

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Wiser in Our Work

Proverbs 12:11 - A hard worker has plenty of food, but a person who chases fantasies has no sense.

Proverbs 12:24 - Work hard and become a leader. Be lazy and become a slave...

Proverbs 13:4 - Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.

Statistics tell us that we spend about one third of our lives working, one third of our lives sleeping, and one third of our lives with family and friends doing what we do in our free time. When you remember that more than half of our waking hours are spent working, we need some wisdom for the workplace and the classroom. *The Book of Proverbs* offers incredible amounts of wisdom for the workplace and for workers in the workplace.

If I could reduce the entire teachings of *The Book of Proverbs* to one sentence of what God says to us about our work it would be: God will pour out God's favor on those who work diligently and honestly. There are dozens of proverbs extolling the value of diligence. I want to remind you again that Proverbs are not absolute promises. Rather, they describe how life works most of the time.

The author of Proverbs says repeatedly that diligent workers are generally the kind of workers that get rewarded in companies. They get rewarded by bosses. They get rewarded by God who pours favor on the worker. So, what does it look like to be a diligent worker? On Sunday we will talk about ten insights Proverbs offer us about what it means to be a diligent worker. I hope you will invite your co-workers, your employees, your supervisor, or your classmates to come with you to worship with us as we grow wiser in our work.

On Sunday afternoon at 4:00, our Missions Committee will meet to talk about ways we can be in ministry with people in our community. We believe that God has given every person gifts to serve in ministry and build the kingdom of God. We also know that there is a lot of shared wisdom when we gather together and seek God's will for our church and our lives. If you have an idea about a way we could minister to people in need and if you would like to be part of this discussion we invite you to come and be part of this meeting.

We have been having a great time at Nichols Thrills on Wednesday evenings. I want to thank Linda Howell, Ann Garrett, Jereme Cloud, and Janice Pitney for providing our dinner last week, and I want to thank the members of The Brew Sunday school class for providing a wonderful lasagna dinner this week. This week we will discuss *Why and How Do I Pray?* in the Alpha Course, and next Wednesday we will discuss *How Does God Guide Us?* Our Expedition Children's Group is also having a great time on Wednesday evenings, and we are all excited to have Lauren Matthes back leading our Children and Family Ministry. This is an exciting time to be part of Nichols Hills United Methodist Church. May God bless you this week as we work to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Saturday, September 26

Memorial Service for Bob Webber at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 27

Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Missions Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 29

Criminal Justice And Mercy

Ministry Banquet at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 30

Nichols Thrills - 5:30 to 7:00

Fellowship Meal at 5:30 p.m.

Small Groups at 6:00 p.m.

Expedition Children's Group-6:00

Alpha Course for Adults at 6:00

Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.

Young Adult Group at 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 4

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.

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

**Like us on Facebook
and 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 **October 11, 18, and all of November**. To serve, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

Transportation Ministry

We want to make it possible for anyone who would like to worship with us to have the opportunity to do so. 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.

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 them to grow in their faith.

Leaders: Matt Patrick and Matt Eales

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Bill and Katie Alexander,
Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby

Town Village

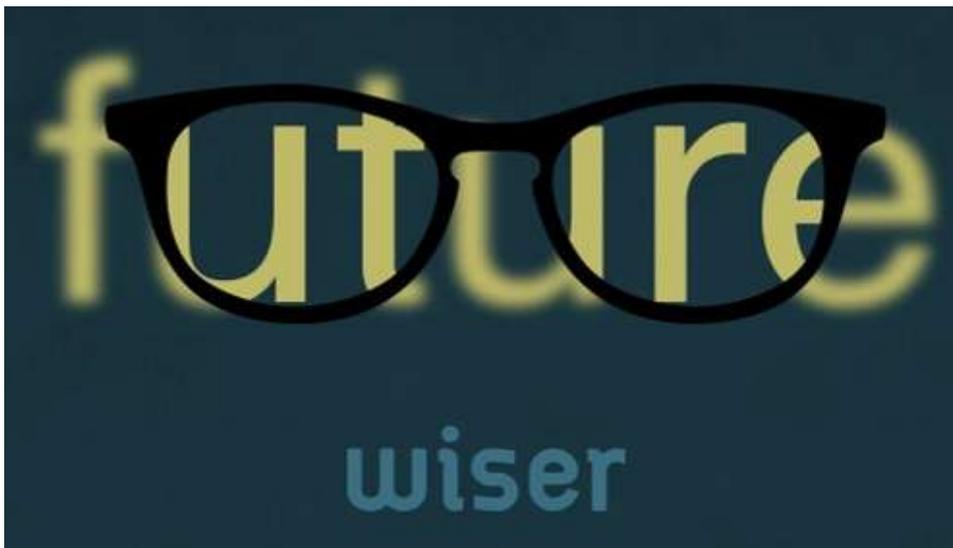
Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann and Tom Flesher,
Beth & Dale Jordan, Frances Lewis,
Joye McLain David Mueller,
Barbara Sullivan, and Gene Wheeler



