



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**May 17, 2026**  
*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

# Preparing for worship

Today is an exciting day in the life of Wilshire. We are honoring our graduating seniors, blessing them and sending them forth into the world to do good work. Many of them were dedicated or baptized here in this Sanctuary, and we promised to pray for them, teach them and love them as they grew.

We will continue to love them and pray for them as they go forth. As Timothy says, “May they have a good life, not an easy life.” Graduates, go and be blessed. We are proud of you.

One of our longstanding traditions at Wilshire is for the youth to sing composer Allen Pote’s setting of Psalm 139. This song teaches us that God knew us before we were made and knows us from birth to death. We cannot flee from God’s presence because God is always with us and walks before us. We are never alone, and it is our responsibility to believe faithfully because God promises to always be with us.

This morning we will also sing the hymn, “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus,” and the second verse also speaks to this idea. Music speaks the words my heart needs to hear today:

*Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! Christ is near us,  
faith believes, nor questions how;  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
when the forty days were o’er  
Shall our hearts forget his promise,  
“I am with you evermore”?*

Our Gospel reading today is John 17:1–11. In this passage, Jesus is praying to God. Our precious gift from God is eternal life that is given to us through Jesus Christ. Jesus submits obediently to God by giving up his life. I wonder when I am called to be obedient to God. Obedience in my life usually comes with reluctance and over time. I wonder how I can be obedient more consistently. Graduates, I pray that you will listen to the Spirit of God and be obedient to Christ Jesus.

In this passage, Jesus prays for protection of his own. That’s me and you. What a comfort that is. As our graduates go out into the world to do good work, they leave us knowing that Jesus is praying for their protection, and so are we.

—*Kelly Akins*



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:** *Wonderfully Made*, Amy Donaldson. Used by permission. [amydonaldson.com](http://amydonaldson.com)

May 17, 2026  
11:00 a.m.  
Seventh Sunday of Easter

**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.

<b>Welcome to Worshipers</b>		Amanda Hines
<b>Prelude</b>	<i>Prelude in Classic Style</i>	Gordon Young
<b>+Congregational Song</b>	<i>Alleluia, Sing to Jesus</i> No. 217	HYMN TO JOY
<b>+Call to Worship</b>		LeAnn Hampton

One: In moments of change —  
When one chapter ends and another begins —  
God meets us right where we are.

**All: In the uncertainty of endings,  
And the hope of new beginnings,  
God is our constant companion.**

One: Whether we are stepping into the unknown,  
Letting go of what was,  
Or leaning into what is yet to come —

**All: We bring our questions, our fears,  
Our dreams, and our faith.**

One: This is sacred ground.  
In the shifting of seasons,  
God's love remains steady,  
and the Spirit moves among us.

**All: Let us worship the God who guides us through transition —  
With courage, with trust, and with open hearts.**

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

**Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.  
Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.**

**Recognition of Graduates**

Darren DeMent

**Litany of Blessing**

Andrew Burton

One: Wilshire, you have nurtured these students through their formative years by holding them, rocking them, singing with them, teaching them, playing with them, crying with them and laughing with them. Will you now bless them as they prepare for a new phase of life and learning?

**All: We bless them in the name of the Lord.**

One: Just as we know that the babies presented in this sacred space with their families do not belong to their parents but to the Lord, so we know that these graduates do not belong to us but to the Lord. Will you send them forth from this place with full trust that God, who has begun a good work in them, will carry that work forward until the day of its completion?

**All: We send them out with joy.**

One: Will you commit to pray for these graduates, to encourage them as they strive to live into their vocations, and to keep open arms in this fellowship of faith, so that they always will have a spiritual place to call home?

**All: We commit ourselves to this cause.**

One: Blessed be the name of the Lord, who has raised up children of faith among us.  
May the name of the Lord be forever praised. Amen.

**Congregational Song**

*Fontanelle*

Eef Barzelay

May the sun always shine on you  
And each day feel so bright and new  
And may God hold you in the palm of his hand

May the moon always light your way  
And love be forever and here to stay  
And may God hold you in the palm of his hand

When your time has reached its end  
Then may paradise be just around the bend

If the world should turn its back to you  
And it seems there's nothing left to do  
Then may God hold you in the palm of his hand

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. ... Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that God may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on on the One who cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist the devil, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To God be the power forever and ever. Amen.

