



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**August 17, 2025**

*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

# Preparing for worship

We all know the song and have sung it at parties, restaurants and in some of the craziest places we would not want to admit. According to *USA Today*, “Every 5-year-old knows it. It is the most frequently sung song in the English language, according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, surpassing the works of Bach, Beethoven and the Beatles, says the Songwriters Hall of Fame. It has been sung in [more than] 143 movies, translated into at least 18 languages and used in ads to sell everything from insurance to margarine.”

The song’s melody originated from a school teachers’ greeting song titled “Good Morning to All,” composed by American sisters Mildred and Patty Hill in 1893, although there have been many lawsuits and questions regarding who should be credited with the song. The first time the combination of the lyrics and melody appeared was in 1912.

Yes, I know you are at the edge of your seat to know which song it is. The answer: “Happy Birthday.”

On June 14, 2026, we will be saying and singing “happy 75th birthday” to Wilshire Baptist Church! It is truly an exciting time — an opportunity to celebrate our history while also committing to our future in new and exciting ways.

Starting at today’s lunch after church, we will be rolling out information regarding our celebration. While we are celebrating, we will also be rolling out new ideas that will allow us to better be Wilshire Baptist Church for the future.

When I think about the group of people gathered on a warm summer day at the Carswell home, I wonder if they imagined this church would be what it is today. It is because of their faith, imagination and the wonderful will of God that the dream of this church ever came to fruition.

In all these years Wilshire has been a guiding light in the heart of Dallas and around the nation. That doesn’t mean we always got things right. But we have taken time to learn from our mistakes and even the hurts we have placed on another.

Through these years we have found ways to evolve with an ever-evolving faith. We have been a church who strives to adhere to Jesus’ words “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.” A church of mission, justice, action, faith — and proclaimers of the Good News in a rough world. And may that always be a continued faithful path we follow.

—Timothy Peoples



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

Building a Community of Faith Shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship | Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

*We acknowledge that this land where we gather once held the sacred voices of Indigenous peoples and bore the suffering of the enslaved.*

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**On the cover:** *Vineyards with Their Watch Towers*, James Tissot, 1886–1887 or 1889, pen and ink on paper mounted on board, Brooklyn Museum.

**August 17, 2025**  
11:00 a.m.  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

**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

**Prelude**

*Joyous Affirmation*  
Katherine Pottkotter, organ

Angela Kraft Cross

**Call to Worship**

Rhona Phillips

One: God of love,

**All: We worship you.**

One: God of grown-ups,

**All: We praise you.**

One: God of grandmas and grandpas,

**All: We give you thanks.**

One: God of babies, children and youth,

**All: We pray for this new school year.**

One: God of all,

**All: We love you.**

**+Congregational Song**

*How Firm a Foundation*  
No. 425

FOUNDATION

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

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin  
and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might,  
and come to save us!  
...  
You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.  
You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.  
The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches;  
it sent out its branches to the sea  
and its shoots to the River.  
Why then have you broken down its walls,  
so that all who pass along the way  
pluck its fruit?

The boar from the forest ravages it,  
and all that move in the field feed on it.  
Turn again, O God of hosts;  
look down from heaven and see;  
have regard for this vine,  
the stock that your right hand planted.  
It has been burned with fire; it has been cut  
down; may they perish at the rebuke  
of your countenance.  
But let your hand be upon the one at your  
right hand, the one whom you made strong  
for yourself.  
Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.  
Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**Children's Moment and Blessing of the Backpacks**

Julie Girards and Angela Brindle

**One:** God our keeper, as summer winds down and another school year has begun, we find ourselves grateful. For our students — their surprising imaginations, refreshing perspectives, boundless creativity and enthusiastic kindness.

**All: We thank you, God, for our students.**

**One:** As our students pack their backpacks each day, God, we trust you to fill them with peace for the year ahead. Guide them as they grow into their truest and most authentic selves. Protect them from self-doubt, anxiety and every form of harm.

