



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

May 4, 2025
Third Sunday of Easter

Preparing for worship

“I am going fishing!”

Don’t you just love Peter? The disciples are still together in a post-resurrection tither, and Peter, the impetuous one, announces he’s going fishing.

What better way to deal with what had just happened? I can relate. As a child, one Easter weekend after hearing a rather gory Good Friday homily, I begged my father to take me fishing. Under pressure from my mother, he did. It was cold and rainy and the fish weren’t biting. When we returned home, Mom asked what we caught. “Nothing,” Dad growled, “but a gosh-dang cold!”

Peter and the guys must have felt the same way when, nets empty from a night of fishing, they returned to shore, and a stranger on the beach had the audacity to tell them they were fishing from the wrong side of the boat. No wonder a naked Peter, upon recognizing this fishing guide was Jesus, put on his clothes and jumped into the sea.

Today, many of us feel like we’re adrift on a sea of uncertainty, our nets filled with nothing but fear, anger and hopelessness. From the port side of our ship of life, we fill our nets with digital flotsam and jetsam, some factual, some false, much of it angry and demeaning. Overwhelmed, we ignore the waters on the starboard side of our vessel — waters alive with love, care and hope.

Why, during this time of unrest and doubt,

are we so easily drawn to the dark side of the discord? Why, instead of focusing on healing our nation’s wounds and building a bridge to a better future, do we continue to flounder in this dark and stormy sea? Why, 2,000 years after Jesus told Peter to “feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep,” do we continue to treat those who see the world from a different perspective as goats?

Sadly, it’s because we’re human. And despite the advances we’ve made, we are incredibly slow learners when it comes to understanding our own species and what Jesus tried to teach us.

Our Lord clearly knew how to fish — not only for the finned kind, but also for humankind. He knew that bringing both to the net required patience and understanding. Both must be engaged in their own space, on their own terms, and in an unobtrusive manner. Neither people nor fish react well if we jump up and down and scream at them. And yet, like Peter, we all too often are ready to take off an ear when someone says or does something we find offensive.

As we worship today, let us pray that we put down our weapons of fear and hate, replace our anger with empathy, turn the other ear and really listen, and that we finally bring a peaceful end to this time of great uncertainty.

—Scott Spreier



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: *The Great Catch*, John August Swanson, serigraph, 1993. From *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library.

May 4, 2025
11:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Easter

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

Carolyn Murray

Opening Voluntary

God's Masterpiece
Children's Choir
Candy McComb, director
Bill Jernberg, accompanist

Ruth Elaine Schram

God is working on me so I can be the masterpiece I was created to be.
God began it, God will complete it, this good work being done in me.
God will make me a masterpiece, the masterpiece I was created to be.
God is working on me so I can be the masterpiece I was created to be.

+Congregational Song

We Are Singing for the Lord is Our Light

SIYAHAMBA

Stanza 1: Children's Choir

Stanzas 2-4: all

*2: singing; 3: praying; 4: dancing

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with 'We are sing - ing,* for the Lord is our light, _'. The second staff continues with 'we are sing - ing, for the Lord is our light. ____' and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The third staff starts with 'We are sing - ing, ____' followed by a double bar line and repeat dots, then 'Oh ____ we are'. The fourth staff continues with 'sing - ing for the Lord is our Light. ____' followed by a double bar line and repeat dots, then 'We are our light. ____'. There are first and second endings marked above the final measures of the fourth staff.

We are sing - ing,* for the Lord is our light, _

we are sing - ing, for the Lord is our light. ____

We are sing - ing, ____ Oh ____ we are

sing - ing for the Lord is our Light. ____ We are our light. ____

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

+Call to Worship

Annie Murray

One: Risen and living Lord, you meet us in unexpected places.

All: Surprise us with the abundance of your love — for the Lord is our light.

One: Feed us by your Word and energize us with your Spirit.

All: We will we sing, pray and live — for the Lord is our light.

One: We follow you today, and always; our risen Lord and Savior.

All: May the love of your resurrection power surround all people. Amen.

+Response in Song

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

Presentation of First Grade Bibles

Julie Girards

Psalm Reading — Psalm 30

Sarah Fuller

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me
up and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and
you have healed me.
O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone
down to the Pit.
Sing praises to the LORD, O you God's faithful
ones, and give thanks to God's holy name.
For God's anger is but for a moment; the
LORD's favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night, but joy
comes with the morning.
As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall
never be moved."
By your favor, O LORD, you had established me
as a strong mountain;
you hid your face; I was dismayed.

To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the Lord I
made supplication:
"What profit is there in my death, if I go down
to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your
faithfulness?
Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD,
be my helper!"
You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed
me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be
silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to
you forever.

