



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**September 22, 2024**  
*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

# Preparing for worship

Did you know there is a saint of small things? I didn't and recently learned of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, also known as "Little Flower." Born in 1873 in France, she joined a group of contemplative Carmelite nuns and died at just 24. An unlikely saint, she had a pure childlike faith and devotion to God. She spoke to God and prayed simply and directly, with a strong dislike for lengthy prayers — such a dislike that she was known to fall asleep during community prayer. Relatable, right?

I imagine few would find the title "Saint of Small Things" appealing. We often rely on productivity to measure our worth, piling on labels and obligations that drown out God's voice. We would rather be the "Saint of All the Things." It's challenging to be open hearted when we refuse to lay our burdens down. Yet, amidst this struggle lies an invitation to practice spiritual minimalism. By releasing our self-imposed expectations, we create space for God to move within us and guide us toward St. Thérèse's "little way" of limitless acts of love. In this way, we can bloom like her beloved wildflowers — vibrant and unassuming.

We have a choice in how we live our days. In intentionally seeking moments of divine silence, we discover the profound simplicity of St. Thérèse's approach, where small gestures of kindness become vessels of grace. It's in this openness that we are transformed, allowing God's love to flow through us in ways that often go unnoticed but are deeply significant.

Our music this morning beautifully calls us to live out God's love and invites us to reflect on how we can embody that love daily. As St. Thérèse said, "To live in love is to sail forever, spreading seeds of joy and peace in hearts." May we love in the little ways — offering a smile to a stranger, lending a hand to someone in need or simply being present for those we love. These small acts may seem insignificant, but they powerfully demonstrate God's love in the world, nurturing belonging and reminding us that even the tiniest gestures can have great significance.

May our living and loving bring glory to God.  
Amen.

—Abbey Adcox



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*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

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**On the cover:** *Two Poplars in the Alpilles near Saint-Rémy*, Vincent van Gogh, oil on fabric, 1889.

September 22, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Eighteenth 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

Sally Gary

## Prelude

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

arr. Jeff Brummel

## Opening Sentences

Judith Guthrie

As we gather this morning to worship, may our hearts be still and our minds centered on the love, forgiving and life-giving presence of Christ. May our words and actions follow the example of Jesus and bring honor to God.

## +Congregational Song

*Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

DARWALL'S 148TH



1. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
2. Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,  
3. Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,  
4. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!



For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!  
em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!  
as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fixed!  
For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!



In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

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

Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked  
or take the path that sinners tread  
or sit in the seat of scoffers,  
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on that law they meditate day and night.  
They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,  
for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Offertory**

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

arr. Matthew H. Corl

**+Gospel Reading** — Mark 9:30–37

Damien Mitchell

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. (Jesus) did not want anyone to know it, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them, and taking it in his arms he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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!**

**+Congregational Song**

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Please join in singing the printed refrain  
with the choir as invited.

**\*Refrain**

Spir - it, o - pen my heart \_\_\_\_\_ to the joy and pain of  
liv - ing. \_\_\_\_\_ As you love may I love, \_\_\_\_\_ in re - ceiv - ing  
and in giv - ing. \_\_\_\_\_ Spir - it, o - pen my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

God replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.\*

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.\*

May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.\*

**Message**

“From Silence to Resurrection”

Georgia McKee

**Anthem**

*Draw Us Near*  
Sanctuary Choir

Joel Thompson

This song we sing is our hearts' prayer to you, O God of peace.  
Please send your dove, your Spirit of love, to help our torments cease.  
The world is tired of war and blood and fear, the tears we've cried, the pain inside:  
O Spirit, draw us near!

So keep us true to our hearts' vow to show the world your love.  
May bias wane and joy remain as we sing to you above.  
We pray, O God, you take away our fear, the tears we've cried, the pain inside:  
O Spirit, draw us near!

