



# Keep Watch

**DECEMBER 22, 2024  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
WILSHIRE BAPTIST CHURCH**

# Preparing for worship

My 4-year-old son has become rather enthralled with the hymn “Joy to the World” this month. He has taken the phrase “heaven and nature sing” as his personal mantra and sings the song all day, plays it on our music speakers throughout the house, and as a grand finale in the evening, belts it out in his room after we put him to bed. I should add that he only knows the first verse (and refuses to let me teach him the others), so I was grateful when I saw we would be singing the hymn together this morning in its entirety. I’m ready to “repeat the sounding joy” and reflect on the “wonders of his love.”

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we turn our focus onto God’s Love made manifest in the Christ child. We are told in 1 John 4 that it was through God’s action of sending Jesus to live among us that God’s love was revealed. God’s love was nothing new, but Jesus’ birth and life allowed humanity to experience that love in new and profound ways. How wondrous!

This month many of our Sunday School classes have been studying the angelic encounters that preceded the birth of Jesus and how each one held an important contribution for the preparation of Christ’s birth. The choral anthem for today, written from the perspective of an angelic chorus, imagines what it must have been like to announce the coming of God’s Son: “Into one song compress the love, that rules our universe above: sing love, sing love, sing God is love!” What a wondrous task to proclaim such love to the world for the first time. O holy night, indeed!

How might we tap into that wonder this morning? How are we, like the angels in our sacred Scriptures, called to share the Good News? Where might you unexpectedly encounter God’s love in the days leading up to that blessed Christmas morning?

—Katie Murray



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

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

Partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Member, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

**December 22, 2024**  
11:00 a.m.  
Fourth 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**

Katie Murray

**Prelude**

*On Christmas Night*

arr. David M. Cherwien

**+Processional Song**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
No. 127

MENDELSSOHN

**Lighting the Candle of Love**

Laura Cordell and Barron with Elton and Lisa Cordell

**Preparing for the Nativity**

Abigail Gaines, Jimmie Mustain

**+A Moment of Love**

Emily Muscarella

Leader: Lord, we are ready and waiting!

**People: Though our preparations may be incomplete, our hearts are open to receive you.**

Leader: The earth yearns for its savior; we await the birth of divine love.

**People: In this world of shadows and uncertainty, we long for your presence among us.**

Leader: “Come as you are,” our God proclaims. “Arise, for your light approaches.”

**People: Come, Lord Jesus, in your perfect time. We await you with ready hearts.  
Let your light shine forth in our darkness.**

— Adapted from *Calling All Angels* by Erin Wathen

**Congregational Response**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL/  
Text: Mark Wingfield

**Come again, our risen Savior, come to set thy people free.  
From our sinful ways redeem us, let us find our hope in thee.  
As you came in incarnation, come again as heaven’s King.  
Thine the kingdom and the power; glory, laud and praise we sing.**

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

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth,  
and he shall be the one of peace.

**Offertory**

*O Joyful Children*  
Audrey Pottkotter, soprano

arr. Tim Sarsany

O joyful children bring white winter roses and bright burning candles to welcome the Lord.  
O joyful children bring rings of bright berries and white winter roses and green holly boughs.

Our hearts were sleeping, the cold winter storm is gone.  
The night is done. The world is dressed in silver light.  
Candles are burning, bracelets of fire in the snow.  
The world aglow warming the circles of flowers and leaves, morning has come.

O joyful children bring white winter roses with bright burning candles to welcome the Lord.  
O joyful children bring flowers around him. The spring is a-budding, the sun is a-rising.  
The earth is a-singing; it's Christmas morn, Christ is born!

**+Gospel Reading** — Luke 1:39-45

Amy Pottkotter

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

For the Word of God in Scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
And for the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God!**

<b>+Congregational Song</b>	<i>Away in a Manger</i> No. 111	CRADLE SONG
<b>Message</b>	“Why Are You Here?”	Timothy Peoples
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>Before the Marvel of This Night</i> Sanctuary Choir	Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow,  
Then tear the sky apart with light and with news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:  
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heav’nly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:  
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,  
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:  
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!

**Prayers of the People** David Colmenero

**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.**

<b>+Congregational Song</b>	<i>Joy to the World</i> No. 102	ANTIOCH/arr. Rutter
	<b>Stanzas 1-2: all</b>	
	Stanza 3: choir only	
	<b>Stanza 4: all</b>	

**Sharing of Decisions** Timothy Peoples

**Benediction** Timothy Peoples

**Postlude** Improvisation on themes of the day Jeff Brummel

# Meet today's worship leaders

**David Colmenero** joined Wilshire in 2018 and attends the Shiloh Sunday School Class, where he serves as co-director. David is a partner in the law firm Meadows Collier.

