



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**September 28, 2025**

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

# Preparing for worship

In 1983, I needed a change. The church where I was a member was filled with wonderful people, but I was ready for a different church experience. When I visited Wilshire, I remember two things that impressed me. First, the Sunday School class welcomed me and made me feel like I belonged even though I was not yet a member. And during worship, all the elements of the service — the Scripture passages, the music and the sermon — were carefully planned to help me focus on God’s love and constant presence. It didn’t take long for me to realize Wilshire was where I needed to be.

For the first few months, my goal was to avoid getting lost between my Sunday School classroom and the Sanctuary. Because I am directionally challenged, I learned one path and didn’t stray from it. I was busy making new friends in Sunday School and couldn’t imagine having time for anything else. That changed when one of those new friends found out I played the flute and invited me to a Wilshire Winds rehearsal. The group included people of all ages and stages of life, people who would never have become my friends if I hadn’t tried something new. Gradually my involvement in

the life of Wilshire grew to include other activities and ministries, and my circle of friends expanded to include more people whose stories of life and faith inspired me.

Looking back, I realize my story is one of the many ways God uses Wilshire to build community. In our mission statement, we aspire “to build a community of faith shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ.” Our order of worship states our purpose for being together on Sunday morning — “We gather in community this morning to worship God.” As we worship together today, we’ll be led by different groups in our community who are involved in music ministry — Carillon Ringers, Children’s Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Wilshire Winds and Youth Choir.

Building community isn’t easy, and it takes time. Because our God is the giver of many types of gifts and talents, all of us are uniquely qualified and needed for our community of faith to become what God dreams we can be. Today, let us follow the directions of the Psalmist and “give thanks to the Lord” and then consider how God may be leading us into new areas of growth and service.

—LeAnn Hampton



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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**On the cover:** Sonoma County, California. Pruning grape vines in wine vineyards, Lee Russell, photographer, 1942, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.

**September 28, 2025**  
11:00 a.m.  
Sixteenth 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**

Lauren Anne Cove

**Prelude**

*Nearer, My God, to Thee*  
Wilshire Winds

arr. Michael Brown

**+Congregational Song**

*All Creatures of Our God and King*  
No. 307  
Stanza 1: Children's and Youth Choirs  
**Stanzas 2–4: All**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
arr. Bankson/Nelhybel

**+Call to Worship**

Betty Ackerman

One: Gracious God, we celebrate with thanksgiving your acts of creation, your making all humanity in your own image, and your presence throughout the world in all of life.

**All: We thank you for the gift of redemption in Jesus of Nazareth in whom  
“the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.”**

One: Generous God, you have promised to open your kingdom to all people, despite their circumstances.

**All: Bring us close to you, and help us to proclaim the goodness of your generosity.**

One: Give us strength to challenge all attempts to deprive persons of their humanity.

**All: Encourage us to support all who suffer on behalf of justice and freedom.**

One: May your church always witness to the gospel's declaration of the uniqueness and value of all persons as your children.

**All: We pray in Christ Jesus that the church may forever bring praise to you.  
Work your power in us to do far more than we dare to ask or think. Amen.**

**+Response in Song**

*All Creatures of Our God and King*  
**Stanza 5**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One,  
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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

O give thanks to the LORD; call on God's name;  
make known God's deeds among the peoples.  
Sing to the LORD, sing praises to God;  
tell of all God's wonderful works.  
Glory in God's holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD  
rejoice.  
Seek the LORD and God's strength;  
seek God's presence continually.  
Remember the wonderful works God has done,  
God's miracles and the judgments God  
has uttered,  
O offspring of the LORD's servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.  
...  
Then the LORD brought Israel out with silver  
and gold, and there was no one among their  
tribes who stumbled.  
Egypt was glad when they departed,  
for dread of them had fallen upon it.

The LORD spread a cloud for a covering  
and fire to give light by night.  
They asked, and God brought quails  
and gave them food from heaven in  
abundance.  
The LORD opened the rock, and water gushed out;  
it flowed through the desert like a river.  
For God remembered God's holy promise  
and Abraham, God's servant.  
So God brought God's people out with joy,  
God's chosen ones with singing.  
The LORD gave them the lands of the nations,  
and they took possession of the  
wealth of the peoples,  
that they might keep God's statutes  
and observe God's laws.  
Praise the LORD!

