



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

November 10, 2024

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Preparing for worship

*Would you recognize Jesus if you
met him face to face?
Or would you wonder if he's just
another one you could not place?
You may not find him coming
in a chariot of the Lord,
Jesus could be riding in a '49 Ford.*

While walking the dogs Wednesday, trying to let go of my post-election anger and angst, God spoke to me. OK, it was actually Johnny Cash singing “Would You Recognize Jesus” on Pandora’s Old Time Religion Radio, which lately has become my go-to anxiety medication. But it felt like God.

Because as I walked and Johnny sang, I began thinking about Jesus, who, despite his message of love, could get really pissed off, like when he went after the temple money changers.

The more I walked and thought, the more I realized that Jesus’ anger and mine were every bit as natural as the love Jesus preached and demonstrated. Jesus tried to meet folks where they were. But when needed, he could and did stand his ground. Both, it seems, are needed if we are to create the love and peace he spoke of.

Sadly, in today’s digital Babel, such harmony is hard to come by. Given the unceasing noise competing for our attention, we make little time for truly listening to and engaging with others — both necessary for creating trust and harmony.

Instead, we exchange sound bites, often deni-

grating those with whom we disagree and urging on those with whom we are aligned. Sadly, such impersonal, context-free “communication” does little to foster peaceful dialogue and instead often triggers emotional chain reactions as violent as small nuclear warheads.

As an election judge Tuesday, I witnessed democracy at its finest as a parade of earnest citizens cast their votes. Some were young first-time voters. Others were old and barely able to walk from voting machine to ballot box. Some wore cowboy hats, others hijabs. A number of immigrants — several of them first-time voters — eagerly waited in line.

Despite political differences, there was a feeling of harmony, of togetherness. All were stepping up to vote for whom they thought was best for their country. For at least a few minutes they were all part of the same peaceful community.

With the discord of the campaign behind us, it’s time we stepped back and leaned in, engaging those we disagree with. It will require heavy lifting, but perhaps we can recapture a bit of that love and communion Jesus spoke of. Focus your lingering anger on creating peaceful change.

As we worship today, let’s put down our phones (you know who you are) and reflect on what we personally can do to build bridges of trust in this troubled time. Who knows, maybe you’ll recognize Jesus — if not in a ’49 Ford, perhaps in a Tesla.

—Scott Spreier



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: *The Widow’s Two Penny Cross* © 2024 James Quentin Young | Eyekons

November 10, 2024
11:00 a.m.
Twenty-Fifth 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

Charlie Fuller

Prelude

A Hymn of Thanksgiving
Wilshire Winds
Shana Gaines, Director

arr. Andrew Glover

Opening Sentences

Sophia Gottlick

As we gather for worship this morning, calm our hearts and minds, O God. Awaken us to your Spirit whose breath gently sustains us. As we sing, may our hearts choose love, as we pray, may our spirits find peace, and as we listen, may our bodies rest in grace. We worship you, the God who is merciful and just, faithful and steadfast.

+Congregational Song

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
No. 217

HYMN TO JOY

Children's Moment

Julie Girards

Psalm Reading — Psalm 127

Hank Thompson

Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD guards the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.
It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil,
for God gives sleep to God's beloved.

Children are indeed a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.
Happy are they who have
a quiver full of them.
They shall not be put to shame when they
speak with their enemies in the gate.

Offertory

Simple Gifts
Wilshire Winds

arr. Frank Ticheli

+All congregants are invited to stand in body or spirit.
Hearing devices are available in the Narthex and South Atrium.

As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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

“Simple Faith”

Timothy Peoples

Anthem

Jubilate Deo
Sanctuary Choir

Peter Anglea

*Jubilate Deo omnis terra. Servite Domino in laetitia.
Introite in conspectu ejus in exultatione.
Quoniam suavis est Dominus: in aeternum misericordia ejus,
et usque in generationem et generationem veritas ejus.*

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before his presence with singing.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endureth to all generations.

Prayers of the People

Jenny Wolff

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

More Love to Thee
No. 365

MORE LOVE TO THEE

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Hymn to Joy

arr. Albert L. Travis

The flowers today are given by Gwin, Brenda, Brent and
Lauren Morris in memory of Scott Morris — son, brother and father —
on the occasion of his birthday, November 11, 1966.