**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.**

**+Congregational Song**

*I Am Thine, O Lord*  
No. 504

I AM THINE

**Sharing of Decisions**

Georgia McKee

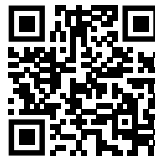
**Benediction**

Georgia McKee

**Postlude**

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel



**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

**Sally Gary** and her wife, Karen Keen, joined Wilshire in 2022, and Sally is codirector of Shiloh Class. A former attorney and communications professor, Sally serves as executive director of CenterPeace, a nonprofit organization helping LGBTQ+ people find a place to belong in the body of Christ. CenterPeace will hold its biannual conference at Wilshire next month.

**Judith Guthrie** is a tenth grader at the School for the Talented and Gifted at Townview Center and is involved in ballet, track and field and Destination Imagination. She is the daughter of Emily Muscarella and sister to Joseph and Felix Guthrie. At Wilshire, Judith is active in the student ministry, sings in Youth Choir and Shekinah and is a member of Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee's lay support team.

**Kathryn Keller** joined Wilshire in 2020. She is married to Merik Gillett, and the couple has two sons, Henri, 5, and Hayz, 3. Kathryn, an active member of Labyrinth Class, serves on the Pathways to Ministry Committee and the lay support team for Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee. Kathryn works as a psychologist and co-owns Dallas Therapy Collective.

**Damien Mitchell** and his wife, Keri, are parents to Elliana, a tenth grader at Woodrow Wilson High School, and Everly, a fifth grader at Eduardo Mata Montessori School. The family joined Wilshire last December along with Damien's father, Hank Mitchell. Damien attends Avodah Class and serves on Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee's lay support team. Damien is a pediatrician at Forest Lane Pediatrics.

**Colman Vigil** grew up at Wilshire and is the son of Julian Vigil and brother of Trey Vigil. Colman is a deacon, sings in Sanctuary Choir and Nova, directs Intersection Class and is involved with Shiloh and Ithaka Classes. He serves on the New Member Ministry Team, the Belong Team and the lay support team for Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee. Colman works as a client relations manager for an employment law firm.

# 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
- Bryant Greer, Building Operations Manager (3146)
- 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, Childcare Coordinator (3130)



# Tapestry



News & Announcements  
September 22, 2024

## New member

Joyce Walters

## Preschool Playtime at the Park

Preschool families are invited to a Playtime at the Park on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Flag Pole Hill Park (8015 Doran Cir.). This will be a fun time for preschoolers and parents to get to know each other and new Minister to Preschoolers Kelly Akins.

## Children and the Enneagram



Parents, grandparents, teachers and anyone else who works with children will benefit from a special event at Wilshire on Saturday, Nov. 2. Guest speakers Joey and Billy Schewee of the @enneagram

parents Instagram account will lead us in exploring how your Enneagram type and that of children in your care inform your engagement and relationships. Prior Enneagram knowledge is not required. The event will be held in Community Hall from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A \$10 per-person cost will cover lunch and snacks. Learn more and register at [wilshirebc.org/events/children-enneagram](https://wilshirebc.org/events/children-enneagram).



**HOSPITALITY HINT** ☞ Offer to sit with a Sunday School guest in worship.

## WILSHIRE GAME NIGHT



## All ages welcome!

All ages, preschoolers through senior adults, are invited to join the fun at Wilshire Game Night on Friday, Oct. 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Community Hall. The church will supply fresh popcorn, toys and games for preschoolers and a few family games. Feel free to bring your own games and food.



**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.

# Deacon nominations sought

The Deacon Nominating Committee asks Wilshire members to submit names of persons to be considered for deacon service. Nominees should be individuals who have modeled consistent, faithful service and leadership and who have been Wilshire members at least one year. You may also nominate deacons in reserve to rotate into active service.

Nominate as many individuals as you wish. New deacons will be ordained and start their three-year terms after being approved at Wilshire's Annual Church Conference in January. The Deacon Nominating Committee appreciates your prayerful consideration.

## How to submit nominations:

**Online:** Scan the QR code or visit [wilshirebc.org/deacon-nominations](http://wilshirebc.org/deacon-nominations).



**Paper Form:** Pick up a nomination form in the church office, fill it out and return it to the attention of Chelsea Hopkins.

**Deadline:** Friday, Sept. 27.

**Note:** If you have been ordained as a deacon in another church and have not served at Wilshire, please let Chelsea Hopkins know ([chopkins@wilshirebc.org](mailto:chopkins@wilshirebc.org)).