**Offertory**

*Ain't a That Good News*  
Sanctuary Choir

Rollo Dilworth

I've got a crown up in a that kingdom, ain't a that good news.  
I'm gonna lay down this world. I'm gonna shoulder up a mah cross.  
I'm gonna take it home a to mah Jesus, ain't a that good news, that's good news.

I've got a robe up in a that kingdom, ain't a that good news.  
I'm gonna lay down this world. I'm gonna shoulder up a mah cross.  
I'm gonna take it home a to mah Jesus, ain't a that good news, that's good news.

I've got a home up in a that kingdom, ain't a that good news, that's good news.  
I've got a home up in a that kingdom, ain't a that good news  
I'm gonna lay down this world. I'm gonna shoulder up a mah cross.  
I'm gonna take it home a to mah Jesus, ain't a that good news, that's good news.

From *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible*

Do you like stories? Jesus told stories with surprises, like this one. The surprises helped people think differently about God and life. Listen for something surprising.

“Life with God is like the landowner who went to the marketplace early in the morning. He was looking for people to work for him. ‘Work in my vineyard,’ he said, ‘I will pay you one coin, the same money anyone would pay you.’ These people left to work in the vineyard.

“Around nine o’clock that morning, the landowner went to the marketplace again. He saw people waiting for work. ‘Work in my vineyard. I will pay you fairly,’ the landowner said. These people went to work in the vineyard.

“At three o’clock that afternoon, the landowner returned to the marketplace. Again, he saw people needing work.

“‘Work in my vineyard. I will pay you,’ he said. So the people went to work in the vineyard.

“At five o’clock the landowner went out again. What did he see? More people needing work! ‘Why aren’t you working?’ he asked. ‘No one has hired us,’ they said.

“The landowner told them, ‘Work in my vineyard.’ So they left to work in the vineyard. When it began to get dark, the landowner told his manager, ‘Pay the people who were hired last.’

“The people who were hired at five o’clock lined up. Each of them received one coin. Next, the people hired at three o’clock came to be paid. Each received one coin. The same thing happened for the people hired at nine o’clock that morning. Each received one coin. Finally, the people who were hired early in the morning were paid one coin.

“The workers who were hired first pouted. They complained to the landowner. ‘That’s not fair! We worked the most but were paid the same amount as everyone else.’ The landowner said, ‘You agreed to work for one coin. Are you jealous because I am generous?’”

After the story, Jesus said, “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*  
No. 159

ST. ELIZABETH

**Message**

“Bootstrapping”

Timothy Peoples

**Anthem**

*Zion's Walls*  
Combined Youth and Sanctuary Choirs

Aaron Copland/arr. Koponen

Come fathers and mothers,  
Come sisters and brothers,  
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.  
O fathers don't you feel determined to meet within the walls of Zion.  
We'll shout and go round the walls of Zion.

## Prayers of the People

Julie Girards

### 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

*It Is Well With My Soul*  
No. 573

VILLE DU HAVRE

### Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

### Benediction

Timothy Peoples

### Closing Voluntary

*Draw the Circle Wide*  
Combined Youth and Sanctuary Choirs

Mark Miller

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. No one stands alone; we'll stand side by side.  
Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone.  
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

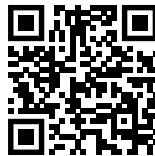
### Music Leadership:

Children's Choir (Grades 1–5), Candy McComb and Shana Gaines;  
Youth Choir (Grades 6–12); Drop-In Bells/Carillon Ringers, Ralph Manuel;  
Wilshire Winds, Shana Gaines; JoBeth Quillian, piano; Cindy Fuller, organ.

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Betty Ackerman** joined Wilshire in 2018. She is a member of Compass Class, where she serves as benevolence coordinator, and she sings in the New Song Community Choir. Betty retired in 2020 after a 44-year career in education. For about 30 of those years, she worked with Region 10 Education Service Center and Texas Woman's University to provide training and support for Reading Recovery teachers in districts across the area. Betty has one adult son, who lives in Kaufman County.