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

Sophia Gottlick joined Wilshire in August when her wife, Georgia McKee, began work here as a pastoral resident. The couple were married in June, shortly after Sophia graduated from Wake Forest University with a master's degree in management. A former congressional staffer, Sophia works as director of operations and special projects for Interfaith Alliance, a nonprofit agency based in Washington, D.C. At Wilshire she sings in Sanctuary Choir.

Peter Ngwili leads the work of nonprofit agency Twelve21 Global in Tanzania. A Wilshire mission partner, Twelve21 empowers vulnerable communities to find hope in Jesus. Peter grew up on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, found faith in Jesus as a university student in Nairobi and dedicated his life to serving others. With degrees in theology and professional development, he has led impactful initiatives through the Africa Inland Church and Tearfund, driving church and community transformation. Peter and his wife, Anitha, are parents to four children: Violet, Charity, Johnmark and Joshua.

Hank Thompson and his wife, Shellie, became Wilshire members in 1982. They are the parents of two adult daughters, Megan Willson and Melinda Thompson. Hank is a deacon, teaches third and fourth graders in Sunday School and is a member of Epiphany Class. He works for the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

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

Staff contacts

Phone numbers: 214-452- followed by extension shown below. **Email addresses:** first letter of first name and full last name followed by @wilshirebc.org (example: tpeoples@wilshirebc.org). Staff members 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

- Haley Garcia, Food Service Director (3117)
- Luke Munion, 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)
- Becky Bridges, Spiritual Formation Coordinator (3130)
- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Katie Murray, Minister to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)

Tapestry



News & Announcements
November 10, 2024

New members

- Talbot Boulter
- Anyla Crosland
- Terry and Mike McCullough

Congratulations to

Morgan and Will Stovall and big sister Boots on the birth of George O'Brien Stovall, Oct. 30.

Condolences to

Family and friends of **Carolyn Seitzler**, Sept. 5.

Time with Tim today

Time with Tim, an informal chance for guests and new members to visit with Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples, will meet Nov. 10 at 9:45 a.m. in Timothy's office (Room 2203). Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Youth-led worship next Sunday

Wilshire Student Ministry has always had a strong worship culture and will share it with the whole church at 11 a.m. worship on Sunday, Nov. 17. The youth will lead our litany, prayers, congregational singing and music and help deliver the message.

Exercise and wellness classes

Physical therapy students from Texas Woman's University are leading free exercise and wellness classes at Wilshire each Monday through Nov. 18. Contact: Parish Nurse Linda Garner (lgarner@wilshirebc.org).



Fireside Chats

SUNDAY EVENING, NOV. 17

Wilshire will host Fireside Chats at members' homes on Sunday evening, Nov. 17. This social event with fellowship and light refreshments will deepen connections and provide an intimate setting for us to express our collective gratitude. Sign up to attend at any of the host homes throughout the area. Some sites will start at 5 and end at 6:30, while others will run from 6:30 to 8. Sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/fireside-chats or scan code.



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.

Thanksgiving **FOOD DRIVES**

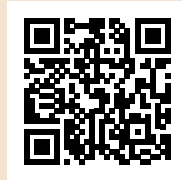
Bring Wilkinson Center boxes on Nov. 20



Wilshire has committed to provide 100 boxes for families in our community through the Wilkinson Center. A box costs \$50 to \$75 to assemble and

provides a whole meal for a family. This is a great service opportunity for Sunday School classes, other groups or individuals. Scan the above QR code or visit wilshirebc.org/events/food-drives to sign up and see full instructions. Boxes should be brought to Wilshire's South Lobby on Wednesday, Nov. 20, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

White Rock Center of Hope bags due next Sunday



Wilshire continues a long Thanksgiving tradition of providing items to stock the food pantry at White Rock Center of Hope. Pick up the designated brown

paper bags and shopping list, then fill the bags and return them. Bags brought before Sunday, Nov. 17, can be placed on a table outside the church office. Bags brought on Nov. 17 should be taken to the Sanctuary chancel steps. **Amazon wishlist:** you can also shop online and have items sent directly to WRCOH; scan QR code or find the link at wilshirebc.org/events/food-drives.

Bags needed. We welcome your donations of handled brown paper grocery bags like those used at Central Market and Whole Foods.

