



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

September 7, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparing for worship

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston is a coming-of-age novel that follows the life of Janie Crawford, an African American woman in early 20th-century Florida, as she seeks love, independence and a sense of self.

The story begins with Janie returning to the town of Eatonville after a long absence. She shares her life story with her friend Pheoby, reflecting on the events that shaped her. Janie's journey is marked by three marriages. The novel ends with Janie returning home, content and at peace, having finally found her own voice and identity. Through Janie's story, the novel explores themes of love, gender roles, independence and the power of self-realization.

It is my favorite book of all time. The imagery is as if Hurston writes mind pictures to tell this story of Janie. I think I might pass this book out to people more than the Bible. It always stays on my shelf and is a story that has been meaningful in my own life.

Story or narrative is so important to all of us. My story, your story, the world's story matters, and how we tell it matters too.

This is true for the Bible as well. While most of the Bible is written in narrative format, Jesus used another format to describe his stories in a different way, through parables. Parables are

short, simple stories that are meant to teach a moral or spiritual lesson. They often use everyday situations or common social interactions to make their messages relatable and easy to understand. Rather than stating the lesson directly, parables encourage the reader or listener to think deeply and interpret the meaning for themselves. They often include symbolism, where characters or events represent larger ideas or values.

For the month of September, we will be doing a series on the parables in the Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel of Matthew contains 23 parables, 11 of which are unique to this Gospel. Matthew's audience is different than that of Luke or even Mark, and as he shares these stories he does so in a way that is meaningful in the context of the people he is serving.

It is my hope that these four weeks are meaningful to us and better our understanding of the kingdom of God. Together let us read, hear and be part of the story of the Wise and Foolish Builder, the story of the Weeds and the Wheat, the story of the Wandering Sheep and the story of the Workers in the Vineyard. And may these stories give new life and perspective to each of us.

—*Timothy Peoples*



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
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: *Broken Vessel*, Lauren Wright Pittman, lewpstudio.com.

September 7, 2025
11:00 a.m.
Thirteenth 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

Jordann McMahan

Prelude

Morning Has Broken
Cindy Fuller, piano

arr. Lloyd Larson

+Congregational Song

For the Beauty of the Earth
No. 341
Stanzas 1–5

DIX

+Call to Worship

Price Tinsley

One: Come, all who seek the solid ground of God's presence —
All who long for a foundation that cannot be shaken.

All: We come to worship the Lord, our rock and our salvation.

One: God is not like shifting sand or crumbling stone —
God is the rock of righteousness, the foundation of justice.

All: We will build our lives on God, and walk in God's ways of truth and mercy.

One: When the winds of injustice roar, when the floods of fear rise high,

All: We will not be moved, for the Lord is our refuge and strength.

One: God calls us not just to hear God's word,
But to live it — to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly.

**All: Let our worship be more than words.
Let it be the beginning of action, rooted in Christ.**

One: Come, people of God — let us worship the One who is faithful and true.

**All: We will worship with hearts grounded in justice,
And lives anchored in the rock of our salvation. Amen.**

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

For Thyself, best Gift Divine! to our world so freely given;
For that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Scripture in Song — Psalm 31:1–5, 9, 13–16, 19–24

Ariel Merivil

Refrain — Sing twice to start and once where indicated thereafter.

My times are in your hands. You strength - en me in strife. My

hope is in your word. Your love pre - serves my life.

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

Refrain

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.
For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

Refrain

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.

I have said, "You are my God.

My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

Let your face shine upon your servant;

save me in your steadfast love."

Refrain

How great is your goodness, which you have laid up for those who fear you;

which you have done in the sight of all for those who put their trust in you.

You hide them in the protection of your presence from those who slander them;

you keep them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.

Blessed are you, O LORD!

for you have shown me the wonders of your love when I was under siege.

I said in my alarm, "I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes."

Nevertheless, you heard the sound of my plea when I cried out to you.

Love the Lord, all you saints;

the Lord protects the faithful, but repays in full those who act haughtily.

Be strong and let your heart take courage,

all you who wait for the LORD.

Refrain

Prayers of the People

Darren DeMent

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

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal
Sopranos and Altos from Sanctuary Choir
Cindy Fuller and Ralph Manuel, accompanists

arr. Mark Hayes

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing
On the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters
With their deep and solemn roar.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Praise the Lamb.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Glory to the great I AM.

And my soul, though stained with sorrow,
Fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters
To the city far away.