**Offertory**

*Toccata on "Amazing Grace"*  
Katherine Pottkotter, organ

arr. J. Christopher Pardini

**+Gospel Reading** — John 17:1-11

Julie Francis

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy God, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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**

"All Are Neighbors: How Jesus Asks Us to Love"

Dr. Greg Garrett

**Anthem**

*Psalm 139*  
Youth Choir

Allen Pote

Lord, you have searched me and known me; you know everything I do.  
When I rise up, when I lie down, you are with me through and through.  
    Before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say,  
        Your presence follows me day by day.  
Where can I flee from your Spirit? Where can I go to run away?  
    If I go to heaven, or live in hell, you are there.  
Search me, O God, and know me, try me and know my heart.  
    See if there be any wicked way in me,  
    And lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

Jordann McMahan

**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**

*Blessed Assurance*  
No. 619

ASSURANCE

**Sharing of Decisions**

Darren DeMent

**Benediction**

Dr. Greg Garrett

**Closing Voluntary**

Improvisations on themes from the day

Jeff Brummel

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Andrew Burton** joined Wilshire in 1998 at age 9 with his parents, Debby and David Burton, and brother, Josh. Andrew was active in Wilshire's youth group growing up and now volunteers as a youth Sunday School teacher and sponsor for Youth Camp and Youth Choir Tour. He is also a deacon and has traveled with Wilshire groups to Ghana and Puerto Rico. Andrew works in the accounting department at Trek Resources.

**Tim Cruise** joined Wilshire in 2014 and served as a student ministry intern in summer 2012 and from 2014 to 2016. He teaches English at Roosevelt High School in DISD and previously taught in public schools in Fort Worth and Chicago. Tim recently completed a master's degree in theological studies from TCU's Brite Divinity School and lives in Dallas with his wife, Dr. Sydney Curtis.

**Julie Francis** grew up at Wilshire. Her parents are Linda and Ed Francis, and her sisters are Molly, Kathleen and Rebecca. Julie is a member of the Intersection Sunday School Class and serves on the Deacon Nominating Committee. She works as a neonatal ICU nurse at Parkland Hospital.

**Greg Garrett**, our guest preacher today, is a professor and professional writer who teaches creative writing, film, literature and theology classes at Baylor University. He is the author of 30 books of fiction, nonfiction, memoir and translation. Greg's most recent nonfiction book is *The Gospel According to James Baldwin*. A seminary-trained Episcopal lay preacher, he is canon theologian in residence at the American Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Paris.

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

**Katherine Pottkotter** 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. A Wilshire member since 2019, she is active in Wilshire Student Ministry, sings in Youth Choir and Shekinah and studies organ with Jeff Brummel. Katherine will attend DePaul University this fall.



**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.

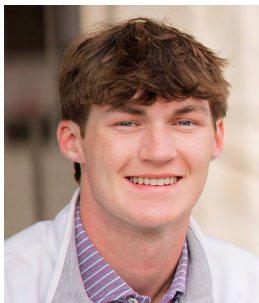
# ***Congratulations, high school graduates***



**Whit Anderson**  
*Woodrow Wilson  
High School  
University of Texas  
at Austin*



**Becca Dyer**  
*Garland High School  
University of Colorado  
Boulder*



**Ethan Howland**  
*Woodrow Wilson  
High School  
Louisiana State  
University*



**Ava Hurst**  
*Central High School,  
Keller  
Tarrant County College*



**Logan Knabe**  
*Richardson High School  
University of Texas  
at Austin*



**Tiffany Mahan**  
*Woodrow Wilson  
High School  
University of Texas  
at Tyler*



**Miriam McClung**  
*Lake Highlands  
High School  
Carleton College*



**Katherine Pottkotter**  
*Lake Highlands  
High School  
DePaul University*



**Maya Rahman**  
*Berkner High School  
Texas State University*



**Elle Sheaffer**  
*Woodrow Wilson  
High School  
University of Oklahoma*



**Benjamin Standefer**  
*St. Mark's School of Texas  
Duke Univ. and UNC  
Chapel Hill (Robertson  
Scholars Program)*

# ***Congratulations, college graduates***



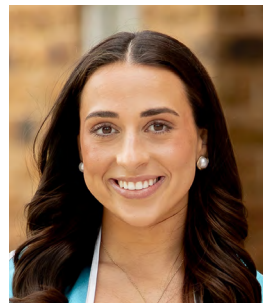
**Camryn Adcox**  
*University of Oklahoma*  
BS, Nursing