Contact: Abbey Adcox (aadcox@wilshirebc.org)

ECLC to close after this school year

Wilshire's Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) will close in May 2025, at the end of the current school year, due to financial challenges and declining enrollment. ECLC has struggled to break even financially since reopening after the pandemic, a deacon study group reported to the full deacon body on Oct. 21. Paula Woodbury, deacon chair and a member of the study group, noted that enrollment dropped from 247 students to 71 over the last four years, and the deficit for the current school year is expected to be at least \$125,000.

The closure decision was made jointly by the Finance and Personnel Committees in consultation with deacons following the study group's report. ECLC families and staff were informed of the news this week. The six-person study group and church staff will continue to evaluate what Wilshire might offer in the area of weekday early childhood education in the future.

Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples said, "We are keenly aware of how this news will affect the current and past families, teachers and other community members who have been involved in the life of the ECLC, and we want to express our sincere compassion for those affected. We prayerfully met over the course of many months to discern the path forward for ECLC. This decision has been incredibly challenging to make. However, we feel like it is the right decision for the life and stewardship of our church at this time."

The study group was formed earlier this year after the Weekday Education Committee approached the deacons for help in evaluating ECLC. Along with Paula, the study group includes deacons Lauren Anne Cove and Rob Roden of the Personnel Committee; LeAnn Hampton, a longtime education professional; Mary Morgan of the Weekday Education Com-

mittee; and Steven Murray, a Finance Committee member and ECLC parent.

"We know this decision affects people's child-care and livelihood. We hope this next seven-month period allows employees and families time to figure out next steps," Paula said.

ECLC closed when the pandemic hit in 2020 and remained shuttered for the 2020-21 school year, longer than most facilities. After reopening, the school was aided by pandemic relief from the federal government, but those funds will be exhausted at the end of this fiscal year.

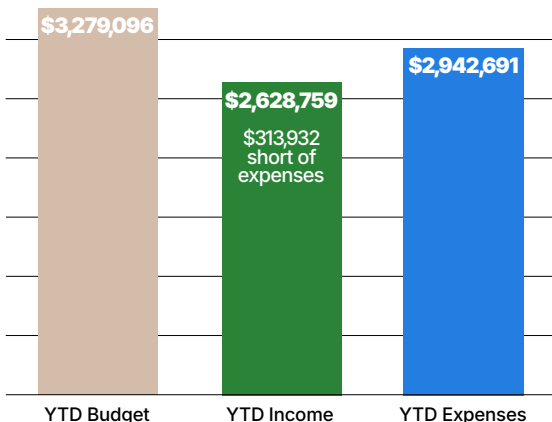
The study group also cited significant changes in the landscape of early childhood education in Texas. In 2019, the state legislature mandated that public school districts offer free or low-cost full-day Pre-K, in effect making it more difficult for private centers to attract or retain their oldest students, those ages 3 and 4.

As a *Texas Tribune* article explained, "Older children help offset the higher staffing costs of caring for infants and young toddlers, the savings of which are passed along to families." According to a KinderCare executive quoted by the *Tribune*, "When 3- and 4-year-olds leave our care and enroll in a public school-run pre-K program, the impact to the overall child care center can be disastrous."

This new reality became more evident as centers like ECLC reopened after the pandemic. "The pandemic did not cause our child care crisis, it revealed our child care problem," one Houston nonprofit executive told the *Tribune*.

Timothy said, "As you receive the news of this decision, we hope you will join us in thanksgiving for the ways ECLC has played a role in the lives of so many individuals and families. And we ask that you will join us in prayer for the months ahead."

Unified Budget update



Pathways Endowment YTD gifts..... \$37,252
Pathways Endowment Oct. balance \$10,226,512

Adventurers Arboretum trip

The Wilshire Adventurers will learn about and visit the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens on Thursday, Nov. 14. At 9 a.m. the group will gather in the Wilshire Parlor to hear a presentation by Arboretum volunteers before heading to the Arboretum to see the 12 Days of Christmas and Christmas Village displays. Admission is free. Boxed lunches are available for purchase. Register by Monday, Nov. 11, at wilshirebc.org/events/arboretum.

Women of Wilshire

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Nov. 12 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org)

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Dec. 5 | Noon | 1205-L | *Good Night, Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Art show closes Nov. 17

The Sacred Art of Ethiopia is on display in the South Lobby through Nov. 17. With works including processional crosses, folding icons and paintings on biblical themes, the show celebrates the rich artistic heritage of one of the world's oldest Christian civilizations.