**Laura Cordell** joined Wilshire in 2019 and is mom to **Barron**, who is 3 and attends Wilshire's Early Childhood Learning Center. Laura attends Labyrinth Class, serves on the Preschool Education Committee and is involved with Wilshire's advocacy efforts. They are joined today by Laura's parents, Elton and Lisa Cordell.

**Emily Muscarella** has been at Wilshire since 2006. She is the mother of Joseph Guthrie, a freshman at UTD, Felix Guthrie, a senior at Townview TAG Magnet High School, and Judith Guthrie, a tenth grader at Townview TAG. Emily is a children's choir leader at Wilshire and recently served on the Finance Committee. She works as a grant administrator at Dallas Children's Advocacy Center.

**Amy Pottkotter** joined Wilshire in 2019 along with her husband, Kurt, and their three kids: Joshua, Audrey and Katherine. Amy is a professional vocal coach, soloist and accompanist. At Wilshire she has served as pianist for Youth Choir and Shekinah and will be participating in the 2025 Faith in 3D production.

**Audrey Pottkotter** is a sophomore musical theater and vocal performance major at Oklahoma City University. She joined Wilshire in 2019 with her parents, Amy and Kurt Pottkotter, and her siblings, Joshua and Katherine. Audrey graduated from Lake Highlands High School in 2023 and was active in Wilshire Student Ministry, Youth Choir and Shekinah. She served as a music ministry intern at Wilshire this summer.

**Grant Stewart** joined Wilshire in 2020 with his family, parents Chris and Al and siblings Curtis, Emery and Isla. Grant attends the Intersection Sunday School Class. He earned a B.F.A. in woodworking from Tennessee Tech University and is in the process of starting a furniture business.



**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)

# Tapestry

## Christmas Eve Services

TUESDAY, DEC. 24 | 4 & 11 P.M.



### Two services on Christmas Eve

Our 4 p.m. family service is suitable for all ages, while our 11 p.m. service is more liturgical, with robed ministers and celebration of the Lord's Supper. Both will include familiar carols, a Christmas message from Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples and the lighting of candles. Both services will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. Childcare will not be offered.

### Invite for youth alumni

Youth Choir will sing for the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service, and Youth Choir alumni are invited to join in. Meet in Choral Hall at 10:20 for coffee, a cookie and a quick rehearsal.

### Advent playlist

The publishers of *Calling All Angels*, the book we're studying during Advent, have created an Advent playlist on the digital music service Spotify. Find the link at [wilshirebc.org/advent](http://wilshirebc.org/advent) or search Spotify for "Advent Angels" from Westminster John Knox Press.

### 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 anytime and take it home close to Christmas.



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



# Giving Tree generosity

Wilshire, your generosity through our Giving Tree has once again blessed our neighbors. This year, five programs were supported:

■ You provided two toys each for 15 children to receive at the **Gateway of Grace** Christmas party. Gateway supports refugees by meeting their immediate needs and offering ESL classes and children's programming.

■ You shopped from wishlists for the children of **Transition Resource Action Center (TRAC)** clients. TRAC serves young people ages 16 to 24 who are transitioning out of foster or juvenile care and their unhoused peers.

■ You provided coats and toys for 20 clients of **Viola's House**, which offers housing and support to mothers facing unplanned pregnancies.

■ You donated 20 gift cards for **Wilshire** to have on hand to assist neighbors who come to the church in need of a little extra help.

■ You provided Christmas gifts for 54 children from 18 families supported by Wilshire's **rental and utility assistance program**. Several mothers expressed their gratitude, sharing that they would not have been able to provide gifts for their children without this support.



One mother emailed, "I made it home and opened up their gifts and broke out in tears. I want to say thank you so much. This is truly a blessing to me because I had no idea how I was going to make their Christmas happen. We have truly struggled this year. I lost my son at the beginning of 2024 and just had a newborn baby on top of my three angels you all blessed this season. Thank you so much, I am forever grateful."

Thank you for your continued generosity in making a meaningful difference in the lives of others this holiday season.

## Holiday closures

■ The church building will be closed and staff members on break from Tuesday, Dec. 24, through Thursday, Jan. 2. On Friday, Jan. 3, staffers will return to work but the building will remain closed.

■ If you have an urgent pastoral need over the break, contact Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples at 214-452-3171 or [tpeoples@wilshirebc.org](mailto:tpeoples@wilshirebc.org).