**All: We trust you, God, to bless and keep our students. We are grateful for your loving presence within and around them.**

**One:** God, we remember that our students grow and learn through the dedication and compassion of their teachers. As these educators bring to life their carefully prepared lessons and thoughtfully designed classrooms, we ask you to bless them with clear understanding, steadfast patience and wise conviction.

**All: We trust you, God, to bless and keep our teachers. We are grateful for your loving presence within and around them.**

One: God, as caregivers, we take comfort in your deep empathy. You know the ache of sending a child into the unknown. Grant us peace as we do the same. When our instinct is to hold tighter, give us the grace to hold well. Remind us that our children ultimately belong to you.

**All: We trust you, God, to help us love, challenge and guide them well, as you have loved, challenged and guided us.**

One: God, when crayons, posterboard, technological mishaps and impossible schedules threaten to drag us under, remind us of your love and care. As we venture into a new school year,

**All: May we be carried along by fresh wonder at God's unfolding work in the world. Amen.**

**Offertory**

*Beautiful Savior*

arr. López/Whitcomb

LeAnn Hampton and Susan Kimball, flute duet

**+Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Isaiah 5:1–7**

Mary Morgan

I will sing for my beloved my love song  
concerning my beloved's vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.  
My beloved dug it and cleared it of stones  
and planted it with choice vines,  
built a watchtower in the midst of it  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
my beloved expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded rotten grapes.  
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.  
What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield rotten grapes?  
And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.  
I will make it a wasteland;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall  
be overgrown with briars and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.  
For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are God's cherished garden;  
God expected justice  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness  
but heard a cry!

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***We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight*

DUNLAP'S CREEK



1. We walk by faith and not by sight; with gra-cious words draw near,  
2. We may not touch your hands and side, nor fol-low where you trod;  
3. Help then, O Lord, our un-be-lief; and may our faith a-bound  
4. And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clear-er light

O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
but in your prom-ise we re-joice and cry, "my Lord and God!"  
to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.  
may we be-hold you as you are, with full and end-less sight.

**Message***"The Song of the Vineyard"*

Timothy Peoples

**Anthem***I Choose Love*  
Drop-In Choir

Mark A. Miller

In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,  
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.  
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,  
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.  
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,  
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

**Prayers of the People**

Katie Murray

**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**

*Amazing Grace*  
No. 587

NEW BRITAIN

**Sharing of Decisions**

Timothy Peoples

**Recognition of Julie Girards**

**Benediction**

Timothy Peoples

**Postlude**

*How Firm a Foundation*

Carolyn Hamlin

The flowers today are given in memory of E. Maxey Abernathy  
on the occasion of his 87th birthday and Julian Kampfschulte  
on the occasion of his 17th birthday by the Woodbury family;  
and in memory of Sheila Henning by the Dalhausser and Henning families.



**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.

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Angela Brindle** first joined Wilshire in 2014 and rejoined in 2022 after a time living out of state. Her daughter, Nicolette, is in fourth grade at Mockingbird Elementary. Angela teaches third and fourth graders in Sunday School, is a member of Genesis Class and serves on the Children's Education and Library Committees. She is a librarian at the upper campus of Dallas International School. Angela's parents, Connie and Steve McDaniel, joined Wilshire this year.

**LeAnn Hampton** joined Wilshire in 1983. She and her husband, Jeff, are members of Epiphany Class. LeAnn is a deacon, serves on the Funeral Ministry Team, plays flute in Wilshire Winds, teaches Pre-K Sunday School and Pre-K Choir and serves on the leadership team for One Starry Night. LeAnn works as a grant writer and consultant.

**Susan Kimball** grew up at Wilshire and is a director of Seekers Class. She plays flute in Wilshire Winds, plays handbells with Carillon Ringers and sings in Nova. Susan works as a paralegal at Cavazos Hendricks Poirot, P.C.