Souls have crossed before me, saintly,
To that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly
in the mansions of the blest.

+Gospel Reading — Matthew 7:24–29

Tony Martin

“Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise person who built a house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish person who built a house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell — and great was its fall!” Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

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

“A Firm Foundation”

Timothy Peoples

Interview — Betsy Shirley

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Timothy Peoples and Betsy Shirley

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

Give Me Jesus

arr. Moses Hogan

Katherine Pottkotter, soprano

In the mornin' when I rise, in the mornin' when I rise,
in the mornin' when I rise, give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, you may have all this world, give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.

Oh, when I comes to die, oh, when I comes to die,
oh, when I comes to die, give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, nobody but Jesus,
you may have all of this world, give me Jesus.

Passing of the Cup

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

arr. Jan Sanborn

Ralph Manuel, piano

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

+Congregational Song

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

CHERE PONI

No. 656

Refrain: all

Stanzas: choir only

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Postlude on "OLD HUNDREDTH"

Fred Bock

Ariel Merivil, organ

Candy McComb, congregational song leader

Meet today's worship leaders

Cindy Fuller joined Wilshire in 2024 when her husband, Charlie, began as director of Pathways to Ministry. Cindy is a longtime church musician who most recently served at Lake Shore Baptist in Waco. She attends Epiphany Class, sings in Sanctuary Choir and serves as a substitute organist, pianist and handbell ringer. The Fullers have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Ralph Manuel and his wife, Donna, joined Wilshire in 2018. They are members of Cord of Three Class, and Ralph sings in Sanctuary Choir. A composer, former minister of music and missionary, Ralph serves as handbell coordinator at Wilshire and directs Carillon Ringers.

Tony Martin joined Wilshire in 2014 and attends Whosoever Wilshire Class. He is retired after a 33-year career as a professor of Christian studies at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, where he taught Bible courses, world religions and New Testament Greek.

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.

Betsy Shirley is editor in chief of *Sojourners* magazine and a graduate of Yale Divinity School. She lives in Washington, D.C. Read more about Betsy on page 10, and join us for lunch today to hear more from her.

Price Tinsley grew up at Wilshire and rejoined with his wife, Sara, in 2010. Price and Sara are parents to Gillian, 19, and Anabelle, 15. Price is a deacon, attends Concordia Class, serves on the Committee on Committees and volunteers as a Youth Choir leader. He plays clarinet in Wilshire Winds and is a member of Sanctuary Choir and Carillon Ringers. Outside Wilshire, Price sings in the Turtle Creek Chorale and works for the Texas Department of Public Safety.



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.

Scripture quotations: New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America, used by permission, all rights reserved, adapted for inclusive language. Music reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under One License #A-739361. All rights reserved. Psalm 31 responsorial setting, words ©1982 Anna Mae Meyer Bush. Psalm text from Evangelical Lutheran Worship ©2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress Publishers. *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal* ©2012 Lorenz Publishing Company, div. of the Lorenz Corp. *Give Me Jesus* ©2000 Hal Leonard Corp.

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
September 7, 2025

Wilshire welcomes Sojourners editor

Lunch and Q&A after worship today



Betsy Shirley, editor in chief of *Sojourners* magazine, will explore the trust issues faced by both journalists and clergy in talks at Wilshire today. She will be interviewed in worship, and all are invited as the conversation continues 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.

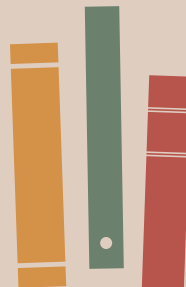
■ **Lunch** is free; those who registered will be given priority. **Childcare** is available for pre-K and younger; contact Kelly Akins (kakins@wilshirebc.org) if you didn't register.

■ **More about the topic:** Journalists and clergy are no strangers to working amid uncertainty while striving to tell the truth. But beyond the usual struggles — dwindling audiences and limited resources — both the press and churches are facing a new challenge: record lows in public trust. Betsy will explore what those of us engaged in different sectors of truth-telling work might learn from each other as we build trust with folks who, frankly, have pretty good reasons to be skeptical.

Wilshire Author Fair

Sunday, Sept. 14
Noon–2 p.m.
Community Hall

Presented by the
Wilshire Library



Author Fair is next Sunday

Browse and buy books from Wilshire authors at the Author Fair next Sunday, Sept 14, from noon to 2 p.m. in Community Hall. Titles span a range of genres and topics: short fiction and novels; children's books; and nonfiction including music, poetry, memoirs, culture, lifestyle, devotionals, photography, self-help, biblical commentary and more. See a list of participating authors and their books at wilshirebc.org/events/wilshire-author-fair. If you're an author and have not been contacted, email Jeff Hampton at jefton@aol.com.