**Lauren Anne Cove** joined Wilshire in 2020 and attends Ithaca Class along with her partner, Collin Yarbrough. Lauren serves on the Personnel Committee, sings in Sanctuary Choir and was ordained as a deacon in 2024. She works as a learning and development professional and is completing her doctorate in education from the University of Southern California.



**We're glad you're here.** If you're a guest today and would like to let us know, please scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to access our online response card. You can also scan the code to make a financial contribution or submit a prayer request. Response cards and offering envelopes are available in the pew racks and can be placed in the offering plate or offering boxes.

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# 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 28, 2025

The Plymouth Choir +  
Wilshire Sanctuary Choir

## *Sing Glory to the Name of God*

A FESTIVAL OF HYMNS



### Hymn festival on Oct. 18

The Plymouth Choir from First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, will be joined by Wilshire's Sanctuary Choir to present a hymn festival here on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 p.m. In *Sing Glory to the Name of God: A Festival of Hymns*, the choirs will bring a message of hope in a program celebrating the many names we offer God. Tom Trenney directs the Plymouth Choir. Ariel Merivil served at First-Plymouth before joining Wilshire as minister of music.

### New member

Alice Boyd

### Condolences to

■ Family and friends on the death of **Cathy Jones**, Sept. 23.

■ **Barbara Peterson** on the death of her brother, John Warren, Sept. 23. Nephew is **Chris Peterson**.

■ Vanessa Barker on the death of her mother, Luz Garnica, Sept. 23.

### Congratulations to

■ **Kit and Weldon Sloan** on the birth of their son, Barrett Warren Sloan, Sept. 23. Big sister is Betty Sloan.

### Let's Organize! meets Wednesday



Are you interested in working with others to create positive change in our community? Join Abbey Adcox and Georgia McKee on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 6 p.m. for the next meeting of Let's Organize!, which is held in the Parlor the first and third Wednesdays each month.

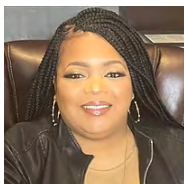
### It's a Lunch & Learn week

All are invited to Community Hall at 11:30 a.m. the first and third Wednesdays every month for a buffet lunch (\$10) followed by Bible study. Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples will teach on Oct. 1. No RSVP needed; pay at the door.



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

## Mission partner meet and greet



Whosoever Wilshire Class will host a meet and greet with a Wilshire mission partner on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 6 p.m. in Room 3105. Tammy Johnson, founder and executive director of Empowering the Masses, will tell the story of the nonprofit — when it was founded, who it serves and what it does, from training classes in phlebotomy to job application help to a market for food-insecure families. All are welcome to come meet Tammy and mingle with the “Whosoevers.” Light refreshments will be served.

## Gaston Center open house

Mission partner Gaston Christian Center will hold an open house on Sunday, Oct. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. All are invited to tour the facility, meet staff and board members and learn how GCC is a resource hub for the community. The center is located at 8515 Greenville Ave.

## 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](mailto:cesteedallas@gmail.com).

■ Cindy Estee coordinates volunteers to serve as food pantry assistants at the **Wilkinson Center** the third Tuesday afternoon each month. Contact Cindy at [cesteedallas@aol.com](mailto:cesteedallas@aol.com).

■ Wilshire volunteers serve lunch at the **Stewpot** the second Thursday every month. Contact David Cossum at [dc@cossum.com](mailto:dc@cossum.com).

## Deacon nominations extended



The deadline to nominate new or returning deacons has been extended to Friday, Oct. 3. Forms are available in the office, or you can scan the QR code to visit

[wilshirebc.org/deacon-nominations](http://wilshirebc.org/deacon-nominations).

## Marriage Connections is Oct. 10

Marriage Connections will be held Friday, Oct. 10, 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. Registration is required for childcare and closes Sunday, Oct. 5. Visit [wilshirebc.org/events/marriage-connections](http://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, Oct. 10, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Registration is required and closes Sunday, Oct. 5. Sign up at [wilshirebc.org/events/pno](http://wilshirebc.org/events/pno).

## Preschool Playdate on Oct. 11

Preschoolers and their families are invited to come play with Ms. Kelly at Flag Pole Hill Park (8015 Doran Cir.) on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:dburton@wilshirebc.org))

## Men's Book Club

Oct. 21 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Contact: Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)) or Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net)).