## Adventurers Fall Kickoff: Sept. 24



James Gallery and the Prayer Garden will be transformed into a state fair for the Wilshire Adventurers' Fall Kick-off on Tuesday, Sept. 24, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Enjoy midway games, blue ribbon-worthy submissions from Wilshire artisans, free fair food (corn dogs!) and information about Adventurers events. Adventurers is a fellowship group for those 60 and up.

## Adventurers travel survey

Wilshire Adventurers is committed to friendship, belonging and helping people live life fully through serving, learning and exploring together. As they begin planning for 2025, your input is needed on opportunities to travel together as a group. Please consider filling out the online survey at [wilshirebc.org/travel-survey](http://wilshirebc.org/travel-survey), even if you have never been on an Adventurers trip. Your feedback will be beneficial as the group plans opportunities that align with the needs, passions and interests of our congregation.

## Men's Book Club

Wilshire's Men's Book Club will discuss *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande on Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. The group meets the third Tuesday each month. Contact: Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net)) or Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)).

## Women of Wilshire

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Oct. 8 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers. Contact: Debby Burton ([dburton@wilshirebc.org](mailto:dburton@wilshirebc.org))

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Oct. 3 | Noon | 1205-L | *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE SEPTEMBER 25

## Koinonia Café

**5 p.m. | Community Hall** | Buffet dinner with kid-friendly options. Cash/check/credit accepted. Prices at [wilshirebc.org/events/wnl](http://wilshirebc.org/events/wnl). **Sept. 25:** Oven-roasted tilapia, mac and cheese, broccoli, rolls, salad, cream of mushroom soup, desserts. **Kids:** Fish sticks, fries.

## 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. Activities include art, music, recreation and more. Kindergartners will have choir as part of KidConnect.

## 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** | New singers are always welcome in our main adult choir. No audition.

## Resident-Led Vespers



**6 p.m. | McIver Chapel** | Join the pastoral residents for Vespers, a reflective service held the last Wednesday of the month. On Sept. 25 we will consider the im-

perative in Romans 12:9–21 to *really* love one another — especially in the face of the coming election. Associate Pastor Heather Mustain will preach, and the service will conclude in Communion.

## Coming in October

**Two 6 p.m. options on Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23:** As the *Children’s Stories All Grown Up* series continues, Associate Pastor Heather Mustain will also lead a series called *Navigating the Election*. Vespers will be offered on Oct. 30.

## WNL: Virtual Edition

Those who engage with Wilshire primarily online are invited to a minister-led Zoom discussion on Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. Central. The Zoom link will be posted at [wilshirebc.org/events/wnl-virtual](http://wilshirebc.org/events/wnl-virtual) closer to the event.

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

# Committee interest form

Wilshire's Committee on Committees is beginning its work to nominate members for 2025 committees. If you are not currently on a committee and are interested in volunteering yourself or suggesting someone for consideration, please complete the form below. All names received will be considered and evaluated against current committee openings and needs. The Committee on Committees' final report will be presented at January's Annual Church Conference for approval. Complete the form below and return it to the church office. Questions? Contact Carolyn Murray at [cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org).

**Committee on Committees:** *Ed Francis, Kim Mason, Steve Melton, Juliana Moore, Monica Mullins (chair), Rachel Murphy, Janet Stegner, Price Tinsley, Max Tucker. Staff Liaison: Carolyn Murray*



To submit your preferences electronically, scan the QR code or visit [wilshirebc.org/committee-interest-form](http://wilshirebc.org/committee-interest-form).

I am willing to serve on a church committee, and my preferences and comments are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to suggest the following people be invited to serve on the committee indicated.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Wilshire committees

## **Building & Grounds**

Assists staff with maintenance and repair of church property by developing plans to improve the efficient use of the church premises and enhance the security of the property.

## **Children's Education**

Reviews performance of the children's education program and makes recommendations to the minister to children. Promotes growth in the program, reviews curriculum, helps recruit and retain teachers and establishes policies to ensure the safety of children.

## **Christian Advocacy**

Guides Christian advocacy initiatives.

