



Preparing for worship

Tim's sermon series this month on story has me reflecting on my own personal story and how God has unfolded the story of my life. My mom was a school teacher her entire career. In fact, many of my aunts have dedicated their careers to teaching and education.

As children of a teacher, my brothers and I were always the first ones to school and the last ones to leave. I often recall spending the week after school was out helping my mom clean up her classroom and the final weeks of summer setting up bulletin boards and reading centers. It boggled my mind why she was always taking home so many tests, quizzes and grading work every day. It seemed like a never-ending job!

I would tell her that I would never be a teacher. It felt like such a thankless job — little did I know how right I was about that — and so much work. I often wondered why she felt so called to teaching.

As an adult, whenever I run into my mom's former students, I am always struck by their stories as they share the impact of her life on theirs. These encounters helped me understand the actual reason for all those late nights grading papers and early mornings preparing lessons.

As I reflect on the idea of story, I think about impact and how the unfolding of our lives

affects those in our circle of influence. When a vehicle collides with another, the impact changes each object. In many cases, that impact is not for the better. Nevertheless, a change occurs.

What does positive impact look like? An encouraging coach who affirms the underdog, a loyal friend who is there during crisis, a stranger who shows unexpected grace. What is the impact of your life and your influence? In what ways is your story — God's story in you — shifting and shaping the world around you?

The text of our middle hymn today is a prayer asking God to restore in us the splendor of God's love, the wonder of God's power, the fullness of joy and the promise of grace. It acknowledges that the Spirit's work in us breathes out a life that can change spaces, transform communities and empower people.

Just as my mom's classroom became a place where countless students encountered care and growth, our lives can become spaces where others encounter transformational love. My hope for you today is that in our worship, you will seek the God-story of your life and pursue the unique journey that has the potential to imprint the story of Jesus in the world.

-Ariel Merivil



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: *The Lost Sheep from The Parables of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*, after Sir John Everett Millais, engraved and printed by Dalziel Brothers, 1864.

September 14, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Fourteenth 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

Heather Mustain

Prelude Chorale Prelude

arr. Anne McGinty

Drop-In Winds Shana Gaines, director

+Congregational Song

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

HYFRYDOL

No. 335

+Call to Worship Robin Sefzik

One: The Lord is here. God, the Creator above us,

All: The Redeemer among us,

One: The Sustainer within us, is here.

All: In the faces of our friends,

One: In the songs and in the stillness,

All: In prayers of praise and confessions of faith,

One: In all that we do and all that we are,

All: The Lord is here.

+Response in Song

God of Past, Who by Your Spirit

HYFRYDOL

God of hope, to whom our service is entrusted for the day.
When your kingdom is established and all people know your way.
By the leading of your Spirit guide us now, new faith instill;
That we face the future boldly for the doing of your will.

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

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Children's Moment

Jordann McMahan

Offertory

Rêverie Amy Pottkotter, piano Claude Debussy

+Gospel Reading — Matthew 18:12-14

Amanda Hines

What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

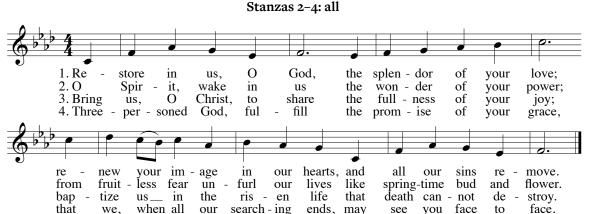
For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God among us, And for the Word of God within us,

Thanks be to God!

+Congregational Song

Restore in Us, O God Stanza 1: choir

BAYLOR



Message

"Sheep Gone Astray"

Timothy Peoples

Anthem

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place Sanctuary Choir Amy Pottkotter, piano Daniel Kallman

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts to me. My soul is longing and fainting, the courts of the Lord to see. My heart and flesh, they are singing for joy to the living God. How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts to me.

Even the sparrow finds a home where he can settle down, And the swallow, she can build a nest where she may lay her young Within the courts of the Lord of hosts, my King, my Lord and my God. And happy are those who are dwelling where the song of praise is sung.

And I'd rather be a doorkeeper and only stay a day
Than live the life of a sinner and have to stay away.
For the Lord is shining as the sun, and the Lord is like a shield;
And no good thing does God withhold from those who walk the way.

