

Hope for a weary world

**DECEMBER 10, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
WILSHIRE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Preparing for worship

In a perfect world, Advent is a time for us to slow down and contemplate the mystery of God's great love coming to be with us in the presence of Jesus. Do you live in that perfect world? We don't. Advent at the Hampton house this past week meant complicated schedules, lots of deadlines, a house only half-decorated for the season and at least one of us (me) feeling frazzled.

Yet, in the messiness of this life, God's message comes through the Hebrew Scriptures: "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). There is our truth — God showing up for us at the time we need it most. Historically this message of comfort was given to people living in exile and experiencing feelings of loss, despair and hopelessness. The same God who comforted those people is the one who comforts us today.

How do we experience God's comfort? When the crises of life happen, just reading God's words, "Comfort, O comfort my people," might be helpful, but we often need a tangible, flesh-and-blood kind of comfort. Last spring, when my husband, Jeff, was unexpectedly diagnosed with a very rare sinus cancer, our lives changed abruptly. I felt like someone had sucked the air out of the

room as the doctor calmly shared the diagnosis. Not knowing what to expect or where to turn, we started asking questions and were surprised by the ways God sent us comfort. The doctors were first by assuring us that although this cancer was rare and unusual for us, treating cancer was part of their everyday lives. We could trust them to manage Jeff's care. Comfort came in the form of friends bringing food at the end of weary days of treatment or sending us restaurant gift cards, knowing some days our lives were too hectic to be bothered by cooking. Friends and family shared hugs, support, cards, emails, prayers and other messages of concern. With each expression of kindness, God's promise of comfort was tangible.

At Advent, we remember and celebrate God's greatest gift of comfort — the presence of Christ coming to this weary, frazzled world, reminding us we are never alone in the messiness of life. As we worship together, thank God for comforting you and ask God to give you opportunities to comfort someone else.

—LeAnn Hampton



4316 Abrams Road | Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214-452-3100 | wilshirebc.org

Building a Community of Faith Shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ

Partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Member, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

December 10, 2023
11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent

Chiming of the Hour

The people of Wilshire gather this morning to worship God. In order for this service to be focused upon that purpose, please silence all electronic devices.

Welcome to Worshipers

Darren DeMent

Prelude

Festivity
Wilshire Winds
Shana Gaines, director

Stephen Bulla

Invocation

Deborah Alexander

+Processional Song

Angels We Have Heard on High
No. 125

GLORIA

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

Gina Waterman and Kenneth Waterman

Preparing for the Nativity

Charles Lovejoy, William Lovejoy, Nicolette Brindle, Henry Crissey,
Hugh Crissey, Everly Mitchell, Maggie Stegner, Viola Stegner

A Moment of Peace

Nancy Poynter

Blessing by Jan Richardson

Now more than ever
let us be the ones
who will not turn away.
let us be the ones
who will go
farther into the wreck
and deeper into the rubble.
let us be the ones
who will enter into the places
of devastation beyond belief
and despair beyond our imagining.

and there let us listen
for the Spirit that brooded
over the formless darkness,
and there let us look again
for the god who gathered up the
chaos and began to create.
let us be the ones
who will give ourselves
to the work of making again
and to the endless beginning
of creation.

+All congregants who are able are invited to stand.
Hearing devices are available in the Narthex and South Atrium.

Response*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Em - ma - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra - el, that
 mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 Re - joice! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

+Gospel Reading — Mark 1:1-8

Sunny Carroum

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,’” so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Prayers of the People

Jenny Wolff

Congregational Song*Sing Angel Choirs*

Bill Mallonee

**Well, some things are plain to clear eyes
 Some gifts go completely unrecognized
 We’re shackled to hate, bound up by fear
 Straining to see my face in the mirror**

**Yeah, I once knew a man who left town on the run
 He went looking for joy but joy didn’t come
 So let your name with praise be adorned
 Sing, angel choirs, for Jesus is born
 Sing, angel choirs, for Jesus is born**

**I'm picking through pieces of yesterday's boasting
Hold them up to the light and examine them closely
My love is a field that the weeds have grown up in
My earth is all scorched with my wreck and ruin**

**Yeah, the cup is tarnished but the wine is true
Only the finest two hundred proof
So let your name with praise be adorned
Sing, angel choirs, for Jesus is born
Sing, angel choirs, for Jesus is born**

**Holy Mary, meek and mild
Full of the Spirit, full with child
We stumble around through the message each year
Open our eyes, open our ears**

Offertory

And He Shall Be Named Emmanuel
Wilshire Winds
Shana Gaines, director

arr. Robert Longfellow

+Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Isaiah 40:1-11

Kyle Ballard

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
And for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Mack Wilberg

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

Message

“Peace for a Weary World”

Timothy Peoples

We pause in silence to reflect and to be attentive to the Spirit of God.