## **Deacon Nominating**

Makes annual recommendations for selection of deacons.

## **Finance**

Develops the church budget and works with the finance director to monitor income and expenses, approving monthly financial statements and reporting them to the church.

## **History**

Maintains archives of the church to preserve a record of our history together.

## **Interior Decor**

Consults with other committees to coordinate decor of interior public spaces.

## **Library**

Advises and supports library administration and events.

## **Missions**

Supports and promotes partnership missions by developing and maintaining relationships that provide opportunities for Wilshire to be on mission.

## **Pathways to Ministry**

Coordinates and supports work of the Pathways to Ministry program, including the pastoral residency.

## **Personnel**

Establishes duties and responsibilities of ministry staff and maintains personnel manual. Recommends new ministry staff to the church. Recommends ministry staff compensation.

## **Preschool Education**

Reviews performance of the preschool education program and makes recommendations to the minister to preschoolers. Promotes growth in the program, reviews curriculum, helps recruit and retain teachers and establishes policies to ensure safety of children.

## **Risk Management**

Works with staff to reduce and manage safety and liability risks.

## **Weekday Education**

Sets policies and governs Wilshire's Early Childhood Learning Center.

## **Wilshire Adventurers**

Plans fellowship activities for senior adults.

## CenterPeace conference



Wilshire will host the 2024 CenterPeace Conference, a warm-hearted gathering of LGBTQ+ Christians, their churches and families,

from Thursday, Oct. 24, through Saturday, Oct. 26. The conference will feature a range of speakers, worship leaders and storytellers exploring topics related to faith and sexuality. Wilshire's George Mason will lead a pre-conference workshop for pastors and church leaders, and there will also be a post-conference workshop for parents of LGBTQ+ individuals. Wilshire member Sally Gary is executive director of CenterPeace. Learn more and register at [centerpeace.net/conference-2024](https://centerpeace.net/conference-2024).

## Next Lunch & Learn is Oct. 2



All are invited the first and third Wednesdays every month for lunch (\$10 ea.) and Bible study. On Oct. 2, Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples will teach on 1 Samuel 13 and

15. See the schedule at [wilshirebc.org/events/lunch-learn](https://wilshirebc.org/events/lunch-learn).

## Library closed for renovations

The Library's main location on the first floor is temporarily closed for renovation. The book racks on the third floor and near the Preschool Hall, both with self-checkout, are operational.

## We're hiring

Wilshire is accepting applications for the role of spiritual formation coordinator, a part-time salaried position reporting to Associate Pastor Darren DeMent. Learn more at [wilshirebc.org/employment](https://wilshirebc.org/employment).

# This Week

## Sunday, Sept. 22

- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2221, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Pathways to Ministry Committee, 1205-G, noon
- Christian Advocacy Committee, 1205-L, noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

## Monday, Sept. 23

- Deacons Meeting, Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, Sept. 24

- Adventurers Fall Festival, North Parking Lot, 5:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, Sept. 25

- New Song Community Choir, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Preschool Music & Missions, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Vespers, McIver Chapel, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Sept. 26

- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

## Friday, Sept. 27

- Friday Friends, 3301, 10 a.m.
- Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, 1205 L, 1 p.m.

# Carol Ann McElhannon

**Hometown:** Fort Worth, born 1953

**Present City:** Garland, for the last 52 years

**Education:** B.A. in history and English from Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina; graduate coursework in counseling at East Texas State University.

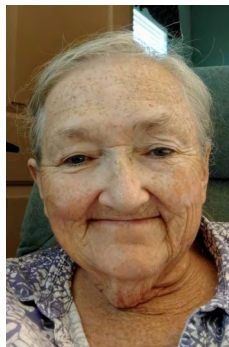
**Profession:** Qualified Mental Health Professional

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

My parents were missionaries in Congo, Africa, so I grew up there and am the eldest of four. We are all five-and-a-half years apart in age. I have one brother, Franklin, and two sisters, Susan and Brenda. I have five nephews, three nieces and two great nieces. I met my husband, Neil, in 1980. We married in 1981, giving us 43 years together. I have lived at my current address in Garland since December 1978. We have been blessed with many canine babies. We have Gidget (a Teacup Chihuahua), Beauregard (a Jack Russell), and Fiona (a Pom Italia) at the present time.