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.**

Offertory

This Is the Day the Lord Has Made
Sanctuary Choir

Mark Hayes

This is the day that the Lord has made, and I will be exceeding glad!
This is the day that the Lord has made, and I will sing my maker's praise!
This is the day the Lord has made; I will rejoice and give God praise!

Who is like unto our God the Lord, strong and mighty?
Who is like unto our God who reigns above in glorious splendor?

You are the Rose of Sharon, the lover of my soul.
You are my heart's desire;
My soul implores me to exalt your holy name.
Your name is music unto my ears;
And I must sing of the great love you've shown to me,
Because my heart will not be still.

+Gospel Reading — John 21:1–19

Katie Murray

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone

ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

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

Message

“Do You Love Me?”

Timothy Peoples

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Timothy Peoples

All followers of Christ are invited to partake of the Lord’s Supper, whether you are a Wilshire member or not. The bread used this morning is gluten free.

Passing of the Bread

Come Home
 Taryn Beard

Craig Courtney

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
 See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.
 Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home.

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
 Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me.
 Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home.

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
 Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.
 Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home.

Passing of the Cup

Adagio for Organ

Franklin D. Ashdown

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

+Congregational Song

Lift High the Cross
No. 415

CRUCIFER

Family Dedication — Lark and Cameran Jordan with Charlotte Jay

Timothy Peoples

We welcome into the life of the church Charlotte Jay (Charlie) Jordan, daughter of Lark and Cameran Jordan. Present for today's dedication are grandparents Robin and Charles Pokladnik and uncle and aunt Ryan and Rachel Pokladnik.

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in D Major

John Stanley



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.

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Meet today's worship leaders

Taryn Beard recently graduated with her Bachelor's of Music in Music Education from Southern Methodist University. Later this year, she will begin as an elementary school music teacher at Ford Elementary in the Conroe Independent School District. This is Taryn's second academic year as a Wilshire choral scholar.

Sarah Fuller began attending Wilshire last year and officially joined this February with her daughter, Rhona, who is in fifth grade. Sarah sings in Sanctuary Choir and is a member of Odyssey Class. Her parents are Wilshire members Cindy and Charlie Fuller.

Annie Murray is the daughter of Steven and Katie Murray and sister to Drew and James. A first grader at Wallace Elementary, Annie plays basketball and softball, takes lessons in ballet and piano and enjoys reading. At Wilshire she is involved in KidConnect and Children's Choir.

Carolyn Murray grew up at Wilshire. Her parents are Bob and Charlene Law. Carolyn is mother to an adult son, Mason, who lives in Australia, and Lucy Kate, a sophomore at Santa Clara University. As Wilshire's coordinator of congregational life, Carolyn works to welcome guests and engage members in the life of the church. She directs Journey Class and serves as staff liaison to MomCo and the Committee on Committees.

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
May 4, 2025

Condolences to

■ **Steve and Gail Brookshire** on the death of Steve's father, Scott Brookshire, April 27. Grandchildren and great-grandson are **Andy, Jessica** and **Callum Brookshire**.

■ **D.R. Rockwell** on the death of his great-aunt, Shirley Ann Linwood, April 23.

Team headed to Macedonia

Be in prayer for a Wilshire team traveling to Macedonia to learn and serve from May 7 to 16. Wilshire is joining with Second Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas, for the trip. Our contingent includes Christina Evans, Jenny Wolff, Missions and Advocacy Committee Chair Julie Bartkoski, Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee, Associate Pastor Heather Mustain and Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples. Heather says, "We are going to encourage, support and learn more about the ministries of CBF field personnel Jeff and Alicia Lee. Wilshire has contributed to their economic and agricultural enterprises in the past. We'll spend time at a group home for adults with developmental disabilities, pack food boxes for seniors through Macedonia's only food bank and learn more about interfaith relations while visiting local Orthodox churches and mosques."



Hannah Service

**For those who grieve
around Mother's Day**

Hannah Service this afternoon

As much as we celebrate the gift of mothers in our lives, Mother's Day can bring feelings of grief to those who have experienced infertility, miscarriage, death of an infant or child, adoption loss, abortion, family estrangement or the death of a mother. With this in mind, Wilshire will offer a Hannah Service on Sunday, May 4, at 2 p.m. in McIver Chapel. For those who grieve and the loved ones who support them, the service will give space to lament and remember. To register for childcare, email Kelly Akins at kakins@wilshirebc.org.



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.

Lori Gooden departing staff

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE Lori Gooden has resigned from her role at Wilshire to take a full-time position with nonprofit agency Fellowship Southwest.

She will transition from Wilshire to her new position over the coming months and will help train her successor at the church. The Personnel Committee and staff leaders have already begun working on staffing plans for Wilshire's finance office.

Wilshire members should still contact Lori about all giving-related matters until further notice.

