



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Preparing for worship

Several years ago, we went on a tubing excursion through sugar cane irrigation tunnels during a family vacation. Our guide informed us that in one of the tunnels we would experience near-total darkness, and if everyone remained still we would encounter complete silence. He prepared us for the experience, reassuring us that although we might feel alone, we would, in fact, be surrounded by the group as we floated noiselessly through the tunnel.

Even with his thorough explanation, several participants — including me — became panicked after a few minutes of complete darkness and silence. The guide's assurance wasn't enough; fear crept in.

If, like me, you have been carrying a significant amount of fear lately, may our worship together be a balm for you. There is no shortage of things to worry about — whether it be the deep divisions in our nation, the treatment of our marginalized neighbors or concerns within our own families. We humans are quite gifted at worry and fear. It's no wonder that the most repeated command in Scripture is: Do not be afraid.

Fear and faith are opposing forces. Fear whispers doubt, reminding us of what we cannot

control or understand. It magnifies uncertainty, compelling us to cling tightly to what feels familiar or safe. It isolates us, convincing us that we must navigate challenges alone and closing us off from community.

Fear pulls us inward, making us smaller, more cautious, more stuck. But faith? Faith opens us up, stretching us beyond what we think we can handle and inviting us into something bigger than ourselves. Faith doesn't promise certainty, but it does invite trust — trust in the One who does.

The hymns we sing this morning remind us of these truths. On our own, our vision is limited, hemmed in by worries and distractions. But when we place our trust in God, we walk in the light, guided step by step.

Through worship this morning, may we release our need for control and rest in the presence of the One who holds us in love. Whatever burdens we carry — grief, uncertainty, fear — may we entrust them to God's care and allow them to be held by this community. May our worship reshape our hearts, drawing us deeper into the faithfulness of God.

—Abbey Adcox



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

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: Illustration created for the collaboration between Royal Lane Baptist Church and Wilshire by Tori Jones, Royal Lane's communications and ministry coordinator.

February 23, 2025
11:00 a.m.
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

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

Timothy Peoples

Prelude

God, Our Father, You Have Led Us
Carillon Ringers
Ralph Manuel, director

arr. Anna Laura Page

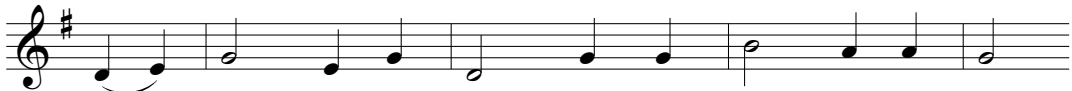
+Congregational Song

How Firm A Foundation

FOUNDATION/arr. Trenney



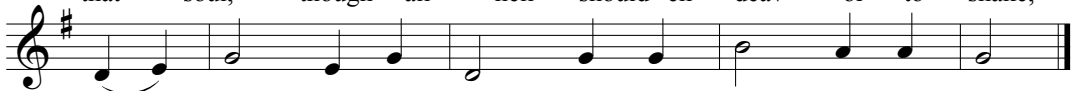
All 1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
High 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
Low 3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
All 4. "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
All 5. "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,



is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



What more can be said than to you God hath said,
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,



to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine."
I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

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

+Call to Worship

Harry Wooten

Leader: God of the past who has fathered and mothered us

People: We are here to thank you

Leader: God of the future who is always ahead of us

People: We are here to trust you

Leader: God of the present here in the midst of us

People: We are here to praise you

Leader: God of life beyond us within us

All: We rejoice in your glorious love

— *The Pattern of Our Days*, Kathy Galloway

+Response in Song

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!**

Psalm Reading — Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40

Charlie Fuller

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. Trust in the LORD and do good; live in the land and enjoy security. Take delight in the LORD, and the LORD will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in God, and God will act. The LORD will make your vindication shine like the light and the justice of your cause like the noonday. Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for God; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Do not fret — it leads only to evil. For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land. Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant prosperity. ... The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; the LORD is their refuge in the time of trouble. The LORD helps them and rescues them; God rescues them from the wicked and saves them because they take refuge in God.