**Trace Cabaniss**  
*Texas A&M University*  
BS, Sport Management



**Evelyn Carroum**  
*University of Arkansas*  
BA, Psychology;  
Anthropology minor



**Grace Carroum**  
*University of Arkansas*  
BS, Human Environmental Sciences



**Mitchell Easley**  
*University of Oklahoma*  
BBA, Accounting



**Caroline Griffin**  
*University of Oklahoma*  
BBA, Marketing and Supply Chain Management;  
MIS minor



**Landon Hyder**  
*Louisiana State University*  
BS, Mechanical Engineering



**Ava McClung**  
*Rice University*  
BA, Religion and Medieval Studies



**Alex Nadalini**  
*Univ. of Texas at Austin*  
BA, International Relations; Business and Italian minors



**Chris Walters**  
*Texas A&M University*  
BS, Political Science



**Garrett R. Woodbury**  
*Baylor University*  
Bachelor of Music,  
Music Composition

# 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 McCrae, Director of Finance (3131)

## Food Services

- Haley Garcia, Food Service Director (3117)
- 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)

**Note:** Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples is on sabbatical through May 26. If you have emergency pastoral care needs during this time, contact Katie Murray ([kmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:kmurray@wilshirebc.org)). Timothy's assistant, Chelsea Hopkins ([chopkins@wilshirebc.org](mailto:chopkins@wilshirebc.org)), can help with any other matter.

## 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

- 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)
- Jordann McMahan, Pastoral Resident (3155)

## 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  
May 17, 2026

## WILSHIRE IN THE PARK

Churchwide Picnic  
Today, May 17  
5–7 p.m.  
Flag Pole Hill  
Pavilion

Don't miss our annual picnic with food, face painting and fun at Flag Pole Hill's inclusive playground. The pavilion and picnic tables are ours to use; bring your own chairs or blankets. Wilshire will provide fried chicken, rolls and drinks. The rest of the meal is potluck by last name:

- A-F, salad      ■ N-S, fruit
- G-M, dessert   ■ T-Z, veggies

Please use disposable containers and serving utensils; bring enough food for eight.

### Condolences to:

**John Paul Bright** on the death of his mother, **Mary Lynne Bright**, May 9.

### Wilshire Welcome today

A one-hour information session for guests and new members will meet May 17 at 9:45 a.m. in the Prayer Room near McIver Chapel.

### College class this summer

A summer Sunday School class for college students will kick off today, May 17, with a "welcome home" breakfast for students to reconnect and catch up. The class will meet through Aug. 9 in Room 2202 with Trey Wilson teaching. All college students are welcome, whether they're around all summer or can only pop in a few times.

### George Mason returns to Wilshire pulpit next Sunday

Senior Pastor Emeritus George Mason will preach at the 11 a.m. service next Sunday, May 24, the final Sunday of Timothy Peoples's sabbatical. George was Wilshire's senior pastor from 1989 until 2022.

### Lunch & Learn is May 20

The final Lunch & Learn before a summer break will be held Wednesday, May 20. All are invited to Community Hall at 11:30 a.m. for lunch (\$10) and Bible study.



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

## History wall updated

In conjunction with Wilshire's 75th anniversary, a panel has been added to the history display between the office and the Library. The new panel covers roughly the last 15 years and brings the display up to date.

## Can you help with VBS?

Vacation Bible School is just one month away, set for June 15–18 from 9 a.m. to noon (with no VBS on Friday in observance of Juneteenth). Everything is in place for a great week — engaging curriculum, enthusiastic kids, creative arts, music, recreation, missions activities, worship, comfortable indoor spaces and a well-stocked volunteer break room. What we still need are enough volunteers to make it happen. If you've considered helping, this is a great opportunity. (Did we mention it's only four days this year?) No experience is needed; training will be provided. To volunteer with elementary classes, contact Julie Girards ([jjgirards@wilshirebc.org](mailto:jjgirards@wilshirebc.org)). To help with preschoolers, contact Kelly Akins ([kakins@wilshirebc.org](mailto:kakins@wilshirebc.org)).

## WSM summer preview for parents

On Sunday, May 31, youth parents are invited to join Darren DeMent in the Youth Center for lunch and a walkthrough of the Wilshire Student Ministry summer calendar. This will be particularly helpful for families entering their first summer with WSM. Summer is the busiest and best time of year for WSM, with Youth Camp plus weekly opportunities for fellowship, service and spiritual formation. It's a great time to strengthen established relationships and create new ones, and we want as many youth as possible to be plugged in. Darren will explain why summer is so important and discuss events like Study-n-Swim, Tuesday Missions and the Wheel of Lunch. No RSVP needed.