+Congregational Song

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
No. 89

PSALM 42

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Recognition of John Kelly

Timothy Peoples

Litany of Blessing

Jim Walton

Leader: As a church, we gather today to give thanks to God for the journey with us of John.
We are grateful for the family, friends, teachers, churches and mentors who shaped him
on his way to us.

People: **We give thanks for the seeds of faith planted by others.**

Leader: Through two years of ministry, we have sought together to follow Christ and to be
Christ’s church in this place. You have walked among us as a brother, rejoiced with us,
wept with us and sought God’s truth with us.

People: **We give thanks for the seeds of hope you have nurtured among us.**

Leader: Now we prepare to let go, to send forth John with our blessing, praying that he may be salt
of the earth and light for the world as he plants new seeds of God’s care in other places.

People: **We give thanks for the seeds of joy to be sown in the years ahead.**

Leader: It was God who made the seed grow. The planter and the waterer are nothing compared with him who gives life to the seed. For we are laborers together with God.

People: The Lord bless you and keep you.

Leader: The Lord make the divine face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

All: The Lord lift up the divine countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Prayer of Blessing

Kelly Akins

Sending Forth and Presentation of Gifts

Lay Support Team

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel



Connect with Wilshire. Scan the QR code using your smartphone camera to make a financial contribution, fill out our online guest card or submit a prayer request. You may also use the response card or offering envelope found in the pew rack. These items can be placed in the offering plate or in one of the secure offering boxes located near the Sanctuary exits.

Meet today's worship leaders

Kelly Akins joined Wilshire in 1990. She is married to Allan, and they are members of Epiphany Class. Kelly and Allan are parents to two young adults, Brian and Emily. Kelly is a deacon, plays in Carillon Ringers and directs the new Wilshire Bells handbell group. A retired kindergarten teacher, she works as assistant director for Wilshire's Early Childhood Learning Center.

Deborah Alexander joined Wilshire in 2006 and is married to Ronnie. Deborah attends Foundations of Faith Class and serves on the Hospitality Ministry Team. She recently retired from a 24-year career at Medical City Dallas.

Kyle Ballard and his wife, Jane, joined Wilshire in 2015. They are members of Labyrinth Class and the parents of Benjamin, who is 10, Ann Marie, who is 8, and Eleanor, who is 5. Kyle is an attorney working in private lending.

Sunny Carroum, a Wilshire member since 2017, attends Journey Class and has participated in mission trips to Tanzania and Mississippi. She is a teacher at Lake Highlands High School. Sunny's two daughters, Grace and Evelyn, attend the University of Arkansas.

Nancy Poynter, who joined Wilshire in 2008, is a member of Discovery Class and a participant in Knit Unto Others. She is a former drama director at Lake Highlands High School and serves as the director of Wilshire's annual Faith in 3D production.

Jim Walton and his wife, Rhonda, joined Wilshire in 2014. They are members of Epiphany Class, and Jim serves on the Missions Committee. Jim and Rhonda have four adult sons and two grandchildren. Jim is retired from a career as a physician executive and now consults in the area of health care management.

Gina Waterman joined Wilshire in 2009 with her son, **Kenneth**, who is 19. Gina attends Seekers Class, is active in women's ministry and recently joined the Hospitality Ministry Team. She is a certified grief recovery specialist, supporting special needs caregivers with their emotional health and healing. Kenneth attends Notre Dame School of Dallas. At Wilshire he is involved in youth ministry and serves on the Hospitality Ministry Team.

Jenny Wolff joined Wilshire in 2004. She is a deacon, co-directs Ithaka Class, chairs the Committee on Committees and serves on the Deacon Nominating Committee. Jenny was active in Wilshire's youth group while growing up and now volunteers as a Youth Choir tour chaperone. She is lead triage nurse at Pediatric Associates of Dallas and serves as medical director for Dallas Pets Alive.

