

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Alpha is Coming to Nichols Thrills

Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” —*Matthew 28:19-20a*

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that we will be introducing a new 15-week small group for adults called the *Alpha Course* on Wednesday, August 26 at 5:30 p.m. as part of Nichols Thrills. *The Alpha Course* is an opportunity for anyone to explore spirituality from a Christian perspective. Relaxed, non-threatening, low-key, and fun, Alpha

is a place to ask anything—no question is considered too simple or too hostile. Over 15 thought-provoking weekly sessions, Alpha guests share meals, listen to a series of talks, and then have small group discussions. Each talk covers a fundamental question. During the 15 weeks, we will answer the following questions:

- Is There More to Life Than This?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why Did Jesus Die?
- How Can I Be Sure of My Faith?
- Why and How Do I Pray?
- How Does God Guide Us?
- Who Is the Holy Spirit?
- How Can I Be Filled with the Spirit?
- What Does the Holy Spirit Do?
- How Can I Resist Evil?
- Why and How Should We Tell Others?
- Does God Heal Today?
- What About the Church?

Everyone is welcome in an Alpha Course!

If you or someone you know has questions about Christianity, then Alpha is for you. Some people want to investigate whether God exists and if there is any point to life; others are concerned about what happens after death. Still others may have attended church but feel they have never really understood the basics of Christian faith.

Alpha stands for:

An anyone can come. Anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith is welcome.

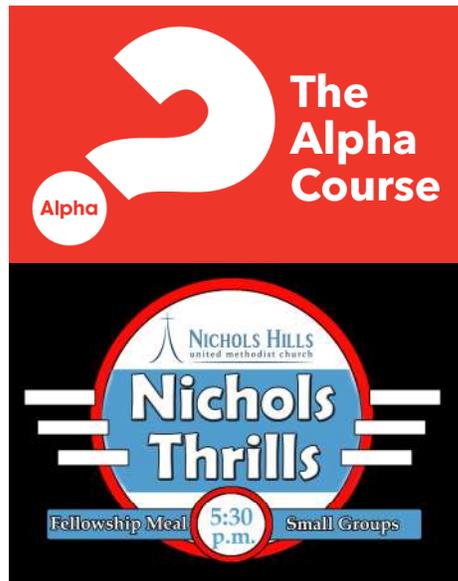
Learning and laughter. Join others in a relaxed atmosphere.

Pasta (or other great food). Each weekly session begins with dinner.

Helping one another. Dinner is followed by a video presentation and small-group discussions.

Ask anything. Here’s your chance to ask your questions and express your opinions.

If this sounds interesting to you, please sign up to come to the Alpha Introduction Dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26 by emailing me at revtrevor@gmail.com or call the church office at (405)842-1486.



Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, August 16

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Too Busy Not to Pray Study in KIVA Class at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.
S.P.R.C. at 3:00 p.m.
Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.

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 Set-up at 3:00 p.m.
Block Party, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 26

Nichols Thrills: Fellowship Meal at 5:30 p.m.
Nichols Thrills: Small Groups for Children, Youth, and Adults at 6:00 p.m.
The Alpha Course Begins, 6:00
T.L.C. Open House, 5:30-6:30
Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 6

Reception to Honor Dr. Antone Godding at Noon.

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 **August 30, Sept. 13, and 20**. 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

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Bill and Katie Alexander,
Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown

At Home

Jeremee Cloud, Roger Etling,

Beth & Dale Jordan,

Frances Lewis, Joye McLain

David Mueller, Barbara Sullivan,
and Gene Wheeler

Mission Candle

Sponsorships Available

August 23 and all of September 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.

Overloaded

Are you busy all the time?

Do you find yourself exhausted at the end of most weeks?

Do you feel overwhelmed by the expectations and obligations in your life?

It may surprise you that the Bible offers relevant answers that have the power to change your life. This important series of messages will help you stop being *Overloaded* and start experiencing peace. Join us for *Overloaded* on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m.

August 23 *Slowing Down in a Hurry Up World*

August 30 *Overloaded*

September 6 *Finding Peace in a High Anxiety World*

September 13 *Less is More*

Finding What You Lost

When they arrived at the Jordan, they began cutting down trees. ⁵But as one of them was cutting a tree, his ax head fell into the river. "Oh, sir!" he cried. "It was a borrowed ax!"

