



Keep Watch

**DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
WILSHIRE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Preparing for worship

I have a set of people in my life who bring me peace. These are people I always look forward to being with. People with whom I share many common bonds. When I'm with them I always dread saying goodbye. But when I leave their presence, I'm always the better for having been with them. There's a sweet aroma of companionship that lingers long after we part.

That sweet aroma is the scent of peace, a peace that goes to the core of my being, a peace I get from few other people.

When I read today's Scripture passage from the book of Philippians, I sense that Paul had that kind of relationship with the people he knew in Philippi. They had a shared history, shared suffering, shared sacrifice. They had been through much together, and I sense from Paul's letter to them that being together with them was one of Paul's favorite things.

How about God? What if God feels the same way about us? What if being with us somehow brings peace to the heart of God? What if what God wanted more than anything else was to be with us, to join us in our lives, our triumphs, our struggles, our suffering? What if God wanted to be with us so much that God became one of us, joined us here and walked through life the same way we do? So that God could share in the lived experience of our lives, like our closest friends?

What if sharing our lives together meant so

much to God that God became like us? What if God wanted to be with us so much that God actually became one of us? To share in what it's like to be frustrated, to have skinned knees and broken hearts, to be disappointed and excited, to know the joy of companionship and the hurt of separation ... even to become a baby?

What if that's what the peace of Christmas is all about? Being present — God with us and us with God? Peace to us and peace to God? What if the Advent season is about remembering that we bring peace to ourselves when we bring ourselves into the presence of God? And that God longed for the same kind of peace when God became one of us? So that God could spend time with the ones who brought God the most peace of all? Us.

How about you? Where will you find peace during this season? In the commercialism of gift-giving? The crazy busyness of the season? Or in the presence of the Holy One, who longed so much for the peace of community with us that God became one of us? Just so God could hang out with us.

May we remember this season that the best peace, the deepest peace, the most lasting peace comes from hanging out with the one who came here to hang out with us.

—Charlie Fuller



4316 Abrams Road | Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214-452-3100 | wilshirebc.org

Building a Community of Faith Shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ

Partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Member, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

Sunday, December 8, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Heather Mustain

Prelude

Sleepers, Awake!
Wilshire Winds
Shana Gaines, director

J.S. Bach/arr. Alfred Reed

+Processional Song

Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People
No. 89

PSALM 42

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Kim, Clint, Jonathan, Joel and Rinnah Justice

Preparing for the Nativity

Nicolette Brindle, Maggie Stegner, Phillip Stegner, Viola Stegner

+A Moment of Peace

Katie Murray

Leader: Magnify the Lord, for she has done great things. She is mindful of the least and the last.

All: We praise the one who builds up the poor and casts down the powerful.

Leader: A child is coming who will turn the world upside down. Let us be like his mother and worship while we wait.

All: We worship God, who performs mighty deeds with her arm and gives voice to the outcast.

Leader: She fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty.

All: We will wait and not be afraid.

— From *Calling All Angels* by Erin Wathen

+Congregational Response

Arise, Your Light Is Come
Stanza 3

FESTAL SONG

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

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

Call to Worship*Come, Lord Jesus (Sing Noel)*

arr. Jim Ailor

Children's Choir

Candy McComb, director

Bill Jernberg, accompanist; Shana Gaines, flute

Come, Lord Jesus, come to dwell with us. How we need your presence near.

Come to guide us. Come to save us. Come, O come, we welcome you here.

Alleluia! God is with us. Alleluia! Emmanuel.

Angels are praising and shepherds are bowing. God is with us! Sing Noel.

Noel. God is with us! Sing Noel.

Missions Moment

Heather Mustain

Epistle Reading — Philippians 1:3–11

Benjamin Ballard

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Offertory*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

arr. Scott Watson

Wilshire Winds

+Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Malachi 3:1–4

Drew Stricklin

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to God's temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

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*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

No. 83

Message	“A Purification for Peace”	Timothy Peoples
Anthem	<i>How Lovely Are the Messengers</i> Sanctuary Choir	Felix Mendelssohn

How lovely are the messengers who bring us the gospel of peace.
To all the nations is gone forth the sounds of their words.

Prayers of the People		Micki Lacker
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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>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i> No. 126	REGENT SQUARE
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Sharing of Decisions		Timothy Peoples
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Benediction		Timothy Peoples
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Postlude	<i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i>	arr. John Innes
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The flowers today are given in celebration
of Bob Law’s 80th birthday by his family.

