



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent

Preparing for worship

President Jimmy Carter was asked if God answers prayers. Carter said that God sometimes says, “Yes,” sometimes says, “No,” and sometimes says, “You’ve got to be kidding me!” President Carter was also asked specifically about his praying in the White House. Carter said he prayed 20 to 25 times a day. He prayed over all kinds of presidential decisions. Decisions that impacted individual people. Decisions that impacted the nations of the world. He specifically prayed for wisdom to do the right thing. Prayer was an integral part of his day.

We talk about prayer here at Wilshire all the time. It’s a common topic. We pray “Prayers of the People” every Sunday morning. But how much do we really know about prayer? How deeply have we truly gone in our experience of prayer? Is prayer what we think it is?

One author lists 21 different forms of prayer. I suspect there are more than that. Listed are things like petitionary prayer, intercessory prayer, radical prayer, unceasing prayer, etc.

But what is prayer? It’s worth reviewing the fundamentals.

We often think of prayer as conversation between us and God. Prayer has two forms. Corporate prayers are those we share as a body of believers. Personal prayers are those we craft as individuals, speaking to God and listening to God.

We craft and speak our prayers to God. But if conversation is a dialogue, a two-way interaction, how often do we stop to listen? Brother Lawrence, a 17th century French monk, described prayer as “practicing the presence of God.” Stillness and silence are an integral part of prayer. Without stopping to listen, prayer can quickly devolve from dialogue to monologue. The experience of prayer can easily become an experience that is more focused on us than on God.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel said, “Prayer is dreaming in league with God.” Let’s dream together with God and with each other this morning. May we also find new ways of engaging with God during the week to come. May we learn to “practice the presence of God” in our daily lives.

—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

On the cover: *Prayer*, Mike Moyers, 2014, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville.

March 16, 2025
11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday in Lent

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 *Prelude No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 28* Chopin/Brummel

+Congregational Song *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN
No. 319
Stanzas 1–3

+Call to Worship Geoff Moore

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
And sustain in me a willing spirit.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth will declare your praise.

People: Lord, have mercy.

+Response in Song *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN
Stanza 4

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again, gladly forever adore him.

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

One: The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
When evildoers assail me to devour my
flesh — my adversaries and foes —
they shall stumble and fall.

**All: Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.
One thing I asked of the LORD;
this I seek:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.**

One: For God will hide me in God's shelter
in the day of trouble;
God will conceal me under the cover of
God's tent; the LORD will set me
high on a rock.
Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in the LORD's tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

**Choir: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek the
LORD’s face!”
Your face, LORD, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.**

One: Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me up.

**Choir: Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.**

One: Do not give me up to the will of
my adversaries, for false witnesses
have risen against me, and they
are breathing out violence.
I believe that I shall see the goodness
of the LORD in the land of the living.

**All: Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart
take courage;
wait for the LORD!**

Offertory

Adagio cantabile from Sonata Pathétique

Beethoven/Brummel

+Epistle Reading — 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Kenton Keller

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and will do this.

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

If You Will Only Let God Guide You
No. 76

NEUMARK

Message

“Preparing the Way Through Prayer”

Timothy Peoples

Anthem

Be Still and Know
Sanctuary Choir

Tom Fettke

Be still and know our living God.
Be still and know that God is holy.
Be still O restless soul of mine
Bow before the Prince of Peace,
Let the noise and clamor cease.

Be still and know our living God.
Be still and know that God is faithful.
Consider all that God has done,
Stand in awe and be amazed
And know our God will never change.

Be still.

Be still and know our living God.
Be still, be speechless.

Be still and know our living God.
Be still and know the source of love.
Come, rest your head upon God's breast,
Listen to the rhythm of God's unfailing heart of love;
Beating for the little ones,
Calling each of us to come.
Be still, be still. Be still.

Prayers of the People

Ross Prater

In our observance of the spiritual practice of prayer and stillness,
silence will be interspersed throughout today's prayer.

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.

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel

The flowers today are in memory of Bill Sholar
by Gail, Steve, Andy, Jessica and Callum Brookshire;
and in honor and appreciation of the Wilshire staff
and their families by Sally and Richard Luttrell.