Staff contacts

Phone numbers: 214-452- followed by extension shown below. **Email addresses:** first letter of first name and full last name followed by @wilshirebc.org (example: tpeoples@wilshirebc.org). Staff members without phone extensions do not have Wilshire email addresses.

Communications

- Mark McKenzie, Communications Director (3169)

Congregational Care

- Barbara Clayton, Pastoral Care Assistant (3125)
- Linda Garner, Parish Nurse (3151)
- Carolyn Murray, Coordinator of Congregational Life (3170)
- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

Early Childhood Learning Center

- Kelly Akins, Assistant Director and Curriculum Specialist (3139)
- Ramona Randle, Director (3140)

Finance

- Lori Gooden, Director of Finance (3131)

Food Services

- Luke Munion, Food Service Staff
- Haley Robinson, Food Service Director (3117)
- Gillian Tinsley, Food Service Staff
- Elias Vasquez, Food Service Staff
- Leyvi Vasquez, Food Service Staff
- Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, Food Service Staff

Hospitality & Facilities

- Maricela Escutia, Facilities Supervisor
- Holly Irvin, Director of Hospitality (3150)
- Daniel Latin, Facilities
- Leticia Medina, Facilities
- Kevin Sierra, Facilities
- Leticia Vega, Facilities
- Glenda Williams, Receptionist (3165)

Missions & Advocacy

- Abbey Adcox, Missions and Advocacy Coordinator (3127)
- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

Music & Worship

- Jeff Brummel, Associate Minister of Music/Organist (3122)
- Charlie Fuller, Interim Minister of Music (3123)
- Shana Gaines, Wilshire Winds Director (3163)
- Ralph Manuel, Handbell Coordinator (3161)
- Candy McComb, Children's Choir Coordinator (3124)

Operations & Technology

- Rene Altamirano, Maintenance Technician
- Merik Gillett, Operations Director (3146)
- Eric Mirochna, IT Manager (3136)

Pathways to Ministry

- John Kelly, McIver Fellow (3156)
- George Mason, Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director and Senior Pastor Emeritus (3133)

Senior Pastor

- Debby Burton, Executive Assistant (3132)
- Geri McKenzie, Executive Director of Administration (3159)
- Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor (3132)

Spiritual Formation

- Carol Cabaniss, Spiritual Formation Coordinator (3106)
- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Staci Langley, Childcare Coordinator
- Katie Murray, Minister to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)

Tapestry

 Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements
December 10, 2023



Preschool Christmas Pageant

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13 | 6 P.M.

All are invited to Wilshire's Preschool Christmas Pageant on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Kindergarten, Pre-K and 3-Year-Old choirs will be in costume as they sing and act out the nativity, with narration supplied by some of the older children. Themed *Alleluia! Bells Are Ringing*, the program will also feature an opening song from our combined Children's

Choirs, and the new Wilshire Bells handbell group will play. A reception with cookies and cocoa will follow in James Gallery.

■ The program will be the main event for Wednesday night on Dec. 13; Koinonia Café will be offered at 5 p.m., but there will be no adult Bible study. Dec. 13 is the final night of Wednesday night offerings before a holiday break.



Sundays: Worship at 11 a.m. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Our service livestreams at youtube.com/wilshirebaptist and at wilshirebc.org/worship/livestream. Keep up with Wilshire by subscribing to our YouTube channel and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

All Giving Tree gifts due today

Today, Dec. 10, is the final due date for Giving Tree gifts to be brought to the church. Contact Abbey Adcox (aadcox@wilshirebc.org) with questions. Thanks to everyone who participated in our Giving Tree this year.

Blue Christmas service

Sunday, Dec. 17 | 4 p.m. | McIver Chapel | A contemplative service for those carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration.

Beer & Carols: NEW DATE

Sunday, Dec. 17 | 5-7 p.m. | Oak Highlands Brewery | Join Wilshire friends for a family-friendly carol singalong with a live band led by Associate Pastor Darren DeMent. Also: holiday tunes from Mark McKenzie's jazz trio.

Dec. 17 choral music

Morning worship on Sunday, Dec. 17, will feature Sanctuary Choir and chamber orchestra in a presentation of *Magnificat* by the American composer Mark Hayes.