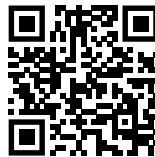
Meet today's worship leaders

Benjamin Ballard is the son of Jane and Kyle Ballard and brother to Ann Marie and Eleanor. Benjamin is a fifth grader at William B. Travis Academy/Vanguard and plays tackle football for the Lakewood Outlaws. The Ballards joined Wilshire in 2016.

Kim and Clint Justice have been Wilshire members since 2023, when they joined with their three kids, **Jonathan**, a fourth grader, **Joel**, a third grader, and **Rinnah**, who is in kindergarten. Clint and Kim attend Labyrinth Class. Their extended family at Wilshire includes Kim's parents, Mary and Kenton Keller, and sister Kathryn Keller.

Micki Lacker joined Wilshire in 1993. She serves as a leader in Stephen Ministry and is part of the teaching team in Cord of Three Class. Micki is a retired nurse practitioner who enjoys being a grandmother and traveling with her husband.

Drew Stricklin joined Wilshire in 2022. He is a member and co-director of Shiloh Class and serves on the Belong Team. Drew works as an emergency room physician.



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.

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)

Wilshire Baptist Church gratefully acknowledges those who gave poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary this Advent season. The love expressed through these flowers is dedicated to the Lord and Savior whose birth we celebrate.

In memory of:

Maxey Abernathy by Carole Jean Abernathy and the Woodbury family

Charles F. Ackerman by Betty Ackerman

Paul Alloway by Jane Alloway

Paul Alloway by Paula Alloway

Paul Alloway by Sue Alloway

Zane Thomas Anderson by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit Anderson