■ The Columbarium will be open Monday, Dec. 23, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 24, 3–6 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 29, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

## Year-end giving

■ While the church office will be closed starting Dec. 24, checks can be dropped into the secure black **mailbox** accessible from the south parking lot. Checks in the mailbox will be retrieved in time to count as 2024 giving.

■ **Mailed checks** must be postmarked by Dec. 31.

■ **Online gifts** can be made before midnight on Dec. 31.

■ **Stock gifts** must arrive in Wilshire's Fidelity account no later than Dec. 30. Email Lori Gooden at [lgooden@wilshirebc.org](mailto:lgooden@wilshirebc.org) for account information and to let her know about the gift.

## Condolences to

**Camille Riggs** on the death of her mother,  
**Jean Burns**, Dec. 12.

## Poinsettia additions

The poinsettia dedications below were inadvertently omitted from the list printed on Dec. 8. We regret the error. See the complete, updated list at [wilshirebc.org/advent](http://wilshirebc.org/advent).

- In memory of George Gagliardi by Lyn and Ross Prater.
- In honor of Rita and Gary Griffith by Lyn and Ross Prater.
- In honor of Jane and Tim Morgan by Lyn and Ross Prater.
- In honor of Connie and Guy Smith by Lyn and Ross Prater.
- In honor of Peggy and Sam Tinsley by Lyn and Ross Prater.

## Worship only on Dec. 29

Sunday School classes will not meet on Sunday, Dec. 29. Worship will be held as usual at 11 a.m.

## Wednesdays on break

- **Wednesday Night Live** is on a break for the holidays and will resume Jan. 8.
- **Lunch & Learn**, regularly held the first and third Wednesdays each month, resumes Jan. 15.

## Next Blood Drive is Jan. 8

Carter BloodCare will be at Wilshire for a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are recommended. Visit [wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive](http://wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive) or scan the QR code on page 14 to make an appointment.

## Men's Book Club meets Jan. 21

Wilshire's Men's Book Club will discuss James Baldwin's novel *Go Tell It on the Mountain* on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. Contact: Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)) or Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net)).



## Women of Wilshire Book Clubs

- **Brown Bag Book Club** | Jan. 9 | Noon | 1205-L | *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))
- **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Jan. 14 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *James* by Percival Everett. Contact: Debby Burton ([dburton@wilshirebc.org](mailto:dburton@wilshirebc.org))

## Rise Against Hunger on MLK Day

Join us on MLK Day, Monday, Jan. 20, as we partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack healthy meals for those in need. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in Community Hall. This project is for everyone and includes ways to serve while seated. Children are a great help collecting completed bags with help from a parent. Volunteers are needed to help set up starting at 8:30 a.m. and clean up afterward. Rise Against Hunger's mission is to create immediate and long-term solutions to hunger by building resilience, self-sufficiency and empowerment in communities worldwide. All volunteers must register and complete a waiver at [events.riseagainsthunger.org/wilshirebaptistchurch2025](http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/wilshirebaptistchurch2025).

## Rental assistance program

Wilshire's rental and utility assistance program is looking for volunteers to meet with those applying for assistance. Training will be held in January. Email Associate Pastor Heather Mustain ([hmustain@wilshirebc.org](mailto:hmustain@wilshirebc.org)).

## Annual Church Conference

Make plans to attend our annual church conference in Community Hall after worship on Sunday, Jan. 26. We'll adopt a budget, elect deacons and committees and hear updates about the church. Lunch will be provided.

# Someone to talk with.

If you are 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 individuals in need of Christian companionship during times of life crisis. Wilshire has trained Stephen Ministers available.

To learn more about receiving confidential care from a Stephen Minister, please reach out using our dedicated email address, [stephenministry@wilshirebc.org](mailto:stephenministry@wilshirebc.org), or call 214-452-3176.

stephen  
MINISTRY®

## Friday Friends grant renewed

For the sixth consecutive year, Friday Friends has received a grant from the AWARE Fund at the Dallas Foundation. The \$3,000 grant will be used in 2025 for supplies and to bring in professional programs such as neurologic music therapy and Texas Winds Musical Outreach.

Friday Friends is a Wilshire ministry that provides four hours of respite on two Fridays each month for a family member caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. The program is run by volunteers from the church and the community, and it is funded through grants, the church budget and donations.

The AWARE Fund ([awaredallas.org](http://awaredallas.org)), established in 1989, supports nonprofit programs, projects and research that actively help those affected by Alzheimer's disease. Our award letter read in part, "AWARE recognizes the important work that your organization is doing in the community and is delighted to partner with you in your efforts. Thank you for the outstanding contribution Wilshire Baptist Church is making in our community."