Children's Moment

Georgia McKee

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision
Carillon Ringers
LeAnn Hampton, flute

Anna Laura Page

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; God has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’ ... And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

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!

Anthem

Let Your Faith Be Stronger Than Your Fear
Combined Royal Lane and Wilshire Sanctuary Choirs

Tom Trenney

In the deserts of your life, I’ll not desert you.
I will make a way beside a flowing stream.
Through the valley, do not fear, for I am with you;
My rod and staff to comfort and redeem.
In the darkness of your life, I will not leave you.
In the shadow, I’m your light, your lamp, your sun.
I will be the star that shines above to guide you,
A light unto your path to lead you on.

Do not be afraid, I go before you.
Do not be afraid, I am by your side.
Be still and know that I am with you.
Let your faith be stronger than your fear.

When you’re weary, when you’re faint, I will be with you.
I will raise you up to soar on eagle’s wings.
I will be the joy that seeks you through your sorrow.
Unending hope my resurrection brings.
When the storms of life assail, I will uphold you.
I will strengthen you; I’ll be the help you need.
Though the waters rage and foam, fear not, I’m with you.
I am the way, the truth, the life, indeed!

Message

“The Tyranny of Bitterness”

Victoria Robb Powers

Anthem

Come Dwell in Solomon’s Walls

Z. Randall Stroope

Combined Royal Lane and Wilshire Sanctuary Choirs

When the final timber lay against the measured stones,
With the doorposts in their place overlaid with gold.
The Lord appeared to Solomon, blessing all the house,
The temple of the ark of God, pure and whole.

Come dwell in Solomon’s walls,
Come and dwell in the house of the Lord.
Where the humble bow down, seeking wisdom and strength,
For the Lord dwells within and heals their land.

Come dwell in Solomon’s walls,
Come and dwell in the house of the Lord.
Where wisdom and righteousness, justice and holiness,
Join at the feet of God.

When the people of this house kneel and humbly pray,
When they turn from dark to light and your will obey,
O Lord of Heaven and Lord of earth, show favor on this house,
And heal, restore, forgive, and bless, Lord we pray.

Prayers of the People

Gina Biddle

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*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

NEW DIMENSIONS

Choir1. In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of chang - ing ways,
All 2. Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ples, war - ring fac - tions and de - spair,
All 3. Though we reach the high - est heav - ens hold - ing worlds at our com - mand,
All 4. Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with - draw in pain,
 who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan - der - ing their sep - 'rate ways?
 who will lift the ol - ive branch - es? Who will light the flame of care?
 we are yet a des - ert peo - ple search - ing for the prom - ised land.
 may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.
 God of rain - bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead - ing where the ea - gles soar,
 we your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney now and ev - er - more.

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Choral Blessing*Lead Me, Lord*

arr. Fred Bock

Lead me, Lord; lead me in thy righteousness.
 Make thy way plain before my face.
 For it is thou, Lord; thou, O Lord only that makest me to dwell in safety.
 Teach me, Lord; teach me of thy righteousness.
 Keep me, Lord; keep me in thy righteousness.

Benediction

Victoria Robb Powers, Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel

The flowers on the Lord's Supper table are given in loving memory of Howard Marsellus by his wife, Nancy Stretch, and daughters, Megan Marsellus and Rachel Marsellus.

The flowers on the chancel are given with love and appreciation for Ariel Merivil on his first anniversary by the Minister of Music Search Committee; and in honor and celebration of Edith Conner's 100th birthday on Feb. 28 by Stephen and Sheila Conner. Edith was Wilshire's financial secretary for many years.

Meet today's worship leaders

Chris Adcox and his wife, Abbey, came to Wilshire in 1999. They are members of Seekers Class, and Chris just returned to active deacon service. Chris and Abbey are parents to Carter, a young adult working in Dallas; Camryn, a junior at the University of Oklahoma; and Collin, a freshman at the University of Georgia. Chris serves on the Board of Directors and as treasurer for the CBF Church Benefits Board and works as a senior director with Alvarez & Marsal Forensic and Dispute Services.

Gina Biddle joined Wilshire in 2014 and is a member of Discovery Class. She is a chaplain at the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Gina has worked at UT Southwestern for 23 years and is one of only a few board-certified palliative care chaplains in Texas.