Amy Arthur by Ricci Davis and family

Charles Baker by the Barkers

Wanda Ballard by Jane, Kyle, Benjamin, Ann Marie and Eleanor Ballard

Mimi Basden by Jenyce Gush

James Beasley by Vickie Conn

Lois Ruth Creager Beckham by Matt Howell

Art and Opal Blohm by Betty Blohm Ackerman

Maxine Bradford by Cindy and David Coleman

Ezekiel Brown and Cherry Brown by Dorrell Brown

Avonne Bullock by Allison, Chad, Forrest, Peyton and Carson Brown

Avonne Bullock by Stan Bullock

Bobby J. Bunch by Dana and David Bunch

Bobby J. Bunch by Jeff, David and Brian Bunch

Marie and C.T. (Sonny) Cadenhead by Ralph Long

Sam Caverlee by Amy and John Caverlee

Bobbie Coleman by Cindy and David Coleman

Diane Collins by Bryan Rollins and Robert Rollins

Uncle Spencer Cordell by Barron Cordell

Spencer Cordell by Elton Cordell

Spencer Cordell by Laura Cordell

Spencer Cordell by Lisa Cordell

Jean Corea by Ann Marie Mihm and Mary Margaret Heuertz

Oneta and Marvin Coyle by Tracy Sturdivant

Manny Dalhausser by Amy and Dirk Dalhausser

Earl Davis by Ricci Davis and family

Leon DeMent, Jr. by Joannah, Darren, Virginia and Elias DeMent

Linda Madge Long Domangue and Leah Madge Domangue by Ralph Long

Christina Dorman by Meredith, Matt and Parker Mosley

Edwin and Gloria Dowling by the Dowling family

Noreen and Norman Dowling by the Dowling family

Margaret Duncan by David Duncan

Susie Dunsmore and Kim Allor by the Dowling family

Lori Wallace Dusek by Pat and Jim Wallace

Dorothy "Mamos" Eggert by Linda, Mark, Rebecca and Preston Eggert

Emery Evans by the Evans family

Jesse Evans by the Evans family

Joy Phillips Fenner by Debbie and Marc LaChey

Sue Fisetette by Robert Fisetette, Sheri Brooks and Jennifer Kitto

Sue Fisetette by Dorrell Brown

Tom Fry by Melanie Beller

Karen Kay Giggelman and Marina Giggelman-Vargas by Ralph Long

George Gagliardi by Rebecca Bridges

George Gagliardi by Dorrell Brown

George Gagliardi by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton
George Gagliardi by Wilshire Winds
Carolyn and Ronald Goelzer, Eloise and Ted Bailey
by Linda Goelzer and Karen and Ted Bailey, Jr.
Carolyn and Ronald Goelzer by Linda Goelzer
Genevieve P. and Robert A. Goelzer by
Linda Goelzer
Tom Goff by the Loggins family
Peaches and Sandy Hallman, John M. Shaw
by Dawn and Steven Hallman
Sasha Nicole Hallman by Dawn and Steven Hallman
Sheila Henning by Amy and Dirk Dalhausser
Dollie Hill by Donna Gregory
Anita Hood by Ricci Davis and family
Jill Gush Hrcncir by Jenyce Gush
Lindsay Nicole Hyder by Carole and Jerry Duval
Joanna Ching-Ping Wong Jones by Bill Jones
and family
Dot Laux by Lydia and James Perry
Emma and Richard Lawson by the Dowling family
Jack Lett by Ann Marie Mihm and Mary Margaret
Heuertz
Melody Loggins by the Loggins family
Linda Jean Cadenhead Long by Ralph Long
Madge J. and James K. Long by Ralph Long
Doris and Dick Luttrell by Sally and Richard
Luttrell
Adam Townsend Malcik by Sara and Price Tinsley
Adam Townsend Malcik by Vy and Michael Malcik
Diane Malone by Sunny, Evelyn and Grace
Carroum
Jonathan McGregor by Jane and Kyle Ballard
Robert Lee Mihm by Mark Sheldrake Mihm
Robert John Mihm by Ann Marie and Mark Mihm
Spencer Cole Mihm by Ann Marie and Mark Mihm
Gene Moore by Geoff Moore
Marilyn Williamson Moore by Angie Moore
Michael Ray Moore by Angie Moore
Sheila Duncan Moore by Geoff Moore
Sheila Duncan Moore by Carole Jean Abernathy
and the Woodbury family
Scott Morris, son of Brenda and Gwin Morris, by
Carole Jean Abernathy and the Woodbury family
Billie and Asa Newsom, Sr. by David, Kirk and
Kent Newsom families
Bradley Thomas Newsom by Cory, Amy, Bryn
and Whit Anderson
Douglas Kent Newsom by Lynn and Kirk Newsom
Dot and Asa A. Newsom, Jr. by Amy, Cory, Bryn
and Whit Anderson
Dot and Asa A. Newsom, Jr. by David, Kirk and
Kent Newsom families
Tom Newsom by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit
Anderson
Sue Nyquist by Dana and David Bunch
Bill O'Brien by B.E.S.T. Sunday School Class
Sandra Offner and Jeannene Stricklin by Drew
Stricklin
Ann O'Hara by Jane, Kyle, Benjamin, Ann Marie
and Eleanor Ballard
Candy Post by Matthew, Cindy and Becky Post
Candy Post by Max Post and family
David A. Risinger by Janice and Bill Jernberg
Marian Rollins by Bryan Rollins and Robert Rollins
Stephen Rollins by Bryan Rollins and Robert
Rollins
Wells Rollins by Bryan Rollins and Robert Rollins
Jean Shepard by Molly, Michael and Olivia Shepard
Sharron Simmons by Jennifer Jenkins
Sylvester Smith by Ann Marie Mihm
Joyce and Bob Sturdivant by Tracy Sturdivant
Aunt Sue and Mom by the Dowling family
Doris Swift by Dana and David Bunch

Doris “Meme” Swift by Deanna Bunch and Chuck Swift
Donna Twomey by Meredith, Matt and Parker Mosley
Mary Jane Cheek Van Zandt by Lynn and Kirk Newsom
Judy and Forrest Wallace by Pat and Jim Wallace
Louise and Otto Wallace by Pat and Jim Wallace
LuFan and Charlie Watson by Charlene and Bob Law
Michael Weldon by Kathleen Garland
Jim White by B.E.S.T. Sunday School Class
Woodrow Wilson White by Gayle Cox
Myrtie C. and Phillip C. Williams by Linda Goelzer
Jenna Worthen by Jenyce Gush

In honor of:

Carole Jean Abernathy by Paula, Jason, Garrett, Ku and Kathryn
Kathy Alverson by Lydia and James Perry
Ron Ballard by Jane, Kyle, Benjamin, Ann Marie and Eleanor Ballard
Mary Lynne Bright by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton
Andy, Jessica and Callum Brookshire by Gail and Steve Brookshire
Dorrell Brown by Sheri and Alan Brooks
Monna Brown by Davanel Fitzgerald
Monna Brown by Janice and Bill Jernberg
Monna Brown by Sarah and Allan Stafford
Jeff Brummel by Carole Jean Abernathy and the Woodbury family
Jeff Brummel by Jeri Baker
Jeff Brummel by Dorrell Brown
Jeff Brummel by Laurie Diffee
Jeff Brummel by Davanel Fitzgerald
Jeff Brummel by Katherine Pottkotter