Meet today's worship leaders

Kenton Keller and his wife, Mary, came to Wilshire in 2008 and attend Epiphany Class. Kenton is a deacon and a past chair of the Finance Committee. Two of Kenton and Mary's daughters, Kathryn Keller and Kimberly Justice, attend Wilshire with their families, as does Kenton's mother, Betty. Kenton is president of Accelerance, an executive leadership coaching and strategy consulting company.

Geoff Moore joined Wilshire last fall with his wife, Nicki, and their son, Griffin, a sixth grader. Geoff has several family connections at Wilshire; he is a nephew of both David Duncan and Carole Jean Abernathy and a cousin to Paula Woodbury. Geoff was dedicated here in 1976 when his parents, Gene and Sheila Moore, were members. Geoff is a writer for film and television.

Ross Prater and his wife, Lyn, joined Wilshire in 2014 and were also members from 1982 to 2004, when they left to help establish City Church, now called Church in the Cliff. The Praters attend B.E.S.T. Class, and Ross served in Puerto Rico with Wilshire's mission team last month (see his report on pages 14 and 15). Ross is a chaplain at Parkland Hospital. He and Lyn have two adult sons and five grandchildren.



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



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

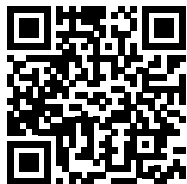
News & Announcements
March 16, 2025

New members

- Rachel and Chris Barker with Alison and Charlotte
- Barbara Baker

Special business meeting on bylaws amendments: March 30

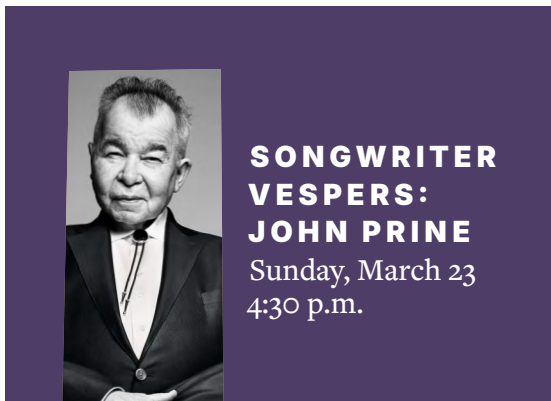
All Wilshire members are encouraged to attend a special business meeting after worship on Sunday, March 30. In February, the deacon bylaws workgroup presented the deacons with amended church bylaws for their review. By a unanimous vote, the deacons recommended the amended bylaws be presented to the church for their vote of approval. The sole purpose of the March 30 meeting will be to adopt the amended bylaws to replace the bylaws currently in effect.



Lunch will not be served. Scan the QR code or visit wilshirebc.org/bylaws for details of the amendments. This information will be emailed to members this week.

Lunch & Learn this Wednesday

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. Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee will teach on March 19. See the spring schedule at wilshirebc.org/events/lunch-learn.



Mark your calendar for Wilshire's first ever Songwriter Vespers next Sunday, March 23, at 4:30 p.m. in Choral Hall.

This event featuring the songs of the late John Prine is — no surprise — the brainchild of Associate Pastor Darren DeMent, who envisions “a mashup of a coffeehouse performance and a worship service.”

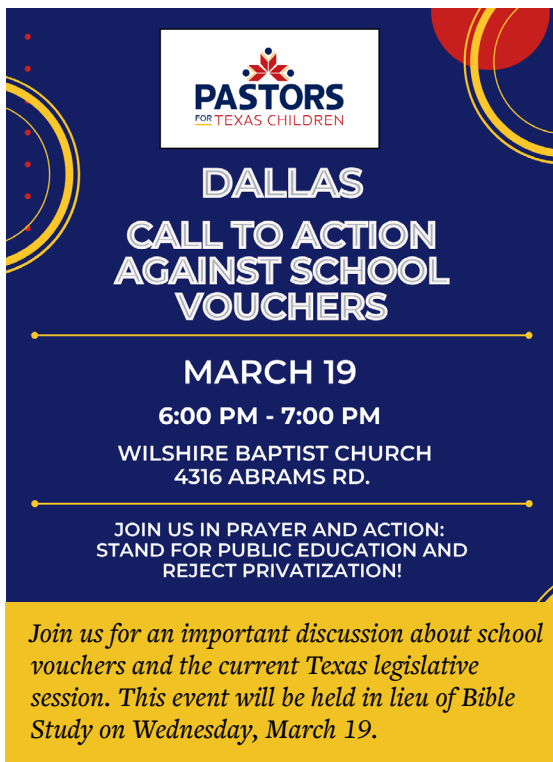
Along with readings and other liturgical elements, the service will feature several Prine songs interpreted by Darren and a band of musical associates.