**Mary Morgan** joined Wilshire in 2017. She attends Odyssey Class and is a member of Sanctuary Choir, Nova and Carillon Ringers. Mary is also a deacon and served on the Minister of Music Search Committee that brought Ariel Merivil to Wilshire. She works as a learning support specialist in Allen ISD.

**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, who attends 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.

**Jeremy Pendery** and his wife, Paige, began attending Wilshire in 2008 and are members of Genesis Class. Their two children are Luke, a seventh grader, and Lucy, a fourth grader. Jeremy and Paige are taking a break this year after seven years of teaching first graders in Sunday School.

**Rhona Phillips** joined Wilshire with her mom, Sarah Fuller, in February. Rhona's grandparents are Cindy and Charlie Fuller. Rhona is excited to be starting band (percussion), middle school and the Wilshire youth group this school year. She enjoys various artistic endeavors as well as playing games and spending time with friends and family.

**Katherine Pottkotter** is the daughter of Kurt and Amy Pottkotter and sister to Joshua and Audrey. The family joined Wilshire in 2019. Katherine is a senior at Lake Highlands High School and has sung in the Texas All State Choir, the Greater Dallas Choral Society and the Dallas Opera Chorus. She is active in Wilshire Student Ministry, sings in Youth Choir and Shekinah and studies organ with Jeff Brummel.



# 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)
- Katie Murray, Minister of Pastoral Care and to Senior Adults (3129)

## Finance

- Shaffon Alexander, 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)
- Amanda Hines, Pastoral Resident (3154)
- George Mason, Senior Pastor Emeritus and Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director (3133)
- Georgia McKee, Pastoral Resident (3152)
- Jordann McMahan, Pastoral Resident (3155)
- Maggie Morey, Pastoral Resident (3153)

## Senior Pastor

- Chelsea Hopkins, Executive Assistant (3132)
- Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor (3132)

## Spiritual Formation

- Kelly Akins, Minister to Preschoolers (3139)
- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Carole McClung, Spiritual Formation Ministry Assistant (3130)
- Katie Murray, Minister of Pastoral Care and to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)

# Tapestry



Wilshire  
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements  
August 17, 2025

Welcome,  
Y'ALL!

Join us for lunch  
today after worship  
in Community Hall

Head down to Community Hall after church as we celebrate the start of a new school year with a BBQ lunch. Cost: adults, \$10; kids 4-9, \$5; 3 and under, free; household max: \$35. Cash/check/credit.

## Anniversary sneak peek

At lunch you'll get a preview of our 75th anniversary celebration in 2026. There will be a short presentation featuring a few Wilshire folks, and you'll learn how you can get in on the planning for our special events next June 13 and 14.

## New members

Yvette and Yonic Medina with Carmen and Mateo.

## Condolences to

■ **Kim and George Mason** on the death of Kim's mother, **Charmaine O'Brien**, Aug. 12.

■ **Larry Link** on the death of his wife, **LaVon Link**, Aug. 14. Daughter is **Katy Link**. Grandchildren are **Link Pritchard** and **Reese Pritchard**.

## Sojourners editor here Sept. 7

Betsy Shirley, editor in chief of *Sojourners* magazine, will be our guest on Sunday, Sept. 7. She will be interviewed in worship on the topic "The Press and the Pulpit: We've Both Got Trust Issues," and all are invited to hear more from Betsy and engage in Q&A over lunch in Community Hall. A graduate of Yale Divinity School, Betsy has worked for *Sojourners* since 2015. She lives in Washington, D.C. Lunch is free; donations are welcome. RSVP at [wilshirebc.org/events/betsy-shirley](https://wilshirebc.org/events/betsy-shirley).

## New this fall: Let's Organize!

Are you interested in working with others to create positive change in our community? Join Abbey Adcox and Georgia McKee for Let's Organize!, a new 6 p.m. option the first and third Wednesdays each month. Come strategize, connect with fellow members and take action together. All are welcome. Fall dates are Sept. 3 and 17; Oct. 1 and 15; and Nov. 5 and 19.



