. She has worked with Clark for many years through her work.

Kathy likes that Nichols Hills U.M.C. is working towards getting the younger people involved in church and the Alfred Walker Fund, which is an assistance fund set up to help people in need. She also likes "Trevor Smith's optimism and how the church is people oriented." We are so glad to have Kathy serving in ministry with us here at Nichols Hills U.M.C.

## Children and Family Ministry News

Sunday School is serious fun! My favorite quote of Sunday morning was, "Is this what Sunday School is suppose to look like? Because this is awesome!"

This weekend, we will continue to focus on how "Jesus is at work through us." We have a great opportunity to be His hands and His feet at Mission Madness on Saturday from 9 am - 5 pm. No matter your size God can use YOU to help further the kingdom. I hope you will join us for all or part of this day! Remember David was just a little boy delivering lunch to his brothers when he was called to serve God.

This week at Sunday school we will learn how the Lord gives wisdom to Deborah. I don't know about you, but learning how to gain wisdom from God is always a good lesson for me! We will have games, music, crafts and healthy snack!

Come join in the fun of learning at Sunday school! We want to connect you to the Father and inspire you to be about His business!

### Looking for a place to serve?

We have four more weeks before we kick things off in the fall. If you are available to serve in Children and Family Ministry this school year, we need to hear from you!

Do you love Jesus, like shopping, and have a desire to help NHUMC grow? The Children and Family Ministry is in need of a Supply Coordinator - someone who can take the list of our needs for the next week, purchase, organize, and set up them up for Sunday morning. No interaction with children is required. Call Lauren at [\(405\) 826-5050](tel:405-826-5050), if you are available to help!

You are a blessing,

Lauren Matthes

Director of Children and Family Ministry

## Tidbits from The Learning Center

We've been busy showing our beautiful program to many new/potential families. It is back to school time and people are visiting T.L.C. to see what we have to offer. Did you know that each week we offer quality child care and many special activities? This fall session we are adding Spanish classes to our weekly events as well as Children's Chapel. Twice a week Spanish classes will be lead by Senora Catalina and three times a week our children will go into the Sanctuary for Children's Chapel. Trevor Smith, Matt Patrick, and Lauren Matthes will each get an opportunity to lead children in prayer, a story, and a song. Our goal is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world one child and one prayer at a time. This will also give the children an opportunity to visit our beautiful sanctuary and feel the love of God. Families will be encouraged to attend if they would like to join us. We have 81 children enrolled for the fall semester which will begin on August 10. We have included some fun pictures from the Extreme Animals visit we had last Thursday. Who knew kangaroos wore diapers? It was a fun time for all as we were allowed to pet the unique animals and see them up close! In addition to the kangaroo we had an otter, an alligator, a lemur, and several other animals. You never know what you might find at The Learning Center.

### 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.

#### July Birthdays

07/22 Becky Robinson  
07/23 Janet Jones  
Beverly Pirtle  
07/24 Linda Howell  
07/28 Stella Shdeed  
07/30 Phillip Rosier  
07/31 Nancy Bradley  
Kristin Byrdsong  
Matt Eales  
John Griffin

#### Serving In Ministry - July 26

The coffee host will be Nick Berry.

The mission candle will be lit by Mary Ann Carmichael in memory of her sister, Jody Carmichael.

The chancel flowers will be given by John and Kathy Griffin honoring their daughter Katie upon graduating her urology residency at the University of Texas-Houston.

#### Skyline Clothes 4 Kids

Morgan Smith helping with Skyline's Clothes 4 Kids.



#### The Learning Center

Extreme Animals



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

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## Sunday School News

**The Brew Class:** *Meets in the Adult Bible Class room* 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* - Allen Evans will introduce Cynda Ottaway, who will speak on the "End of Life Legal Planning".  
Leaders: Allen and Sherron Evans.

**Open Circle Class:** *Meets in the Archives room* - One of our scriptures for focus is 2 Samuel 11:1-15. Verse 15: "Place Uriah at the front of the fiercest battle, and then pull back from him so that he will be stuck down and die." Our hymn, "We utter our cry"(439) is based on 2 Samuel. Is the challenge of betrayal a part of today's culture as it was in the time of our scripture? We will also study John 6:1-21. Verse 9: "A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this." John Marshall, Teacher.

**Roundtable Class:** *Meets across from the Parlor* - In Micah 7:14-20, Micah tells about the clemency and mercy of God, and His unending love. That the people of Israel needed mercy and clemency can be seen when reading his earlier statements in Micah chapter 2, in which he excoriates the people for taking what is not there, because they have the power to do that. Join us as Dr. Jerry Perryman leads our discussion. Teacher: Jerry Perryman.

**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.

**Youth Class:** *Meets in the Youth Basement* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God. Student Pastor: 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 God 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  
**Dr. Antone Godding**, Organist  
**Delaney Sheffield**, Administrative Assistant

**Kathy Smith**, Bookkeeper/Treasurer  
**Denise Buthion**, Director of The Learning Center  
**Antonio McCarroll**, Custodian  
**Michael Hall**, Maintenance Man  
**Alfred Walker**, Sunday Host  
**Randall Blair**, Sunday Host

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