“Prine has been a favorite of mine for many years.” Darren said. “His songs are filled with common sense, deep intelligence and a real sense of the things that connect us all as humans.” Darren notes that Prine's themes of home, connection, loss and redemption are a natural fit for the Lenten season.

Coffee and light snacks will be provided.



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.



PASTORS
FOR TEXAS CHILDREN

DALLAS
CALL TO ACTION
AGAINST SCHOOL
VOUCHERS

MARCH 19
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
WILSHIRE BAPTIST CHURCH
4316 ABRAMS RD.

JOIN US IN PRAYER AND ACTION:
STAND FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND
REJECT PRIVATIZATION!

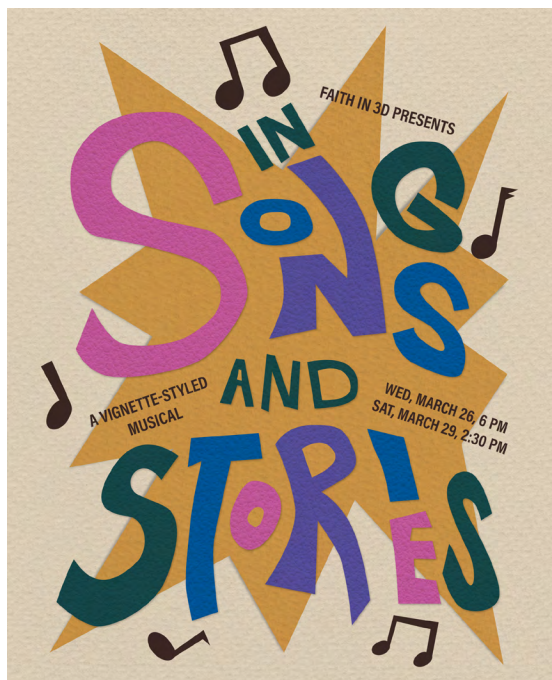
Join us for an important discussion about school vouchers and the current Texas legislative session. This event will be held in lieu of Bible Study on Wednesday, March 19.

Adventurers to Titanic exhibit

The Wilshire Adventurers, a fellowship group for those 60 and above, will visit Titanic: The Exhibition on Thursday, March 20, at 10 a.m. at Pepper Square (14902 Preston Road #386). The interactive tour includes vast recreations of the ship's interior and exterior along with artifacts from the Titanic and props and costumes from the 1997 film. Admission costs \$22. Register at wilshirebc.org/events/titanic.

Order Easter lilies by April 13

Congregants are invited to provide Easter lilies for the Sanctuary in honor or memory of family members or friends. Dedications will be listed in the worship folder on Easter, April 20. Each plant costs \$20; order at wilshirebc.org/easter-lilies or in the office. The deadline to order is Palm Sunday, April 13.



Faith in 3D: two free shows March 26 & 29

Wilshire's 2025 Faith in 3D production is an original vignette-styled musical, *In Songs and Stories*. The show will feature a compilation of songs, most from Broadway musicals, that will not only entertain but also stimulate discussion with the potential to change individuals — and maybe the world.

Nancy Poynter is directing her 11th Faith in 3D production, and Ralph Manuel is serving again as musical director.

The free show will be performed at Wilshire on **Wednesday, March 26**, at 6 p.m. and **Saturday, March 29**, at 2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Wednesday performance will take the place of Wilshire's usual faith formation offerings (childcare will be offered for preschoolers).