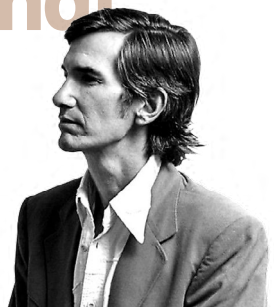


Sundays: Worship at 11 a.m. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Our service livestreams at youtube.com/wilshirebaptist and at wilshirebc.org/worship/livestream. Keep up with Wilshire by subscribing to our YouTube channel and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

Songwriter Vespers Townes Van Zandt

**Sunday
Sept. 14**

4:30 p.m.
Choral Hall



Songwriter Vespers returns

The music of Townes Van Zandt will be the focus of 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.

■ **About Van Zandt:** Townes Van Zandt (1944–1997) was a Texas-born songwriter and performer known for poetic lyrics and a melancholic style. “I got turned on to Townes when I moved to Texas in 1996,” Darren said. “I was initially drawn to the narrative quality of his songs like ‘Pancho and Lefty’ and ‘Tecumseh Valley.’ But the more I listened, I couldn’t get over how the same person could write some of the most beautiful and uplifting lyrics and some of the most heartbreaking and desperate lyrics I’d ever heard. Townes captures the complete range of emotions and the full spectrum of the human experience in a way few other poets or songwriters can. This disparity will be one of our focuses on Sept 14.”

Condolences to

■ **Barbara Peterson** on the death of her daughter-in-law, Kathy Peterson, Aug. 31. Husband is Doug Peterson; brother-in-law is **Chris Peterson**.

■ Sally and **Richard Luttrell** on the death of Sally’s father, Don Socher, Sept. 3.

Drop-In Winds rehearsal today

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.

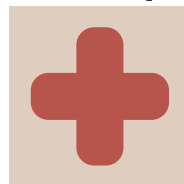
14. We’ll offer an optional rehearsal at noon today in Choral Hall, and all are welcome Monday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m. for our first regular rehearsal. On the 14th we’ll run through the piece at 9 a.m. Youth who play in band are welcome, and we’re also looking for pianists to play melodic percussion. Don’t have a horn? We may have one to lend you. Contact: Shana Gaines (sgaines@wilshirebc.org)



Time with Tim next Sunday

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)

Medical personnel sought



Parish Nurse Linda Garner is compiling a list of Wilshire medical personnel to serve in case of an emergency or to simply be a resource. If you are a physician, registered nurse, nurse practitioner or any kind of healthcare professional, please contact Linda at lgarner@wilshirebc.org.

Register by today for Sept. 12 Marriage Connections

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 ends today, 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.



Choral scholars for 2025–2026

Five students from SMU's Meadows School of the Arts will serve as choral scholars at Wilshire this academic year. Front, L to R: Jayda Ennis (San Antonio); Kathryn Piña (Helotes, Texas); Sophie Young (Charlotte, North Carolina). Back, L to R: River Engel (Houston); Wayne Mkhize (Kimberley, South Africa). All are new to Wilshire except Wayne, who returns for his fourth year with us.

Audition for Faith in 3D

Wilshire's Faith in 3D initiative will celebrate its 12th anniversary in March 2026 with an original production, *Songs of the People: Life's Lessons from Folk Music*.

The show will include a wide array of folk songs, ranging from the lighthearted to the intense, the obvious to the symbolic, the personal to the universal, and the secular to the sacred, all the while providing valuable lessons to young and old alike.

To learn more and to register your interest in auditioning to be a soloist, a narrator or a folk instrumentalist, visit wilshirebc.org/faith-in-3d-auditions by Monday, Sept. 22. Auditions will be scheduled soon thereafter.

The three Ds in Faith in 3D stand for drama, dialogue and dessert. Productions have featured a performance followed by a moderated discussion and a time for dessert.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE SEPTEMBER 10

Koinonia Café

5 p.m. | Community Hall | Buffet dinner for the whole family with kid-friendly options. Cash/check/credit. Prices at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Sept. 10:** Chicken Parmesan, spaghetti, roasted veggies, minestrone, garlic bread, cannoli, cuccidati (fig pastries), jello. **Kids:** Chicken Parmesan, spaghetti, roasted 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.