Jeff Brummel by Alison and Mark Wingfield
Deanna Bunch by Dana and David Bunch
Sharleen Burleson by Linda, Mark, Rebecca and Preston Eggert
Debby Burton by David, Andrew, Joshua and Troy
Debby Burton by Laurie and Mike Diffee
Ellen Caverlee by Amy and John Caverlee
Barbara Clayton by Laurie and Mike Diffee
Sue Coffman by Rebecca Bridges
Compass Sunday School Class by Kathleen Garland
Allyson and Matt Cook by Lydia and James Perry
Dan, Chris, Chip and their families by Pat and Fred Cullum
Joannah, Darren, Virginia and Elias DeMent by Carole Jean Abernathy and the Woodbury family
Discovery Sunday School Class by Dorrell Brown
David Duncan by Carole Jean Abernathy and the Woodbury family
David Duncan by Jeri Baker
Diana Early and Andrea Watkins by Mary and Paul Early
Paul and Mary Early by Andrea Watkins and Diana Early
Bob Fisette by Jeri Baker
Davanel Fitzgerald by Janice and Bill Jernberg
Davanel Fitzgerald by Sarah and Allan Stafford
Barbara and Don Floyd by Meredith, Matt and Parker Mosley
Linda and Ed Francis by Molly, Michael and Olivia Shepard
Friday Friends Leadership: Terry Wade, David Duncan, Debbie Rampey and Linda Lyles by Miggy and John Coates
Charlie Fuller by Jeri Baker
Linda Goelzer by Dorrell Brown
Jill and Larry Granberry by Carole Jean Abernathy and the Woodbury family

Joe Haag by Debbie and Marc LaChey

LeAnn and Jeff Hampton by Courtney, Kent and Keller Carter

Margaret, Brad, William and Jack Jernberg by Janice and Bill Jernberg

Micki Lacker by Gayle Cox

Charlene and Bob Law by Dorrell Brown

Raylan Loggins by Davanel Fitzgerald

Valerie Lott and Timothy Peoples by Carole Jean Abernathy and the Woodbury family

Valerie Lott and Timothy Peoples by Vickie Conn

Candy and Bob Lydecker by Debbie and Marc LaChey

Margie Lynn by Jeri Baker

Vy and Michael Malcik by Carole Jean Abernathy

Ralph Manuel by Laurie Diffie

Candy McComb by Laurie Diffie

Candy McComb by Alison Wingfield

David McCoy by Jeri Baker

Wilma McMurray by Pam Stiles

Ariel Merivil by Carole Jean Abernathy and the Woodbury family

Ariel Merivil by Jeri Baker

Ariel Merivil by Alison and Mark Wingfield

Nicki, Geoff and Griffin Moore by Carole Jean Abernathy

Parker Mosley by Meredith and Matt Mosley

Carolyn Murray by Angela Brindle

Katie, Steven, Drew, Annie and James Murray by Carole Jean Abernathy and the Woodbury family

Heather Mustain by Carole Jean Abernathy and the Woodbury family

Heather Mustain by Jeri Baker

New Song Community Choir by Jeri Baker

New Song Community Choir by Sarah Stafford

The Percy Parrish family by Martha and Kathy Hatcher

Timothy Peoples by Jeri Baker

Lydia, James, Emily and Drew Perry by Martha and Jack Newfield

Barbara Peterson by Carole Jean Abernathy and the Woodbury family

Max Post by Meredith, Matt and Parker Mosley

Max Post by Matthew, Mariya, Ruby, Aaron, Cindy and Becky Post

Anne and Damon Scalfaro by Janice and Bill Jernberg

Sarah and Allan Stafford by Jeri Baker

Sarah and Allan Stafford by Davanel Fitzgerald

Shirley Vaughn by Charlene Law

Kenneth Waterman by Davanel Fitzgerald

Lisa and Jim Williamson by Jane, Kyle, Benjamin, Ann Marie and Eleanor Ballard

Wilshire Baptist Church by Valerie Lott and Timothy Peoples

Wilshire Building and Grounds Committee (2024) by Laurie Diffie

Wilshire staff by Linda Goelzer

Wilshire staff by Sally and Richard Luttrell

Wilshire staff by Valerie Lott and Timothy Peoples

Wilshire Student Ministry Sunday School teachers and volunteers by Joannah and Darren DeMent

Alison and Mark Wingfield by Jeri Baker

Women of Wilshire Book Clubs and the Men's Book Club by Dawn and Steven Hallman

Jason Woodbury and the Wilshire Risk Management Committee by Laurie Diffie

Paula and Jason Woodbury, Garrett, Ku and Kathryn by Carole Jean Abernathy

Paula and Jason Woodbury by Lydia and James Perry

Jennifer, Elizabeth, David and Collin Yarbrough by Judy and Charles Yarbrough

Tapestry



News & Announcements
December 8, 2024

Celebration of the Green

TONIGHT | 6:30 P.M.