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

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

## Resumes Aug. 20

### Koinonia Café

**5 p.m. | Community Hall** | Buffet dinner for the whole family with kid-friendly options. Cash/check/credit. Full meal, \$10; kids ages 4–9, \$5; kids 3 and under, free; household max, \$35; soup and salad meal, \$7. **Aug. 20:** Butter chicken, roasted vegetables, basmati rice, hummus and pita, lentil soup, mango lassi, garam masala cookies, jello. **Kids:** Butter chicken, vegetable and rice.

### Preschool Music & Missions

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

### 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. Each week is different, with art, music, recreation, science and more. Kindergartners will have choir as part of KidConnect.

### Watershed

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



### Get to Know the New Residents

**6 p.m. | Community Hall** | On Aug. 20, stick around after dinner to meet and learn about our two new pastoral residents, Jordann McMahan (left) and Amanda Hines.

■ **Aug. 27:** Vespers in McIver Chapel

■ **Sept. 3:** Bible Study series begins

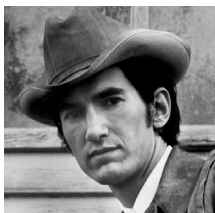
■ **Sept. 3:** Let’s Organize! (see p. 10)

### Sanctuary Choir

**7 p.m. | Choral Hall** | Wilshire’s main adult choir resumes weekly rehearsals on Aug. 20. New singers are always welcome, and there’s no audition.

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

## Songwriter Vespers: Townes Van Zandt, Sept. 14



The music of Townes Van Zandt will be the focus of Wilshire's Songwriter Vespers on Sunday, Sept. 14, at 4:30 p.m. in Choral Hall. As with the John Prine Vespers in March, the event will

be a blend of a coffeehouse performance and a worship service, with readings and liturgical elements interspersed with Van Zandt songs played by Associate Pastor Darren DeMent and others. Coffee and light snacks will be served. Van Zandt (1944–1997) was a Texas-born “songwriter’s songwriter” known for his poetic lyrics and melancholic style.

## Calling all Wilshire authors

If you’ve written and published a book, we need you for the Wilshire Author Fair on Sunday, Sept. 14, from noon to 2 p.m. in Community Hall. Hosted by the Library Committee, this is an opportunity to show and sell your books to the Wilshire community. We already have a list of amazing Wilshire authors, but we may have missed some. If you haven’t been contacted, email Jeff Hampton at [jefton@aol.com](mailto:jefton@aol.com) to get the details.

## IDAT team seeks feedback



The racial justice timeline created by our In Deed and Truth team is on display in James Gallery and the South Lobby. Our new land acknowledgment has been added, and you’ll find space to add your own stories or reflections. You can also scan the QR code to access the timeline and send thoughts via an online form. The display traces Wilshire’s engagement with racial justice over the decades.



## Drop-In Choir: Aug. 17 and 24

If you enjoy choral singing but can’t make a weekly commitment, there are two more chances to sing in the Summer Drop-In Choir. On Aug. 17 and 24 we’ll rehearse in Choral Hall at 9 a.m., then go to Sunday School before leading in worship. We won’t wear robes, and no experience is needed.

## Drop-In Winds: Sept. 14



Anyone who plays (or used to play) a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument is invited to play an easy piece with Wilshire Winds during worship on Sunday, Sept. 14.

We’ll offer an optional rehearsal at noon on Sunday, Sept. 7, and all are welcome Monday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m. for our first regular rehearsal. Youth who play in band are welcome, and we’re also looking for pianists to play melodic percussion. Don’t have a horn? We may have one to lend you. Contact: Shana Gaines ([sgaines@wilshirebc.org](mailto:sgaines@wilshirebc.org))

## Drop-In Bells: Sept. 28

Try playing handbells with Carillon Ringers on Sunday, Sept. 28. Details coming soon.

