

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



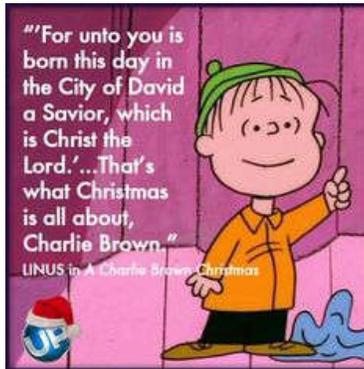
Dr. Trevor Smith

The Manger

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all

these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. -Luke 2:15-20

Christmas Eve is almost here, and I hope you are planning to join us for one of our Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 or 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. One of the things I look forward to every Christmas is *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. I particularly love the scene where an exasperated Charlie Brown blurts out, "I guess I really don't know what Christmas is all about. Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" Linus replies, "Sure Charlie Brown. I can tell you what Christmas is all about." Then he tells Charlie Brown the Christmas Story in *Luke's Gospel*.



On Sunday morning, our message will focus on Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and we will talk about the journeys we would prefer not to take during our lives.

Then, that evening our message will focus on how we can join the shepherds in worshiping the newborn king who was laid in a manger. We will also sing some of your favorite Christmas carols and conclude our services by passing the light and singing *Silent Night*. As part of our *Advent Conspiracy* this year, we are going to give away our entire Christmas Eve Offering to benefit young people at John Marshall High School and children around the world through Compassion International. I want to thank each of you who have given generously to children in our community and around the world so that they would experience the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas.

I also want to thank you for the generous way so many of you have committed to support our church's ministry in the coming year. As of today, the people in our church have committed \$605,640 to empower our church's ministry in 2018. If you would like to make a charitable donation that will count towards your 2017 taxes, the Church Office will be open from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 26 through Friday, December 28 and from 9:30 to noon on Friday, December 29. Thank you so much for your generosity.

It has been wonderful to see how God has blessed us this year, and I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you. May God continue to bless you and your family as we gather to worship at the manger.

Merry Christmas!
Dr. Trevor Smith

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, December 24

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Monday, December 25

Church Office Closed
Alcoholics Anonymous at 5:30

Monday, December 25 to Monday, January 1, 2018

The Learning Center Closed

Sunday, December 31

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Monday, January 1

Church Office Closed
Alcoholics Anonymous at 5:30

Monday, January 8

Care Committee at 4:00
Alcoholics Anonymous at 5:30
Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10

Nichols Thrills Meal at 5:30 p.m.
Nichols Thrills begins at 6:00 p.m.



We are getting in the Christmas spirit at the John Marshall Neighborhood Market!

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

Are you enthusiastic about our church? If so, this is an opportunity you might enjoy. Please see Alfred Walker for more details.

Newsletter Folders Needed

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room every other week.

Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts provide 4-5 dozen cookies. At the close of the 10:50 Service, the host(s) stand by the cookie table in the Narthex and greet people. To serve, sign-up outside the office.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 24

The coffee host is Carla Hill.

The altar flowers are given in memory of our loved ones who live in our heart by Ellie Roberts and family.

The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

The acolytes for 10:50 are Maggie Brown and Gracie Buxton.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 31

We are in need of a coffee host this Sunday. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

The altar flowers are given by Mary Ann Carmichael in memory of her family: James, Mary, and Jody Carmichael.

The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

The acolytes for 10:50 are Maggie Brown and Gracie Buxton.

Chancel Flower Delivery

We are in need of people to deliver the chancel flowers to homebound members. If this opportunity is for you, please sign-up in the Narthex.

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: Anne Holbrook, Janet Jones, Carol Magness, and Marty Smith.

Birthdays

12/21 Libby Blankenship
12/22 Jean Ann Robison
12/25 Carol Solomon
12/29 Lida Elkins
12/29 Taylor McLain

Continued on the next page.

Candlelight Christmas Eve

This Christmas Eve, connect to the Christmas story like never before.

Journey to **the manger** to celebrate the joy and hope that surrounds the miracle of Christmas. It's a chance to hear beautiful Christmas music and old familiar carols with family, friends, and neighbors.

Listen as the cherished Christmas Story of Jesus' birth comes alive through music and scripture in the warm glow of candlelight. We will conclude our service with our cherished tradition of passing the lighted candles as we sing *Silent Night*. It's a Christmas tradition you will not want to miss!

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service
Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.



Tausha Davison-Beverly,
Director of
Children
and Family
Ministry

Children's Ministry

Our Christmas Pageant was such a success! 25 children participated in this year's production. I would like to thank Leye Lippoldt, Cara Fraley, and Jennifer McGinnis for helping with the costumes, stage designs, and all the back-stage props. I also want to thank our wonderful volunteers, Megan Fagundes, Meredith Monaco, Robynn Poortvliet-Wayne, who helped keep our children entertained before the performance, Victoria Ecker who played guitar to accompany the children, and Michael Wylder for his help with the stage. The Children's Ministry would like to thank all of our families and their children that made this performance one of a kind. Our pageant could not have been possible without you. Thank you!

Blessings,
Tausha Davison-Beverly



The Journey

Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Join *The Journey* at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church as we light the Advent candles, sing carols, prepare our hearts for Christmas, and walk the road to Bethlehem to experience the Christmas story like never before.

Bring a friend and worship with us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m.

December 24	<i>From Nazareth to Bethlehem</i>
Christmas Eve	<i>The Manger</i>
December 31	<i>What Child is This?</i>



Angel Tree

The angel tree in the Narthex contains ornaments for items needed to help the John Marshall Neighborhood Market, John Marshall High School, North Highland Elementary School, and financial amounts needed to sponsor our Compassion International children. We invite you to take an angel and bring the requested items back to the church to place under the angel tree. Thank you for your generosity!