Lori came to Wilshire as accounting manager in 2015 and became director of finance in 2021.

"My time at Wilshire has been such a gift," Lori said, "and I will be forever grateful to Mark Wingfield for giving me this extraordinary opportunity. I have been forever changed by the friendship of this amazing staff and the leadership I have had the privilege of working with. I will cherish the stories you shared with me, and I will miss those of you who would stop by to make my day. Thank you, Wilshire, for loving me and for the blessing of these last 10 years."

Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples said, "I am truly grateful for the ways Lori has shared her knowledge and gifts with Wilshire. We'll miss her presence at the church, but with Fellowship Southwest being one of our strongest mission partners, we look forward to working with Lori in a new and different way."



NEW SONG COMMUNITY CHOIR
BENEFIT CONCERT

*THEN SINGS MY SOUL
A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY*



New Song 20th anniversary concert tonight at 6:30

New Song Community Choir will hold a 20th-anniversary benefit concert at Wilshire tonight, May 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The concert will feature sacred and secular music, including a medley of pop songs commissioned by New Song. Several instrumentalists will accompany the choir.

"You're never too old to make a new friend or learn a new song" is the motto of the choir, a vibrant group of senior adults led by Sarah Stafford. With over 80 singers from 28 churches, eight senior living facilities and 10 Metroplex communities, the group performs regularly at senior centers, churches and community organizations, offering both sacred and secular music to uplift audiences. New Song began at Wilshire in 2005 and became a standalone nonprofit in 2020 with generous seed funding from Wilshire, which provides the choir rehearsal, storage and office space. New Song is funded mostly by grants and donations. Learn more and donate at newsongchoir.org.

Graduate info needed by May 7

Wilshire will recognize 2025 high school graduates during worship on May 18; their photos will be printed in the worship folder along with those of church members who received a bachelor's degree from June 2024 to May 2025. To be included, submit your information and a photo by Wednesday, May 7, at wilshirebc.org/graduates. Contact: Chelsea Hopkins (chopkins@wilshirebc.org)

Lunch & Learn this week

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. Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray will teach on May 7. The final Lunch & Learn before a summer break will be held May 21.

Lend your voice to hymn festival

On Sunday, May 25, Sanctuary Choir will share a special all-music hymn festival, *O God, Our Help!*, during morning worship. We're revisiting beloved anthems and preparing beautiful hymn arrangements to inspire our congregation. This will be perfect for those with choral experience to participate without a long-term commitment. There will be two rehearsals:

■ **Sunday, May 18**, 9:15–9:45 a.m.

■ **Sunday, May 25**, 9:15–9:45 a.m. (Final preparation before 11 a.m. worship.)

There's no audition — just bring your love of sacred music. Your voice matters, and this special Sunday won't be the same without you. Coffee and refreshments will be provided at rehearsals. Contact: Minister of Music Ariel Merivil (amerivil@wilshirebc.org)

Save the date for Winds concert

Wilshire Winds will present a concert of sacred and secular music on Sunday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Shana Gaines directs the volunteer group of brass, woodwind and percussion players.

WILSHIRE IN THE PARK

Churchwide Picnic
Sunday, May 18
5–7 p.m.
Flag Pole Hill
Pavilion

Don't miss our annual picnic with food, face painting and fun at Flag Pole Hill's inclusive playground. The pavilion and picnic tables are ours to use; bring your own lawn chairs or picnic blankets.

Wilshire will provide fried chicken, rolls and drinks. The rest of the meal is potluck with these assignments by last name:

- A–F, fruit
- G–Q, veggies or salad
- R–Z, dessert

Please use disposable containers and serving utensils and bring enough food to serve at least eight.

Volunteers are needed. Sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/wilshire-in-the-park.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

May 7: Final WNL
this spring includes
Children's program



Children's Choirs, KidConnect present year-end program

6 p.m. | Community Hall | The final Wednesday night this school year will feature a year-end program for Children's Choirs, Preschool Music & Missions and KidConnect. All are invited to enjoy music from preschool and children's choirs, missions displays and presentations and ice cream sundaes to end the evening.

Koinonia Café

5 p.m. | Community Hall | Buffet dinner. Cash/check/credit accepted. **May 7:** Taco bar with ground beef, beans and rice, chips and queso, toppings, caldo (soup), salad, churros, polvorones (cookies), jello. **Kids:** Cheese quesadilla, beans and rice.

■ **Watershed** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Center on both May 7 and 14.

North elevator update

The Building, Interior and Grounds Committee has selected a vendor to replace the aging north elevator. Work should begin soon and will take approximately six months. We apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you for your continued patience during this time.