# Julie Girards marks 20 years on staff

*Minister to Children Julie Girards will be recognized near the end of worship today on the occasion of her 20th anniversary on Wilshire's staff. Julie wrote this reflection for the Tapestry.*

**T**HIS YEAR MARKS A SPECIAL MILESTONE for me — 20 years of serving as Wilshire's minister to children. Over these two decades, I've had the joy and privilege of watching countless children discover who God created them to be, grow in their faith and take their place in our community of believers — a journey made possible through the faithful service of many generous volunteers of all generations who pour their hearts into children's ministry.

One of the greatest blessings has been seeing children know that they are loved unconditionally — by God, by their families and by their church family. When a child is confident in that love, they can face life's challenges with courage and hope.

It has been equally beautiful to watch them hear God's voice in the quiet moments — whether during worship, prayer or even in a casual conversation in Sunday School. Helping them learn to listen for God's guidance is one of the most rewarding parts of this ministry.

Over the years, I've loved encouraging children to discover their uniqueness. Each child is a one-of-a-kind creation, gifted by God with talents, passions and personalities that bring color and life to our church family. A vital part of that discovery is helping them learn to celebrate diversity and see value in every living being. When they recognize the beauty in God's creation and in each other, they carry that love and respect into the world.

Central to our ministry is helping them know who Jesus is and grow in faith — learning to



love God with all their heart and to love others as Jesus taught us. Watching their understanding deepen and their compassion grow has been truly inspiring.

And finally, one of the most beautiful transformations I've seen is when children serve others and become an integral part of our community of faith. Whether helping in worship, participating in missions or encouraging a friend, they live out the truth that faith is meant to be shared.

As I celebrate these 20 years, my heart overflows with gratitude — for the children, for their families, for the volunteers and leaders who have partnered with me and for the God who has allowed me this incredible privilege. My prayer is that the seeds planted will continue to grow for generations to come.

—Julie Girards



## Lunch & Learn returns Sept. 3

Lunch & Learn, held the first and third Wednesdays every month, resumes Sept. 3. All are invited at 11:30 a.m. for a buffet lunch (\$10) followed by Bible study. Katie Murray will lead an introduction to Acts, and we'll meet Wilshire's new pastoral residents. No RSVP needed. Pay at the door.

## Children's and Youth music

■ **Children's Choirs** (grades 1-5), will resume rehearsals Sunday, Aug. 24, from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. after a snack lunch. Unlike last year, rehearsals will be held weekly unless noted.

■ **Kindergarten Choir** will meet Wednesdays at 6 p.m. as part of KidConnect. **Pre-K and 3-year-olds** will have choir during Pre-school Music & Missions, Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Wednesday night activities resume Aug. 20.

■ **Youth Choir** (grades 6-12) will resume rehearsals Sunday, Aug. 24, at 12:30 p.m. in Choral Hall after a snack lunch.

■ **NEW: Middle School Bells** (grades 6-9) starts Sunday, Oct. 19, at 1:30 p.m.

## Firearm disposal event: Sept. 7

Wilshire is co-hosting a "Guns to Gardens" safe disposal event on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration (14115 Hillcrest). This is an opportunity for anyone with unwanted firearms to safely dispose of them. Each gun will be used to create garden tools that the participant will receive at a later date. Guns to Gardens is a national movement working to reduce gun violence, and Wilshire is among several churches forming a local chapter. Find details about the event at [wilshirebc.org/events/guns-to-gardens](http://wilshirebc.org/events/guns-to-gardens).

## Men's Book Club

Tuesday, Sept. 16 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *The Swerve* by Stephen Greenblatt | Contact: Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)) or Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net)).

## Serve at Mobile Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed on Friday, Aug. 22, to serve at the Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation's Mobile Food Pantry. Wilshire serves the fourth Friday morning each month. If you can help, contact Charlie Estee at [cesteedallas@gmail.com](mailto:cesteedallas@gmail.com) by Aug. 19.

