



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

December 31, 2023

First Sunday After Christmas

Preparing for worship

It was the yearly church fishing trip, and it was quite exclusive. My uncle, the pastor, gave up on trying to teach me the right catfishing technique. As I started to cry, Rev. Tate took me aside, and she worked with me for hours. She first taught me that the best thing I could do was quit talking. After each of these fishing trips, my uncle would back up his truck to the cast iron kettle in the field, light a fire, heat the oil and cook the catfish. For years I stood by his side as his associate while he cooked the fish to perfection. It seemed to be another form of worship for him.

In 2018, I had Christmas with what was then my future extended family. They, too, love a good fish fry, but it's not catfish they eat; it's crappie. As I stood there next to the patriarch of the family, Pops, and my future father-in-law, Craig, my heart began to palpitate, recognizing a lot of things in my life had changed since my time of being the associate fish fryer with my uncle. I thought of the differences between the two: You don't fish for the two types of fish the same way, they don't taste the same, and everyone has a preference about exactly how the batter must taste. But as I looked at Mr. Lott and Pops enjoying their tradition, I instantly became

thankful that they allowed me into this sacred moment with them. No longer did it feel like everything was changing in my life, but it began to feel more like things were simply being added.

We can look back on this past year and think of all the ways our church and congregation have changed. That may be the easiest way to respond to the past year. But we also have an opportunity to consider these changes as beautiful additions working for our good. The beauty and bounty of new members who have joined our congregation. The additions of Charlie Fuller, Ariel Merivil, Katie Murray, Haley Robinson and Glenda Williams to our staff. The commitments we have vowed to add to our spiritual life and community.

As we approach the new year, with reflection on the days, weeks and months that have passed in 2023, may we boldly rejoice in the traditions and additions that continue to form and shape our identity as Wilshire Baptist Church. So, in the words of the song we'll sing in just a bit: "O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant ... O come, let us adore him" in the holiest and best ways we can as beloved children of God.

—*Timothy Peoples*



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

On the cover: *Manger*, Liz Valente, drawing, 2021, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville. [instagram.com/donalizvalente](https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente)

December 31, 2023
11:00 a.m.
First Sunday After Christmas

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.

Prelude *The Bells of Christmas Chime Once More* arr. John Hanson

Welcome to Worshipers Timothy Peoples

Baptism — Ruby McClung Timothy Peoples

Opening Sentences Katie Murray

Excerpt from *A Blessing Called Sanctuary* by Jan Richardson

But the deal with this blessing
is that it will not leave you alone,
will not let you linger
in safety,
in stasis.

The time will come
when this blessing
will ask you to leave,
not because it has tired of you
but because it desires for you
to become the sanctuary
that you have found—
to speak your word
into the world,

to tell what you have heard
with your own ears,
seen with your own eyes,
known in your own heart:

that you are beloved,
precious child of God,
beautiful to behold,
and you are welcome
and more than welcome
here.

+Congregational Song

O Come, All Ye Faithful
No. 103

ADESTE FIDELIS

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

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Prayers of the People

Heather Mustain

Congregational Song

Away in a Manger
No. 110

MUELLER

Offertory

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
Michael Prysock, Darren DeMent, Molly Shepard

GO TELL IT

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

+Gospel Reading – Luke 2:15-21

Julie Girards

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When

they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them. When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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!

Solo

The Work of Christmas
Elliana Mitchell
Candy McComb, piano

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, to heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers,
To make music, make music, make music from the heart.

Message

“Hark, I See ...”

Timothy Peoples

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

+Congregational Song

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
No. 126

REGENT SQUARE

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

A Christmas Celebration

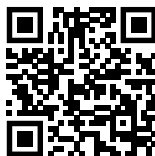
arr. Don Phillips

Bill Jernberg, guest organist
Ralph Manuel, guest music director

Meet today's worship leaders

Bill Bruster and his wife, Charlotte, joined Wilshire in 2000. They are members of Compass Class. Bill had a long career as a Baptist pastor and before retirement worked with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, encouraging churches in their cooperative missions.

Elliana Mitchell is a ninth grader at Woodrow Wilson High School, where she is active in performing arts and participates in the International Baccalaureate program. At Wilshire she sings in Youth Choir and Shekinah and teaches in 3 Year Old Choir. Elliana officially joined Wilshire two weeks ago with her parents, Keri and Damien Mitchell, younger sister, Everly, and grandfather, Hank Mitchell.



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.