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers is senior pastor at Royal Lane Baptist Church. Victoria is a graduate of TCU's Brite Divinity School and Baylor University and spent eight years in congregational ministry in the United Methodist Church, where she served as an elder by extension of the Baptist denomination. She is a member of the Peer Advisory Group for Parkland Hospital's CPE program and serves on the boards of Fellowship Southwest and the Baptist House of Studies at Perkins School of Theology. Victoria and her husband, Matt, are former Wilshire members and have three children, Benjamin, Ruthie and Hannah.

Harry Wooten has been minister of music and worship at Royal Lane Baptist Church since 1998. He is also artistic director of the Irving Chorale. Harry has served churches in Tennessee and Alabama and earned degrees from William Jewell College, Vienna International Music Conservatory and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has held leadership roles with the American Choral Directors Association, the Choristers Guild and the Greater Dallas Handbell Association. Harry's choirs have participated in the Manhattan Festival of Sacred Music and the International Church Music Festival at Coventry Cathedral and Bern, Switzerland.



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, Prep Cook
- Monique Roberts, Sous-Chef
- Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, Steward

Hospitality and Facilities

- Maricela Escutia, Facilities Supervisor
- Holly Irvin, Director of Hospitality (3150)
- Daniel Latin, Facilities
- Leticia Medina, Facilities
- Rachel Oney, Receptionist (3165)
- Kevin Sierra, Facilities
- Leticia Vega, Facilities

Missions and Advocacy

- Abbey Adcox, Missions and Advocacy Coordinator (3127)
- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

Music and Worship

- Jeff Brummel, Associate Minister of Music/Organist (3122)
- Carol Cabaniss, Music and Worship Coordinator (3106)
- Shana Gaines, Wilshire Winds Director (3163)
- Ralph Manuel, Handbell Coordinator (3161)
- Candy McComb, Children's Choir Coordinator (3124)
- Ariel Merivil, Minister of Music (3135)

Operations and Technology

- Rene Altamirano, Maintenance Technician
- Bryant Greer, Building Operations Manager (3146)
- Jim Tapley, Audio and Video Coordinator

Pathways to Ministry

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

Senior Pastor

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

Spiritual Formation

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

Tapestry



News & Announcements
February 23, 2025



Wilshire welcomes Royal Lane today

Our two-week collaboration with Royal Lane Baptist Church moves to Wilshire today as we welcome Royal Lane Senior Pastor Victoria Robb Powers, Minister of Music and Worship Harry Wooten and the Royal Lane Sanctuary Choir.

Last Sunday, Wilshire Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples, Minister of Music Ariel Merivill and our Sanctuary Choir led worship at Royal Lane. "By participating in this swap with our most like-minded local sister church," Timothy said, "we are embracing our shared faith and practicing what it means to be community as the church universal."

Victoria wrote, "Our two Baptist congregations share a rich legacy of faith, service, and a deep commitment to the gospel. ... In a world too often divided by fear and uncertainty, we believe these times call for deeper unity among us."

WILSHIRE GAME NIGHT



Game Night this Friday!

Bring the whole family and enjoy games for all ages at Wilshire Game Night on Friday, Feb. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. in James Gallery. We'll have popcorn, and you are welcome to bring your own food, drinks and favorite games. We'll have supervision and a movie available in the Preschool Multipurpose Room for preschoolers and younger children.



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.

YOUTH CHOIR

Spaghetti Lunch

**& SILENT
AUCTION**

3/2/25



Fundraiser is next Sunday after worship

The annual Youth Choir Spaghetti Lunch and Silent Auction will be held Sunday, March 2, in Community Hall after worship. This event will help fund the choir's summer mission tour to Chicago to sing, serve and sightsee.

Donate any amount for lunch and bid on fun, unique items in the silent auction. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted.

If you'd like to donate items or services to the silent auction, it's not too late. Suggestions in-

clude restaurant gift cards, new household items, sporting equipment and event tickets. Professional services make great donation items, so if you're a musician, tutor, photographer, baker, designer, accountant or have a service to provide, consider donating a gift certificate of your time or service.

Donations will be accepted through Wednesday, Feb. 26. Contact Abbey Adcox at aadcox@wilshirebc.org.