Music ministry to present annual favorite tonight

All are invited back tonight at 6:30 p.m. for Celebration of the Green, a yearly Advent high-light featuring Wilshire's music groups in the beauty of the decorated Sanctuary.

In this year's presentation, themed *Comfort! Comfort Now, My People. Tell of Peace!*, the Christmas story will come to life through music and narration, offering a timeless message of peace and the assurance that "all will be well."

All Wilshire choral and instrumental groups will perform, including Wilshire Winds, Carillon Ringers, Children's Choir, Youth Choir, Shekinah, Nova and Sanctuary Choir. Pastoral Resident Maggie Morey and Wilshire member James Michael Sobolik-Williams will serve as readers, and the service will also include congregational carol singing.

A reception will follow in Community Hall.



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.

Preschool Pageant

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11 | 6 P.M.



Pageant this Wednesday night

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. The pageant will be the only offering at 6 p.m. this Wednesday, but dinner will still be served in Koinonia Café at 5 p.m. Join us after the pageant for a reception with cookies and cocoa in James Gallery.

Sign up kids to build Nativity

Children are invited to help build the Sanctuary Nativity scene by carrying elements to the chancel during worship each week until it is complete at the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Sign up at wilshirebc.org/nativity.

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, Dec. 24

- 4 p.m. Christmas Eve family service. Suitable for all ages.
- 11 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgical service. Includes celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- No Sunday School (worship only) on Dec. 29.

Tree of Remembrance

Help decorate Wilshire's Tree of Hope and Remembrance in the South Lobby by writing the name of a loved one as a memorial or your name as a survivor of cancer or another disease. Blank ornaments and markers are provided at the tree, which is decorated with bracelets representing different forms of cancer. Hang your ornament on the tree anytime and feel free to take it home close to Christmas for your own tree.

Visit the Giving Tree

Select a tag from the James Gallery Giving Tree and fulfill a Christmas wish for a child or adult served by a local mission partner. Gifts for all remaining tags are due Dec. 11. We also have a **Virtual Giving Tree**; find the link at wilshirebc.org/giving-tree.

Advent book study

Join us this season as we read *Calling All Angels: an Advent Study of Fearlessness and Strength* by Erin Wathen. The book examines four angelic encounters that began with the same refrain, "do not be afraid," and challenges readers to apply this timeless message to our lives today.

The book is available from major book retailers.

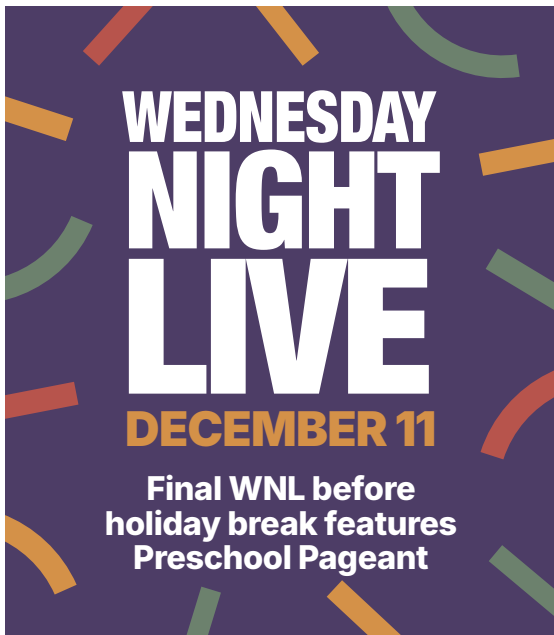
■ On Sundays from 9 to 9:45 a.m., Darren DeMent and Katie Murray are leading a **discussion group** on the book in Room 1205-G.

■ Many **Sunday School** classes, including Youth, are studying the book during Advent.

■ A **family study guide** is available for parents to use with children. Pick up a copy in the main office or near the north entrance.

Give a Hope Box for Christmas

Give a unique gift and support a Wilshire mission partner with a Hope Box from Together for Hope, which fights rural poverty through education, health, housing and social enterprise. Each box contains culinary products produced by TFH partners. Purchase at koinoniafarmstore.com/together-for-hope-box.



Koinonia Café

5 p.m. | **Community Hall** | Buffet dinner. Cash/check/credit accepted. See prices at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Dec. 11:** Chili with cornbread and toppings, salad, lemon blueberry cheesecake, apple pie, jello. **Kids:** Corn dogs and tots.