The spouse of one of our participants wrote, "I wanted to send a note of thanks to you and the Friday Friends Family for all you do all year to bring joy to our families. We especially appreciate yesterday's Christmas celebration, the beautiful poinsettia and the very special card that you sent home. We are blessed!"

Friday Friends is proud to have once again met the criteria of the AWARE grant review committee. If you or someone you know who is caring for a loved one with dementia would like to participate in Friday Friends, contact Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray ([kmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:kmurray@wilshirebc.org)) or Linda Lyles, Friday Friends outreach coordinator ([lilyles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lilyles@sbcglobal.net)).

**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](http://wilshirebc.org/adventurers-trip)



# 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.*

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**ONLINE.** Set up a recurring or one-time gift charged to your debit or credit card or as an ACH from your checking account. Get started at [wilshirebc.org/give](http://wilshirebc.org/give).

**REALM CONNECT APP.** Easily make gifts and see past giving on your mobile device. Available at your device's app store. Find download links at [wilshirebc.org/realms](http://wilshirebc.org/realms).

**AUTOMATIC BANK PAY.** Visit your bank's website and set up Wilshire as a payee. The bank will send the church a check.

**MAIL.** Send to Finance Director Lori Gooden's attention at Wilshire.

**TEXT.** Text WILSHIRE and a dollar amount (ex: WILSHIRE 50) to 73256.

**DONATE STOCKS.** Contact Lori to learn how to donate appreciated stocks.

**FROM YOUR IRA.** For those over 70.5 years old, tax-free IRA gifts offer a financial benefit and may reduce future tax burdens.



Scan code with your smartphone camera to make an electronic contribution.

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

# This Week

## Sunday, Dec. 22

- Advent Book Discussion, 1205-G, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.

## Tuesday, Dec. 24

- Christmas Eve Family Service, Sanctuary, 4 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Liturgical Service, Sanctuary, 11 p.m.

## Sunday, Dec. 29

- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.

The church building will be closed and staff members on break from Tuesday, Dec. 24, through Thursday, Jan. 2. On Friday, Jan. 3, staffers will return to work but the building will remain closed. See more on page 9.

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.







# BLOOD Drive



Jaden from Grand Prairie, TX  
Blood Recipient

Receive a hooded long sleeve!\*



**Wednesday, January 8, 2025**  
**10:00am - 3:00pm**

**Wilshire Baptist Church**  
4316 Abrams Rd  
Carter BloodCare Bus

Schedule an appointment



Contact:  
**Linda Garner, Nurse**  
[lgarner@wilshirebc.org](mailto:lgarner@wilshirebc.org)



[CarterBloodCare.org](http://CarterBloodCare.org)  
800-366-2834 | Text CBCDonate to 999-777

\*While supplies last. Item may be substituted for item of equal value.

# Sheri Brooks

**Hometown:** Shreveport, Louisiana

**Present City:** Dallas

**Education:** B.F.A., TWU; M.Ed. in elementary education, Texas State University; M.Ed. in administration, Lamar University.

**Profession:** Office manager for CBIZ, Inc.

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

In March of 2003, Ted and I celebrated our 6th anniversary, took a very belated honeymoon, found out we were pregnant, and then Ted passed away of undiagnosed heart disease (yes, all in one month). In November 2003, our son Alan was born, and it has been just the two of us ever since. Alan is attending Texas State University in San Marcos. My dad, Robert Fiset, has become very active at Wilshire since my mom, Sue, passed away in 2022. My sister and her family live in Murphy.

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

Six years ago, I retired after 20 years of teaching and started working for CBIZ as an office manager. It has been a great chapter two in my work life.

## **Favorite hobbies?**

Camping, kayaking, riding my bike and DIY projects.

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

Places with scenery or history. Most of my travel is in the form of camping.

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

I grew up Baptist, and as a young adult I started visiting Wilshire and joined in 1992. A few years



later, I moved off to go to graduate school, met my husband there and we were married by George at Wilshire in 1997. We moved around a bit and finally returned to the Dallas area in 2001. We were not active at church. I returned with full commitment to Wilshire in March of 2003 and haven't left. My mom joined Wilshire a few years later, and then when Alan was baptized and joined the church, my dad also joined.

## **Where are you engaged at Wilshire?**

I am in the Journey Sunday School Class, have served on several committees and will be serving on the Building and Grounds committee starting next year.

## **What has surprised you most about Wilshire?**

Wilshire never surprises me, but Wilshire always amazes me.

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

I grew up witnessing the love and faith in God modeled by my church, my grandma and my mom. In good times and bad, I just always turn to God, trusting he has everything under control.

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

I work part-time as a handywoman.