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



Rise
AGAINST HUNGER

MLK Meal Packing Event, Jan. 15

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, which is doable with Rise Against Hunger's fun assembly-line approach. 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 also needed to help set up Community Hall starting at 8:30 a.m. and clean up after the event.

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 so we'll know we have enough help. Scan the QR code or find the sign-up link at wilshirebc.org/events/mlk-meals.



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.

Regular schedule next Sunday

Next Sunday, Jan. 7, we will resume our normal schedule of Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m.

Office closed through Jan. 3

The church office will be closed and staff members will be on vacation Monday, Jan. 1, and Tuesday, Jan. 2. In addition, the staff will be offsite for a retreat on Wednesday, Jan. 3. If you have an urgent pastoral need during this time, contact Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples at 214-452-3171 or tpeoples@wilshirebc.org.

January start dates

■ **Wednesday Night Live** will resume on Jan. 10 after a holiday break. This includes Koinonia Café; Preschool Music, Missions and More; KidConnect; Watershed; and Sanctuary Choir.

■ **Lunch & Learn** is moving to a weekly schedule and will also resume Jan. 10.

■ **Children's and Youth Choir** rehearsals will resume Sunday, Jan. 14.



Marriage Connections Jan. 12

Wilshire member Susan Leonard, a marriage and family therapist, will speak at Marriage Connections on Friday, Jan. 12, at 6:30 p.m. In this event, held on select Friday nights, free childcare (infant – grade 6) is provided while parents enjoy a short program at the church and then have the rest of the night, until 9:30, to themselves. Registration is required for childcare and closes Sunday, Jan. 7; visit wilshirebc.org/events/marriage-connections. Contact: Abbey Adcox (aadcox@wilshirebc.org)

Single, Adoptive and Foster Care Parents Night Out, Jan. 12

Wilshire will offer free childcare (infant – grade 6) for single, adoptive and foster parents on Friday, Jan. 12, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Registration is required and closes Sunday, Jan. 7; visit wilshirebc.org/events/pno.

Author fair to be held Jan. 14

Come browse and buy titles from more than two dozen church member authors at the first ever Wilshire Author Fair on Sunday, Jan. 14, from noon to 2 p.m. in Community Hall. Titles span a wide range of genres and topics: short fiction and novels; stories for children; and nonfiction including music, poetry, memoirs, culture, lifestyle, devotionals, photography, recipes, heritage, sermons, self-help and biblical commentary.

Save the date for annual church conference: Jan. 21

Make plans to attend Wilshire's annual church conference in Community Hall after worship on Sunday, Jan. 21. We'll adopt a budget, elect deacons and committees, consider church bylaws revisions recommended by the deacons and hear updates about the state and life of the church. Lunch will be provided.

For guests and new members: Wilshire Welcome on Jan. 21

Wilshire Welcome, a one-hour session to help guests and new members learn what the church is all about, will meet Sunday, Jan. 21, at 9:45 a.m. in the Prayer Room near McIver Chapel. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org).

Puerto Rico trip planned



Wilshire will return to Puerto Rico for a mission trip from Feb. 24 to March 1. 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 and there will be work for all skill levels. The trip will cost \$400, plus airfare. If you're interested or have questions, contact Abbey Adcox at aadcox@wilshirebc.org. You can also register at wilshirebc.org/events/puerto-rico.

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.



Let's play mahjong!

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

WOW book clubs

■ **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).

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** meets monthly at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. On **Jan. 9**, the group will discuss *The Engineer's Wife: a Novel of the Brooklyn Bridge* by Tracey Enerson Wood. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@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.



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. 31

- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 1

- Building closed

Tuesday, Jan. 2

- Building closed

Wednesday, Jan. 3

- Building closed

Thursday, Jan. 4

- WOW Brown Bag Book Club, 1205-L, noon

Friday, Jan. 5

- Mahjong, 1205-L, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 6

- Memorial Service: Karen Johnson, Sanctuary, 2:15 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 7

- WSM Book Club, Youth Center, 8:30 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Finance Committee, 1205-G, noon
- Faith in 3D rehearsal, Sanctuary, 12:15 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 8

- Deacons Meeting, Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Wilshire Winds, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

- Stephen Ministry Supervision/CE, 1205-G & 1205-L, 6:30 p.m.
- WOW Tuesday Evening Book Club, Parlor, 6:30 p.m.



**For everyone.
Now every week.**

**Join us each Wednesday
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Community Hall**

**All ages are welcome for lunch and
minister-led Bible Study. Starts Jan. 10.**

Buffet lunch: \$10 ea. No RSVP needed. Pay at the door.