New member

Dylan Morgan

Congratulations to

■ **Claire (Tomme)** and Cody Reynolds on the birth of their daughter, Olive Jace, Jan. 13. Grandmother is **Carol Tomme**.

■ **Lark (Pokladnik)** and Cameron Jordan on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte “Charlie” Jay, Nov. 9, 2024. Grandparents are **Robin and Charles Pokladnik**.

Time with Tim today

An informal chance for guests and new members to meet and chat with Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples will be held Sunday, Feb. 23, at 9:45 a.m. in Timothy’s office. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Puerto Rico trip is underway

Be in prayer for a Wilshire team currently serving in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The group of 15 arrived in Puerto Rico this weekend and will return Feb. 28. This is our third consecutive year to serve in San Juan in partnership with First Baptist Church of Rio Piedras. Members of the group are: Dorrell Brown, Vickie Conn, Charlie and Cindy Estee, Donna Gregory, Steven Hallman, Linda Lyles, Linda and Ivan Martinez, Nick McQuillan (son-in-law of Steven Hallman), Mike Meripolski, Pastoral Resident Maggie Morey, Associate Pastor Heather Mustain, Ross Prater and David Slatton.

Wilshire headed to Austin Feb. 27

Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee will lead a Wilshire group to the state capitol in Austin on Thursday, Feb. 27, for Gun Violence Awareness Day. The event will mark the culmination of the Stolen Lives (Vidas Robadas) advocacy project, which uses T-shirts to memorialize victims of gun violence. If you’d like to go, contact Georgia at gmckee@wilshirebc.org.

Ash Wednesday service for March 5 Lunch & Learn

All are invited to Community Hall the first and third Wednesdays every month at 11:30 a.m. for lunch (\$10 ea.) and Bible study. On March 5, Lunch & Learn will mark the start of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service in lieu of Bible study. See the spring schedule at wilshirebc.org/events/lunch-learn.

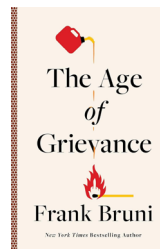


Women of Wilshire Book Clubs

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | March 6 | Noon | 1205-L | *Camino Island* by John Grisham. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | March 11 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *Death on the Nile* by Agatha Christie. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org)

Men’s Book Club meets March 18



The Men’s Book Club will discuss Frank Bruni’s *The Age of Grievance* on Tuesday, March 18, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. The group meets the third Tuesday every month. Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net)

Subscribe to sermon podcast

Sermons from Timothy Peoples and other Wilshire preachers are available as a weekly audio podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and other podcast platforms. Search for “Wilshire Baptist Church” on your platform of choice.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE FEBRUARY 26

Koinonia Café

5 p.m. | Community Hall | Buffet dinner. Cash/check/credit accepted. See prices at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Feb. 26:** Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, cream of mushroom soup, peach cobbler, chocolate chip cookies, jello. **Kids:** Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, green beans.

Preschool Music & Missions

6 p.m. | Age 3–Pre-K | Preschool choir plus activities and lessons focused on God’s love.

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.

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.



Four Baptist Freedoms

Bible Study

6 p.m. | Community Hall | What does it mean that we’re a Baptist church? And why would anyone want to be Baptist? On Feb. 26, Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee will wrap up our series on the “Four Fragile Freedoms” of Baptist identity as outlined by historian Walter Shurden.

Coming up

- **March 5:** Wilshire will offer an Ash Wednesday service at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Children are welcome at the service, which will be held in lieu of other 6 p.m. activities. Childcare will be offered for preschoolers.
- **March 12:** No Wednesday Night Live due to Spring Break.

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



PREPARE THE WAY

Wilshire Lent 2025

JOIN US THIS LENT as we Prepare the Way for Christ's resurrection. Together, we'll journey through the wilderness of these 40 days, embracing spiritual practices that open our hearts to the sacred and prepare us for the mystery of what's to come. In a world that feels fractured and uncertain, these practices will ground us in the reality of God's presence, equipping

us to rise, resist and rebuild. Like Jesus, we are called into the untamed spaces of our lives to pause, listen and reorient ourselves toward the Divine. This Lent, let us prepare not just for Easter, but for the ongoing work of healing and hope in our world. Come, let us walk this path together, trusting that even in the wilderness, God is making a way.