## Central Texas flooding relief

Those affected by the July 4 flooding in Central Texas have received vouchers to shop at Kerrville's Salvation Army Family Thrift Store for free. Volunteers are needed to sort and hang clothing, and opportunities are available Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you're interested in going, contact Abbey Adcox ([aadcox@wilshirebc.org](mailto:aadcox@wilshirebc.org)). We are gathering interest and will then select a date to serve.

■ Visit [wilshirebc.org/flood-relief](http://wilshirebc.org/flood-relief) to find donation links.

## MomCo starts new year Sept. 5

Wilshire MomCo is registering for 2025-26 and will meet Friday, Sept. 5. MomCo, which offers encouragement, spiritual nourishment and fellowship to mothers of children of all ages, meets at Wilshire during the school year on designated Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. Child-care with a curriculum is available for ages 0-5. To register, visit [wilshirebc.org/connect/momco](http://wilshirebc.org/connect/momco).

## Women of Wilshire book clubs

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Sept. 4 | Noon | 1205-L | *Great Big Beautiful Life* by Emily Henry. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Sept. 9 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. Contact: Debby Burton ([dburton@wilshirebc.org](mailto:dburton@wilshirebc.org))

# Jason Woodbury

**Hometown:** Little Rock

**Present City:** Dallas

**Education:** BA and MBA, Baylor University

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

Paula is my wonderful wife of 28 years. We have two children, Garrett and Kathryn, and are blessed to be guardians for Sher Moo Ku. Garrett is a Senior at Baylor, Ku is a Junior at Austin College and Kathryn is a Junior at Lake Highlands High School. My mother-in-law, Carole Jean Abernathy, lives with us along with her dog, Lucy. Our yellow lab, Zeus, rounds out the crew.

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

I left NorthMark Strategies this year, where I was COO and SVP of Global Real Estate. I'm seeking God's guidance as to the right path ahead. I volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America and am treasurer of the LHHS Theater Booster Club. It's been fun working with the theater directors and learning all that goes into their performances!

## **Favorite hobbies?**

I love running, cycling and swimming and try to compete in a couple races a year. I also enjoy reading and being out in nature, especially hiking and fishing.

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

I've had the opportunity to travel a lot in my career and at various times have worked in nine countries. My favorite place to vacation is anywhere in the mountains. Our family loves to ski, and some of my favorite memories are skiing with Paula and the kids.



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

We came in 1998 after visiting several churches in Dallas. We were drawn to Wilshire because of its progressive stance, its focus on teaching and missions and the way we were welcomed from day one.

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

I teach Youth Sunday School and am involved in various mission activities. I recently started working with Wilshire's Rental Assistance Program, which was created in 2023 and is doing some amazing work helping those who are struggling to remain housing stable.

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

My father is a retired minister, so I grew up in the church. My faith was largely black and white growing up. I have since learned that uncertainty is OK; that seeking and sometimes not knowing for sure is normal; that a faith which is growing is a faith that is questioning. A quote from the movie *Conclave* speaks to this: "Certainty is the deadly enemy of unity."

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

My left arm is shorter than my right by about two inches.

# THANK YOU FOR GIVING

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

# *This Week*

## **Sunday, Aug. 17**

- Drop-In Choir Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 9 a.m.
- Wilshire Welcome, Prayer Room, 9:45 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. (Promotion Sunday)
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Welcome, Y'all! Lunch, Community Hall, noon

## **Monday, Aug. 18**

- Rental Assistance Program Meeting, 1205-L, 2:30 p.m.
- Deacons Meeting, Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.

## **Tuesday, Aug. 19**

- Wilkinson Center Pantry Assistants, noon
- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, Aug. 20**

- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Preschool Music & Missions, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## **Thursday, Aug. 21**

- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

## **Friday, Aug. 22**

- Friday Friends, 3103, 10 a.m.

## **Sunday, Aug. 24**

- Drop-In Choir, Choral Hall, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Adventurers Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Compass Class Curriculum Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Missions & Advocacy Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Pathways Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Personnel Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2221, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.