Wiser

Have you ever done something really stupid and then thought, "I'll be wiser next time?"

This Sunday, Pastor Trevor Smith will lead us as we study the wisdom of *The Book of Proverbs* and learn how we can be wiser in our work. Bring a friend and join us as we grow **Wiser**.

- September 27** *Wiser in Our Work*
October 4 *Wiser in Our Decisions*
October 11 *Wiser with Our Sexuality*
October 18 *Wiser with Our Words*
October 25 *Wiser with Our Future*

We Are The Church

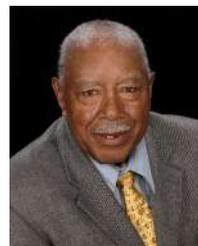
Our church makes a Christian difference through the many wonderful people in our congregation. This week, Alfred Walker shares with us about his life and how Nichols Hills U.M.C. has blessed him.

Alfred was born in east Texas and was one of five children. He attended a Methodist church there. He became the youngest superintendent of the Sunday School class and then became the District Superintendent of the Sunday School class at age 20. He traveled around the district, promoting Sunday School.

In 1955, he moved to Oklahoma City, and in 1957 he became the custodian for Nichols Hills U.M.C. He would listen to the sermons on Sunday in the boiler room due to segregation. He wasn't allowed to sit in the sanctuary with the other members. Later, when Rev. George Graham was the pastor, he invited Alfred to wear a suit to church on Sundays and sit at the front desk, answer phone calls, questions, and count the money. "The rest is history."

Alfred has been on multiple mission trips, including those to Africa, Cuba, and Mexico. He currently is serving as the Sunday Host and has become a staple of our church! Alfred is particularly excited about the Alfred Walker Fund. This fund was set up to assist people in need with their utility bills and rent. "We have already helped so many people!"

"I was treated with so much kindness from the people of our church when Rosella passed away, and I am very thankful for the many blessings that have happened because of Nichols Hills U.M.C." He says that he "was meant to be part of this church." We are happy to have Alfred in our Nichols Hills U.M.C. family and serving in ministry with us!



Why and How Do We Pray?



Matt Patrick

This Wednesday in our Alpha Course, the discussion will revolve around the purpose and practice of prayer. For many of us, prayer was introduced very early on in our lives. Many times, because we are so used to praying one way, that prayer can become mechanical and empty. This can be concerning because I believe that prayer is one of the most central elements to our life of faith.

Prayer is where we can receive the power to bring about God's Kingdom on Earth. Prayer is where we connect to God and humble ourselves. Put simply, prayer is a conversation with God.

However, a conversation is two-way. Do you listen after you finish praying? Do you attempt to hear what God might be calling you to do? The practice of listening is important for prayer. God probably won't audibly talk to you in English. My experience has shown me that God speaks to me through other people. However, listening can help us to slow down and discern what God might be calling us to.

Here is a tip from my life. If you feel God calling you to do something that scares you or makes you feel uncomfortable, that can usually be attributed to the work of God's Spirit in your life. God has more often confronted me in prayer with a call to do something I don't want to do. I hope you will come and join us for the Alpha Course during *Nichols Thrills* on Wednesday nights at 5:30pm.