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE OCTOBER 1

## Koinonia Café

**5 p.m. | Community Hall** | Buffet dinner with kid-friendly options. Cash/check/credit. Prices at [wilshirebc.org/events/wnl](http://wilshirebc.org/events/wnl). **Oct. 1:** Roasted chicken, orzo, roasted vegetables, hummus and pita, lentil soup, salad, honey orange cake, sugar cookies, jello. **Kids:** Roasted chicken, orzo, roasted vegetables.

## 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, plus Kindergarten choir.

## 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 resumes

**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.

■ **Oct. 1:** Pastoral Resident Jordann McMahan teaches on Ruth.

■ **Oct. 8:** Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples teaches on Esther.

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

# 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](mailto: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](http://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.

## Middle School Bells starts Oct. 19

Middle School Bells is a new opportunity for students in grades 6–8 to learn more about reading music and developing musicianship in a low-pressure setting. Starting Oct. 19, the group will rehearse in the Handbell Room from 1:30 to 2 p.m. on Sundays. Jeff Brummel, who has years of college and private teaching experience, will direct. Contact Jeff with questions at [jbrummel@wilshirebc.org](mailto:jbrummel@wilshirebc.org). Note: Jeff is on sabbatical until Oct. 13.

## 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](mailto:lgarner@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*

# 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](http://wilshirebc.org/give).

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

**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.

# Chris Barker

**Hometown:** Dallas

**Present City:** Dallas

**Profession:** Director of Environmental Services at Juliette Fowler Communities

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

I am the father of three beautiful girls, Randi Dao, 32, Alison, 15, and Charlotte, 11. I've been the husband of Rachel Barker, a Pre-K teacher in Mesquite, for 17 years as of Sept. 20.

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

I have over 30 years of experience in management of logistics and inventory control.

## **Any favorite hobbies?**

I enjoy backing my daughters' hobbies. Alison is involved in JROTC and Girl Scouts. Charlotte enjoys drawing and designing costumes. Both love gaming. I look forward to watching them grow their relationship with Christ through the support of our wonderful church family.

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

I love a good road trip anywhere in Texas, especially East Texas, to go camping or glamping. I also love a good Caribbean cruise!

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

Wilshire was recommended because of its acceptance of all through following Christ's example of loving all people, no matter where they are in their journey. We started in November 2024 and joined at the end of February.

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

I attend Koinonia Class, serve as a greeter



and assist with the offering on the first Sunday each month.

## **What has surprised you most about Wilshire?**

I am most surprised by how quickly I became comfortable. I also enjoy the mix of various music ministries Wilshire shares each Sunday.

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

Within the last year, I have joined a new church. I started a new job in a role larger than any I have ever had. My relationships with my daughters have gotten better over this year.

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

It started when I was 12 at West Texas Boys Ranch in Central Texas. I had ups and downs in my faith, as anyone does, but I have always held true to God. I am proud to say I have three daughters who are also daughters of Christ.

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

I know how to juggle; I was a rodeo clown for the American Junior Rodeo Association, and I was a gymnast.

## **What adjectives best describe you?**

I am sillily charming.



WILSHIRE ►►  
ADVENTURERS

# BOSTON

*Birthplace of American Liberty*

SEPT. 20-25, 2026



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## ***This Week***

### **Sunday, Sept. 28**

- Adventurers Trip to Arizona
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2223, noon
- Deacon Nominating Committee, 1205-G, noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 p.m.

### **Monday, Sept. 29**

- Adventurers Trip to Arizona
- Wilshire Winds, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.

### **Tuesday, Sept. 30**

- Adventurers Trip to Arizona

### **Wednesday, Oct. 1**

- Adventurers Trip to Arizona
- New Song Community Choir, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Committee on Committees, 1205-G, 6 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, Oct. 2**

- Adventurers Trip to Arizona
- WOW Brown Bag Book Club, 1205-L, noon
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.
- WOW Dinner at Birdie's Eastside, 6 p.m.
- Faith in 3D Auditions, Choral Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### **Friday, Oct. 3**

- Adventurers Trip to Arizona

### **Saturday, Oct. 4**

- Adventurers Trip to Arizona
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 9 a.m.