



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**August 4, 2024**

*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

# Preparing for worship

We started a family practice a couple of years ago where we take a few days to get out of town and visit the Texas Hill Country before school starts. Our kids have caught on to this rhythm, and our few days of swimming, eating s'mores every night and spending time together are something they look forward to all summer.

I also anticipate this time away every year and have found that it helps to serve as a reset for me mentally and emotionally. I can mark the final days of summer while preparing myself for the transition to fall. Soon we will trade early morning cartoons on the couch for early morning walks to school. Unscheduled days will be saved for Saturdays as we fall into our weekday routine. Late nights at the pool will become late nights watching high school football. It will still be hot, so I guess we can take solace in the fact that some things will stay the same.

These moments of reset aren't just important for seasonal shifts, but also for the transitions we experience day in and day out. A morning cup of coffee, a daily walk and even our commutes to work can serve as intentional times to mark the transitions within our day, refocusing

our attention so we can attend to our next set of tasks.

Sunday worship also serves as a moment to reset our focus. Even the most spiritually disciplined among us is not immune to the realities of life that draw our attention away from God. Our time here this morning is a reminder that we do not go about our days alone, but in communion with God and in community with our family of faith.

Today's service will have several moments that can serve as resets for us today. Perhaps during Hattie's baptism you can take time to focus on your own commitments you have made to God. When we come to the table for the Lord's Supper, try refocusing your attention on noticing where God shows up in your life in the most ordinary of places. When we say the Lord's Prayer, remember the interconnectedness that we share with people praying this exact prayer all over the world.

May our recentering this morning prepare us to focus on what truly matters in the week ahead.

—Katie Murray



4316 Abrams Road | Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214-452-3100 | [wilshirebc.org](http://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

August 4, 2024  
11:00 a.m.  
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

## Chiming of the Hour

We gather in community this morning to worship God.  
To help center our focus in worship, please silence all electronic devices.

## Welcome to Worshipers

Paige Pendery

## Prelude

*Song of the Forest*  
Susan Kimball, flute; Amy Lee, French horn;  
Carla Siegesmund, harp

William Kirsten

## Baptism — Hattie Huddleston

Julie Girards

## Opening Litany

Anabelle Tinsley

Leader: In the beginning, O God, you created life and light

**People: by your Spirit moving over the waters.**

Leader: You led the people of Israel from slavery into freedom

**People: by the waters of the sea.**

Leader: You called Jesus your beloved son

**People: by the waters of the Jordan River.**

Leader: You set us free from sin and raise us to live with you

**People: by the waters of our baptism.**

Leader: We give you thanks for new life in the waters,

**People: through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## +Congregational Song

*Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him*  
No. 335

HYFRYDOL

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

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**Prayers of the People**

Ariel Merivil

**Silence**

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

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Offertory**

*Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord*  
Summer Drop-In Choir

From Cameroon

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!

**+Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a**

Gina Waterman

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare and drink from his cup and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this

deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold because he did this thing and because he had no pity.” Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your bosom and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah, and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the Lord: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house, and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in broad daylight. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and in broad daylight.” David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

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**

“Anti-Hero”

Timothy Peoples

**Celebration of the Lord’s Supper**

Timothy Peoples

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**

*Think of Me and Remember*  
Cindy Fuller

Joel Raney

Take this wine I pour, take this bread I break.  
Search your heart and remember my love as you partake.  
Come and follow me. I will hold you forever.  
My love I give so you may live. Think of me and remember.

When your feet grow tired, and your flesh is weak,  
Think of me and remember I am the rest you seek.  
Come and follow me. I will hold you forever.  
My love I give, so you may live. Think of me and remember.

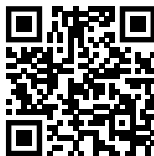
Remember how I prayed at Gethsemane,  
“Father, let this cup please pass from me.”  
Remember how the soldiers captured me,  
Then led the Son of Man to Calvary.

As you close the day, as you sing and pray,  
Search your heart and remember, “I am the life, the truth, the way.”  
Come and follow me. I will hold you forever.  
My love I give, so you may live. Think of me and remember.

<b>Passing of the Cup</b>	<i>Communion Medley</i> Cindy Fuller	arr. Lloyd Larson
<b>Passing of the Peace</b>	May the peace of the Lord be always with you. <b>And also with you.</b>	
<b>+Congregational Song</b>	<i>Trust and Obey</i> No. 509	TRUST AND OBEY
<b>Sharing of Decisions</b>		Timothy Peoples
<b>Benediction</b>		Timothy Peoples
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him</i>	arr. Anna Laura Page

The flowers today are given by Shirley and James Varner  
in celebration of their 63rd wedding anniversary.