Prayers of the People

Dawn Hallman

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! How Sweet the Sound No. 587 NEW BRITAIN

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Anna Laura Page

Cindy Fuller, guest organist Amy Pottkotter, guest pianist

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.

Dawn Hallman and her husband, Steven, joined Wilshire in 2017. They are the parents of an adult daughter, Skye Hallman McQuillan, who is the pastor of a CBF church in Maryland. Dawn is a deacon and teaches fifth grade Sunday School. A longtime educator, she is the executive director of the nonprofit Dallas Association for Parent Education.

Ralph Long has been a Wilshire member since 1981, and he attends the Open Bible Sunday School Class. His adult son, Scooter, is also a Wilshire member. A retired college professor, Ralph taught public speaking for 35 years at Collin College.

Amy Pottkotter joined Wilshire in 2019 along with her husband, Kurt, and their three kids, Joshua, Audrey and Katherine. Amy is a professional vocal coach, soloist and accompanist. At Wilshire she has served as pianist for Youth Choir and Shekinah and has participated in multiple Faith in 3D productions.

Robin Sefzik and her husband, Peter, began attending Wilshire in 2009 and joined in 2010. Their three kids are Jake, a junior at SMU; Levi, a tenth grader at Woodrow Wilson High School; and Jordan, a fourth grader at Mockingbird Elementary. The Sefziks attend Avodah Class. Robin volunteers at her kids' schools and serves on the board of the Young Men's Service League.



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

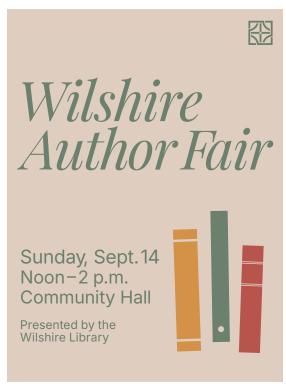
- Chelsea Hopkins, Executive Assistant (3132)
- Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor (3132)

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

News & Announcements September 14, 2025



Author Fair today after church

Browse and buy books from Wilshire authors at our Author Fair today 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.

Friday Friends needs volunteers

The Wilshire Friday Friends program is in need of a few additional volunteers for socializing, fun and games. Friday Friends is a respite program for people caring for a loved one with demen-



tia. On the second and fourth Fridays of most months, the caregivers drop off their loved ones with Friday Friends and then have a four hour break from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to have time to themselves.

Volunteer duties are simple — stay with the assigned participant, engage them in conversation, encourage them in our activities and just generally enjoy their company. We have a busy four hours, and Wilshire provides lunch for everyone. Because the program's emphasis is on building friendships and knowing our participants, we ask that volunteers be consistent in their attendance with the caveat that an occasional absence is unavoidable.

Expertise with dementia is not required. Training will be provided.

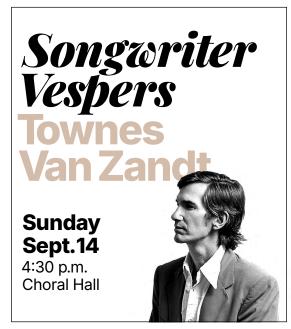
To volunteer or learn more, contact Terry Wade at 817-454-5620 or twade2618@aol.com.







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.

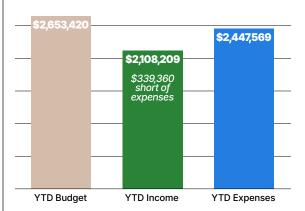


Songwriter Vespers today

The music of Townes Van Zandt will be the focus of Songwriter Vespers today at 4:30 p.m. in Choral Hall. As with the John Prine Vespers in March, the event will be a blend of a coffee-house 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.

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."

Unified Budget Update



Pathways Endowment YTD gifts.....\$16,183 Pathways Endowment Aug. balance\$10,663,381

Condolences to

- David and **Lavonda Mann** and family on the death of Lavonda's father, Johnnie Vincent, Sept. 5.
- Friends and family on the death of **Sammie Wester**, Aug. 30.

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 on the back cover.

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.