Two Ash Wednesday services March 5



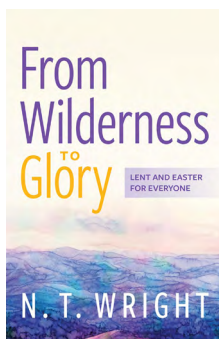
March 5 | Noon & 6 p.m. | We will offer two worship services on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Both are open to anyone and will include the imposition of ashes.

- The first Ash Wednesday service

will take place in Community Hall as part of Lunch & Learn. Lunch (\$10 ea.) will begin at 11:30 a.m., and the service will start at noon.

- An Ash Wednesday Family Service will be held at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service will be held in lieu of other 6 p.m. offerings; children are encouraged to attend. Childcare will be available for preschoolers. Koinonia Café will be offered at 5 p.m.

Lenten Book Focus



All are invited to read along as we study N.T. Wright's *From Wilderness to Glory: Lent and Easter For Everyone*. Many Sunday School classes will be using the book during Lent, but it is also appropriate for individual study. If you'd like to connect with a class, contact Associate Pastor

Darren DeMent or Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray for recommendations. This new book is available at Amazon and other sellers.

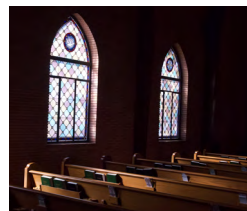
- A **family Lenten guide** will be available for parents to use with children.

Lenten Playlist

Wilshire's eclectic Lenten Playlist, curated by Associate Pastor Darren DeMent, is coming soon to the digital music service Spotify. The basic version of Spotify is free.

Sacred Space each Sunday

Sundays, March 9–April 13 | 9–9:30 a.m. | McIver Chapel | Join us each Lenten Sunday for a time of quiet contemplation and spiritual practice. Each gathering will begin with a brief prompt, but the focus will be on creating space to quiet your mind and engage in the spiritual practices we're exploring this season. All are welcome. Led by Associate Pastor Darren DeMent, Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray and Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee.



Songwriter Vespers: John Prine

Sunday, March 23 | 4:30 p.m. | Choral Hall | This unique worship opportunity will be a fusion of a coffeehouse-style concert and a vespers service. Join Associate Pastor Darren DeMent and other musicians as they explore themes of home, connection, loss and redemption found in the music of John Prine. Coffee and light snacks will be provided.

Palm Sunday

April 13 | 11 a.m. | Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday

April 17 | 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Easter Sunday

April 20

- Sunrise Service, T. & P. Hill at White Rock Lake, 6:30 a.m.

- Columbarium Service, 9:30 a.m.

- Worship in the Sanctuary, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

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, or call 214-452-3176.

stephen
MINISTRY®



David Clanton art exhibit to celebrate “God’s Gift of Seeing”