Cindy Fuller, guest organist



**We're glad you're here.** If you're a guest today and would like to let us know, please scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to access our online response card. You can also scan the code to make a financial contribution or submit a prayer request. Response cards and offering envelopes are available in the pew racks and can be placed in the offering plate or offering boxes.

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Cindy and Charlie Fuller** joined Wilshire in March, when Charlie began as director of Pathways to Ministry and coach in residence. He previously served as interim minister of music. Cindy is a longtime church musician who most recently served as organist and pianist at Lake Shore Baptist Church in Waco. Cindy and Charlie attend Epiphany Class, and Cindy sings in Sanctuary Choir and volunteered this summer for Creation Station. The Fullers have two daughters and four grandchildren.

**Susan Kimball** grew up at Wilshire and is a director of Seekers Class. She serves on the Deacon Nominating Committee, sings in Nova, plays handbells in Carillon Ringers and plays flute in Wilshire Winds.

**Amy Lee** joined Wilshire in 2003. She is married to Thomas, and they are the parents of Hamilton, a rising second grader, and Eleanor, who is 3. Amy plays French horn in Wilshire Winds, directs the Kindergarten Choir and attends Odyssey Class. She works as manager of community outreach at Ryan, a tax services firm.

**Paige Pendery** and her husband, Jeremy, came to Wilshire in 2008. They are parents to Luke, a rising sixth grader, and Lucy, a rising third grader. Paige is a school counselor at Northwood Hills Elementary School in RISD. At Wilshire, Paige and Jeremy teach first grade Sunday School and are members of Genesis Class.

**Carla Siegesmund** and her husband, Rudy, joined Wilshire in 2019. She attends Cord of Three Class, helps facilitate the Women of Wilshire Tuesday Evening Book Club, sings in Sanctuary Choir and serves as a substitute in Carillon Ringers. Carla is a CPA by vocation and a harpist by avocation.

**Anabelle Tinsley** is the younger daughter of Sara and Price Tinsley and sister to Gillian. Her grandparents Peggy and Sam Tinsley also attend Wilshire. Anabelle will soon start ninth grade at Lakeview Centennial High School, where she plays bass clarinet and will be in the marching band. She also plays softball and sings with the Greater Dallas Choral Society. Anabelle is involved with Wilshire Student Ministry, sings in Youth Choir and volunteered with several children's camps this summer.

**Gina Waterman** and her young adult son, Kenneth, joined Wilshire in 2009. Gina attends Seekers Class, serves on the Hospitality Ministry Team and is active in Women of Wilshire. She is a grief coach and an advanced certified Grief Recovery Method specialist. Gina has a passion for supporting special needs parents and caregivers and often collaborates with and speaks to groups in the DFW area.

# 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 with phone extensions 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

- Carole McClung, ECLC Administrative Assistant (3115)
- Ramona Randle, ECLC Director (3140)

## Finance

- Lori Gooden, Director of Finance (3131)

## Food Services

- Luke Munion, Food Service Staff
- Haley Robinson, Food Service Director (3117)
- Shari Spell, Food Service Staff
- Gillian Tinsley, 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
- Rachel Oney, Receptionist (3165)
- Kevin Sierra, Facilities
- Leticia Vega, Facilities

## 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)
- Shana Gaines, Wilshire Winds Director (3163)
- Ralph Manuel, Handbell Coordinator (3161)
- Candy McComb, Children's Choir Coordinator (3124)
- Ariel Merivil, Minister of Music (3135)

## Operations and Technology

- Rene Altamirano, Maintenance Technician
- Jim Tapley, Audio and Video Coordinator

## Pathways to Ministry

- Debby Burton, Pathways to Ministry Assistant (3158)
- Charlie Fuller, Pathways to Ministry Director and Coach in Residence (3123)
- George Mason, Senior Pastor Emeritus and Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director (3133)
- Georgia McKee, Pastoral Resident (3152)
- Maggie Morey, Pastoral Resident (3153)

## Senior Pastor

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

## Spiritual Formation

- Kelly Akins, Minister to Preschoolers (3139)
- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Katie Murray, Minister to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)
- Sarah Yodh, Spiritual Formation Coordinator (3130)



# Tapestry



News & Announcements  
August 4, 2024

## Wilshire welcomes pastoral residents



Pastoral residents Maggie Morey (left) and Georgia McKee began work at Wilshire on Thursday. Their start marks a reboot for the church's pastoral residency program, which has been paused for a period of evaluation.

