# CELEBRATING 75 YEARS: A WILSHIRE TIMELINE

**June 14, 1951**
Organizational meeting at Carswell home

**Sept. 2, 1951**
Huber Drumwright called as pastor

**June 9–13, 1952**
First VBS

**June 24, 1951**
First public worship, Wilshire Theater

**July 18, 1954**
Dedication of chapel

**Sept. 4, 1955**
Ralph Langley becomes pastor

**Nov. 29, 1953**
First building dedicated

**Jan. 27, 1956**
Bob Feather called, min. of ed.

**1957**
First building expanded northward

**Jan 18, 1959**
Bill O'Brien called, min. of music

**Feb. 13, 1960**
Bruce McIver weds Lawanna House

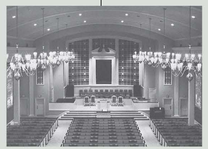
**1961**
Building expanded again

**Nov. 2, 1958**
Bruce McIver called as pastor

**Aug. 7, 1965**
Sanctuary steeple raised

**Aug. 10, 1966**
Bill James called, min. of music

**Nov. 22, 1963**
Kennedy assassination



**Aug. 19, 1962**
Wilshire dedicates retreat cabin at Mount Lebanon camp

**May 1, 1966**
First worship in new Sanctuary

**Nov. 19, 1967**
Larry Shotwell starts, min. of ed.

**Jan. 1971**
Handbells donated; handbell choirs begin

**June 1, 1971**
Playground equipment and fence donated

**Oct. 31, 1973**
Larry Davis called as youth min., later assoc. pastor

**1970**
Bill James becomes charter member, the CenturyMen

**1973**
Compass becomes first mixed gender Sunday School class

**Jan. 13, 1974**
Roy Austin starts, counselor

**June 28, 1978**
Dot Laux called, interim dir., childhood ed.

**May 24, 1978**
Merle Harrell called, dir., preschool ed.

**May 17, 1978**
James Smith starts, min. of ed.

**Sept. 16, 1979**
Wilshire team of 15 travels to Dominica for hurricane relief

**April 22, 1979**
Springtop outreach event feat. Cynthia Clawson, others

**Jan. 30, 1983**
New third floor opens

**Oct. 19, 1986**
Chapel named for Bruce McIver during Wilshire's 35th ann. celebration

**Oct. 1, 1982**
Lois Harper starts, min. to children; first female with minister title at Wilshire

**1985**
WRR radio broadcast begins

**1986**
Wilshire helps build Cornerstone Baptist Church, South Dallas

**Dec. 31, 1988**
Bruce McIver retires, named pastor emeritus

**Aug. 27, 1989**
George Mason begins as pastor

**1991**
CBF affiliation

**Aug. 10, 1994**
Mission and vision adopted

**June 2, 1991**
Vote to ordain women, divorced persons

**Dec. 1, 1990**
Nona Bickerstaff named first min. of missions

**Sept. 24, 1990**
Preston Bright starts, assoc. pastor

**1996**
New gallery named to honor Bill James on 30th ann.

**June 10, 2001**
50th ann. celebration at Meyerson

**1996**
Karen Gilbert named min. of missions

**June 16, 1996**
Darren DeMent starts as intern

**1997**
Carolyn Shapard starts, min. to adults

**1998**
Website launches

**1999**
Darren DeMent named min. to students

**August 2000**
Tiffany Terry named min. to single adults

**2000**
Prayer Garden created

**Nov. 15, 2000**
Wilshire severs ties with Southern Baptist Convention

**Dec. 22, 2001**
Bruce McIver dies, age 76

**May 20, 2002**
Pastoral residency launches with first resident, Jay Hogewood

**Feb. 1, 2003**
Linda Garner becomes parish nurse

**Jan. 1, 2004**
Mark Wingfield becomes assoc. pastor

**April 24, 2006**
Jeff Brummel starts, organist

**2004**
Organ rebuilt

**2006**
Julie Girards, min. to children, joins staff

**May 19, 2004**
Doug Haney called, min. of music

**Aug. 28, 2011**
60th ann. celebration

**2009**
Community Hall opens

**2009**
Jessica Capps starts, min. to sr. adults

**2007**
Joan Hammons starts, min. to preschoolers

**Sept. 12, 2012**
Vote to accept other forms of baptism

**June 31, 2013**
Heather Mustain starts, min. of missions

**July 20, 2014**
Open house for new Resident Row

**June 2010**
Youth Choir tour to DR

**June 13, 2010**
Columbarium dedicated

**Feb. 20, 2015**
Faith in 3D debuts

**Aug. 1, 2015**
Timothy Peoples starts residency

**Nov. 2016**
Wilshire affirms full participation of LGBTQ+

**Fall 2014**
Ebola crisis

**Aug. 22–24, 2014**
George Mason's 25th ann. Rabbi David Stern preaches

**Aug. 1, 2020**
First all-female resident cohort

**March 29–30, 2018**
Holy Week services with Cathedral of Hope

**Sept. 14–15, 2019**
George Mason's 30th ann.

**Dec. 4, 2022**
Timothy Peoples called as senior pastor

**Fall 2022**
Wilshire joins AWAB

**Sept. 2023**
Katie Murray starts, min. to sr. adults

**Aug. 2024**
Kelly Akins starts, min. to preschoolers

**Aug. 28, 2022**
George Mason retires

**May 24, 2020**
Darren DeMent, Doug Haney, Heather Mustain named assoc. pastors

**June 3, 2023**
Booth at Dallas Pride

**Dec. 17, 2023**
Ariel Merivil called, min. of music

**June 13–14, 2026**
75th ann. celebration