Register by Dec. 13 for Adventurers theater outing

Sunday, Dec. 17 | 2 p.m. | Wilshire Adventurers will take in a matinee presentation of the musical *White Christmas* at Richardson's Courtyard Theater. \$31.50 per person. Adventurers is a fellowship group for those 60 and above. Registration required by Dec. 13. Visit wilshirebc.org/events/adventurers-theater.

Library nativity sets

Stop by the Library during the holiday season to enjoy a display of nativity sets from around the world. Most are from the collection of Wilshire member Linda Garner.



Tree of Hope and Remembrance

Help decorate Wilshire's Tree of Hope and Remembrance in the South Lobby by writing the name of a loved one as a memorial or your name as a survivor of cancer or another disease. Blank ornaments and markers are provided near the tree, which is decorated with bracelets representing different forms of cancer. Hang your ornament on the tree anytime during Advent and feel free to take it home close to Christmas for your own tree.

Christmas Eve

Sunday, Dec. 24

- No Sunday School or morning worship.
- 4 p.m. Christmas Eve family service.
- 11 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgical service with Lord's Supper. Youth Choir and alumni singing.

New Year's Eve

Sunday, Dec. 31 | Worship at 11 a.m.
No Sunday School.

New members

Kim and Clint Justice with **Jonathan, Joel and Rinnah**

Condolences to

- Family and friends of **Wanda Veal**, Dec. 1.
- **Anne Marie and Mark Mihm** on the death of Anne Marie's stepfather, Jim Heuertz, Dec. 4. Grandsons are **Jackson Mihm** and **Spencer Mihm**.
- Kay Keith on the death of her husband, Craig, Dec. 5 (former members).
- **Christy Lancaster** on the death of her father, **Phil Laquey**, Dec. 7.

Blessing for John Kelly today

Worship on Dec. 10 will include a time of blessing for John Kelly as his time at Wilshire comes to a close at year end. Since his two-year pastoral residency ended in August, John has served on staff as a McIver Fellow. Keep John in your prayers as he continues his job search.

Final Wednesday night for 2023

On Dec. 13, the final Wednesday Night Live before a holiday break, we'll have dinner in Koinonia Café as usual at 5 p.m., but at 6 p.m. all are invited to the Preschool Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary. There will be no KidConnect or adult Bible study. Watershed will still meet.

Dec. 13 Menu: Blackened shrimp, cheesy grits, roasted vegetable medley, cornbread, vegetable beef soup, ginger pound cake, chocolate chip cookies, jello. **Kids:** Burgers, fries.

Calling all Wilshire authors

If you've written and published a book, we need you for the first-ever Wilshire Author Fair on Sunday, Jan. 14. Hosted by the Library Committee, this will be an opportunity to show and sell your books to the Wilshire community and beyond. We've compiled a list of amazing Wilshire authors, but we're looking for anyone we may have missed. If you haven't been contacted, email Jeff Hampton at jefton@aol.com.



MINISTER OF MUSIC CANDIDATE Ariel Merivil

The Minister of Music Search Committee is eager for you to get acquainted with our candidate, Ariel Merivil. During the interview process, we wanted to know more about his work at his current church, First-Plymouth in Lincoln, Nebraska, and asked him to send us video links to some samples. These videos have been assembled into a playlist on Wilshire's YouTube channel. You can access it via the QR code below or by looking in the Playlists area at youtube.com/wilshirebaptist.

Please attend one of our Meet and Greets on Dec. 15 or 16, and be sure to attend worship on Dec. 17, when Ariel will sing a solo, lead the hymns and conduct the choir. Voting on the recommendation to call Ariel will occur after worship. Details about the Call Weekend can be found on page 13.

Please continue to pray for Ariel and for Wilshire during this time.

—*Minister of Music Search Committee*



ARIEL IN ACTION.
Scan to see Ariel conduct, sing and play at his current church. Or look under Playlists on our YouTube channel.

MINISTER OF MUSIC CALL WEEKEND, DEC. 14-17

Ariel Merivil, the candidate recommended by the Minister of Music Search Committee and the Personnel Committee, will participate in a Call Weekend starting Thursday, Dec. 14, and culminating in a special church business meeting after worship on Sunday, Dec. 17.

