



# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

## Moral Margin

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; <sup>15</sup> then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. —James 1:12-15

I had an ethics professor at Duke Divinity School named Stanley Hauerwas who always said that any religion that does not tell you what to do with your genitals and pots and pans cannot be interesting. That really stuck with me. We live in a culture that is obsessed with sexual things, and yet, in the church we are usually fairly reluctant to talk about this subject. As your pastor, I think it is important for us to have a conversation about this topic at least once a year. I am sure that many of the young people in our church have questions about this topic, and I believe that the church should have a voice in helping to shape the people in our church when it comes to this part of our lives.

On Sunday we will conclude our *Margin* sermon series by talking about *Moral Margin*. You may be wondering, "Well, what do you mean by moral margin?" Moral margin is putting distance between you and temptation.

Most of us know that things in our life can be done in a wise way or a foolish way. Everything in life has a wise way and a foolish way. In every area of life we would agree accept for one: human sexuality. This is one area of life that we have a hard time gaining moral margin. I want you to understand that as we talk about gaining moral margin in our lives, we are trying to help each other learn to live Godly lives that will help us to avoid some of the great pain we will experience if we veer too far off God's path for this part of our lives. Our goal is not to make you feel badly for any of the mistakes you may have made in the past. Our goal is to offer you a way that leads to life and blessings. So, we are going to examine God's wisdom about this part of our lives. I hope you will join us at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. on Sunday for this meaningful message about how we can gain *Moral Margin*. Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,  
Trevor

## Ministry Calendar

### Sunday, September 11

Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
The Brew Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Worship at 10:50 a.m.  
Missions Committee at 12:15 p.m.  
Youth at 5:00 p.m.

### Monday, September 12

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.  
Finance Committee at 5:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, September 14

Nichols Thrills Meal at 5:30 p.m.  
Disciple Fast Track at 5:30 p.m.  
Financial Peace University at 5:30  
GriefShare at 5:30 p.m.  
Young Adult Group at 7:00 p.m.  
Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

### Monday, September 19

Staff Parish Relations Committee at 5:30 p.m.

### Monday, September 26

Trustee Committee at 5:30 p.m.

### Monday, October 3

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 4

Stewardship Committee at 5:30

### Sunday, October 9

Crossroads District Gathering at  
Church of the Servant at 2:00 p.m.

### Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(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

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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. If this is an opportunity you would enjoy, please see Matt Patrick 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 **all of September**. 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: Rosemary Scalpone, Marty Smith, Kathy Walker, and Jean Warner.

### 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.

### Serving In Ministry on Sunday, September 11.

The coffee host is Kathy Walker.

### 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 Flesher,  
Jess and Bette Harris, Beth and Dale Jordan, Frances Lewis, David Mueller,  
and Maxine Permenter



## Margin

Sometimes it seems like the only way to keep up with all the demands on our lives is to run at maximum capacity - and then some. But there is another way... one where we have room to breathe and space to respond to what life brings our way.

Join us at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. as we explore what it means to live with **Margin**.

**September 11** *Moral Margin*

## Half Truth: God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle



Rev. Matt Patrick

As our young adult group continues their study "Half Truths," we come across another statement that isn't always helpful. Many times, when people are going through a difficult time, you will hear the cutesy phrase, "God won't give you more than you can handle," or "God gives His toughest tests to His best warriors." These phrases can be troublesome because they are not biblically based and are actually antithetical to biblical teaching. I suppose these phrases are meant for comfort, but they don't accurately teach about God's nature.

Let's take Moses for instance. Moses was very ill-equipped to be the deliverer of the Israelites. However, because he was ill-equipped, he was open to God's empowerment. In fact, throughout the Bible, God gives many tasks to people who can't handle them on their own power. Because those characters cannot do the work on their own, God becomes involved. Then God becomes the one who is glorified for the work, and not so much the person who was sent. The truth is, many times in our lives we will face pain and suffering, or be called to do something that is just overwhelming if we approach it alone. However, we were never called to walk the faith journey alone. One of the beauties of being called to something outside of our abilities is that it can draw us closer to God, and teach us to rely on each other for support. We are not alone and aren't called to go alone. That's good news.

-Matt

## Children's Ministry

Hope you all had a great Labor Day weekend! I am so excited about this semester for the children at church. We will be getting the kids back in the late service to sing for the congregation so be on the look out for dates so your children can be part of that awesome experience! We also have started a new children's Sunday school class, which is for kids ages 2nd-5th grade. We would love for you to bring your kids and get to be involved! For parents looking for opportunities to be connected with our Children's Ministry program please contact me at mchillless@uco.edu. Thank you all for everything you do for Nichols Hills UMC! You are such a blessing, and we can't wait to see our Children's Ministry Program grow! See you Sunday!