UNT choir concert on Nov. 19

The University of North Texas University Singers, conducted by Marques Garrett, will perform at Wilshire on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. The concert, which also includes the Duncanville and Fossil Ridge High School choirs, is free and open to the public.

Men's Book Club meets Nov. 19

Wilshire's Men's Book Club will discuss *The Jazzmen: How Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Count Basie Transformed America* by Larry Tye on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net).

Next Lunch & Learn is Nov. 20

All are invited the first and third Wednesdays every month for lunch (\$10 ea.) and Bible study. On Nov. 20, Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray will teach on 2 Samuel 5-7. See the fall schedule at wilshirebc.org/events/lunch-learn.

WSM Fall Retreat tackles cliches

Wilshire Student Ministry will explore cliches at its Fall Retreat on Saturday, Nov. 23, and Sunday, Nov. 24, at the Lone Oak Ranch and Retreat in Gainsville. Registration is open at wilshirebc.org/events/wsm-fall-retreat.

Preschool Playtime on Nov. 25

Preschoolers and their families are invited to a Preschool Playtime on Monday, Nov. 25, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Join Minister to Preschoolers Kelly Akins in the Multipurpose Room for a fun time of building and art.

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.

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/realml.

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.

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, Nov. 10

- *The Sacred Art of Ethiopia*, South Lobby, through Nov. 17
- Second Grade Open House, 2224, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Time with Tim, Pastor's Office, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2221, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, 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, Nov. 11

- Exercise Class, 3301, 10:30 a.m.
- Bylaws Deacon work group, 1205-L, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 12

- WOW Tuesday Evening Book Club, Parlor, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 13

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Ukulele Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 11 a.m.
- Adventurers Committee, 1205-G, 1 p.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- WNL: Virtual Edition, Zoom, 6 p.m.
- Committee on Committees, 1205-G, 6 p.m.
- Preschool Music & Missions, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 14

- Adventurers Arboretum Presentation, Parlor, 9 a.m.
- Adventurers to the Arboretum, Dallas Arboretum, 9:30 a.m.
- Stewpot Meal Service, 11:15 a.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 15

- MomCo, James Gallery, 9 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE NOVEMBER 13

Koinonia Café

5 p.m. | **Community Hall** | Buffet dinner. Cash/check/credit accepted. See prices at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Nov. 13:** Salsa verde chicken enchiladas, Spanish rice, refried beans, chips and salsa, black bean soup, salad, pumpkin cheesecake, chocolate chip cookies, jello.
Kids: Quesadillas and beans.

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.

Bible Study series: Christianity in America



6 p.m. | **Nov. 6, 13, 20** | **Community Hall** | Join us as we explore the impact of Christianity on American culture, politics and society from the colonial period to the present. We’ll cover

significant movements, people and events as we consider positive contributions as well as challenges, including issues of diversity, social justice and the role of religion in public life. How has our faith evolved in response to changing social dynamics, and what does its future look like in contemporary America?

WNL: Virtual Edition this week

Those who engage with Wilshire primarily online are invited to a Zoom session hosted by Associate Pastor Heather Mustain on Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. Central. The Zoom link will be posted at 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.



ADVENT 2024

Like the shepherds who kept watch over their flock, we too want to keep watch this Advent season. In a time when our public life feels polarized and uncertain, how do we keep watch for one another? As we move through the weeks of Advent, is it possible for us to keep watch for moments of hope, joy, peace and love? In this season of great anticipation, may the eyes of our hearts be open as we keep watch for God's continual love and presence to us and the world.

Celebration of the Green Sunday, Dec. 8 | 6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary | In this annual favorite event, the Christmas story will come alive through music and narration, offering a timeless message of peace and the assurance that "all will be well." Featuring Wilshire Winds, Carillon Ringers, Children's Choir, Youth Choir, Shekinah, Nova and Sanctuary Choir. A reception will follow.

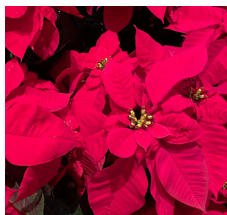
Children's Christmas Choir

All children in grades 1 through 5 are invited to sing with Children's Choir for Christmas. Rehearsals began Nov. 3 and will run weekly (except Nov. 24) through Dec. 1. Each week the kids will meet after worship for a snack lunch before rehearsal at 12:30 p.m. The children will sing for worship on Dec. 1 and Celebration of the Green on Dec. 8. Details at wilshirebc.org/childrens-christmas-choir.