Music ministry kickoff on Sept. 28

Worship on Sunday, Sept. 28, will feature most of Wilshire's music groups as they kick off another year of music ministry. "Our ensembles will collaborate to lead our hymn singing and anthems in worship," said Minister of Music Ariel Merivil. "This is a wonderful opportunity to experience Children's Choir, Youth Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Carillon Ringers and Wilshire Winds as we celebrate the gifted musicians who share their gifts with our congregation each week. I hope you'll join us."

Drop-In Bells on Sept. 28



Come play with Carillon Ringers during worship! Handbell experience will be helpful but is not essential as long as you can read basic notes and rhythms. Join us for a

run-through in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Sept. 28, from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Please register your intention to participate by Wednesday, Sept. 24, by emailing Carol Cabaniss (ccabaniss@wilshirebc.org). Questions? Contact Ralph Manuel (rmanuel@wilshirebc.org).



Save the date for hymn festival

The Plymouth Choir from First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, will be joined by Wilshire's Sanctuary Choir in presenting a hymn festival at Wilshire on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Ariel Merivil served on staff at First-Plymouth before joining Wilshire as minister of music.

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 17

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. 17:** Beef and chicken fajitas, onions, bell peppers and toppings, rice and beans, chips and salsa, tortilla soup, chocoflan, polvorones (Mexican cookies), jello. **Kids:** Chicken tacos, beans 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

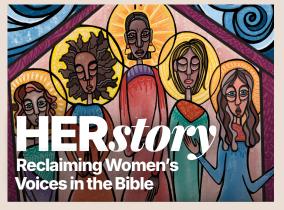
6 p.m. | **K-Grade 5** | A rotation of activities to help kids learn how to love God and others with every part of themselves. Kindergartners will have choir as part of KidConnect.

Watershed

6:30 p.m. | **Grades 6-12** | 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. 17:** Pastoral Resident Amanda Hines teaches on Tamar.
- **Sept. 24**: Vespers in McIver Chapel.
- Oct. 1: Pastoral Resident Jordann McMahan teaches on Ruth.

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







"Swords made into plowshares" at gun disposal event

Last Sunday, 47 unwanted guns were dismantled to be made into garden tools at the Guns to Gardens event co-sponsored by Wilshire and held at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. Each gun came with its own story, and while each may seem like a small drop in the ocean, it confirmed for volunteers that "action is the antidote to anxiety." While gun violence continues to escalate in our country, we can be proud that there are now 47 "swords made into plowshares."

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.

Immigration Court Observer Training on Sept. 20

Wilshire will host a training for immigration court observers on Saturday, Sept. 20, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Community Hall. Neighbors across Dallas are coming together at immigration court to bear witness and stand alongside our immigrant neighbors. This orientation led by Noemi Rios of Vecinos Unidos (Neighbors United) DFW will introduce you to what's happening in Dallas immigration courts and how you can be a welcoming, supportive presence. Volunteers assist families by helping them find their courtroom, offering ways to engage children while they wait and observing hearings to take notes. Join us to learn how your presence can bring dignity and hope in a challenging space.

■ All are invited to join local faith leaders in a **weekly prayer vigil** at ICE's Dallas field office at 8101 N. Stemmons Fwy. The vigil is held every Monday from 8 to 10 a.m. Contact Abbey Adcox (aadcox@wilshirebc.org) to learn more.

Monthly service opportunities

- A Wilshire group serves the fourth Friday morning each month at the Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation's Mobile Food Pantry. If you can help, contact Charlie Estee at cesteedallas@gmail.com.
- Cindy Estee coordinates volunteers to serve as food pantry assistants at the **Wilkinson Center** the third Tuesday each month from noon to 3:45 p.m. Contact Cindy at cesteedallas@aol.com.
- A team of Wilshire volunteers serves lunch at **The Stewpot** on the second Thursday every month. Contact David Cossum at dc@cossum. com to join the team or learn more.

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/deaconnominations. 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

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, regis-

tered nurse, nurse practitioner or any kind of healthcare professional, please contact Linda at lgarner@wilshirebc.org.

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.

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club will meet Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor to discuss 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).