Three Meet and Greet sessions in Community Hall will be the main opportunities for church members to meet Ariel. Attend the session of your choice; no need to RSVP. During the first part of each event, attendees will be invited to write and submit questions for a moderated time of Q&A to follow.

■ **Meet and Greet 1 | Friday, Dec. 15 | 10:15-11:30 a.m.** | Beverages provided.

■ **Meet and Greet 2 | Saturday, Dec. 16 | 8:30-9:45 a.m.** | Families with preschoolers, children and youth are encouraged to attend this session. Activities are planned for the children. Childcare (infants - age 4) is available during this session only.

■ **Meet and Greet 3 | Saturday, Dec. 16 | 11:45-1 p.m.** | Snacks provided.

WORSHIP. During worship on Sunday, Dec. 17, Ariel will sing a solo, lead congregational singing and conduct Sanctuary Choir on one piece.

ABOUT THE VOTE. On Nov. 27, Wilshire's deacons voted to call a special church business meeting on Dec. 17 for the purpose of voting to call a new minister of music. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary at 12:15 p.m.

Voting will be conducted by private ballot. Members, please pick up your ballot in James Gallery on Dec. 17 between 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Distribution will stop at 11 and will resume from the end of worship until 12:15 p.m.

In accordance with Wilshire bylaws, *only Wilshire members present in the Sanctuary may vote.* To be eligible to vote, you must have joined the church by Dec. 6, or 10 days prior to the meeting.

After votes have been collected, the meeting

Call Weekend activities

Thursday, Dec. 14

- Lunch with staff and individual meetings.
- Dinner with search committee.

Friday, Dec. 15

- **Meet and Greet 1**, 10:15-11:30 a.m.
- Dinner with music staff.

Saturday, Dec. 16

- **Meet and Greet 2**, 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, 10:15-11:15 a.m.
- **Meet and Greet 3**, 11:45-1 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 17

- Breakfast with youth, 9:30-10 a.m.
- Ballot pickup, 9:15-11:15 a.m.
- Worship, 11 a.m.
- Ballot pickup, 12-12:15 p.m.
- Called church conference, 12:15 p.m.

will be called into recess for votes to be counted. Members may stay in the Sanctuary during counting or leave if needed. The meeting will then be called back into session and the results announced. We will email the members later in the day to announce the result.

Worship Care will be extended to allow preschool families to attend the business meeting. Parents should pick up their children during the vote-counting recess.

■ The information on these pages can be found at wilshirebc.org/music-minister and will also be emailed to members. If you have questions, email wilshiremusicsearch@gmail.com.

■ Printed copies of the candidate profile are available in the main office and at the Welcome Desk in James Gallery.

Adventurers San Francisco trip

Plans for the September 2024 Adventurers trip to San Francisco are underway! Join us for sightseeing and community building, including visits to Alcatraz, Muir Woods and Napa Valley. Please complete our interest form at wilshirebc.org/san-fran or in the main office. This doesn't commit you to going but tells us you're strongly considering it. Registration will start in January. The cost will be, at most, \$2,500 per person, covering transportation, lodging, attractions and some meals. Wilshire Adventurers plans social and education opportunities for those 60 and older. Guests are welcome.

Puerto Rico trip planned



Wilshire will return to Puerto Rico for a mission trip from Feb. 24 to March 2, 2024. Wilshire member Monica Mullins will lead the group, which will partner with First Baptist of Rio Piedras in San Juan. Project

details will be announced soon, but no experience is necessary. The cost of the trip will be \$350 to \$400, plus airfare. If you're interested in going or have questions, contact Abbey Adcox at aadcox@wilshirebc.org.

Subscribe to sermon podcast

Sermons from Timothy Peoples and other Wilshire preachers are available as a weekly audio podcast on all major podcast platforms. Search for "Wilshire Baptist Church" on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, Google Podcasts or iHeartRadio.

Chronic illness support group

Wilshire's support group for those experiencing a chronic or undiagnosed illness meets on Zoom the second and fourth Tuesdays every month at 7:30 p.m. To learn more, contact Annette Miller at annette.a.miller@gmail.com.

WILSHIRE SINGS

Mystery and miracle

BY CANDY MCCOMB

The season of Advent. The season of song. Music and Christmas are inseparable; we hear these songs everywhere we go. As a musician, this is a beautiful and busy time, with both the celebratory songs and thought-provoking carols of this season among my favorites.