⁶"Where did it fall?" the man of God asked. When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water at that spot. Then the ax head floated to the surface. ⁷"Grab it," Elisha said. And the man reached out and grabbed it. -II Kings 6:4-7

Join us in worship on Sunday at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. as we conclude our sermon series on Elisha by talking about how you can regain your spiritual edge and *Find What You Lost*. We will help you consider the blessings that come with joining a small group.

We invite our students to bring their backpacks and book-bags to worship for our *Blessing of the Backpacks* as we ask God to bless our young people as they begin another school year.

Invite someone you know to come and worship with us as we experience God's blessings together.

Blessings,
Trevor

How will you help with our Block Party?

Sunday, August 23, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Bring a friend and a lawn chair and join us for hot dogs, homemade ice cream, music, games, a giant Slip-N-Slide, water games, and fun for all ages!!!

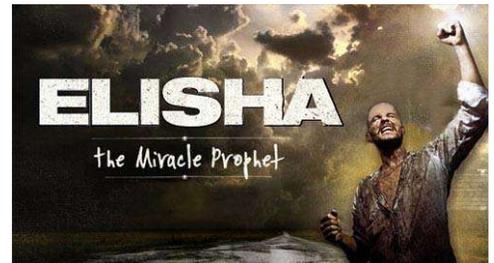
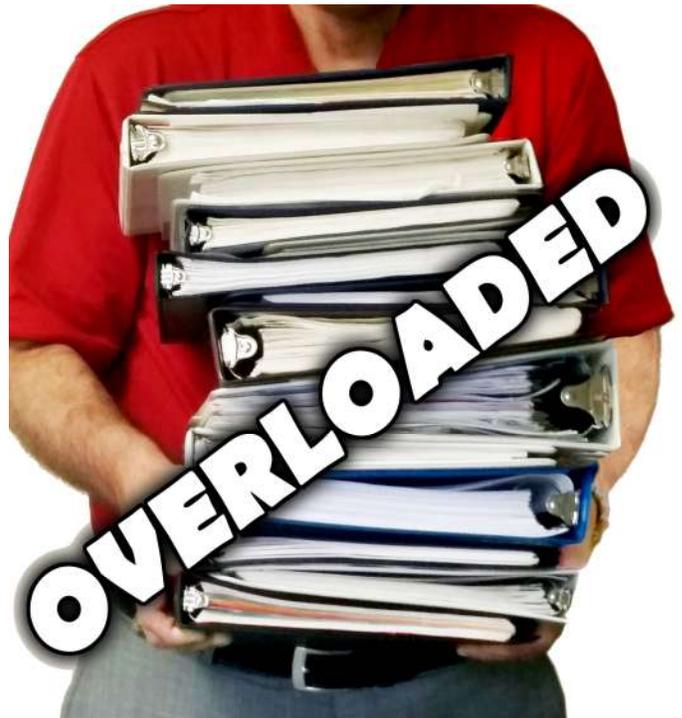
There are lots of ways to help with our Block Party.

Make some home-made ice-cream, brownies, or cookies.

Help with the set-up at 3:00 or the clean-up at 7:00 that day.

Bring a white-elephant prize for Bingo.

Sign up in the Narthex on Sunday to serve at the Block Party.



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, Michael Wylder, our Director of Church Music, is sharing with us about his life and how Nichols Hills U.M.C. has blessed him.

I'm from Duncan, Oklahoma and hold my masters degree in opera performance from Oklahoma City University. My first wife, Christian, was an O.C.U. student that sang at N.H.U.M.C. I always admired the aesthetic beauty of the sanctuary when I would come to hear her sing, and my ears fell in love with the acoustic attributes of the sanctuary as well. I remember sitting in the pews during the concerts and getting lost in the sound and drawn into the stain glass windows. My visits to the church usually left me longing for more encounters with the building and the music that was created inside. I never dreamed I would have the opportunity to create music every week in such a perfect place, and it was by a few chance encounters that I was called to be the director of music ministries at N.H.U.M.C. My marriage was going through a very troubling time, and we were based out of New Mexico. I sang at a couple of events and a wedding at N.H.U.M.C., when about a week after my O.K.C. trip Grayson Lucky called me on the phone and said he would like to visit with me about coming to lead music at Nichols Hills. In hopes that a move back to Oklahoma would help save my marriage, and that I could be a part of making music at a great church, I accepted the position.