Women of Wilshire book clubs

- Brown Bag Book Club | Oct. 2 | Noon | 1205-L | Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)
- Tuesday Evening Book Club | Oct. 14 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org)

A note from the parish nurse on flu and COVID vaccines

It is time to get your flu and COVID-19 shots. Both illnesses are still present and can make you miserable for several days. It is safe to get both vaccines at the same time. This year, not all pharmacies are giving them, so call before you go to be sure you can get it at your usual place. The vaccines are recommended for all adults over 65 and those with chronic health problems. Other adults need the vaccines as well, even though some official recommendations have changed. They are also recommended for children. If you have symptoms, you can get tested. Stay home until you are fever free for one day. Then if symptoms are getting better you do not have to stay home, but wear a mask for five days.—Linda Garner

Coaching with Charlie Fuller

Wilshire offers a variety of caring ministries, including Stephen Ministry and Care Teams. You can also find the Grief and Loss Center of North Texas and the Center for Integrative Counseling and Psychology under our roof. Along with these resources, Coach in Residence Charlie Fuller is available for free coaching conversations with Wilshire members or friends of Wilshire. Curious about coaching? Coaching is for people who want to:

- become more confident and self-reliant
- establish and follow through on goals
- enhance their relationships
- better handle conflict
- gain better professional satisfaction
- become more fulfilled in their personal life
- think more effectively
- improve their time management
- achieve better work-life balance
- boost their job performance
- increase their effectiveness

You can learn more about coaching at Charlie's website, <u>charliefuller.com</u>. Contact Charlie at <u>cfuller@wilshirebc.org</u>.

Steve McDaniel

Hometown: I grew up in Dallas, but was

born in Borger, Texas. **Present City:** Dallas

Education: My educational and professional background span aerospace engineering (gig 'em, Aggies) to teaching psychology at a university in Morocco, with seminary and pastoring in the middle.

Tell us about your family.

Connie and I grew up, met and married at First Baptist Dallas. We have three children and five grandchildren. Angela, our oldest, and her daughter, Nicolette, are members at Wilshire. Our son and his family are in Washington, D.C., and our youngest daughter and family live in Austin.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I spent 10 years in the aerospace industry working for both General Dynamics on the F–16 and Boeing on the 757. Later, we felt challenged to be involved overseas and pastored an international church in Rabat, Morocco, for a few years. After that we continued living and working in Morocco as teachers for about 25 years. My teaching was primarily at a university teaching psychology. We also worked with several orphanages and charitable organizations. Currently, I'm an ESL teacher at a private institute in Richardson for international students.

Any favorite hobbies?

I like to paint, play the piano and viola and build model airplanes with my grandchildren.



What are your favorite places to travel?

Since returning to the States, we've loved exploring Dallas, getting to know parts of the city we never learned about while growing up. My two favorite overseas trips included Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Syria, both times with my son as tour guide.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

We grew up thinking of Wilshire as the church near Pancho's Mexican restaurant (formerly in Hillside Village), never dreaming one day it would be the community where we could share in their vision and love for Dallas. For the past 10 years, we often visited Wilshire when we were in Dallas. After returning last fall, we decided to make it official and joined in March 2025.

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

My faith message today revolves around seeking first the kingdom of God and being a messenger of the peace of Christ that includes all people at the kingdom table

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

My dream as a boy was to fly planes, and I started flying lessons while in high school, followed by Air Force ROTC at A&M. I was ready to leave college and fly jets when the Vietnam War ended and my career path changed.

Committee interest form

Wilshire's Committee on Committees is beginning its work to nominate members for 2026 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

Tam wanting to be ve on a charen committee, and my protections and committee 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:	
pl	
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.

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.





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/realm.

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. 14

- Time with Tim, Pastor's Office, 9:45 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2223, noon
- Deacon Nominating Committee, 1205-G, noon
- Wilshire Author Fair, Community Hall, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Children's Choir, 2224 & 2225, 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.
- Songwriter Vespers: Townes Van Zandt, Choral Hall, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 15

■ Wilshire Winds, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 16

- Wilkinson Center Pantry Assistants, noon
- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Book Club, Parlor, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 17

- New Song Community Choir, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Blood Drive, Parking Lot, 10 a.m.
- 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!, Parlor, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 18

■ Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.



Wednesday, September 17, 2025 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Wilshire Baptist Church
Carter BloodCare Bus
4316 Abrams
Dallas, TX 75214

Linda Garner, PhD, RN lgarner@wilshirebc.org



CarterBloodCare.org 800-366-2834 | Text CBCDonate to 999-777

*While supplies last. Appreciation gifts may be substituted for a different gift.