



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

January 7, 2024
Epiphany Sunday

Preparing for worship

It was on a cloudless night back in the 1960s. My dad took my older brother and me out to the backyard, and we craned our necks upward. The night sky was filled with stars. Bright stars. Dim stars. Clusters of stars. Individual stars. Stars everywhere. Our mission was to find a single moving speck of light in that vast field of glitter. We were looking for a satellite orbiting the earth. Somehow my dad had learned that it was passing over North Little Rock at just that moment. We looked and looked and looked, squinting our eyes across the galaxy.

And then I saw it! This tiny, singular pinpoint of light was actually moving across the sky. I found it! (And I found it BEFORE my big brother did!) I pointed excitedly to this pinhole of light making its way around the Earth, and my dad and my brother saw it too. Mission accomplished!

During the '60s, our family, like many others, followed the many missions of NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Missions with rockets, satellites, space men and, eventually, walks on the moon. The work of NASA captured the imagination of a nation and the Fuller family as well. What must life be like in outer space? On the moon? On other planets? We could only imagine.

In times long ago someone else was focused on the heavens. Sometimes called “wise men,” sometimes “magi,” they were searchers, looking towards the sky to guide them to a place they knew not, to something beyond their wildest imaginations.

They went forward not knowing how long the journey would be, not knowing where it would take them, not knowing what the struggles would be along the way, not knowing the destination and not knowing what they would find when they found it.

Do we have what it would take for such a journey?

I contend that out there beyond our horizon, accessible only to our imagination, is a pinprick of light, a light that shines just a bit brighter than the surrounding lights, a light that’s moving forward toward a world where good news shines through the darkest night. Take a moment and be still, close your eyes to the world around you, and you just might see it — moving across the sky of your life leading you toward something more powerful, something better, something totally unexpected ... something that looks and feels a lot like Jesus.

—Charlie Fuller



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: *Star of Bethlehem with Pomegranate Trees*, c. 1850, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

January 7, 2024
11:00 a.m.
Epiphany Sunday

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

March of the Three Kings

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

Opening Sentences

Trace Cabaniss

Star-Giving by Ann Weems

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a star ...

Brilliance in a package,
something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
or in the pocket of your being.
Something to take out in times of darkness,
something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
something you could hold in your hand,
something for wonderment,
something for pondering,
something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant:
God's Advent Light into the darkness of this world.
But stars are only God's for giving,
and I must be content to give you words and wishes
and packages without stars.
But I can wish you life
as radiant as the Star
that announces the Christ Child's coming,
and as filled with awe as the shepherds who stood beneath its light.
And I can pass on to you the love
that has been given to me,
ignited countless times by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem's light.
Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.

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

Procession of the Wise Men

Maddie Campbell, Duncan Michie, David Oney

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Isaiah 60:1-6

Bryn Anderson

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Prayers of the People

Judy Yarbrough

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Solo Offertory

Mein gläubiges Herze
(*My Heart Ever Faithful*)
Laura Summers

Johann Sebastian Bach

Mein gläubiges Herze,
My heart ever faithful,
Frohlocke, sing, scherze, dein Jesus ist nah!
Sing praises, be joyful, thy Jesus is near!

Weg Jammer, weg Klagen,
Away with complaining,
Ich will euch nur sagen, mein Jesus ist da!
Faith ever maintaining, my Jesus is here!

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Katie Murray

All followers of Christ are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, whether you are a Wilshire member or not. The bread used this morning is gluten free.

Passing of the Bread

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. John Leavitt

Passing of the Cup

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

arr. Thomas Keesecker

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Congregational Song

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
No. 139

W ZLOBIE LEZY

+Gospel Reading — Matthew 2:1-12

Deborah Alexander

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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!

Message

“Following the Star”

Timothy Peoples

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

Epiphany Star Giving

+Congregational Song

What Child Is This
No. 148

GREENSLEEVES

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel

Today's flowers are given in memory of Karen Johnson by the Johnson, Mirochna and Brown families.

Meet today's worship leaders

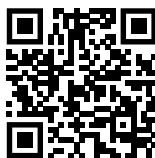
Deborah Alexander joined Wilshire in 2006 and is married to Ronnie. Deborah attends Foundations of Faith Class and serves on the Hospitality Ministry Team. She recently retired from a 24-year career at Medical City Dallas.