## **How about your work or volunteer life?**

I have been a jack of all trades, but was happiest when I worked as a Qualified Mental Health Professional from 2001 to 2008 for Dallas Metrocare Services on the ACT Teams. I retired from all paying jobs in 2015. Growing up in Africa, I would carry containers of hot sweet tea to people recovering from surgery at our hospital. Later in life I volunteered as a Big Sister and with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for several children. I really enjoyed my work with kids!



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

Congo, Africa; Texas; Austria; Jerusalem; and Athens, Greece. The Parthenon and the Acropolis in Greece are so beautiful!

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

Neil and I loved the beautiful steeple and the pillars on Wilshire's building. I told Neil that I had to find out what it looked like inside. The pastor and the people were what kept us here. We joined in 1995 and have loved it ever since. What I am most thankful for at Wilshire are the loving people and the open acceptance of all folks. We don't pretend to accept all; we do it with open hearts.

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

I accepted Christ as my Savior at the age of 21 after a prior confession of faith at a revival meeting preached by my paternal grandfather at the age of 6.

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

I had monkeys, parrots, owls and village weaver birds as pets in Africa.

## **What adjectives describe you?**

Determined and grateful. I love helping people and have a lot of love to share with the folks in my life!

# Clayton marks 20 years on staff

Pastoral Care Assistant Barbara Clayton celebrated her 20-year anniversary as a Wilshire staff member on Sept. 20.

Associate Pastor Heather Mustain said, “Barbara has been a staple on our staff. She is a team player, more organized than anyone I know and coordinates our pastoral care efforts with such grace and intention. I’m beyond thankful to get to work beside someone so dedicated and loyal to both the church and its people.”

Barbara had already been a Wilshire member for 13 years when she joined the staff in 2004 as office manager. A couple of years later she moved to the music office, where she worked for 14 years before assuming her current role in 2020.

Barbara’s work in pastoral care includes compiling and sending Wilshire’s Care Notes, a list of prayer concerns emailed each weekday to over 200 church members. “If there’s anybody in the hospital,” Barbara says, “I call the hospital every morning to check on their room number, because sometimes they get discharged or moved.”

Barbara coordinates hospital visits by ministers, creates programs for funerals and memorial services and works with the Hospitality Ministry Team to make sure ushers, greeters and Welcome Desk volunteers are in place each Sunday and for special events as needed.

She also assists Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray with Wilshire Adventurers and other senior adult programming. Katie said, “The honest truth is I would be completely lost without Barbara. Her organizational skills are unmatched and have come to my rescue on more occasions than I can count. More importantly though, she loves and cares for this congregation with abundant grace. Doing ministry alongside Barbara is truly a blessing.”

Barbara’s two decades on staff at Wilshire represent only about half of her overall career working mostly in churches or ministry-related



jobs. “We’re all called to be something somewhere, and I always felt called to work in the church,” Barbara said. Upon learning of one church job opening early in her career, she recalled, “I got heart palpitations, I was so excited. That’s just how passionate I am about it.”

Before working at Wilshire, Barbara served on staff at Lake Highlands Baptist Church, First Baptist Church in Waxahachie and Park Cities Baptist Church. She also worked at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board (now known as GuideStone) and Word, Inc., a Christian publisher.

Barbara grew up in Dallas and graduated from Lake Highlands High School. She has four adult children and four grandchildren.

Barbara sang in choir in high school and has been deeply involved in church music ministry not only as a staffer, but as a church member. At Wilshire, she sang in Sanctuary Choir for 25 years, played in Carillon Ringers for 32 years and taught preschool choir for 14 years.

A longtime Youth Choir sponsor, Barbara traveled on 19 straight summer Youth Choir tours — a streak that began in 2001, long before she joined the music staff.

“My favorite part of all my jobs was working with children and youth,” Barbara said. “To see them grow into wonderful humans knowing that music played a big part. I’m still in contact with people from my youth group and youth choir. It produces lifelong friendships.”