The 3D in Faith in 3D stands for drama, dialogue and dessert. Each performance will be followed by a moderated discussion, and dessert will be available in the Narthex.



PREPARE THE WAY | Wilshire Lent 2025

Sacred Space

Sundays through April 13 | 9–9:30 a.m. | McIver Chapel |

Join us each Sunday in Lent 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. Led by Associate Pastor Darren DeMent, Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray and Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee.

Lenten playlist

Our Lenten playlist can be found on the digital music service Spotify under the name "Prepare The Way - Wilshire Lent 2025." Find the direct link at [wilshirebc.org/len](https://www.wilshirebc.org/len).

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 are using the book, but it is also appropriate for individual study. To connect with a class, contact Associate Pastor Darren DeMent or Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray.

Resources

The following resources are available at [wilshirebc.org/len](https://www.wilshirebc.org/len):

- Wilshire ministers and staff have compiled a **Lenten resource guide** focused on spiritual practices.
- Our **family Lenten guide** has ideas for parents about how to engage in spiritual practices with children.

Holy Week: Stations of the Cross

Visit McIver Chapel during Holy Week for a Stations of the Cross exhibit featuring the art of Scott Erickson. The exhibit, which invites us to reflect as we walk with Jesus on his journey to the cross, will be introduced on Palm Sunday, April 13, at the 9 a.m. Sacred Space gathering and can be seen when the church is open through Good Friday at 3 p.m.

Palm Sunday worship

April 13 | 11 a.m. | Sanctuary |

Music from Sanctuary Choir, Youth and Children's Choirs, Carillon Ringers and brass.

Maundy Thursday

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

Always one of the year's most moving worship services, Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper with readings and the Lord's Supper, then carries through to the crucifixion, ending in darkened silence. This year's service will include music by Sanctuary Choir and Nova.

Easter Sunday

April 20

- Sunrise Service, T. & P. Hill at White Rock Lake, 6:30 a.m.
- Columbarium Service, 9:30 a.m.
- Worship, 8:30 and 11 a.m.
- Visit the Flowering Cross.

[wilshirebc.org/len](https://www.wilshirebc.org/len)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE MARCH 19

Koinonia Café

5 p.m. | Community Hall | Buffet dinner. Cash/check/credit accepted. See prices at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **March 19:** Greek menu: chicken with lemon butter, orzo with sun-dried tomatoes and feta, sautéed spinach, green lentil soup, pita and hummus, cheese-cake with strawberry sauce, oatmeal cookies, jello. **Kids:** plain chicken, spinach, orzo.

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.

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.



Special event: town hall on school vouchers

6 p.m. | Join us as we partner with Pastors for Texas Children for an important discussion about school vouchers and the current Texas legislative session. This event will be held in lieu of Bible Study.

Faith in 3D next week

On Wednesday, **March 26**, Faith in 3D will present its 2025 production, *In Songs and Stories*, in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m. The performance will take the place of our Wednesday evening faith formation offerings. Children and youth are encouraged to attend; childcare will be available for preschoolers. Koinonia Café will be offered at 5 p.m., so come have dinner before the show.

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

Internet safety presentation



The rate of technological expansion provides us with amazing opportunities and new challenges. Wilshire member Teri Walker, who works in this ever-evolving space, will lead a presentation

on Internet safety after worship on Sunday, April 6, in Community Hall. You'll learn how to protect yourself and your information in email, social media, text messaging and more. Lunch is available for \$10. Registration is encouraged, not required. This event is hosted by the Adventurers but is open to anyone. Visit wilshirebc.org/events/life-and-tech to sign up.

