



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

August 31, 2025

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparing for worship

I recently traveled to Vancouver, British Columbia, to attend the North American Gathering of Godly Play. It was a beautiful time of retreat, renewal and connection. On the first day, we were invited to cross the threshold, and as we entered the chapel we were asked, “Are you ready?”

As we gather today, the question is, “Are you ready?” Are you ready to worship together? Are you ready for the Spirit of God to move among us? Are you ready to leave distractions at the door and stay off your phone for an hour? If you’re not ready, what can you do to get ready? Do you need to experience the silence or share your concerns with someone so they can pray with and for you? What is holding you back from being ready to cross the threshold?

The second part of the conference focused on story. Listen as you hear the story from Georgia today. What moves your heart? What parts of the story speak to you? Is there a part of the story we could leave out and still have all we need?

Next we were invited to wonder. As we read our passage from Hebrews, I wonder if you have had angels among you without knowing it. I wonder what kind of sacrifice we can offer that would be pleasing to God. I wonder how God reveals Godself to you in the parable of the wedding feast.

Following the wondering, we were given the

opportunity to respond. This could be done however we chose — by drawing, writing, exploring the city, listening to music or meditating. I must confess that I chose to take a nap since it was a cool, rainy day in Vancouver. However you choose to respond today is what is right for you.

On our last evening, we gathered for a feast and enjoyed breaking bread together, enriching our time in fellowship. A couple of weeks ago, we were able to feast together at our “Welcome, Y’all!” lunch in Community Hall. What a rich time we had as we looked at where we’ve been and looked forward to Wilshire’s 75th anniversary in 2026. How can you participate? What is your part in the story?

The last morning in Vancouver, we had a blessing service where we remembered our baptism. We were invited to come to the deep well and touch the living water. There were people there from all over the world — Australia, Uruguay, Denmark, Hong Kong, Canada and the United States. As we came to the living water, words from John 2:29–34 were read in all the different languages. It was a holy moment.

What a blessing to be part of that gathering in Vancouver and part of today’s gathering here at Wilshire Baptist Church. Go in peace, my friends, and be blessed.

—Kelly Akins



4316 Abrams Road | Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214-452-3100 | 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.

On the cover: *Hospitality to Strangers*, Gustave Van de Woestyne, 1920, fresco.

August 31, 2025
11:00 a.m.
Twelfth 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

Amanda Hines

Prelude

Simple Gifts
French Horn Quartet
Chelsea Hopkins, Amy Lee, Juliana Moore, Rachel Woods

arr. John Jay Hilfiger

+Congregational Song

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

1. Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
2. Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
3. Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!

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

+Call to Worship

Andy Brookshire

One: Come, let us praise the God of Heaven

All: For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

One: Let us proclaim God's faithfulness, grace and favor

All: For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

One: May all of creation shout forth with loud Alleluia

All: For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

+Response in Song

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

**Angels, teach us adoration;
You behold God face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation,
Dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!**

Reading from Hebrews — Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Bill Bruster

Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place. Marriage must be honored in every respect, with no cheating on the relationship, because God will judge the sexually immoral person and the person who commits adultery. Your way of life should be free from the love of money, and you should be content with what you have. After all, he has said, I will never leave you or abandon you. This is why we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, and I won't be afraid. What can people do to me?" Remember your leaders who spoke God's word to you. Imitate their faith as you consider the way their lives turned out. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! ... So let's continually offer up a sacrifice of praise through him, which is the fruit from our lips that confess his name. Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.

Offertory

A Scottish Air
French Horn Quartet

arr. Michael Drennan

+Gospel Reading — Luke 14:1, 7-14

Gayle Lawson

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to share a meal in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees, they were watching him closely. ... When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. "When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don't take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have

been invited by your host. The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give your seat to this other person.’ Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. When your host approaches you, he will say, ‘Friend, move up here to a better seat.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up.” Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, “When you host a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. And you will be blessed because they can’t repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected.”

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

Find the Light

David Ramirez

I wish upon you peace
 I wish upon you grace
 I wish for less of what you want
 And more of what you need
 I wish upon you an old life
 With a heart that stays young
 But most of all I wish upon you love

I wish upon you an easy life
 I wish upon you hard times
 I hope you know that both joy and pain
 Each need their moment to shine
 I wish you ears that are quick to listen
 That you’re slow to use that tongue
 But most of all I wish upon you love

I wish upon you truth
 When all you feel is doubt
 I hope you know that an open mind
 Still knows when to shut things out
 I wish upon you a brave heart
 That will always rise above
 But most of all I wish upon you love

As the sun sets the moon begins to rise
 So even in the darkness you’ll find the light
 You’ll find the light
 You’ll find the light
 You’ll find the light
 Yes, even in the darkness you’ll find the light

As the sun sets the moon begins to rise
 So even in the darkness you’ll find the light
 You’ll find the light
 You’ll find the light
 Yes, even in the darkness you’ll find the light

Message

“Table Manners”

Georgia McKee

Anthem

Come Unto Me
Tenors and Basses from Sanctuary Choir
Abigail Garner, flute

David von Kampen

“Come unto me, ye weary, and I will give you rest.”
O blessed voice of Jesus, which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace and peace,
Of joy that hath no ending, of love which cannot cease.