Bryn Anderson grew up at Wilshire and is the daughter of Amy and Cory Anderson. She is a senior at Baylor University, where she is majoring in psychology and minoring in English. Bryn served as a Children's Ministry intern at Wilshire in summer 2022 and attends Intersection Class when she's home from school.

Trace Cabaniss grew up at Wilshire and is the son of Carol and Kevin Cabaniss. Trace is a sophomore at Texas A&M University, where he studies sports management and is captain of A&M's Ultimate club team.

Laura Summers is the daughter of Kevin and Tamara Summers. She is a senior at Prince of Peace Christian School, where she participates in cross-country and serves as National Honor Society chaplain. Laura sings with the Greater Dallas Choral Society and studies voice and piano. At Wilshire, she is active in student ministry, singing in Youth Choir and Shekinah, and served on the Minister of Music Search Committee during 2023.

Judy Yarbrough and her husband, Charles, joined Wilshire in 1989. They are the parents of four adult children, including Collin, who helps Judy run Full Circle Bakery, a socially responsible business focused on teaching refugee women the skills needed to enter the food industry. Judy is a deacon and attends Cord of Three Class.



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 and 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 and Advocacy

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

Music and Worship

- Jeff Brummel, Associate Minister of Music/Organist (3122)
- Carol Cabaniss, Music and Worship Coordinator (3106)
- 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 and Technology

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

Pathways to Ministry

- 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

- 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



News & Announcements
January 7, 2024



**For everyone.
Now every week.**

Join us each Wednesday
starting Jan. 10.
11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
Community Hall

All ages are welcome for a buffet lunch
(\$10 each) and minister-led Bible Study.
Pay at the door. No RSVP needed.
Contact: Barbara Clayton
(bclayton@wilshirebc.org)

MLK Day Meal Packing Event, Jan. 15

Join us on the MLK Day holiday, Monday, Jan. 15, as we 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.

Wilshire Author Fair



Sunday, Jan. 14
Noon–2 p.m.

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. Presented by the Wilshire Library. For a list of authors and titles, visit wilshirebc.org/events/author-fair.

New members

Amelia Jones

Victoria Jones

Condolences to

Val Mason on the death of her brother-in-law, Robert Wermuller, and brother, Joe Nilsen. Nephew and niece are **George and Kim Mason**.

Sign up for Marriage Connections

Marriage and family therapist Susan Leonard will speak at Marriage Connections on Friday, Jan. 12, at 6:30 p.m. In this event, free childcare (infant–grade 6) is provided while parents attend a brief program and then have the rest of the night, until 9:30, to themselves. Registration is required by today, Jan. 7; visit wilshirebc.org/events/marriage-connections.

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.

Church conference coming Jan. 21

Plan to attend Wilshire’s annual church conference in Community Hall after worship on Jan. 21. We’ll adopt a budget, elect deacons and committees, consider church bylaws revisions and hear updates about the church. Lunch will be provided. Register for childcare (infant–grade 6) by Jan. 14 at wilshirebc.org/events/church-conference. Children’s and Youth Choirs will rehearse as normal.

New? Try Wilshire Welcome

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. Monica Mullins will lead the group, which will partner with a church in San Juan. No experience necessary; there will be work for all skill levels.

The trip will cost \$400 plus airfare. Sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/puerto-rico. Contact: Abbey Adcox (aadcox@wilshirebc.org).

Join team for Point in Time Count

HUD's annual Point in Time Count for Dallas County will take place Thursday, Jan. 25, starting at 6 p.m. Volunteer teams will be deployed under the direction of Housing Forward to take a census of unhoused neighbors, and Wilshire is forming a team to be led by Heather Mustain. Contact Abbey Adcox (aadcox@wilshirebc.org) to learn more or register.

Souper Bowl of Caring is Feb. 4



The annual Souper Bowl of Caring, benefiting the Phil Strickland Hunger Offering, will be held Sunday, Feb. 4, at noon in

Community Hall. Join us for soup and all the fixings, and donate an amount equal to what you would spend at a nice restaurant for lunch. This year's beneficiary is **Twelve21 Global's Farm School Project**, which aims to establish a sustainable food source to benefit Twelve21's two schools in Tanzania and the communities they serve for years to come. Learn more at wilshirebc.org/events/souper-bowl.