Preparing for Christmas

Join the Open Circle Class, the Reveille Class, The Bible Class, and The Brew Class for a 4-week study beginning on Sunday, December 3 at 9:45 that will help you Prepare for Christmas. Our senior pastor, Trevor Smith, will highlight some of the ways our church is changing lives in our community and around the world as we hear how we are blessing students at John Marshall High School and North Highland Elementary School as well as how our children connect with impoverished children around the world through Compassion International. We hope you will join us.

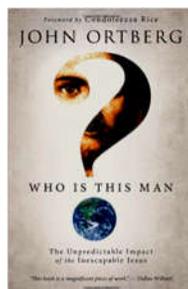
Nichols Thrills

Nichols Thrills will begin again on Wednesday, January 10 with a meal at 5:30 p.m. and two meaningful small groups for adults.

Who Is This Man is a nine-week study by John Ortberg. This study explains how Christ's actions, statements, and legacy dramatically affected the world---revolutionizing art, science, government, medicine, and education. The price of the book is \$5. Leader: Dr. Trevor Smith

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is a nine-week class on faith and money. Would you like to eliminate \$5,300 in debt and save \$2,700 in three months? Dave and his teaching team will walk you through the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, planning for the future, and much more! The price is \$99. Leader: Matt Patrick

We hope you will join us for one of these meaningful small group opportunities this fall. Sign up in the Narthex after worship.



**Love
Hope
Community**

John Marshall Ministries

Your gift helps us continue our ministry to the students at John Marshall High School through our Neighborhood Market and our Bear Cave Clothing Closet.

Releasing children from poverty

Compassion[®]
in Jesus' name



Grace



Cristian



Madochee



Moses



Brenda



Kelly

Your gift of \$45 can help us continue sponsoring one of these children for one month.



Rev. Matt Patrick

Great Youth Group Last Week!

Last week, our youth group went out to eat at Pop's in Nichols Hills Plaza. We had a great time laughing and eating together. It is always a good time when our youth group is able to share a meal together. We had every intention of looking at the beautiful Christmas lights in Nichols Hills, but alas, as most youth group meals go, we took a little too long. However, we did have a little time to see some of the lights in the neighborhood.

If you have a student between 6th and 12th grade and you'd like to participate with us, we would love to have you! We have Sunday School each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. and youth group twice a month. Our Spring schedule will be out soon!

Blessings,
Matt

Treat Bags and Food Baskets for John Marshall High School and North Highland Elementary School

Thank you to all who helped make Christmas treat bags for the students of the John Marshall Neighborhood Market and gave towards the food baskets for John Marshall High School and North Highland Elementary School! You made a big difference in these students' and families' lives!



Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,
Director

This is the last week of the 2017 fall session. Upon reflection of the year we see so many positive things that are happening in T.L.C. We are pleased to have 115 children enrollment for the spring session in 2018. This is an increase of 13 children from the fall. Our staff of 16 has only four teachers who have been employed with us for less than one year. The average number of training hours per teacher is 45. DHS requires 20 hours per teacher. This is a significant measure of quality to have more trained and knowledgeable staff who are providing continuity for the children. These indicators highlight that T.L.C. is improving the quality of care that children and families receive. We are blessed to work in such a positive and supportive environment. T.L.C. will be closed December 25 through January 1 for the holidays. See you on January 2, 2018 for another wonderful year.

Blessings,
Denise

Birthdays Continued

12/30	Abe Malone
12/31	Don Wilson
01/01	Lisa Franklin
01/01	Lauren Harrah
01/03	Michael Dean
01/04	Graham Jones
01/05	Lynn Greene
01/05	Anne Holbrook
01/05	Brenda McDaniel
01/05	Morgan Smith

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

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Joanne Crosby and Sylvia Miller

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren

Autumn Leaves

Katie Alexander

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann Flesher,
Jess and Bette Harris, Frances Lewis,
and David Mueller

Manage Your Giving Online And Use Our QR Code

Visit the church website at www.nicholshillsumc.org, to make an online donation. Then click on the blue *Make A Donation* button. Then follow the online instructions.



We also have a QR Code that you can scan with your cell phone to donate. If you have questions, contact the church.

John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Clothing Closet

We are in need of:

- Individual Bags of Snacks such as Cheez-its, Goldfish, etc.
- Peanut Butter Crackers
- Cheese Sandwich Crackers
- Fruit Snacks (Rollups or Gummy)
- Nature Valley Granola Bars
- New Socks
- Front Zip Hoodies
- Monetary donation for underwear
- New or gently worn shoes
Boys/Men's: 9-12
Girls/Women's: 8-10

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: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. For more information about “The Brew” please contact: Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

Reveille Class: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

Open Circle Class: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. Teacher: John Marshall.

The Bible Class: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*.

Youth Class: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. Leader: Rev. Matt Patrick.

KIVA Class: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. Leader: Bruce Day.

Second Graders through Fifth Graders: *Meets in Room 124*. Join us for a fun time with your friends as we grow closer to God and each other. Teacher: Lecye Lippoldt.

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. Director of Children’s Ministry: Tausha Davison-Beverly.

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor

Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor

Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music

Tausha Davison-Beverly, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Antone Godding, Organist

Kathy Smith, Treasurer

Louise Glass, Financial Secretary

Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center

Brandon Price, Custodian

Alfred Walker, Sunday Host

Tyral Hayes, Sunday Host

Jessica Mayberry, Nursery Attendant

Ashley Edwards, Nursery Attendant

Marita Barkus, Nursery Attendant