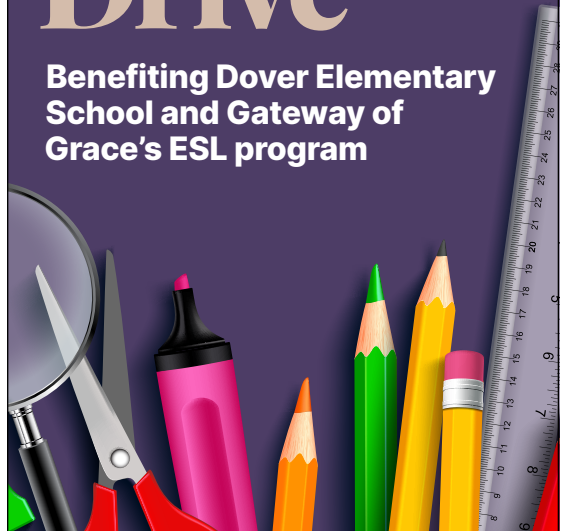
Maggie grew up in High Point, North Carolina, and comes to Wilshire from Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. She is married to Jonathan.

Georgia, originally from Frisco, graduated this spring from Wake Forest University School of Divinity in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She and her wife, Sophia, were married in June.

When Wednesday night activities resume on Aug. 21, the 6 p.m. Bible study time will be devoted to getting to know the new residents. They will also be introduced at the first Lunch & Learn on Wednesday, Sept. 4.

## Back to School Drive

Benefiting Dover Elementary School and Gateway of Grace's ESL program



Visit [wilshirebc.org/events/bts-drive](https://wilshirebc.org/events/bts-drive) for wishlists. Items due to Wilshire by Aug. 11.



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

## New members

- Georgia McKee
- Maggie Morey

## Condolences to

- Family and friends of **Harriett Mason**, June 27.
- Family and friends of **Judy Lewis**, July 29.

## Adventurers Trivia Night, Aug. 5

*What do you call a group of geese? How many ounces in a pound? When is Timothy Peoples's birthday?* Join the Wilshire Adventurers for a fun night of trivia on Monday, Aug. 5, at 6:30 p.m. in Community Hall. You'll be put on a team with four or five others, so you don't have to be an expert. We'll have two rounds of questions and then break for ice cream and cobbler followed by two more rounds. Sam Tinsley will serve as emcee, and each member of the winning team will get a prize. Cost: \$5 per person. Adventurers is a fellowship group for those 60 and up.

## Lunch & Learn trip, Aug. 7



The final Lunch & Learn of the summer will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 7. We'll meet at the church at 11 a.m. to carpool to Wilshire

mission partner Empowering the Masses, a nonprofit that empowers our neighbors by providing life skills and education. We'll then eat lunch together at a restaurant. Lunch & Learn will be offered on the first and third Wednesdays each month starting Sept. 4.

## For new members and guests

**Time with Tim**, an informal chance for guests and new members to visit with Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples, will meet Sunday, Aug. 25, at 9:45 a.m. in Timothy's office (2203). Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))



## No robe. No commitment.

Want to sing in choir but not able to make a weekly commitment? Join the Summer Drop-In Choir on August 4 and/or 11 in Choral Hall at 9:15 a.m. No dress code, choir robes or prior rehearsal is needed. We'll have a 30-minute rehearsal, go to Sunday School and then sing for worship together. Childcare will be provided for the 9:15 rehearsal. Contact: Minister of Music Ariel Merivil at [amerivil@wilshirebc.org](mailto:amerivil@wilshirebc.org).

## Blessing of the Backpacks

**AUG. 11 DURING WORSHIP**

The annual Blessing of the Backpacks will be held during worship on Sunday, Aug. 11. Children are encouraged to bring their backpacks or school bags to church, and during the service they'll be invited to the front to receive a blessing as the school year begins.



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# Welcome,

# Y'ALL!

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AUG.  
18

PROMOTION SUNDAY  
BBQ LUNCH  
ENTERTAINMENT

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## **Promotion Sunday**

Wilshire will celebrate the end of summer and kick off a new school year on Promotion Sunday, Aug. 18. Preschoolers, children and youth will move to new Sunday School classes, and it's a great day for adults to try a new class or try Sunday School for the first time.