## Meals packaged on MLK Day are headed to Philippines

Rise Against Hunger reports that meals from our Jan. 19 meal packing event are headed to the Philippines. One of the world's most environmentally disaster prone countries, the Philippines faces near constant threats of natural disasters like earthquakes, typhoons and volcanic eruptions. These disasters cause displacement and loss of livelihoods and infrastructure and disproportionately affect poor communities in rural areas reliant on agriculture and fishing. Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations that support educational programs by providing meals to children at schools and child development centers. In some cases, the food children receive at school will be the majority of the food they eat in a day. The meals you packaged will help ensure that children have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives and successfully pursue their education.

## Wilshire meetup at Dallas Pride

Wilshire folks are invited to meet up at the Dallas Pride 2026 Main Street Festival on Saturday, June 6, at 1 p.m. Wear your Wilshire gear and join us as we explore the event's new downtown location. Contact Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org)) or Colman Vigil if you plan to attend so we can coordinate. Admission is \$10; buy tickets at [dallaspride.org](http://dallaspride.org).

## Blood Drive makes Sunday return

Carter Blood Care will hold a blood drive at Wilshire on Sunday, May 31, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Their bus will be located on Ravendale Lane. Parish Nurse Linda Garner said, "Since the pandemic, our blood drives have been on Wednesdays. I hope having it on Sunday allows for greater participation, as blood supplies are quite low." Walk-ins welcome; appointments recommended. Visit [wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive](http://wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive).

# SERVING ADVOCATING CARING CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



## Homecoming help needed

Many have already volunteered to help with our Homecoming event on June 13, but we could use more folks to make this meaningful day



run as smoothly as possible. Scan the QR code or visit [wilshirebc.org/75](http://wilshirebc.org/75) to sign up for a shift. You won't have to miss the 6 p.m. Sanctuary gathering. Please plan to attend a **volunteer lunch and training** on Sunday, May 31, at noon. (Makeup date: June 3, 6 p.m.)

## 75th Anniversary Weekend

### Saturday, June 13

#### Homecoming Celebration

■ **4:45–7:30 p.m.** | Catch up with friends, explore the building and browse history displays at featured stops, with a time for reflections and remembrances in the Sanctuary at 6.

■ **7–10 p.m.** | Extended come-and-go fellowship at Times Ten Cellars. 6324 Prospect Ave.

### Sunday, June 14

#### Worship Celebration

■ **11 a.m.** | Our special 75-minute worship service in the Sanctuary will include a message by **Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas**, canon theologian at Washington National Cathedral and a visiting professor at Harvard Divinity School.

## This Week in Wilshire History

**May 19, 1957.** Wilshire gained its 1,000th member.



**May 19, 1968.** Bill James directed the Youth Choir in an evening performance of *Good News: A Christian Folk-Musical* by Bob Oldenburg.



**May 19, 2004.** Doug Haney was called as Wilshire's minister of music. He served until 2023 and became associate pastor in 2020.



**May 20, 2002.** Jay Hogewood began his term as Wilshire's first pastoral resident.

## New Song concert is June 3

New Song Community Choir will present a concert at Wilshire on Wednesday, June 3, at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary. *Then Sings My Soul* is the theme for the program, which will include sacred and secular favorites. The Wilshire Adventurers will host a reception following the program in James Gallery.

## Neurodiversity speaker coming

Neurodiversity, inclusion and childhood spirituality will be the focus of a special guest at Wilshire on Aug. 8 and 9. Rev. Harrison Litzell is a children's ministry expert at Mercer University's Baugh Center for Baptist Leadership, where he equips churches to engage with these vital issues. Harrison will lead a **parenting session** on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. On Sunday, Aug. 9, he will offer a **teacher training** from noon to 2:30 p.m. (lunch provided). Childcare will be offered both days. Register at [wilshirebc.org/events/litzell](http://wilshirebc.org/events/litzell).

## Serve with our mission partners

To see ways you can serve alongside other Wilshire members with one of our mission or advocacy partners, visit [wilshirebc.org/serve](http://wilshirebc.org/serve).