“Come unto me, dear wanderers, and I will give you light.”
O loving voice of Jesus, which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness, and we had lost our way,
But Thou hast brought us gladness and songs at break of day.

Prayers of the People

Charlie Fuller

Silence

We pause in silence to reflect and to be attentive to the Spirit of God.

The Lord’s Prayer

David Childs

Tenors and Basses from Sanctuary Choir
Abigail Garner, flute

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

+Congregational Song

The Solid Rock
No. 590

SOLID ROCK

Sharing of Decisions

Georgia McKee

Benediction

Georgia McKee

Postlude

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel

The flowers today are given in honor of Paul and Mary Early’s
60th wedding anniversary by their daughters Andrea Watkins and Diana Early.

Meet today's worship leaders

Andy Brookshire grew up at Wilshire. He and his wife, Jessica, are parents to Callum, who is 20 months old. Andy's parents are Gail and Steve Brookshire. Andy and Jessica attend Ithaka Class, and Andy is a deacon, a frequent Faith in 3D participant and a member of the lay support team for Pastoral Resident Amanda Hines. Andy is vice president of Atlantic Financial Managers.

Bill Bruster and his wife, Charlotte, joined Wilshire in 2000. They are members of Compass Class. Bill had a long career as a Baptist pastor and before retirement worked with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, encouraging churches in their cooperative missions.

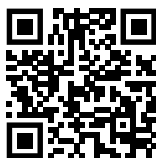
Chelsea Hopkins joined Wilshire in 2022. She is a member of Ithaka Class, plays French horn in Wilshire Winds and sings in Sanctuary Choir and Nova. Chelsea works on Wilshire's staff as executive assistant to Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples and serves as the church clerk.

Gayle Lawson joined Wilshire in 1990 and attends Compass Class. She is a deacon, a Library volunteer and sings with New Song Community Choir. Gayle is retired from a career in accounting and insurance.

Amy Lee joined Wilshire in 2003. She is married to Thomas, and they are the parents of Hamilton, a third grader, and Eleanor, who is 4. Amy plays French horn in Wilshire Winds, directs the Kindergarten Choir and attends Odyssey Class. She works as manager of community outreach at Ryan, a tax services firm.

Juliana Moore joined Wilshire in 1992 and is married to Alex Rivera. Juliana attends Journey Class, serves as a deacon and is a member of the Committee on Committees and Wilshire's In Deed and Truth racial reconciliation team. She works as a consultant in federal criminal defense and plays French horn in several community orchestras.

Rachel Woods has played French horn in Wilshire Winds since January 2024 and also plays with Carillon Ringers. She is a member of the Coppell Community Band and the Irving Symphonic Band. Rachel works full-time as a nanny and teaches in the baby room at her home church, Birdville Baptist in Haltom City.



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)
- 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 31, 2025



Sojourners editor here next Sunday

Lunch registration ends today

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*, which covers topics at the intersection of faith and politics, since 2015. Lunch is free. Childcare is available by registration for pre-K and younger.

■ **Please register** by today, Aug. 31, for lunch and childcare by visiting wilshirebc.org/events/betsy-shirley.



New member

Scott Carr

Condolences to

Hank Mitchell on the death of his son, Ricky Wayne Mitchell, Aug. 24. Brother and sister-in-law are **Damien and Keri Mitchell**; nieces are **Elliana and Everly Mitchell**.

Lunch & Learn returns this week



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.

Youth Choir Outreach Saturday

The Wilshire Youth Choir will serve at White Rock Center of Hope and go bowling as part of their Outreach Saturday on Sept. 6. The youth will participate in WRCOH’s food distribution from 9 a.m. to noon, and then head to Bowlero in Garland for lunch, bowling and games, finishing at 2 p.m. Cost is \$20. Contact Ariel Merivil (amerivil@wilshirebc.org) or Mary Lu Hare (maryluhare@gmail.com) for more information.



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.



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)

Drop-In Bells: Sept. 28

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

New Song starts Sept. 10



Are you passionate about singing or do you simply love making music with others? New Song Community Choir invites you to join them when weekly

rehearsals resume Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 9:30 a.m. in Choral Hall. No audition or musical experience required. Directed by Sarah Stafford, New Song performs sacred and secular music regularly in the community. Rehearsal on Sept. 10 will begin with refreshments in the Parlor at 9 a.m. Learn more at newsongchoir.org.