Preschool Christmas Pageant

6 p.m. | **Sanctuary** | More on page 13.

Watershed

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

Sanctuary Choir

7 p.m. | **Choral Hall** | New singers are always welcome. No audition.

■ *No Wednesday Night Live on Dec. 18, Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. WNL resumes Jan. 8.*

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

Wilshire Welcome today

Wilshire Welcome, a one-hour session to help guests and new members learn more about the church, will meet Sunday, Dec. 8, at 9:45 a.m. in the Prayer Room near the chapel. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Register by today for Dec. 13 Parents Night Out

Friday, Dec. 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Wilshire will offer free childcare (infants–grade 5) on the night many adult classes have Christmas parties. Space is limited. Register at wilshirebc.org/events/pno-dec13 by Dec. 8.

WNL: Virtual Edition on Dec. 11

Those who engage with Wilshire primarily online are invited to a Zoom session led by Associate Pastor Darren DeMent on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. Central. Find the link at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl-virtual closer to the event.

Women of Wilshire

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Dec. 10 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *The Deal of a Lifetime* by Fredrik Backman. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org)

■ **Take a Hike: Holiday Edition** | Dec. 14 | 8:30 a.m. | NorthPark Center | Loop the mall and then grab breakfast.

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Jan. 9 | Noon | 1205-L | *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Next Lunch & Learn is Dec. 18



All are invited the first and third Wednesdays every month for lunch (\$10 ea.) and Bible study. On Dec. 18, Associate Pastor Darren DeMent will teach on 2 Samuel 13–24. This will be the final Lunch & Learn of 2024.

Someone to talk with.

If you're facing a life challenge and would like to have a spiritual friend to walk alongside you for a season of healing, perhaps you would benefit from a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministry pairs trained lay people with those in need of Christian companionship during times of crisis. Reach out using our dedicated email address, stephenministry@wilshirebc.org, or call 214-452-3176.

stephen
MINISTRY.

MISSIONS & CHRISTIAN ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

ADVOCACY ACTION GROUPS

The 89th Texas Legislature and 119th U.S. Congress convene in January.

Consider joining an Advocacy Action Group to receive educational resources and action alerts regarding local, state and national issues.



WILSHIRE ADVENTURERS

SEDONA'S RED ROCK COUNTRY & THE GRAND CANYON

SEPT. 28-OCT. 4, 2025

Space is limited!
Learn more and express
your interest at
wilshirebc.org/adventurers-trip



Rental and utility assistance made a difference

Program to return for second year thanks to financial gift

BY HEATHER MUSTAIN, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

In the fall of 2023, a group of Wilshire members gathered for our first ever Collective Consciousness Cohort on the state of housing in Dallas. Over six weeks, this group listened to community experts discuss factors that impact our neighbors' ability to secure housing that is affordable, available and safe. The goal of our cohort was, of course, to listen and learn, but ultimately to put that learning into something actionable.

One issue we heard about repeatedly was the unaffordability of rent and the number of evictions caused as a result, particularly for families. With the elimination of federal COVID funding, many nonprofits who stood in this gap could no longer do so, leaving people with nowhere to turn and service providers strapped.

As the cohort dreamed, discussed and discerned what might be ours to do, Wilshire's Missions Plus fund received a \$75,000 gift earmarked for the care of the widowed and orphaned. It was a moment when our desires to help aligned with the movement of the Spirit.

In April, a small and dedicated group of volunteers designed and executed a low-barrier rental and utility assistance program that sought to serve any neighbor in Dallas County who needed help with one month's rent, mortgage payment or utility bill.

Wilshire, here's what we did:

From April to September, when our funds ran out, we served 43 households who lived in 23 zip codes. Of these households, nearly 70% included children. The average amount given was around \$1,800; the smallest gift was \$146,

and the largest was \$6,636. Two thirds of these neighbors were employed, many with multiple jobs.

Half of these households found themselves behind in rent because of a reduction of work hours or an unexpected layoff, while another 10% had experienced an unexpected health crisis.

Here's what we know:

Over the last month, we reached out to all 43 households we served and reached 31 of them. We discovered that 71% of these households were stabilized — meaning our one-time gift made a tremendous difference in a household's journey toward housing security. In fact, only one of the 31 households reached was presently at risk of eviction.

Change is always hard to capture by data alone, but we feel encouraged that we are making a lasting difference in the lives of our neighbors while also providing a sacred opportunity for our members to have life-changing encounters.

And while this effort alone will not solve the complex issue of housing in our city, it pairs well with our continued local advocacy efforts at City Hall and beyond. At Wilshire, we want to focus on both missions and advocacy and the ways in which they intersect to create meaningful change for ourselves and our neighbors.