## Women of Wilshire book clubs

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Thursday, June 4 | Noon | 1205-L | *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | June 9 | 6:30 p.m. | 1205-G | *Nothing Daunted* by Dorothy Wickenden. Contact: Debby Burton ([debbyb0929@gmail.com](mailto:debbyb0929@gmail.com))

## Men's Book Club

Tuesday, May 19 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *Jesus and John Wayne* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez. Contact: Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)) or Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net))

# This Week

## Sunday, May 17

- WSM Graduate Recognition Breakfast, Manny's in Hillside Village, 8:30 a.m.
- Worship Service, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Wilshire Welcome, Prayer Room, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Personnel Committee, 1205-G, noon
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.
- Wilshire at the Park, Flag Pole Hill, 5 p.m.

## Monday, May 18

- Wilshire Winds, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## Tuesday, May 19

- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6 p.m.
- New Song Spring Fling, Comm. Hall, 6 p.m.
- Men's Book Club, Parlor, 7 p.m.

## Wednesday, May 20

- New Song, Sanctuary, 9:30 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, James Gallery, 11:30 a.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, May 21

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

## Friday, May 22

- Friday Friends, 3301, 10 a.m.



On May 12, Wilshire hosted 70 people from eight faith traditions in partnership with Sharing Sacred Spaces. After a meal and a discussion of our Baptist heritage, various Wilshire ministers led a building tour that ended with an organ demonstration.



*In our Baptist tradition, pastors are not assigned to churches; they are called by them. Over 75 years, Wilshire has extended that call only five times. We give thanks for those who have answered — serving among us, not over us, each bringing their own distinct gifts to the role of senior pastor.*



Wilshire's first pastor was **Huber Drumwright**. He served on a part-time basis from 1951 until 1955, a period of growth and building for the young church.



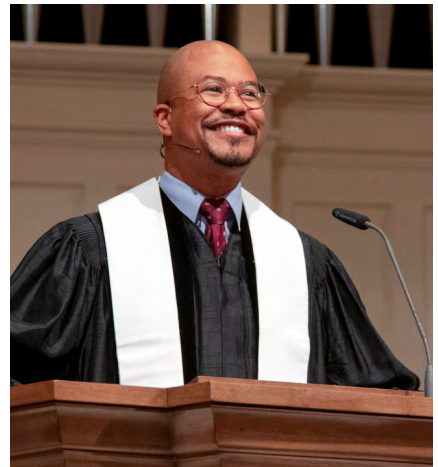
**Ralph Langley** was pastor from 1955 to early 1958. During Langley's tenure, the Wilshire membership grew from 439 to 1,391.



**Bruce McIver** was a Wilshire member when he was called as pastor in 1958. He would serve 30 years, leading Wilshire as it grew in numbers, facilities and mission work. Bruce retired in 1988 and was pastor emeritus until his death in 2001.



Under **George Mason**, senior pastor from 1989 until 2022, Wilshire aligned with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and grew in inclusion and interfaith work. George started Wilshire's pastoral residency program in 2002.



**Timothy Peoples**, who served as a Wilshire pastoral resident from 2015 to 2017, began as the church's fifth senior pastor in January 2023.

# Ann Hill

## What brought you to Wilshire and when?

I was a member of First Baptist Church in Dallas, but when a date invited me to the Sunday evening service at Wilshire in May 1957, I felt at home and joined that very night. I joined again in 1973 when I returned to Dallas after living in Oklahoma and California.

## Who was pastor when you joined?

Ralph Langley.

## What was the building like?

There was only the one building, which today is the chapel. It was turned the opposite way from how it is today. A small building adjoined the chapel where fellowships, etc. were held as well as choir rehearsals.

## What ministries or staff members have impacted your life?

Bruce McIver and Bob Feather. From 1958 to 1966, I was secretary to Bob Feather, Wilshire's minister of education. I took a significant pay cut, but I felt Wilshire was the right workplace for me. I started working at Wilshire just prior to the calling of Bruce McIver as pastor. Since I was already on staff when Bruce was called, I always kidded him that I had seniority!

## What's one thing you'd like newer folks to know about Wilshire's history?

Because we were small in number, it was possible to know everyone. I remember the fund-



raising campaigns for educational space and the Sanctuary. My wedding in 1966 was the first to be performed in Wilshire's new Sanctuary.

## What's something from the early days that might surprise newer members?

There were no women deacons and none in places of responsibility except for the Women's Missionary Union. In fact, in our early church directories, women's given names were not listed. The entry would read: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Johnson or Mr. and Mrs. Paul Henderson.

## What has stayed the same?

The fellowship and care for each other.

## Why have you stayed so long?

I have stayed because it's my second family. My biological family is very small, and I treasure friendships at Wilshire.