Life Line Screenings here Sept. 4

Life Line Screenings will screen for stroke and cardiovascular disease risks at Wilshire on Thursday, Sept. 4. For \$129, Life Line will screen for carotid artery disease, atrial fibrillation, peripheral artery disease and abdominal aortic aneurysm. To make an appointment, call 800-324-9458 and use code HABC001 or visit llsa.social/habc.

Library help needed

Librarian Barbara Peterson is looking for Library volunteers to work Sundays from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. a few times a year in rotation with others. Tasks include shelving and checking out books. Contact Barbara (bpeterson@wilshirebc.org) if you can serve.

New? Get some Time with Tim

Time with Tim, an informal chance for guests and new members to connect with Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples, will meet on Sunday, Sept. 14, at 9:45 a.m. in Timothy's office. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

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.

■ Volunteers are needed to help staff the event. Email dallascountyguns2gardens@gmail.com if you can help.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE SEPTEMBER 3

Koinonia Café

5 p.m. | Community Hall | Buffet dinner for the whole family with kid-friendly options. Cash/check/credit. Pricing at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Sept. 3:** Beef and broccoli, fried rice, stir-fried veggies, egg rolls, hot and sour soup, almond cookies, mochi and jello. **Kids:** Beef and broccoli, fried rice, stir-fried veggies.

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. 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.

Sanctuary Choir

7 p.m. | Choral Hall | Wilshire's main adult choir rehearses weekly. New singers are always welcome, and there's no audition.



New Bible Study series

6 p.m. | Community Hall | What do you think of when you think of women and the Bible? Perhaps Mary, mother of Jesus, or the other Mary, who shares the news of the resurrected Christ. This series will highlight the voices of various women in the Bible, using feminist insights to show the expansive ways these women's unique experiences reveal the work of God and witness to the gospel.

Let's Organize!

6 p.m. | Parlor | Are you interested in working with others to create positive change in our community? Join Abbey Adcox and Georgia McKee on Sept. 3 for the first meeting of Let's Organize!, which will be held the first and third Wednesdays each month this fall.

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.

Wilshire Author Fair is Sept. 14

Come browse and buy books from a variety of church member authors at the Wilshire Author Fair on Sunday, Sept 14, from noon to 2 p.m. in Community Hall. Titles span a wide range of genres and topics: short fiction and novels; stories for children; and nonfiction including music, poetry, memoirs, culture, lifestyle, devotionals, photography, recipes, heritage, sermons, self-help and biblical commentary. Presented by the Wilshire Library. If you are an author and haven't been contacted about participating, email Jeff Hampton at jefton@aol.com.

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.



Save the dates

Saturday, June 13, 2026

Special Event

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Worship Celebration



To get involved: Scan code
or visit wilshirebc.org/75.

MARRIAGE Connections

Marriage Connections on Sept. 12

The first Marriage Connections of the fall will be held Friday, Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m. Free childcare (infant–grade 5) will be provided while parents enjoy a short program at the church and then have the rest of the night, until 9:30, to themselves. Connie and Steve McDaniel will serve as the mentor couple this year. Registration is required for childcare and closes Sunday, Sept. 7. Visit wilshirebc.org/events/marriage-connections.

Single, Adoptive, Foster Parents Night Out

Free childcare (infant–grade 5) will be provided for single, adoptive and foster parents on Friday, Sept. 12, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Registration is required and closes Sunday, Sept. 7. Sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/pno.

Preschool Playdate on Sept. 13

Preschoolers and their families are invited to a playdate on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the home of Rachel and Sam Murphy (6230 Berwyn Ln.). Contact: Minister to Preschoolers Kelly Akins (kakins@wilshirebc.org)

Sign up for Sept. 17 Blood Drive

Carter BloodCare will hold a blood drive at Wilshire from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17. 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.



Franky Magana

Lessons from the Lege

ON AUG. 9, MORE THAN 120 PEOPLE gathered at Arapaho United Methodist Church for “What Just Happened in the Texas Legislature?,” an event co-sponsored by Arapaho, Wilshire, First United Methodist Denton and Northaven United Methodist.

The event featured breakout sessions led by Texas Impact, Moms Demand Action and Giffords on public education, immigration, LGBTQ+ equity, gun violence, reproductive rights and upcoming constitutional amendments.

Wilshire attendees appreciated the valuable information and the clear next steps for engagement. Texas Impact’s Bee Moorhead reminded us that advocacy can feel like a Chinese finger trap: the more we react out of fear or resistance, the more stuck we become. What we resist persists. Change doesn’t come from pulling harder, but from shifting how we respond — balancing direct service with policy work and rooting it all in community, faith and family.