Join Sanctuary Choir for Advent

All are invited to join Sanctuary Choir for Advent and Christmas. As always, there's no audition, and this beautiful season is a great time to try choir. Our Christmas singers will rehearse Wednesdays, 7-7:45 p.m., in Choral Hall. Child-care is available; visit bit.ly/4f2ylc6 to sign up.

Time to order poinsettias



Help decorate the Sanctuary for Advent by ordering a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. Dedications will be listed in the worship folder on Dec. 8. Each plant costs \$14, and

donors may take them home after Christmas Eve services. Order forms are available in the church office, or you can order and pay online at wilshirebc.org/poinsettias. The deadline to order is Dec. 1.

Sign up kids to build nativity

Elementary school children are invited to help build the Sanctuary nativity scene by carrying elements to the chancel at the start of worship. We'll begin Dec. 1 and build the scene week by week until it is complete at the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Sign up at wilshirebc.org/nativity.

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, Dec. 24. | 4 and 11 p.m.

Adventurers lights tour

Tuesday, Dec. 10 | 6 p.m. | Join the Wilshire Adventurers for a guided bus tour of Christmas lights in Highland Park. \$40 per person. Register by Dec. 10 at wilshirebc.org/events/christmas-lights.

Christmas pageant

Wednesday, Dec. 11 | 6 p.m. | **Sanctuary** | Kindergarten, Pre-K and 3-Year-Old choirs will be in costume as they sing and act out the Nativity.

Parents Night Out

Friday, Dec. 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Wilshire will offer free childcare (infants-grade 5) on the night when many adult classes have Christmas parties. Space is limited. Register at wilshirebc.org/events/pno-dec13.

Giving Tree coming soon

Wilshire's Giving Tree will be up in James Gallery by Sunday, Nov. 17. Select a tag and fulfill a Christmas wish for a child or adult served by one of our local mission partners.

Advent book study



All are invited to participate as we collectively read the book *Calling All Angels: an Advent Study of Fearlessness and Strength* by Erin Wathen. The book examines four angelic encounters that all begin with the same refrain, "do not be afraid," and challenges readers to apply this timeless message to our lives today. The book is available to purchase from major book retailers.

- On Sundays from 9 to 9:45 a.m., Darren DeMent and Katie Murray will lead a **discussion group** on the book in 1205-G. Starts Dec. 1.
- Many **Sunday School** classes, including Youth, will study the book during Advent.
- A **family study guide** will be available for parents to use with children.

Cliff Carlisle

Hometown: Tyler

Present City: Dallas

Education: B.B.A., University of North Texas

Profession: Retired commercial property and casualty insurance underwriter

Tell us about your family.

Vicki and I have been married 32 years. We have no children. We do have a dog that likes to stay awake most of the night, so one of us stays up with her, either feeding her or letting her outside while the other sleeps. It's like a baby that never grows up.

What are your favorite places to travel?

Anywhere I can get away from the dog and get a good night's sleep. My favorite vacation was a trip to New York City in 2017 with folks from Wilshire.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

We moved back to Dallas in 2005 from San Antonio, where we attended Woodland Baptist Church. We wanted the same type of church here, and Wilshire was close to where we live.

What do you think God is up to in your life right now?

I can never tell. If I look back, I can see where things seem to have happened for a reason. I believe that to be the hand of God.

Tell us about your faith journey.

I was brought up in the Southern Baptist church. I've had anxiety issues all my life, and they got



worse as I entered puberty. I read in the Bible that people were healed just by asking Jesus to heal them, and I thought if I made a public profession of faith, the same could happen to me. I learned that God was not transactional. Other than a short time in high school, I didn't attend church, and after SBC president Bailey Smith said that God doesn't hear the prayers of a Jew, I became a little ashamed to be a Southern Baptist. I discovered the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship while we were in San Antonio. It seemed a very enlightened way to bring Baptist tradition into the 21st century. I'd always been curious about mainline denominations, and there was a hint of that in the service as well. Over the years, I have come to the difficult realization that God's will is most important, not mine.

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

I wrote a screenplay about the actor James Stewart's World War II experiences and tried to market it to production companies without an agent. I actually got two companies to read it and provide feedback and talked to one producer on the phone. Of course, nobody wanted to buy or even option it.