This Advent, Wilshire is singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" as a response each Sunday morning. It's one of our oldest Advent songs, with the chant-like tune dating to the eighth or ninth century. The melody moves from a haunting verse in a minor key to hopeful rejoicing as the refrain moves into a major key.

It speaks of the mystery and the miracle, the promises and prophecies. Come, Emmanuel, to ransom captive Israel; come, Day-spring, to disperse our gloom; come, Wisdom, to order all things; and come, Desire of Nations, to fill the world with heaven's peace. This message is relevant today as the world longs for a path that leads from war to peace, darkness to light, stress to tranquility, promise to reality.

As you lift your voice in song, let these promises be fulfilled in you throughout Advent and in the new year to come.

■ *Wilshire Sings* is an occasional feature about our loved hymns and spiritual songs. Candy McComb serves on Wilshire's music staff as children's choir coordinator.

MLK Meal Packing Event



Join us on the MLK Day holiday, Monday, Jan. 15, as we again partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack healthy meals for those in need. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in Community Hall. Our goal is to pack 15,120 meals.

This project is for everyone, with opportunities to serve while seated and while standing. Children are a great help collecting completed bags with help from a parent. Volunteers are needed to help set up starting at 8:30 a.m. and clean up afterward. Rise Against Hunger's mission is to create immediate and long-term solutions to hunger by building resilience, self-sufficiency and empowerment in communities worldwide. Please sign up via the link at wilshirebc.org/events/mlk-meals.

Ushers and greeters needed

The Hospitality Ministry Team is seeking new ushers and greeters to serve on a rotational basis. Contact: Barbara Clayton at bclayton@wilshirebc.org for more information.

Evening knitting group

Anyone who enjoys knitting is invited to Sara Tinsley's Garland home one evening each month, usually the third Thursday, to work on their projects in fellowship with others. The group is open to knitters of all skill levels. Contact Sara for more details at saratsinsley1@yahoo.com.



Let's play mahjong!

Join other Women of Wilshire for mahjong on the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. or the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. All skill levels welcome. Please sign up; SignUpGenius link at wilshirebc.org/events/mahjong.

Women of Wilshire book clubs

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** meets monthly at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. On **Dec. 12**, the group will enjoy a holiday cookie exchange and discuss *The Christmas Pearl* by Dorothea Benton Frank. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org).

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** meets one Thursday a month at noon in Room 1205-L. On **Jan. 4**, the group will discuss Hazel Prior's *How the Penguins Saved Veronica*. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org).

Register for WOW retreat

Registration is open for the Women of Wilshire 2024 retreat, to be held Feb. 9-11 at the Prothro Retreat Center on Lake Texoma. Jillian Mason Shannon will serve as retreat pastor. See full details and register at wilshirebc.org/events/wow-retreat-2024 or scan QR code.

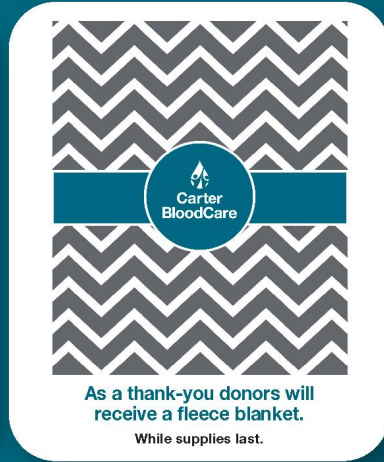




BLOOD DRIVE



Hunter Johnson
of Fort Worth, TX
says, "Thank You!"



As a thank-you donors will
receive a fleece blanket.
While supplies last.

Wed., December 20, 2023
10:00am - 3:00pm

Wilshire Baptist Church

4316 Abrams Rd.

Carter BloodCare Bus

Contact:

Linda Garner, PhD RN

lgarner@wilshirebc.org



Give for Texans.



CarterBloodCare.org
Call 800-366-2834 | Text CBCDonate to 999-777

Carole Jean Abernathy

Name: Carole Jean Abernathy

Hometown: Waco

Present City: Dallas

Education: BBA, Baylor University, 1962; postgraduate work at the University of Houston

Profession: Taught school in Houston, after which I devoted my time to raising our three children.

Tell us about your family.