At a time when many of our neighbors are affected by legislative decisions, showing up for advocacy is one way we live out our call to love God and love our neighbors.

We encourage you to join us for the next co-sponsored event, scheduled for mid-October at Northaven UMC. Details will be shared soon.

Brummel headed on sabbatical



Associate Minister of Music and Organist Jeff Brummel will be on sabbatical from Sept. 1 to Oct. 12. In addition to spending time with family in Oregon and California, Jeff is scheduled to visit Philadelphia for organ improvisation study with a Yale professor. He will also play organ, observe ministry and take in performances at Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon, Utah's Salt Lake Tabernacle and churches in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Oregon. Jeff said, "I would like to express my gratitude for the generosity of the church that makes sabbaticals possible as well as the musicians and church staff who will be taking on my responsibilities while I'm away to learn and rest."

■ While Jeff is out, Wilshire's organ bench will be occupied by Bill Jernberg, Cindy Fuller and Ariel Merivil. Helping out on piano will be Shana Gaines, Amy Pottkotter, JoBeth Quillian and Candy McComb.

Men's Book Club

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

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)

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

WILSHIRE ▶▶
ADVENTURERS

BOSTON

Birthplace of American Liberty
SEPT. 20-25, 2026

A stylized illustration of the Boston Freedom Trail. It features the red Minute Man statue on a pedestal in the foreground, with the red Old State House building behind it. The building has a prominent steeple and many windows. The background is a blue sky with white clouds and green foliage at the base of the building.

A square QR code with a black and white pixelated pattern, located in the bottom left corner of the poster.

Space is limited!
Learn more and
express interest at
[wilshirebc.org/
adventurers-trip](https://wilshirebc.org/adventurers-trip)

Clint Justice

Hometown: Atlanta

Present city: Dallas

Education: Bachelor's in psychology and MBA from Baylor University

Profession: Executive and leadership coach

Tell us about your family.

I'm originally from Atlanta, Georgia, where I met my wife, Kim, in 9th grade biology. We dated through high school and college and have been married almost 16 years. Our three wonderful kids are Jonathan, 11, Joel, 9, and Rinnah, 6. We love sports and spend most weekends on a field or court. We're active in Lake Highlands, are big Merriman Park Elementary supporters and love supporting the Special Olympics and Down syndrome communities and youth mentoring organizations. My in-laws, Mary and Kenton Keller, sister-in-law Kathryn Keller and our children all attend Wilshire.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I've worked in entrepreneurial ventures and small businesses my entire career. I originally planned to be a therapist, but business exposed me to how much support founders need. That led to starting my own coaching practice, Cascade Coaching, helping business owners grow their businesses and live with greater purpose.

Any favorite hobbies?

Golfing, fly fishing, skiing and cheering (loudly) at our kids' sporting events, often to the eye rolls of my wife and kids.

What are your favorite places to travel?

Anywhere with mountains and rivers. We go to Durango, Colorado, every year to hike, fish, raft and enjoy the mountain air.



What brought you to Wilshire and when?

We started attending in 2022 after transitioning from another congregation and joined in 2023. We were drawn to the inclusive environment, genuine love of the members and a healthier rhythm for our family.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

Labyrinth Class, Pastoral Resident Jordann McMahan's support team and volunteering in First Grade Sunday School.

What surprised you most about Wilshire?

I didn't grow up Baptist, so all the committees!

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

Bringing me into a season of thriving — aligning what I love to do with the people I love to serve.

Tell us about your faith journey.

I grew up Presbyterian, was mentored into faith and grew in service through a nondenominational college church. I want my kids to love God deeply and accept who God created them to be.

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

After two back surgeries, I was invited to play golf with Scottie Scheffler on national TV.

What adjectives best describe you?

Funny, loving, very competitive, dad, husband, 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 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.**

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. 31

- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 1

- Building closed; staff holiday

Tuesday, Sept. 2

- Stephen Ministry CE/Supervision, 1205-G & 1205-L, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 3

- Lunch & Learn, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Preschool Music & Missions, 6 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Let's Organize! Advocacy Series, Parlor, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 4

- Life Line Screenings, 3103, 9 a.m.
- WOW Brown Bag Book Club, 1205-L, noon
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 5

- MomCo, James Gallery, 9 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 6

- Youth Choir Outreach Saturday, White Rock Center of Hope, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 7

- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Belong Team, 1205-L, 11:45 a.m.
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2223, noon
- Drop-In Winds, Choral Hall, noon
- Lunch with *Sojourners* Editor Betsy Shirley, Community Hall, 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.