Child safety training on April 13

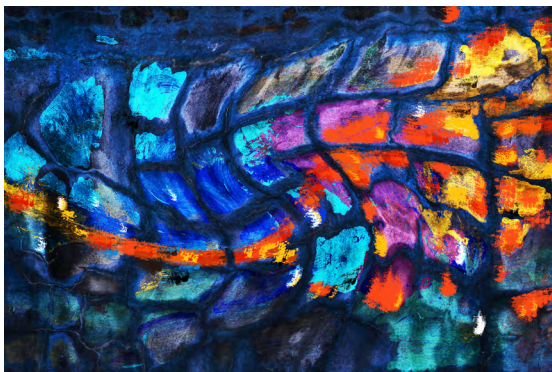
Wilshire member Dawn Hallman will lead a child safety training session after worship on Sunday, April 13. The training is open to anyone but is required for those who work with kids under 18, including teachers, volunteers, parents and deacons. The training will be held after worship and will end by 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Auction items and events available



There are still openings for you to attend one of the "Sign & Go" events from the silent auction supporting the Youth Choir's summer trip. You can also still get Baylor football tickets, tutoring and a few other items. There's no bidding; simply sign up and pay the price listed. Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3XsJCvF.

■ You can also support the Youth Choir by bidding on pieces in the **David Clanton art exhibit**, which is on display in the South Lobby through Easter, April 20. Each piece has a bid sheet, and winners will be announced after the exhibit ends.



David Clanton

A CELEBRATION OF God's Gift of Seeing

Art Exhibit
South Lobby
Ends April 20

Sales benefit Youth Choir Tour

Missions and Christian Advocacy Update

As the Texas legislative session ramps up, more and more bills are making their way out of committees and onto the Senate and House floors. On behalf of the Missions and Christian Advocacy Committee, this report outlines some issues we're paying close attention to.

Gun Sense Reform: On Feb. 27, the Texas Gun Sense Coalition, a broad group of gun sense reform advocates, demonstrated on the Capitol steps in support of sensible gun reform. The T-shirts made at Wilshire memorializing victims of gun violence were displayed and made a powerful visual effect. Think about beginning your advocacy journey by joining the local chapter of Moms Demand Action or Giffords: Gun Owners for Safety.

Public Education: The governor has made vouchers a number one priority this year. On Wednesday, March 19, Wilshire will host a 6 p.m. town hall with Pastors for Texas Children to clarify what this voucher bill includes and what we can do to act. Bills are also being proposed to establish a dedicated time of prayer and require public school classrooms to display the Ten Commandments. As a church that staunchly supports public education and religious freedom, it is important for us to make our voices heard.

Reproductive Justice: While abortion remains a sensitive topic in many faith communities, the statistics around the Texas abortion bans adopted in the last legislative session show they are deadly. Maternal mortality rates in our state have skyrocketed due to the confusing and unclear language in the bans. Advocates are asking for additional clarity in language and circumstance to allow doctors to act when needed.

A Wilshire screening of *Zurawski vs. Texas*, a documentary depicting the effects of the Texas abortion bans on real women, is in the works for April. Postcards to send to representatives will be made available that evening.

Immigration: Can you imagine being afraid of going to the grocery store, sending your child

to school or seeking needed medical care? This is what it is like for many in our community as every level of our government continues to demonize the migrants among us. In April, join a small group from Wilshire that will begin to distribute groceries once a month in partnership with Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation. You can also attend a Know Your Rights Workshop to be an informed community advocate.

LGBTQIA+ Rights: As an affirming congregation, our support is needed more than ever to voice our opposition to anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation on every level. Equality Texas will host a March 24 rally in Austin to advocate against the hundreds of anti LGBTQIA+ bills that have been filed this session. Buses will depart from Dallas, but a reservation is required. You can also sign up for their newsletter to stay informed and find ways to use your voice. Visit equalitytexas.org.

Of course, Wilshire's committee and staff will be following it all. To get involved, contact me. You can also scan the QR code below to join one of our advocacy action groups and receive updates as needs to mobilize arise.

It's hard to remember that even in the darkest times there is hope. But friends, may our hope be found in one another and in the light of Christ. Cry, but don't do it alone — find a friend. Serve, but don't do it alone — find a friend. Advocate, but don't do it alone — find a friend. But don't wait — find a friend, and let's get to it because the lives of our very friends may depend upon it.

—Heather Mustain, associate pastor



Scan to join an advocacy action group. You'll receive educational resources and action alerts regarding local, state and national issues.

“We were changed.”