## **Lunch and a show**

After worship, all are invited to Community Hall for a BBQ lunch and some down-home entertainment by Wilshire's own. Cost for the meal is \$10 per adult, \$5 for kids ages 4 to 9 and free for 3 and under. Cash/check/credit will be accepted at the door. Western wear is optional.

## **Half-price grub**

We're roundin' up a posse to help set up Community Hall on Saturday and for various tasks on Sunday. Volunteers get lunch for half price. Find the sign-up link at [wilshirebc.org/events/welcome-yall](http://wilshirebc.org/events/welcome-yall).



## **CBF's Laura Ayala here Aug. 18**

Rev. Laura Ayala, coordinator of global missions for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, will be at Wilshire on Sunday, Aug. 18. She will speak in McIver Chapel at 9:45 a.m. and will help lead in worship. Before her current role, Laura served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Rio Piedras in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Wilshire's partner in recent mission trips.

## **Pam Stiles to be ordained Aug. 18**

Wilshire member Pam Stiles will be ordained to the gospel ministry on Sunday, Aug. 18, at 4 p.m. in McIver Chapel. A reception will follow in the Parlor. Pam earned a Master of Divinity degree at Fort Worth's Southwestern Seminary and currently is a chaplain intern at UT Southwestern Medical Center's Clements University Hospital. Pam joined Wilshire in 2018 and serves on the Belong Team and attends Shiloh Class. Members of Pam's ordination council are Timothy Peoples, Charlie Fuller, Paula Woodbury, Ava McClung, Gina Biddle and Doug Watts.

## **African American history tour**

Wilshire has reservations for 10 people to join with members of Northway Christian Church for the Hidden History Tour on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The tour traces the African American experience from the Civil War to the 1960s. Cost is \$25 per person. Learn more at [hiddenhistorydfw.com](https://hiddenhistorydfw.com) and register at [wilshirebc.org/events/hidden-history-tour](https://wilshirebc.org/events/hidden-history-tour).

## **Fellowship Southwest Conference**

Wilshire is sponsoring Fellowship Southwest's Compassion + Justice Conference, to be held Sept. 20 and 21 at Life in Deep Ellum. Speakers will discuss topics including hunger, native issues, immigration and racial justice. Visit [fellowshipsouthwest.org/conference-2024](https://fellowshipsouthwest.org/conference-2024).

## **Men's Book Club meets Aug. 20**

Wilshire's new Men's Book Club will discuss James McBride's 2020 novel *Deacon King Kong* at its next meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. The group plans to meet the third Tuesday of every month. Contact: Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net)) or Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)).

## **Women of Wilshire**

■ **WOW Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Aug. 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *Will the Circle Be Unbroken?: A Memoir of Learning to Believe You're Gonna Be Okay* by Sean Dietrich. Contact: Debby Burton ([dburton@wilshirebc.org](mailto:dburton@wilshirebc.org))

■ **WOW Brown Bag Book Club** | Sept. 5 | Noon | 1205-L | *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

## **Music group start-ups**

■ **Youth Choir** will begin rehearsals on Sunday, Aug. 18, at 12:30 p.m. in Choral Hall. All students in grades 6 through 12 are welcome.

■ **Carillon Ringers** will resume rehearsals on Sunday, Aug. 25, at 2:15 p.m. in the Handbell Room. Contact: Ralph Manuel ([rmanuel@wilshirebc.org](mailto:rmanuel@wilshirebc.org)).

■ **Wilshire Winds** will start up on Monday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. in Choral Hall. Brass, woodwind and percussion players are welcome. Contact: Shana Gaines ([sgaines@wilshirebc.org](mailto:sgaines@wilshirebc.org)).

■ **Children's Choirs** (grades 1-5) will adopt a new approach this school year. Singers can now select one, two or three sections of choir. Each section will include a few rehearsals followed by a performance. The first section runs Sept. 8 to Oct. 6. Rehearsals will be held Sundays from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. after a snack lunch.

■ **Kindergarten Choir** will meet starting Aug. 21 as part of KidConnect on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. **Pre-K and 3-year-olds** will have choir during Preschool Music & Missions, Wednesdays at 6 p.m. To learn more, contact Candy McComb at [cmccomb@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmccomb@wilshirebc.org).