I was married to Maxey Abernathy for 59 years and have three children: Jean Ann, who lives in Kansas; Glenn, who lives in Colorado; and Paula, who lives in Dallas. I have five delightful grandchildren: Emma, Lottie, Garrett, Ku and Kathryn. I also have a 5-year-old Yorkie-Pomeranian named Lucy.

How about your work or volunteer life?

Giving of my time and talents has been an important part of my life journey, both at church and in the community. A few of my most memorable volunteer experiences are serving on the Personnel and Finance Committees at FBC Tyler, chairing and volunteering for the Medical Alliance Book Fair and serving as an officer and volunteer for the Women's Symphony League of Tyler.

Favorite hobbies?

Photography, reading, sewing, Mahjong. I am trying to pick up knitting and crocheting.

What are your favorite places to travel?

Travel was an integral part of my early marriage as Maxey's job took us across the U.S. and overseas. When our kids grew up, we continued



to travel extensively. It's hard to pick just one spot! Some of my most favorite are the Rocky Mountains, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, Turkey and Ireland.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

We lived in Tyler for 45 years, and it became necessary to be near one of our children. We moved to Ventana by Buckner Senior Living in August 2019. At that point we began attending Wilshire with our daughter, Paula Woodbury, and her family and joined shortly thereafter.

What has surprised you most about Wilshire?

We joined Compass Class because our dear friends from my Baylor days, Brenda and Gwin Morris, are members. I love the class and have found they discuss diverse topics very honestly.

Tell us about your faith journey.

I was baptized in third grade, and I feel like God has been leading me all of my life.

What's something interesting most people would not know about you?

I worked for Senator Ralph Yarborough in Washington, D.C., after graduating Baylor.

What adjectives best describe you?

I believe I am very accepting and open to different ideas.



WILSHIRE ADVENTURERS

SAN FRANCISCO

SEPT. 10-15, 2024

Details and registration at wilshirebc.org/san-fran



How to Give

Your gifts are changing lives inside and outside our walls. Below are several methods you can use to contribute financially. Thanks for your generosity.

ONLINE. Set up a recurring or one-time gift charged to your debit or credit card or as an ACH from your checking account. Get started at wilshirebc.org/give.

REALM CONNECT APP. Easily make gifts and see past giving on your mobile device. Available at your device's app store. Find download links at wilshirebc.org/realms.

AUTOMATIC BANK PAY. Visit your bank's website and set up Wilshire as a payee. The bank will send the church a check.

MAIL. Send to Finance Director Lori Gooden's attention at Wilshire.

TEXT. Text WILSHIRE and a dollar amount (ex: WILSHIRE 50) to 73256.

DONATE STOCKS. Contact Lori to learn how to donate appreciated stocks.

FROM YOUR IRA. For those over 70.5 years old, tax-free IRA gifts offer a financial benefit and may reduce future tax burdens.



Scan QR code with your smartphone camera to make an electronic contribution.

At Wilshire, we use a one-fund approach to giving called the Unified Budget. Your gifts support the basic mission, ministry and operations of the church. Once the Unified Budget is fulfilled, gifts overflow into visionary aspects of our mission.

This Week

Sunday, Dec. 10

- Earlybird Café & Play, Community Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- Time with Tim, Pastor's office, 9:45 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2221, noon
- Children's Choirs, 2220, 2224, 2225, 2226, 12:35 p.m.
- Wilshire Bells, Handbell Room, 12:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

- WOW! Tuesday Evening Book Club, Parlor, 6:30 p.m.
- Chronic & Undiagnosed Illness Support Group, Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Ukulele Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 11 a.m.
- Adventurers Committee, 1205-L, 1 p.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Deacon Bylaws Workgroup, 1205-L, 5:30 p.m.
- Preschool Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary, 6 p.m.
- Let's Play Mahjong!, 1205-G, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Pageant Reception, James Gallery, 6:40 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 14

- Stewpot Meal Service, 11:15 a.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 15

- Minister of Music Candidate Meet & Greet, Community Hall, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16

- Minister of Music Candidate Meet & Greet, Community Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary, 10:15 a.m.
- Minister of Music Candidate Meet & Greet, Community Hall, 11:45 a.m.
- WSM Christmas Party, DeMent & Willson homes, 5 p.m.