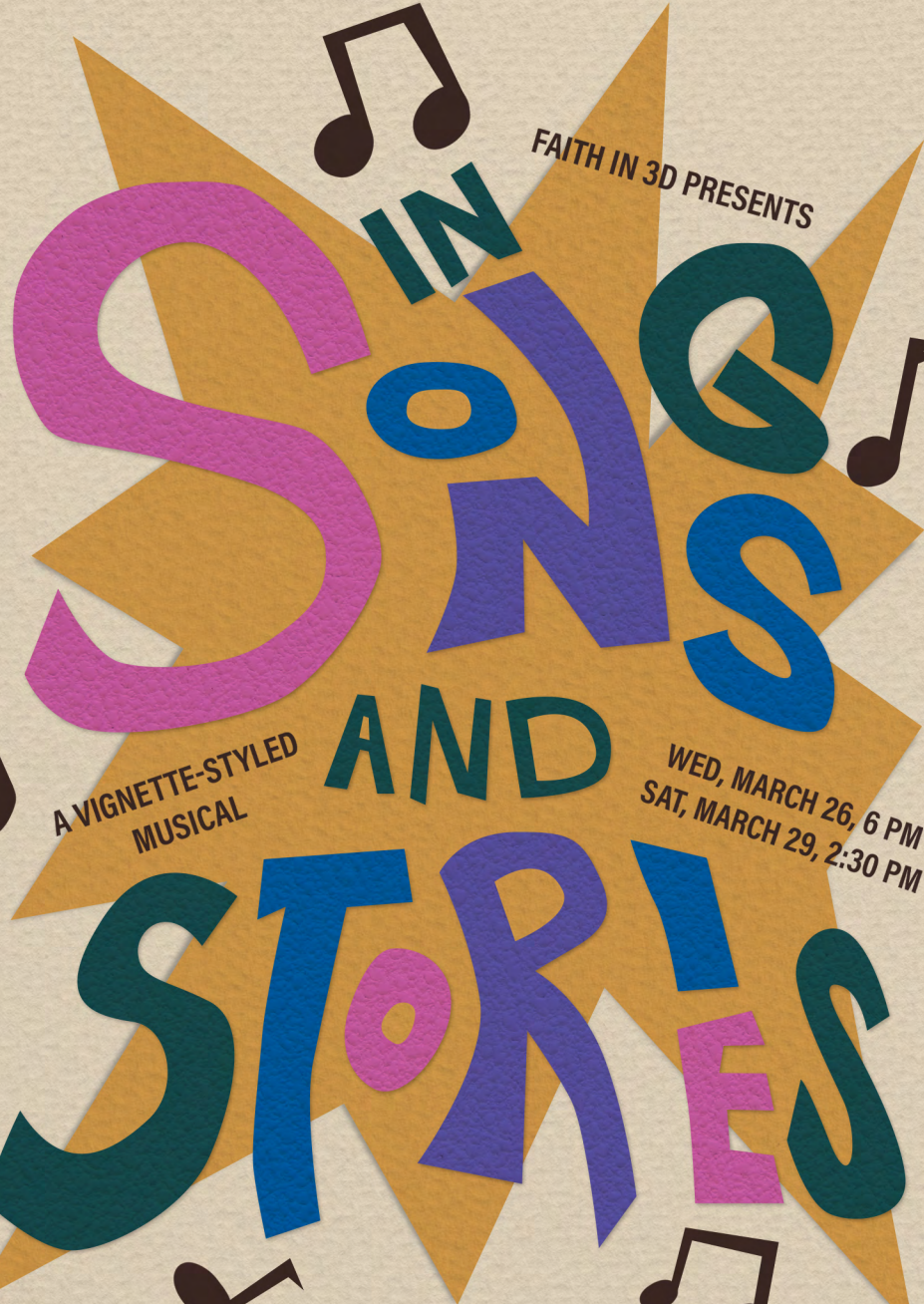
Wilshire’s latest art exhibit will feature the digital photography of one of our own members, David Clanton. “A Celebration of God’s Gift of Seeing” will be on display during Lent, from March 2 through April 20, in the South Lobby.



David says the exhibit “seeks to deepen our understanding of how we see, how we perceive and how our vision of the world is shaped by our faith in God.” The 33 images in the exhibit combine representational and abstract elements, which David likens to “the dual nature of our sight — the physical, which connects us to the world around us, and the spiritual, which connects us to the eternal.”

A Louisiana native, David spent his career working in communications and public relations for Baptist entities and other nonprofit organizations. He joined Wilshire in 2010.

The prints in the show will be available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting the Wilshire Youth Choir’s summer mission tour.