Bible Study series continues

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 in September and October 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.

■ **Sept. 10:** Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee teaches on Mary Magdalene.

■ **Sept. 17:** Pastoral Resident Amanda Hines teaches on Tamar.

■ **Sept. 24:** Vespers in McIver Chapel.

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

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.

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.

Men's Book Club

Tuesday, Sept. 16 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | Stephen Greenblatt's *The Swerve*, which explores how the 1417 discovery of an ancient manuscript in a German monastery changed how we view the world. | Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net).

WILSHIRE ►
ADVENTURERS

BOSTON

Birthplace of American Liberty
SEPT. 20-25, 2026

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

Deacon nominations sought

THE DEACON NOMINATING COMMITTEE asks Wilshire members to submit names of persons to be considered for deacon service.

Nominees should be individuals who have modeled consistent, faithful service and leadership and who have been Wilshire members at least one year. You may also nominate deacons in reserve to rotate into active service. Nominate as many individuals as you wish. New deacons will be ordained and start their three-year terms after being approved at Wilshire's Annual Church Conference in January. The Deacon Nominating Committee appreciates your prayerful consideration.

What is a deacon, anyway?

The role of deacons originates from Acts 6, where the early church appointed leaders to serve the community's growing needs, allowing the apostles to focus on prayer and teaching. These deacons were chosen for their spiritual maturity and wisdom.

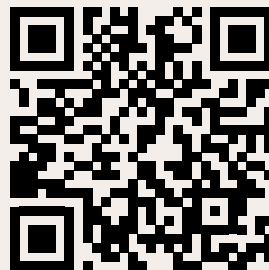
In Baptist tradition, deacons are seen as servant leaders who support the congregation, care for the congregation and promote unity. At Wilshire, deacons are expected to bring their unique spiritual gifts and life experiences to serve the church faithfully.

Deacons at Wilshire are called to demonstrate commitment to Christ and the church, show spiritual maturity and leadership and live with balance, integrity and humility.

Their responsibilities include tithing, attending monthly meetings, serving communion (including to the homebound), participating in hospitality and worship care, and supporting church leadership.

Ultimately, the deacon ministry at Wilshire is rooted in service, not status, emphasizing Christ-like leadership through prayer, presence and faithfulness.

Please submit nominations by Friday, Sept. 26



Online: Scan the QR code or visit wilshirebc.org/deacon-nominations. At the link you will find for reference lists of active deacons, inactive deacons and those who have chosen honorary emeritus status.

Paper Form: Pick up a nomination form in the church office, fill it out and return it to the attention of Chelsea Hopkins.

Deadline: Friday, Sept. 26.

Note: If you have been ordained as a deacon in another church and have not served at Wilshire, please let Chelsea Hopkins know (chopkins@wilshirebc.org).

wilshirebc.org/deacon-nominations

Women of Wilshire book clubs

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

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Oct. 2 | Noon | 1205-L | *Carnegie's Maid* by Marie Benedict. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Let's Organize! meets Sept. 17



Are you interested in working with others to create positive change in our community? Join Abbey Adcox and Georgia McKee on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at

6 p.m. for the next meeting of Let's Organize!, which will be held in the Parlor the first and third Wednesdays each month this fall.

Next Lunch & Learn is Sept. 17



All are invited at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17, for a buffet lunch (\$10) followed by Bible study. Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee will lead as we continue through Acts. No RSVP

needed; pay at the door. Lunch & Learn is held the first and third Wednesdays every month.

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.

Someone to talk with.

If you are facing a life challenge and would like to have a spiritual friend to walk alongside you for a season of healing, perhaps you would benefit from a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry pairs trained lay people with individuals in need of Christian companionship during times of life crisis. Wilshire has trained Stephen Ministers available.

To learn more about receiving confidential care from a Stephen Minister, please reach out using our dedicated email address, stephenministry@wilshirebc.org, or call 214-452-3176.

stephen
MINISTRY®

Rachel Barker

Hometown and Present City: Dallas

Education: Master's in educational administration from Concordia University, Austin

Profession: Pre-K teacher, Mesquite ISD

Tell us about your family.

My family starts with my 93-year-old mother, Barbara Baker. That is not a typo; my maiden name is Baker, and I married a Barker! My husband of 16 years is Chris. I have two daughters, Alison (15) and Charlotte (11), and a bonus daughter, Randi, who is married to Johnson Dao.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I recently began my 26th year in education with my focus this year on Pre-K.

Any favorite hobbies?