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

## Resumes Aug. 21

### Koinonia Café

**5 p.m. | Community Hall** | Buffet dinner for the whole family with kid-friendly options available. Cash/check/credit accepted at the door. Full Meal: \$10 for ages 10 and up; \$5 for kids 4 to 9; free for kids 3 and under; \$35 household max. Soup & Salad Meal: \$7.

### Preschool Music & Missions

**6 p.m. | Age 3–Pre-K** | Preschool choir plus fun activities and lessons focused on God's love and caring for others.

### KidConnect

**6 p.m. | K–Grade 5** | A rotation of activities to help kids learn how to love God and others with every part of themselves. Each week is different! Activities include art, music, recreation, science and more. Kindergartners will have choir as part of KidConnect.

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

### Bible Study or Vespers

**6 p.m.** | Adults will remain in Community Hall after dinner most weeks for Bible Study, a topical series or a one-off event. On the fourth Wednesday each month, our pastoral residents will lead a Vespers service in McIver Chapel.

■ **Aug. 21:** Get to Know the New Residents

■ **Aug. 28:** Vespers

■ **Sept. 4:** Bible Study series begins

### Watershed

**6:30 p.m. | Grades 6–12** | Wilshire Student Ministry's weekly time of Bible study and music in the Youth Center.

### Sanctuary Choir

**7 p.m. | Choral Hall** | Wilshire's main adult choir rehearses weekly; new singers are always welcome. No audition.



### Lunch & Learn to be offered twice a month

Lunch & Learn will be held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month this fall, starting on **Sept. 4**. All are invited at 11:30 a.m. for a buffet lunch followed by minister-led Bible study. Watch the *Tapestry* each week to see who's teaching as we continue where we left off in our journey through the Old Testament. Lunch costs \$10 each. No RSVP necessary. Pay at the door.

# James Varner

**Name:** Rev. James K. Varner, D.Min.

**Hometown:** Houston

**Present City:** Georgetown, Texas

**Education:** Baylor, 1959; Seminary, 1967; SMU Perkins Doctor of Ministry, 2010 in a study of the worship offering from the beginning of human history to the 21st century.

**Profession:** 60 years in Christian ministry, including 20 years as Baptist pastor; 20 years as capital campaign consultant in U.S. and Canada; 10 years as VP of stewardship services, Texas Methodist Foundation, Austin; 10 years as pastor at Conservatory Church, Austin.

## **Tell us about your family.**

Married 63 years to my teen sweetheart, Shirley Gates Varner. One daughter, Noelle; we treasure her memory following her 2017 death. She gifted us with two adult granddaughters living in Texas.

## **Any favorite hobbies?**

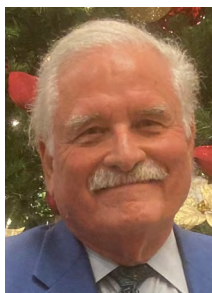
Former runner; now regular 2- to 3-mile walker. I enjoy devotional studies and casual reading. I loved to preach and miss it, often writing sermons in my head. Enjoy fun rides in a '95 Miata ragtop.

## **What are your favorite places to travel?**

For years, Shirley and I enjoyed travel in Europe, the U.S. and Canada. We made mission trips to Mexico, Russia, Ukraine and Kenya. Now we enjoy car trips to Rockport, Texas; Ruidoso, New Mexico; and the Colorado Rockies.

## **What brought you to Wilshire and when?**

I've read George Mason's sermons for many years and followed Wilshire's dynamic ministry history. During Covid, unable to lead worship at the



church I served, we began watching Wilshire worship regularly. After my 2022 retirement, we joined Wilshire in February 2023 because of its inclusive openness, traditional worship with powerful music and engaging preachers. We worship online with occasional trips to Dallas.

## **Tell us about your faith journey.**

When I was 9, a Sunday School teacher told me, "Jesus loves you and wants to live in your heart!" My faith today is still both simple and profound. Raised in a fundamentalist tradition, my faith journey has been a challenge: "What do I hold on to? What do I let go? What are richer expressions for a faith-filled Christ follower?" As a church consultant, I served a wide spectrum of Christian traditions, engaging with each faith community with a commitment to respect their traditions. These relationships enriched my own ever-growing faith. In 1979, with the SBC fundamentalist takeover, I left the Southern Baptist denomination. Now, joyfully, we are at Wilshire still discovering the meaning of a growing faith in a changing world.