Here's what we heard:

"I have a job now working with people with autism. Since Wilshire gave to me, I want to also give back to the community."

"Thank you for treating me like a human being."

"I am tremendously grateful ... I want you to

know that I now have a goal of repaying you when I get through this difficult time. I want to be a part of making this financial blessing possible for others who turn to you for help. Thank you again for doing God's work."

Here's what we hope to do:

For our second year, we hope to refine and expand the program. The gift given to Missions Plus has been reinstated, so we are starting out on the same financial footing as last year. Our hope, however, is to find additional funding to do even more. Our real hope would be to build a coalition of congregations in our neighborhood who would want to support one or two families, making this a joint effort. Because of the tremendous need and the fact that 70% of those we served were families, this year we intend to serve only households with children.

This program would not have been possible without the 16 of you who volunteered your time, wisdom, love, passion and compassion. And, of course, Wilshire staff members Abbey Adcox and Lori Gooden. Thank you to those who volunteered this past year.

We'd love to have more volunteers to meet with those who apply to the program. We'll conduct training in January, so email me for more info at hmustain@wilshirebc.org or scan the QR code below. Thank you, Wilshire, for your continued generosity of mind and talent — for the ways you are not afraid to say yes to God's and the Spirit's movement in our world. May we always continue dreaming ... and doing.

In 2025, we will launch our second Collective Consciousness Cohort, this time focusing on reproductive justice. Stay tuned!



Scan to fill out our volunteer interest form or contact Heather at hmustain@wilshirebc.org



Friday Friends gives back to the community

Friday Friends completed a community service project at their Nov. 22 meeting, assembling 100 hygiene kits for our unhoused neighbors. The kits, which contain socks, handwarmers, toothbrush and toothpaste, snacks and other essentials, will be distributed by Wilshire's missions team. Funds for the project were provided by a grant to Friday Friends from the AWARE Fund of the Dallas Foundation, which supports various Alzheimer's-related programs.

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/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.

At Wilshire, we use a one-fund approach to giving called the Unified Budget. Your gifts support the basic mission, ministry and operations of the church. Once the Unified Budget is fulfilled, gifts overflow into visionary aspects of our mission.

This Week

Sunday, Dec. 8

- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Celebration of the Green, Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.
- Celebration of the Green Reception, Community Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 9

- Bylaws Deacon Work Group, 1205-L, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

- Adventurers Christmas Lights Tour, 6 p.m.
- WOW Tuesday Evening Book Club, Parlor, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

- New Song Community Choir, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Adventurers Committee, 1205-G, 1 p.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- WNL: Virtual Edition, Zoom, 6 p.m.
- Preschool Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Pageant Reception, James Gallery, 6:45 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 12

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

Friday, Dec. 13

- Friday Friends, 3301, 10 a.m.
- Compass Class Christmas Party, James Gallery, 5 p.m.
- Parents Night Out, Preschool Hallway, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14

- WOW Let's Take a Hike: Holiday Edition, NorthPark Center, 8:30 a.m.
- Cord of Three Christmas Party, Hinojosa-Nadler home, 2 p.m.

Michael Bufkin

Hometown: Clinton, Mississippi

Present City: Dallas

Education: Master's in education, Mississippi State University; Bachelor's in kinesiology

Profession: Career and Technical Education Specialist, Dallas ISD

Tell us about your family

I'm married with two kids and enjoy the vibrant life that family brings. My son, Nate, keeps me on my toes. My daughter, Mary Bryce, is coming into her own and loves dressing up and sharing her opinion. We love exploring DFW and learning together as a family.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I recently changed roles and will be working with Dallas ISD as a Career and Technical Education Coordinator, focused on creating pathways to prepare students for successful careers. My job involves program management, strategic planning and collaboration with industry partners to provide high school students with meaningful and relevant opportunities.

Any favorite hobbies?

I enjoy coding, especially building projects in Python, and photography. Lately, I've taken up golf and am building a home simulator in my backyard.

What are your favorite places to travel?

New Orleans tops the list for its unique culture, food and history. I feel relaxed and inspired there, and my family and I return whenever possible.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

I came seeking a community that values inclusiv-



ity and genuine connection. I was drawn in by Wilshire's emphasis on community and support, and that sense of belonging has kept me engaged.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

I attend Ithaka Class and support preschool choir. I work with a great group of children and adults doing the Lord's work.

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

I feel God leading me to focus on building a solid foundation for my family and nurturing a sense of community within the church. At home, I'm reminded of the importance of being a steady, loving presence for my family as my children grow and learn. Within Wilshire, I feel called to deepen relationships and create a welcoming environment, fostering a sense of belonging and connection for everyone around me.