Madison Chillless

-Madison



## We Are The Church

Our church makes a Christian difference through our wonderful people. This week, we want to introduce you to our new Nursery Attendant, Rachel Spear.

"I am a senior at Oklahoma State University. My major is nursing. I am very passionate about it and hope to be in nursing school soon. In my spare time I enjoy snuggling with my dog and catching up on reality TV. I am excited for my job with the church and the opportunity to grow in my faith as well as helping children grow in theirs. I can't wait to see what God has planned for me and my future. Everyday is a new adventure. "Trust in the lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." -Proverbs 3:5"

We are excited that Rachel is now part of our Nichols Hills U.M.C. staff!



# Tidbits from The Learning Center



Each week our program has special activities for our children. On Mondays we have a dance instructor from Tippi Toes who teaches ballet to our two-year-olds and older children. On Tuesdays we have art with Ms. Heather for the Monkeys (children who are 18 months and older) and Zebras (children who are two-years old). On Fridays art lessons are given to the Jaguars (30 months old and up) and Cheetahs

(our pre-kindergarten group.) Our hallway has a display of their work. It will be updated soon! On Wednesdays we have music with Ms. Andrea from Munchkin Music. The

infants (cubs) up to pre-k each have twenty minutes of movement, singing, playing instruments and learning concepts of rhythm and timbre. Twice a year the music teacher has a demonstration of the children's progress. Many parents and grandparents attend these demonstrations in December and May.

On Thursdays and Fridays our children have Amazing Athletes for 18 months and older children. Coaches come and teach the children about sports that are not so typical in our football and basketball world. They learn about lacrosse, hockey, and badminton. The children are learning techniques which require balance, coordination, patience, determination and focused effort.

One of the most exciting specials is the Chapel experience we have on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Pastor Trevor, Madison Chilless, and Pastor Matt each lead a fifteen minute service with singing, prayer, and a Bible story. The three-year olds and up attend chapel. Our families tell us that their children sing songs that they learn in Chapel. Isn't that lovely? Here are photos of last week's art activity which was ice painting. Very messy but great fun! This coming Friday we will honor our grandparents with a Come and Go Breakfast. Please join us from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

-Denise



## An Important Message From The Brew

"The Brew" Sunday School class will have a **Welcome Back Breakfast** on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 10:45 am. in the Fellowship Hall. Children of members and invited guests are also welcome at the breakfast and will then attend their regular Sunday School classes.

Members and guests will have the opportunity to socialized and catch up with friends.

Brew members will be contacted as asked to provide menu items for the gathering. Please check your e-mail.

Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss out on what's happening with The Brew. See you on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.



## Manage Your Giving Online

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Visit the church website at [www.nicholshillsumc.org](http://www.nicholshillsumc.org).

Click on the blue *Make A Donation* button. Then follow the online instructions.

If you have any questions, please contact Louise Glass at the church (405) 842-1486.

## RDS Unite App

We are excited to announce a new app from RDS called Unite that allows you to have access to our church directory, make contributions, change your personal information, and view your personal contribution history all from your phone!

This app is available for Apple, Android, and Microsoft. It is free for download from the app store on your phone. To find it, search for "RDS Unite.", download and install it. Then open it and click "Register." Enter the church code 10081, then your email address, then enter a password of your choice and click "Register." If you have any questions, feel free to contact Delaney in the Church Office at 405-842-1486 or [dsheffield@nicholshillsumc.org](mailto:dsheffield@nicholshillsumc.org).

## Birthdays

- 09/14 Madison Chilless  
George Craig  
A'Shonda Garrett  
Robert Vick
- 09/15 Gracie Sanders
- 09/16 Geoffrey Stafford  
William Stafford
- 09/17 Kerry Maye  
Sally Stringer
- 09/19 Jess Harris, Jr.
- 09/22 Billie Boston  
Jami Cravens  
Meg Miller  
Jerry Perryman
- 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

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

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* - Bring your coffee and join “The Brew” for fellowship and discussion on topics that provide insight and support for staying on the pathway of a Christian lifestyle in today’s world. For more information about “The Brew”, please contact: Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154, Ben Dickey (816) 885-3324 or Katie Dickey (816) 898-1668.

**KIVA Class:** *Meets in the Parlor* - Randy McDaniel will speak to our class 9/11. Leader: Hank Bradley.

**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* - The Open Circle Class primarily utilizes the Lectionary approach to studying scriptures, which excerpts scriptures from the Bible so that the full Bible is covered every two years. We also study hymns. Teacher: John Marshall.

**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. Ministry Intern: Laley Braucher.

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

**Louise Glass**, Financial Secretary  
**Michael Hall**, Maintenance/Custodian  
**Denise Buthion**, Director of The Learning Center  
**Alfred Walker**, Sunday Host  
**Laley Braucher**, Ministry Intern  
**Rachel Spear**, Nursery Attendant  
**Randall Blair**, Sunday Host

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