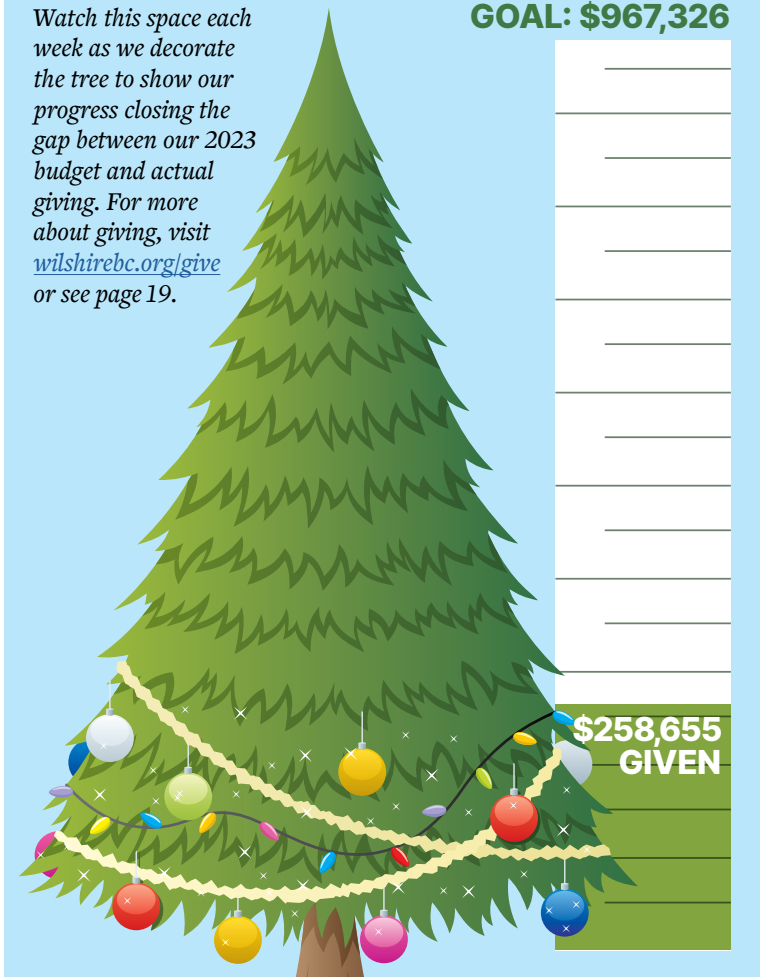
End of year need: \$708,671

I had to hold back the tears when it happened. Each year Bill and Janice Jernberg and Paige and Jeremy Pendery get our first graders ready to receive their brand new Bible with their names on it. During the semester they learn Bible verses and how to use their pointing finger to find books, chapters and verses. I was honored to participate with them this year during Sunday School and even learn their secret symbol (sorry, can't tell you) and sign their journals. Mrs. Jernberg taught a lesson from Isaiah 43:1b, "I have called you by name and you are mine."

This year we included the first grade Bible presentation in worship. After the kiddos received their Bibles, all the children in the pews were invited down front for a children's moment. And that's when it happened. Tess McNicholas came down and looked at her sister, who had just received a Bible, and said, "June, I'm proud of you. I hope you know that." And Drew Murray went to his sister and said, "Annie, it has your name on it! Look!"

This is one of the beauties of Church, to remind folks God calls them by name and they are God's. To remind them of the many things they are called to and by God and how we as children of God love them and are proud of them. We are a community of believers in Jesus Christ, which also means we are

Watch this space each week as we decorate the tree to show our progress closing the gap between our 2023 budget and actual giving. For more about giving, visit wilshirebc.org/give or see page 19.



a community who is generous with our acts much like Christ. Yes, this is about how far we have to go in our monetary giving, but it is also a reminder of how generosity fuels so much of what we do. Generosity with our actions, our presence, our love. Generosity is necessary to the well-being of our community.

When you give to Wilshire's Unified Budget, you make possible the work and worship that keep our community unique and

purposeful. We have \$708,671 left to go to complete what we budgeted this year. Someone shared with me last week, "Remind people that if they have an IRA, they can send their required minimum distributions to the church, and they will not be taxed on that money."

There are so many ways we can give, and I hope you continue to prayerfully consider how you will.

—Timothy Peoples