I love to do 1,000-piece puzzles during my downtime, which is usually during holiday weeks and summer break. It is the perfect way for me to relax and focus on something nonessential.

What are your favorite places to travel?

I love road trips and Hampton Inn hopping. In 2022, my daughters and I took my mom on an epic adventure for her 90th birthday to help her complete her "all 50 states" bucket list. We left on her birthday and crossed off Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

We were searching for a new church home that had more of a connection with its youth. The first Sunday we visited in November 2024 happened to be the day the youth led the service. Wow! Look how God works!



Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

I attend Koinonia Class with my husband. We also volunteer one Sunday a month as greeters and help with the offering.

What has surprised you most about Wilshire?

The student ministry has surprised me the most. It is impressive to see the hunger for Jesus in the hearts of the youth at Wilshire. The amount of love for everyone shows the true bond between them. This is what I was seeking for my girls!

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

I returned to Pre-K after 11 years in other grade levels. This has been humbling, as I am remembering how to ride this bicycle.

Tell us about your faith journey.

I was born to Christian parents, but in my 20s I quit attending church as I didn't feel connected with the church where I was raised. That changed when I became a mommy. I recommitted myself to the Lord.

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

I am tech savvy, which I learned from my dad, who taught telecommunications engineering at SMU for over 50 years.

What adjectives best describe you?

Patient and determined.

Committee interest form

Wilshire’s Committee on Committees is beginning its work to nominate members for 2025 committees. If you are not currently on a committee and are interested in volunteering yourself or suggesting someone for consideration, please complete the form below. All names received will be considered and evaluated against current committee openings and needs. The Committee on Committees’ final report will be presented at January’s Annual Church Conference for approval. Complete the form below and return it to the church office. The deadline for submissions is Sunday, Sept. 28. Questions? Contact Carolyn Murray at cmurray@wilshirebc.org.

Committee on Committees: *Ed Francis, Jill Granberry, Patty Latham, Steve Melton, Juliana Moore, Rachel Murphy (chair), John Skinner, Laura Smith, Price Tinsley. Staff Liaison: Carolyn Murray*



To submit your preferences electronically, scan the QR code or visit wilshirebc.org/committee-interest-form.

I am willing to serve on a church committee, and my preferences and comments are:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

I would like to suggest the following people be invited to serve on the committee indicated.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

My Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Wilshire committees

Building, Interior and Grounds

Assists staff with maintenance and repair of church property by developing plans to improve the efficient use of the church premises and enhance the security of the property. Consults with other committees and staff to coordinate decor of interior public spaces.

Children's Education

Reviews performance of the children's education program and makes recommendations to the minister to children. Promotes growth in the program, reviews curriculum, helps recruit and retain teachers and establishes policies to ensure the safety of children.

Deacon Nominating

Makes annual recommendations for selection of deacons.

Finance

Develops the church budget and works with the finance director to monitor income and expenses, approving monthly financial statements and reporting them to the church.

History

Maintains archives of the church to preserve a record of our history together.

Library

Advises and supports administration and events for the Wilshire Library.

Missions and Advocacy

Helps guide congregational engagement in our Christian witness through acts of both compassion and justice by supporting and promoting both mission and advocacy partnerships.

Pathways to Ministry

Coordinates and supports work of Wilshire's Pathways to Ministry program, including the pastoral residency program.

Personnel

Establishes duties and responsibilities of ministry staff and maintains personnel manual. Recommends new ministry staff to the church. Recommends ministry staff compensation.

Preschool Education

Reviews performance of the preschool education program and makes recommendations to the minister to preschoolers. Promotes growth in the program, reviews curriculum, helps recruit and retain teachers and establishes policies to ensure the safety of children.

Risk Management

Works with staff to reduce and manage safety and liability risks.

Wilshire Adventurers

Plans activities for the Wilshire Adventurers, a fellowship group for anyone age 60 and above.

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, Sept. 7

- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 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.

Monday, Sept. 8

- Georgia McKee Lay Support Team Meeting, Parlor, 6:00 p.m.
- Wilshire Winds, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 9

- WOW Tuesday Evening Book Club, Parlor, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 10

- New Song Community Choir Brunch, Parlor, 9 a.m.
- New Song Community Choir, Choral Hall, 9:30 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.
- Adventurers Zoom with Road Scholars, 2202, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 11

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

Friday, Sept. 12

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

Saturday, Sept. 13

- Preschool Playdate, Murphy home (6230 Berwyn Ln.), 9:30 a.m.