Sign up by today for May 9 Marriage Connections

The final Marriage Connections of the school year will be a celebration of outgoing mentor couple Patty and Paul Latham on Friday, May 9. Free childcare (infant–grade 5) will be provided at the church from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Registration for childcare is required by May 4. Visit wilshirebc.org/events/marriage-connections.

Single, Adoptive and Foster Parents Night Out

Wilshire will offer free childcare (infant–grade 5) for single, adoptive and foster parents on Friday, May 9, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Registration is required and closes May 4; register at wilshirebc.org/events/pno.

Volunteer opportunity at WRCH



Wilshire is assembling a team of 20 volunteers for White Rock Center of Hope's food distribution on Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to noon. To sign up, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/4ilg7n8 or contact Abbey Adcox (aadcox@wilshirebc.org).

Sign up for May 14 Blood Drive



Carter BloodCare will hold a blood drive at Wilshire from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14. There is a critical need for several blood types, including A+, A-, O+, O- and B-. Visit wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive to make an appointment or scan the QR code.



CHILDREN & PRESCHOOL

VBS: CAMP FIRELIGHT

Mon.-Fri., June 9-13, 9 a.m.-noon

KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL CAMP

Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 9 a.m.-noon

COOKING CAMP

Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sold out; waitlist available.

LISTEN TO YOUR ART!

Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 12:30-5 p.m.

FULL-DAY COOKING & ART

Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sold out; waitlist available.

PASSPORT KIDS! PRETEEN CAMP

Sun.-Wed., July 20-23



**REGISTER AT
WILSHIREBC.ORG/SUMMER-CAMPS**



Adventurers to Audubon Center

The Wilshire Adventurers will visit the Trinity River Audubon Center on Thursday, May 22. Wilshire's own Grady Hinton will serve as guide to the birds and wildflowers that can be seen from the center's walkable trails. The group will meet at Wilshire at 8:30 a.m. to carpool. The event is free, but registration is required. Visit wilshirebc.org/events/audubon.

Free yoga class May 17

Wilshire member Mary Lu Hare will offer a free yoga class in the Youth Center on Saturday, May 17. The one-hour session will start at 10 a.m. and is suitable for all experience levels. Bring a yoga mat, water and a friend.

Women of Wilshire book clubs

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | June 5 | Noon
| 1205-L | *Lulu Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | May 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org)

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club will discuss Scott Spreier's novel *Resurrecting St. John the Rancher* on Tuesday, May 20, 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).

John Skinner

Hometown: Dallas

Present City: Dallas

Education: Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Dallas

Profession: Sales management

Tell us about your family.

My wife Mary and I just celebrated our 18th anniversary this April. We have two children; Emily is 7, Caroline is 5. East Dallas became home for us soon after getting married. We love this part of the city. Fortunately, most of our family lives in the Dallas area as well.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I have worked over 20 years in the luxury fashion retail sector. Sales and sales management is my role. I enjoy volunteering whenever I can. Finding ways to help and serve was modeled well for me from a young age. My primary place of service has been within the church.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

Wilshire was recommended to us by a family member. Mary and I were both lifelong Methodists and found ourselves in need of a new church home in the time after the pandemic lockdowns. We "visited" a number of churches online and a few in person before Wilshire was suggested. In August 2021 we attended our first service. We quickly became regular visitors and plugged in with the Labyrinth Sunday School Class. The people who welcomed us, the vibrant children's programming and the spiritual



guidance from the pulpit were all part of solidifying our choice to stay. We officially joined in November 2022.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

I am one of the co-directors for Labyrinth Class. The members of our group have

cultivated a space for connection and exploration. If you are looking to find a Sunday School class, come check us out anytime. Children's ministry has always been important to me, and I serve here in a few ways. Wednesday night I can be found with the kindergarten kids on the second floor. I am also pleased to be part of the Children's Education Committee. Later this year I will begin serving with the Committee on Committees.

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

2023 and 2024 were very challenging years in number of ways. Those years came with big life changes. Going through those experiences shifted my perspective on what is important in life. That shift is ongoing, and this time in life is definitely a time of change. I am grateful to be able to look back on my life and see that providence will lead to unexpected places.

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, May 4

- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Belong Team, 1205-L, 11:45 a.m.
- Personnel Committee, 1205-G, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 12:15 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.
- Hannah Service, McIver Chapel, 2 p.m.
- New Song Community Choir Concert, Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 5

- Wilshire Winds, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 6

- Stephen Ministry Training, 1205-L, 6 p.m.
- Stephen Ministry CE/Supervision, 1100-B and 1205-G, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7

- Macedonia trip begins
- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Friday Friends Leadership, 1205-L, 10 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Children's Choirs and KidConnect Year-end Program, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 8

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

Friday, May 9

- Friday Friends, 3103, 10 a.m.
- Marriage Connections, James Gallery, 6:30 p.m.