I'm a sundry soul and enjoy many facets of life. As my Momma Gilstrap always put it.... I'm a frustrated farm boy that lives in the city. Ha ha. I am excited for the new leadership and staff of NHUMC casting a vision for a bright future in fulfilling our mission as a church. *Humility is underrated...you can wrap things up in fancy paper, but the content is what makes us smile.*

We are so glad to have Michael serving in ministry with us here at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church.



Serving In Ministry - Aug. 16

The coffee hosts will be Clark and Kay Musser, Louis and Graham Fraley, and Adam and Luke Musser.

The mission candle will be lit by Dick and Jean Webber in honor of their 64th wedding anniversary on August 18.

The chancel flowers will be given by Paul Lindsey in honor of Midge's birthday.

August Birthdays

08/14 Katie Dickey
 08/15 Cinda Lafferty
 Jon Rogers
 08/16 Allen Evans
 08/17 Lauren Matthes
 08/18 Midge Lindsey
 Sheridan McMichael
 Sue Ryan
 Katherine Schoeffler
 08/20 Regan Henry
 Gunnar Lavenue
 Shawn Love
 08/21 Dick Manley
 Clark Musser
 08/22 Madison Dean
 Caroline Mueller
 08/24 Bruce Fraley
 Tom McDaniel
 08/25 Thomas Flesher, III
 08/26 Claire Vick
 08/28 Allison Jones
 08/30 Judy Kauffman
 08/31 Sue Hood
 David Reed

Children and Family Ministry News



Lauren Matthes

Bring your backpack or school bag to worship with you this Sunday for our **Blessing of the Backpacks**. We want to celebrate and bless the beginning of another school year. We invite anyone who is committed to learning to bring your backpacks, briefcases, or laptops to be blessed. We will ask God to use our supplies, our equipment, our hands, and our feet to help the world and to help us keep God in the center of all that we do and learn.

Also, we received a note of thanks for our work at Mission Madness. Meals on Wheels sent their appreciation for the individual candy bags that were packed by our littlest hands. Well done preschoolers!!! No hands are too little to praise, too little to pray, or too little to serve! Also a big thank you to the adults who helped organize this opportunity for the preschoolers to serve in ministry!

You are a blessing!
 Lauren

Tidbits from The Learning Center

We are off with a bang this fall session which began this week! Lots of fun additions and some changes have been brought to our program. First, the Jaguar Class has moved upstairs. The children love going up and down each day and having a bright classroom with natural light. It is the perfect classroom for them. Next we have added special activities for the children and staff. We will bring all of our people to Children's Chapel three times a week. Pastor Trevor, Pastor Matt, and Ms. Lauren will each have a day to bring the gospel to our children in a fun manner. Songs, finger plays, stories, and prayers will be celebrated and a special birthday tribute each week. Spanish classes will take place twice a week for our two year olds and up. These experiences will be in addition to our ballet, music class, and athletics each week. Our children are going to have a broad spectrum of activities to grow their hearts, souls, and minds. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to care for the lovely children of TLC. Enjoy the photos of the our Jaguar classroom.



Nichols Thrills is Coming

Nichols Thrills is a mid-week opportunity to meet new friends and grow in your relationship with God. **Nichols Thrills** begins at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26 with a Fellowship Meal for all ages. We will offer small groups for children, youth, and adults from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the Church Office or on our website to enroll for the Fall Semester.



Jaguar Classroom



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 Hybels' *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* - Dr. Trevor Smith will lead a study using the book *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels. Leaders: Allen and Sherron Evans.

Open Circle Class: *Meets in the Archives room* - The Open Circle Class will have videos called "Early Christian Experiences of the Devine" narrated by Tim Johnson at Emory University. The videos have been provided by one of our class leaders, Fran Rosier. Teacher: John Marshall.

Roundtable Class: *Meets in the Bride's room* - Ezekiel, writing in the 6th century, B.C., exhorted his fellow Hebrews to repent from their worship of false gods and repeated sins. He taught that God is just, and we are each responsible for our own conduct and its consequences. Nothing has changed much today. We tend to go our own ways, oblivious to the consequences until too late. Join us Sunday. Teacher: Jerry Perryman.

Reveille Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - The Reveille class will be joining the KIVA class this month for the *Too Busy Not to Pray* study. 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: 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 God together.
Director of Children and Family Ministry: 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
Dr. Antone Godding, Organist
Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant

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