Puerto Rico team served, shared — and laughed a lot, too

A REFLECTION BY ROSS PRATER

Early on Saturday morning, Feb. 22, a group of Wilshire members boarded a flight for San Juan, Puerto Rico. It was a domestic flight as Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory. Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens — same post office, same money — with their own language, culture, foods and ways.

Our assignment was to assist our host, First Baptist Church of Rio Piedras. Established as Puerto Rico’s first Baptist church in 1899, the church has a huge building, a smallish congregation and a generous heart as it continues to help those still recovering from 2017’s Hurricane Maria. This is Wilshire’s third trip in response to their invitation to come and work on behalf of the beautiful and loving people of their island. Several on our team had been on one or both of the previous trips.

As with most adventures, we brought with us a range of emotions, gifts, hopes and goals. An important member of teams past, Mike Diffie, passed away suddenly weeks before the trip, and several members shared stories of his warmth and love for missions. We all were hopeful and excited about what and who was before us in the coming week.

We settled into our dorm rooms, which were air conditioned and comfortable. The meals prepared for us were tasty and hearty and served with love. Meal times included bits and pieces of sharing, humor and planning. Morning devotions by team members kept us grounded and inspired.

Sunday morning found us in our host’s large sanctuary with praise music, hymns and prayers. The interim pastor, Gilda Oriandi, preached a moving sermon on love, picturing God as our pursuer and romancing us into a rich caring



relationship with the Divine. Sunday afternoon found us celebrating the natural beauty of the island at El Yunque National Forest. A beautiful visitor center, a lovely waterfall and a historic tower provided us a chance to continue learning names and stories of one another. As we finished out the day, we were gradually developing new friendships, renewing old ones and developing into a team.

After being introduced to our assignment Monday morning, we were a bit overwhelmed. It was a significant task clearly requiring several days. We jumped in. Some operated power washing equipment, and the rest grabbed brushes, rollers, scrapers, wire brushes, paint ladders and charged forth. Our team member from Maryland, Nick McQuillan, rode a lift a couple of stories high, cleaning and monitoring the wind. Dorrell Brown, all the way from Jamaica, cleaned up before us and after us with

good humor and steadiness. We worked hard all day, laughed a lot, looked after one another and found meaning in making the church more beautiful. We scraped, painted and cleaned for three days, and the work was done. It looked beautiful. The church members were happy. We were very glad to have completed the task.

In the evenings we went for ice cream, kept up with the news and family, told stories and played dominoes and other games. Our untiring host and local leader Zulma Zabala found the perfect places for us to visit and celebrate friendships and serve the Lord. One evening we watched the sunset at the beach, enjoyed the

waves, walked on the beach and shared more and more of ourselves with each other. Another evening we had refreshments at a local brewery. I had a Diet Coke. I didn't recognize the drinks the others were having.

On our last day, we painted almost the entire house of a church member, Jeannette. She was moving in soon and it was very rewarding to see her happiness. After one final morning in old San Juan and a bit of clean up and packing, we were off to the airport.

They were helped. We were changed. We served them. We served Wilshire. We served the Lord. Amen.





Sing into Spring Children's Choir

**CHILDREN, GRADES KINDER-5,
ARE INVITED TO SING!**

**REHEARSALS BEGIN
SUNDAY, MARCH 23**

**MEET IN ROOM 2221 FOR LUNCH AT NOON
FOLLOWED BY REHEARSAL UNTIL 1:15.**

REHEARSAL DATES

MARCH 23

MARCH 30

APRIL 6

**NO REHEARSAL ON
APRIL 13 OR APRIL 20**

APRIL 27

THREE TIMES TO SING

APRIL 13 - PALM SUNDAY

MAY 4 - WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

PROGRAM AND PARTY

CHOIR AND KIDCONNECT

SPRING FUN DAY ON SAT. MAY 3

DALLAS ZOO - DETAILS COMING SOON!



Lynette DeBose

Hometown: Ardmore, Oklahoma

Present City: Dallas

Education: B.A. in English

Profession: Office administrator

Tell us about your family.