Women of Wilshire events

■ Join 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.

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

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** meets one Thursday a month at noon in Room 1205-L. **Feb. 1:** *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org).

■ *Life Worth Living* is the theme for the **2024 Women of Wilshire 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. **Please register by Jan. 10.**

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 soon. 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

RESUMES JAN. 10

Koinonia Café | 5–6 p.m. | **Community Hall** | Buffet-style dinner for the whole family. Details at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Jan. 10:** Tacos al pastor and barbacoa; rice; refried beans; salad; chicken tortilla soup; desserts.
Kids: Quesadilla; refried beans.

Music, Missions & More | 6–7 p.m. | **Age 3–Pre-K** | Preschool choir, plus fun activities focused on God’s love.

KidConnect | 6–7 p.m. | **K–Grade 6** | A rotation of art, music and more to help kids learn how to love God and others.

Bible Study: The Work of Christmas Begins | **Jan. 10–31** | 6–7 p.m. | **Community Hall** | In his poem “The Work of Christmas,” Howard Thurman reminds us the work of Christmas doesn’t happen during Advent in our waiting and preparation, but after all the pomp and circumstance. When things seem to have calmed down and become quiet is when we need to get out the hammers, saws and drills to make noise and create an atmosphere of justice. Join Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples as we discuss how we can contribute to the work.

Watershed | 6:30–7:30 p.m. | **Grades 7–12** | Bible study and music in the Youth Center.

Sanctuary Choir | 7 p.m. | **Choral Hall** | No audition. New singers welcome.

Childcare for infants to 2-year-olds whose parents are involved in church activities is offered 6–7:15 p.m.

This Week

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.
- Faith in 3D Choir Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Ukulele Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 11 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Adventurers Committee, 1205-L, 1 p.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Mahjong, James Gallery, 6 p.m.
- MOPS Steering, 3105, 6 p.m.
- Preschool Music, Missions & More, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 11

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

Friday, Jan. 12

- Friday Friends, 3301, 10 a.m.
- Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group, 1205-L, 10 a.m.
- Single, Foster and Adoptive Parents Night Out, 6:30 p.m.
- Marriage Connections, James Gallery, 6:30 p.m.

Tim Morgan

Hometown: Dallas

Present City: Dallas

Education: BBA, Accounting, Baylor; MBA,
UT Austin

Profession: Retired

Tell us about your family.

I am married to Jane, and our children, Emily and David, grew up at Wilshire and are married and live in Nederland, Texas, and Austin, respectively. We have three very special grandchildren.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I retired in 2018 as corporate controller for a regional insurance group. I'm a CPA and spent most of my career in the insurance industry. I was a longtime volunteer for a national insurance education association. In the community, I spent much time in volunteer leadership with Boy Scouts, YMCA and High Adventure Treks for Dads and Daughters.

Favorite hobbies?

I enjoy golf, fishing, camping, hunting, hiking and traveling.

What are your favorite places to travel?

I've been to all 50 states, and I've traveled in Europe, the Holy Land, Egypt, the Caribbean and Asia. We enjoy river cruises, and we have a travel trailer and enjoy RVing. It's impossible to pick one favorite place, but Egypt was the most distinctive. I enjoy anywhere with exceptional natural beauty and rich history.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

We joined in 1977 as newlyweds. Bruce McIver was a close friend of my parents, and we found a con-



nection with several other Baylor graduates.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

I direct and occasionally teach the BEST Class. I'm a deacon, a Stephen Ministry leader and have served on numerous committees. I taught in the youth ministry for 12 years.

Tell us about your faith journey.

My father was a longtime pastor and denominational leader and baptized me at age 7. At that moment, it was crystal clear what God had done for me and how I needed to respond. Growing up, I was always encouraged to be engaged in service. God continues to nudge me into different areas of service — some I feel well-equipped to handle and others require me to move beyond my comfort zone. With God's help, I am trying to be engaged in service wherever he leads.

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

We lived in New York City in 1980-81 and got to experience John Lennon's memorial service in Central Park and a ticker tape parade for the newly freed Iranian hostages, among other New Yorker experiences. For 37 years I've organized an annual New Mexico backpacking and camping trip or Canadian wilderness canoe trip for 12 to 20 guys, mostly with Wilshire connections.

What adjectives best describe you?

Organized, industrious, helpful, thorough.