Blessings,
Matt Patrick

Lunch with Lauren



Lauren Matthes

I'm having so much fun getting to know all my new friends at Nichols Hills U.M.C. I am excited to meet all our friends from Children's Ministry and get to know each one better. One of my favorite things to do is meet kids for lunch at their school. It makes them feel so special when I show up with a pizza for them and sit with their friends at the lunch table. I get to meet their friends and talk about their favorite things. It creates an environment of trust and builds a strong relationship for our church family. Please stop by my office (room 123) and sign up for Lunch with Lauren.

You are a blessing,
Lauren

Tidbits from The Learning Center

This past weekend our professional organization, the Early Childhood Association of Oklahoma, held its state conference. It is such a super time to catch up with colleagues, network, and receive quality professional development.



THE LEARNING CENTER

Our bilingual speaker was from Miami, Florida. Carol Coleman Montealegre spoke about the process of teaching children under the age of 8 years old. She reinforced that children learn best by doing, moving, seeing, touching and listening. In other words we are holistic teachers. We care for our children with all of our abilities, heart, and soul. The two hour presentation was very well delivered and with great passion. Everyone who attended was pumped up for Monday! That is what conferences give to teachers and directors.

Denise Buthion currently is on a committee with the ECAO Board as the Scholarship Committee Chairperson. Two \$1,500 scholarships were awarded to two members of the organization. Good connections with the professional community were reinforced. Denise distributed business cards to potential teachers, too. The Learning Center has an enrollment of 91. We are always looking for quality teachers!

Chancel Flower Sponsorships Available

November 1 is 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.

Serving In Ministry September 27

The coffee hosts for Sunday are Jami and Mark Cravens.

The chancel flowers will be given in loving memory of Dorothy Allee VanCamp's 98 birthday today from her daughter and son-in-law, Jami and Mark Cravens.

September/October Birthdays

09/24	Jason Ott
09/25	Pamela Bracken
09/26	Juanita Greer Ellie Roberts
09/27	Alan Niemann
09/28	Caitlin Dyke
09/30	Cara Fraley
10/03	Cheryl Fraley
10/04	Carol Magness
10/05	Linda Klos Graham Murphy Harrison Murphy
10/06	Joie Dickey James Lavenue
10/07	Anna Bookout Hardy Robinson Fred Schonwald, Jr.
10/09	Randi Garza Jacob Roan John Rowntree, Jr.
10/10	Bill Shdeed
10/11	Blythe Butler Ann Garrett
10/12	Tracey Saunders
10/13	Trish Cloud Annemarie Edmonds Dick Sias
10/15	Marshall Dickey
10/17	Gwen Niemann
10/17	Patricia Schonwald
10/18	Mark Barker Cynda Ottaway Nicholas Schoeffler
10/20	Preston Robinson
10/21	Melissa Davis
10/22	Chris Kauffman Sylvia Miller
10/23	Barney Brown
10/24	Tim Sanders
10/25	Margaux Lavenue Ashton Niemann
10/26	James Tirrell
10/27	Suzanne Lavenue
10/29	Akiko M. Knotts David Mueller
10/30	Kay Goebel
10/31	Keith Jones

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

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Weekly Small Groups

Nichols Thrills Fellowship Meal for Children, Youth, and Adults: Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

The Alpha Course - Adults: Wednesday, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Join us for dinner at 5:30 and a video called *How Does God Guide Us?* Leader: Dr. Trevor Smith.

Expedition for Children: Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Director: Lauren Matthes.

Chancel Choir: Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Director: Michael Wylder.

Young Adult Group: Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. Join us as we discuss Adam Hamilton's book, *When Christians Get It Wrong*. Leader: Rev. Matt Patrick.

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

The Brew Class: *Meets in the Room 131*. This class is studying *Addicted to Hurry* by Kirk Byron Jones. 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* - Cynthia Meyerson will be reviewing a book, *Sinners: Jesus and His Earliest Followers*, by Greg Carey
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 Roundtable Class is studying Acts Chapter 7, verses 2-4, 8-10, 17,33-34, 45-47 and 53. These scriptures are about remembering God's faithfulness, and for us to be strengthened by His faithfulness. Stephen gives us an example: "*But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God's majesty and Jesus standing at God's right side.*" Join us for this study. Teacher: 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 God 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
Dr. Antone Godding, Organist
Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant

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