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

I love Gaither gospel music. I swam in the frigid, polluted Volga River with Russian friends and walked in a "patriotic" parade with a Russian cosmonaut — no convertibles.

## **What adjectives best describe you?**

Tenacious, inquisitive, faithful, happy!

# THANK YOU FOR GIVING

*Your gifts are changing lives inside and outside our walls. Here are some ways to make a financial contribution to Wilshire.*

.....

**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](http://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](http://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 code with your smartphone camera to make an electronic contribution.

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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, Aug. 4**

- Back to School Drive Collection
- WSM Book Club, Youth Center, 8:30 a.m.
- Summer Drop-In Choir, Choral Hall, 9:15 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- WSM Summer Slide Show, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.

## **Monday, Aug. 5**

- Back to School Drive Collection
- Adventurers Trivia Night, Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.

## **Tuesday, Aug. 6**

- Back to School Drive Collection
- Stephen Ministry Supervision/CE, 1205-G & 1205-L, 6:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, Aug. 7**

- Back to School Drive Collection
- Lunch & Learn trip to Empowering the Masses, meet at Wilshire to carpool, 11 a.m.
- Spanish with a Mission, 1205-L, 4 p.m.

## **Thursday, Aug. 8**

- Back to School Drive Collection
- Stewpot Meal Service, 11:15 a.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

## **Sunday, Aug. 11**

- Summer Drop-In Choir, Choral Hall, 9:15 a.m.
- Back to School Drive Collection
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Fifth and Sixth Grade Blessing Service, 2230, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Enneagram with Heather, 1205-G, noon

# Thanks to our summer volunteers!

*Wilshire's summer camps and events for preschoolers, children and youth simply could not have happened this year without the time and efforts of those listed below. Thanks to your generosity of spirit and commitment, these programs didn't just happen — they changed lives and positively impacted the world. We apologize if we missed any names. And while they're not listed below, join us in thanking Wilshire's staff, many of whom contributed in large and small ways above and beyond their normal duties to make this summer a success.*

Carter Adcox	Mirella Galvan	Gladys Kolenovsky	Michael Sheaffer
Allan Akins	Teena Garvin	Sher Moo Ku	Michael Shepard
Emily Akins	David Giles	Jennifer Lovejoy	John Skinner
Whit Anderson	John Gillis	Richard Luttrell	Joel Spreier
Mary Barnes	Clara Granberry	Margie Lynn	Tracy Sturdivant
Gail Brookshire	Gary Griffith	Adrienne McCann	Laura Summers
Jessica Brookshire	Rita Griffith	Ava McClung	Cate Tabor
Christine Browder	Felix Guthrie	Carole McClung	Kim Temple
Joshua Brown	Joseph Guthrie	Miriam McClung	Melinda Thompson
Andrew Burton	Judith Guthrie	Ruby McClung	Cindy Tibbals
Isabella Campos	Jeff Hampton	Henry McGill	Anabelle Tinsley
Marco Campos	LeAnn Hampton	Suzy McLaughlin	Price Tinsley
Evelyn Carroum	Mary Lu Hare	Tess McNicholas	Sara Tinsley
Sunny Carroum	Alden Henry	Elliana Mitchell	Julian Vigil
Vicki Conn	Ananda Henry	Jane Morgan	Ainsley Wagner
Joan Cullum	Kay Henry	Marilyn Morgan	Hayden Wagner
Elias DeMent	Melissa Henry	Lucy Kate Murray	Rhonda Walton
Joannah DeMent	Mallory Hicks	Sarah Navy	Becky Waterfield
David Duncan	Anna Hines	Haelee Norton	Luke Willson
Becca Dyer	Ashley Howland	Audrey Pottkotter	Megan Willson
Linda Eggert	Ethan Howland	Katherine Pottkotter	Evelyn Wilson
Lily Escutia	Mathew Howland	Tarik Rahman	Megan Wilson
Charlie Estee	Abi Hrbacek	Debbie Rampey	Trey Wilson
Cindy Estee	Mu Lar Hso	Ben Reavis	Alison Wingfield
Christina Evans	Brittany Jackson	Emily Reavis	Jenny Wolff
Anne Foster	Jared Jaggars	Kristi Reavis	Collin Yarbrough
Julie Francis	Michael Kirby	Dwight Roan	
Cindy Fuller	Dietrich Knabe	Linda Sacco	
Shana Gaines	Sarah Knabe	Dawn Sheaffer	