FAITH IN 3D PRESENTS

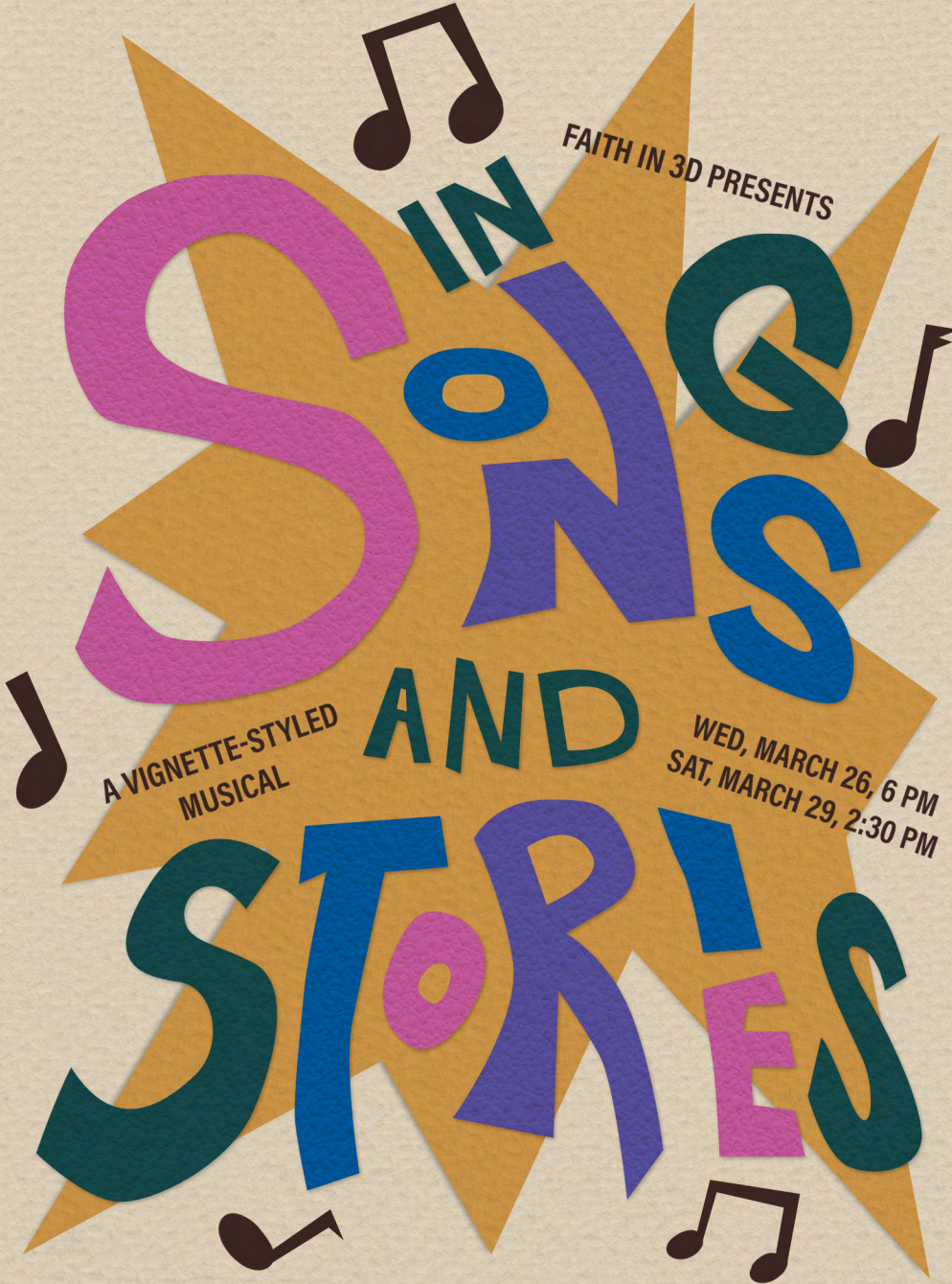
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MUSICAL

AND

WED, MARCH 26, 6 PM
SAT, MARCH 29, 2:30 PM

STORIES



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, Feb. 23

- Puerto Rico Mission Trip — through Feb. 28
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Time With Tim, 2203, 9:45 a.m.
- Book Series for Parents: *Woven*, 3208, 10 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Belong Team, 1205-L, 11:45 a.m.
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Youth Choir Spaghetti Lunch & Silent Auction Volunteer Training and Prep, Parlor, noon
- Personnel Committee, 1350, noon
- New Deacon Lunch and Learn, James Gallery, noon
- Faith in 3D rehearsal, McIver Chapel, noon
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 24

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

Tuesday, Feb. 25

- Building, Interior and Grounds Committee, 3105, 5:30 p.m.
- Stephen Ministry Training, 1205-L, 6 p.m.
- Faith in 3D rehearsal, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Youth Choir Spaghetti Lunch & Silent Auction Prep, 1205-G, 5 p.m.
- Preschool Music & Missions, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Book Series for Parents: *Woven*, 2230, 6:05 p.m.
- Risk Management Committee, 1205-L, 6:15 p.m.
- Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 27

- Advocacy Day in Austin: Gun Violence Prevention
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 28

- MomCo, James Gallery, 9 a.m.
- Friday Friends, 3103, 10 a.m.
- Wilshire Game Night, James Gallery, 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 1

- Nova, Choral Hall, 9 a.m.