I am one of four kids born to educators who were the first in their families to receive college degrees. This was quite a feat in the 1950s for those like my parents. Our mom integrated two Oklahoma school systems and was honored as teacher of the year at least once during her career. Our youngest brother was inducted into the National Academy of Sciences in April 2024. The professions of my six nephews and nieces range from New York county attorney to licensed social worker. There are data dudes and managers in the mix, too. The oldest of the next generation graduates from high school this year.

Any favorite hobbies?

I like to cook. The process fascinates me. The brothers and I often share our creations at family gatherings.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

When attending another local church, I hosted a free jazz concert series called Tuesday Nite Jazz. We invited the best jazz artists in the Dallas area to play for us and ended the evening with a free dinner for patrons and musicians. In 2017, my artistic director and I determined that we needed to find a new home for the program. We cofounded JazzStand and brought jazz concerts to Wilshire. Doug Haney, who was minister of music then, said that we only



asked Wilshire to do what Wilshire already wanted to do.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

Discovery Class, Sanctuary Choir and Faith in 3D. I was honored to serve on the Minister of Music Search Committee in 2023.

What's surprised you most about Wilshire?

The fabric of Wilshire's core values is Wilshire's deliberate intention to celebrate diversity and inclusion. This community is my idea of what God envisioned when the earth was formed. Wilshire isn't perfect but is perfectly pointed to serve others in ways that reflect the Beloved Community Dr. King saw.

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

God is helping me let my faith be stronger than my fear.

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

I am terrified of singing in public.

What adjectives best describe you?

Loyal, trustworthy and kind — and sprinkled with a little stubbornness. I am perfectly imperfect, but you already knew that.

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®



Women of Wilshire Book Clubs

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | April 8 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *Framed* by John Grisham and Jim McClosky. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org)

■ The **Brown Bag Book Club** has canceled its April 3 meeting and will next meet on May 1 for a discussion of Leila Meacham's *Dragonfly*. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Men's Book Club meets March 18

The Men's Book Club will discuss Erik Larson's *The Demon of Unrest* (originally scheduled for February) on Tuesday, March 18, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. Frank Bruni's *The Age of Grievance* will be discussed on April 15. Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net)

Free yoga classes

Wilshire member Mary Lu Hare will lead free yoga classes in the Youth Center on two Saturdays, April 19 and May 17. The one-hour sessions will start at 10 a.m. and are suitable for all experience levels. Bring a yoga mat, water and a friend.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING

Your gifts are changing lives inside and outside our walls. Here are some ways to make a financial contribution to Wilshire.

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

REALM CONNECT APP. Easily make gifts and see past giving on your mobile device. Available at your device's app store. Find download links at wilshirebc.org/realml.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

This Week

Sunday, March 16

- David Clanton Art Exhibit, South Lobby, through April 20
- Sacred Space Gathering, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Adventurers Committee, Comm. Hall, noon
- Finance Committee, Comm. Hall, noon
- Library Committee, Comm. Hall, noon
- Missions and Advocacy Committee, Comm. Hall, noon
- One Starry Night Steering, Comm. Hall, noon
- Pathways to Ministry Committee, 2312, noon
- Personnel Committee, Comm. Hall, noon
- Faith in 3D Rehearsal, McIver Chapel, noon
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

Monday, March 17

- Faith in 3D rehearsal, Sanctuary, 6:45 p.m.
- Wilshire Winds, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 18

- Wilkinson Center Pantry Assistants, noon
- Stephen Ministry Training, 1205-L, 6 p.m.
- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- Faith in 3D rehearsal, Sanctuary, 6:45 p.m.
- Men's Book Club, Parlor, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, Comm. Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, Comm. Hall, 5 p.m.
- Preschool Music & Missions, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Pastors for Texas Children Event, location TBD, 6 p.m.
- Risk Management Committee, 1205-G, 6:15 p.m.
- Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 20

- Adventurers: Titanic Exhibition, Pepper Square, 10 a.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.
- Faith in 3D rehearsal, Sanctuary, 6:45 p.m.

Friday, March 21

- MomCo, James Gallery, 9 a.m.



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. **Sold out; waitlist available.**

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. **Sold out; waitlist available.**

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