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

I'm a DIY tech hobbyist, always looking for ways to combine technology with hands-on projects around the house.

What adjectives best describe you?

I am resourceful, driven and dedicated to continuous learning. Our most significant impact often comes from the minor, steady improvements we make every day.

End of year need: \$892,996

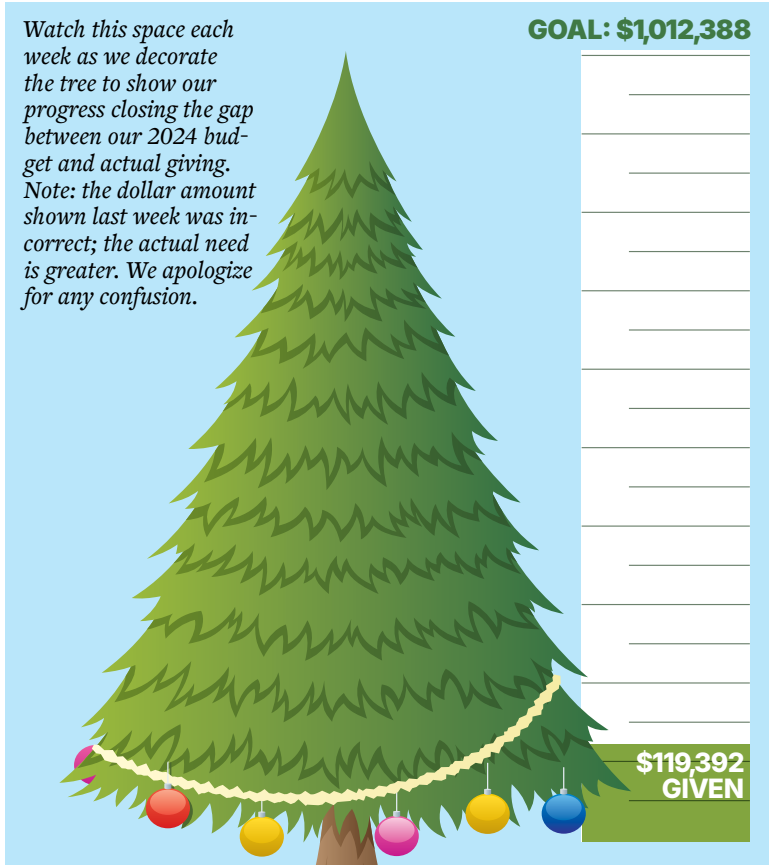
It was Cooking Camp, one of my favorite programs of the year! As usual, I didn't have my station ready on time. As I rushed around grabbing the necessary pots and pans and such, Anna Hines came to me and said, "Do you have a minute?" I looked at my mess of stuff and said, "Of course."

She wanted to introduce me to her neighbor Olivia, who handed me an envelope. I think Olivia saw the confusion on my face and began to tell me a story. She said, "This past weekend I put up a lemonade stand, and it did really good. I go to a different church, but I knew I would be coming here for Cooking Camp. So, in the envelope is 20% of the amount I made. I wanted to give it to Wilshire." Talk about tears!

We enter into Advent believing "a child will lead them." It's a phrase from Isaiah 11:6 that describes a future kingdom where peace and harmony prevail. So often, we can notice how our children lead us into the light. Olivia gives me hope and expectation that we can be generous people who come together to meet a need before us.

We are a community of believers in Jesus Christ, which means we are a community that

Watch this space each week as we decorate the tree to show our progress closing the gap between our 2024 budget and actual giving. Note: the dollar amount shown last week was incorrect; the actual need is greater. We apologize for any confusion.



is generous with our acts, much like Christ. Yes, this message is about monetary giving, but it is also a reminder of how generosity fuels so much of what we do here. Generous with our actions, our presence, our love ... generosity is necessary to the well-being of our community.

When you give to Wilshire's Unified Budget, you make possible the work and worship that keep our community unique and purposeful. Henri Nouwen states, "God's kingdom is the place of abundance where every generous act overflows its original bounds and becomes part of

the unbounded grace of God at work in the world."

We have \$892,996 left to go to complete what we budgeted this year. Someone shared with me last week, "Remind people that if they have the company that holds their IRA send their required Minimum Distributions Requirements to the church, they will not be taxed on that money."

There are so many ways we can give, and I hope you continue to prayerfully consider how you will.—*Timothy Peoples*

■ For more about giving, visit wilshirebc.org/give or see p. 18.