Gayle Lawson

Hometown: I was raised in Clarksville, a town of about 3,500 people in East Texas.

Present City: I've lived in Dallas since I graduated from UT-Austin, where I majored in accounting.

Profession: I worked several years for Trammell Crow Company as a controller and an IT liaison. Later I worked for a consulting firm, working on projects in Washington state, San Francisco and Florida. I retired in 2019 after working 18 years for Aflac as an independent insurance agent.

Tell us about your family.

I am single with no children, but I claim my brother's daughters as my substitute children. I am a cat lady with one cat, Sweet Pea, and I plan to get another one as Sweet Pea lost her sibling to cancer in August and needs a companion.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I volunteer in the Wilshire Library, serve as mission coordinator in Compass Class and knit in Wilshire's Knit Unto Others group. I sing in New Song Community Choir and serve as the group's music librarian. I am a deacon and have been on and chaired several church committees.

Any favorite hobbies?

I love walking at NorthPark in the mornings — usually about five miles — as well as knitting and reading.

What are your favorite places to travel?

I'd always wanted to go to Italy and finally did in 2023. I've enjoyed Alaska, Ireland, Spain and Portugal as well as Calgary/Banff with the Adventur-



ers. Maine is on my list of places I hope to visit.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

I came to Wilshire in the early '80s mainly because of a friend who no longer goes here. I had not been in church for a while until then.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

I attend Compass Class. I had planned to visit several classes but stopped at Compass because of its welcoming spirit.

What has surprised you most about Wilshire?

I've been here so long that I'm not really surprised by anything. Wilshire is like no other in that it is truly open to all.

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

Actually, I'm still trying to figure that out.

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

I was elected Miss Clarksville High School my senior year.

What adjectives best describe you?

Dependable, honest and friendly. A neighbor tells me about me, "What you see is what you get."



2025 Summer CHILDREN & PRESCHOOL

VBS: CAMP FIRELIGHT

Mon.-Fri., June 9-13, 9 a.m.-noon
This year's Vacation Bible School is a summer camp-themed adventure where kids learn to trust God no matter what life brings. Older preschool (age 3 by 9/1/24) through completed grade 5. Free. Advance registration ends June 1. Walk-ins as space allows.

KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL CAMP

Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 9 a.m.-noon
With "Listening to God" as our theme, we'll use Godly Play to explore Bible stories. Art and science too! Older preschool (age 3 by 9/1/24) through completed Kindergarten. \$50. Register by June 30.

COOKING CAMP

Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Completed first through fifth graders will learn about food safety and nutrition and prepare a three-course lunch daily. \$100. Register by June 30.

LISTEN TO YOUR ART!

Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 12:30-5 p.m.
Creative arts camp with music, visual art, drama, movement, crafts and more. On Friday, kids stay for dinner, and families are invited to a 6:30 p.m. performance and art showcase. Lunch not provided; cost includes T-shirt. Completed first through fifth graders. \$100. Register by June 30.

FULL-DAY COOKING & ART

Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Full-day option for grades 2-5. Lunch included. \$175. Register by June 30.

PASSPORT KIDS! PRETEEN CAMP

Sun.-Wed., July 20-23
Completed third through fifth graders will travel by chartered bus to Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Glen Rose for high-energy worship, interactive Bible study, recreation, missions and more, led by camp staff and Wilshire chaperones. \$450. \$50 nonrefundable deposit guarantees a spot. Full payment due July 15.

REGISTER AT [WILSHIREBC.ORG/SUMMER-CAMPS](https://www.wilshirebc.org/summer-camps)

Wilshire Baptist Church | 4316 Abrams Rd. | 214-452-3100

