



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**June 7, 2026**

*Second Sunday after Pentecost*

# Preparing for worship

What songs stick in your memory from childhood?

This morning, we will sing “Standing on the Promises,” a hymn that instantly starts playing in my head as a dear reminder of my early years. I remember distinct hand and body movements, especially the way my children’s choir would play a game in which we would trade off sitting and standing as the refrain came along. We giggled like it was the funniest thing we had ever done.

Decades later, much has changed from my childhood faith. And yet, the memory of this song and the giggles are forever intertwined. A familiar tune can transport us back to a specific place, a specific feeling or even a specific version of ourselves.

I read the words of this hymn differently these days. In times of great stress and anxiety, in moments of fear and shame, on days when the world around me frustrates and concerns me, the promises of God have often shown through. God’s love, presence and peace have sustained me. I continue to find comfort in the idea that God remains faithful even when life feels

uncertain. The promises of God have deepened through different seasons of life, shaped by years of experience, questions and growth.

What promises of God have stood by you throughout your life?

I recently rewatched the Disney movie *Coco* and was once again brought to tears at the conclusion. Memory and music are closely intertwined, and memories connected to music often remain vivid long after other memories begin to fade.

As we prepare our hearts for worship, I invite you to reflect on the songs that have shaped your faith journey. Perhaps there is a hymn, chorus or song that immediately brings to mind a cherished memory or a season when you felt especially close to God. As we sing together, may the music remind us not only of where we have been, but also of God’s faithfulness in the present moment. Let the words and melodies open our hearts to God’s presence among us, and may we come ready to experience once again the love of God and give thanks for the promises that have sustained us throughout our lives.

—Jordann McMahan



**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:** *Deer Drinking*, Winslow Homer, watercolor, 1892, Yale University Art Gallery.

**June 7, 2026**  
11:00 a.m.  
Second 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**

*Redeemed*  
Tanya Benson, LeAnn Hampton, Susan Kimball,  
flute ensemble

arr. Dana F. Everson

**+Congregational Song**

*The Solid Rock*  
No. 590  
Stanzas 1-3

SOLID ROCK

**+Call to Worship**

Alice Boyd

One: Rejoice in the Lord! The earth is full of God's steadfast love.

**All: We sing praises to the Lord; we sing praises to the One who knows us by name.**

One: In love and joy, God calls us together.

**All: We come to this place as friends, neighbors, and siblings in Christ.**

One: Let us worship the One who offers comfort and healing in all forms.

**All: Let us worship together; for God is making all things new.**

**+Response in Song**

*The Solid Rock*

SOLID ROCK

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

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

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous.  
Praise befits the upright.  
Praise the LORD with the lyre;  
make melody to the LORD with the harp of ten strings.  
Sing to God a new song;  
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.  
For the word of the LORD is upright,  
and all God's work is done in faithfulness.  
The LORD loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.  
By the word of the LORD the heavens were made  
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.  
God gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;  
God put the deeps in storehouses.  
Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe,  
for God spoke, and it came to be;  
God commanded, and it stood firm.  
The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;  
God frustrates the plans of the peoples.  
The counsel of the LORD stands forever,  
the thoughts of God's heart to all generations.  
Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people whom God has chosen as God's heritage.

**Prayers of the People**

Carolyn Murray

**Silence**

We pause in silence to reflect and to be attentive to the Spirit of God.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins,  
As we forgive those who sin against us;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Offertory**

*As Pants the Hart*

Nova

Michael Capps, director  
Bill Jernberg, accompanist

Claude Goudimel/  
arr. Michael Capps

As pants the hart for cooling waters  
When chased across the barren plain,  
So longs my soul, O God my savior,  
And thirsts for thee in grief and pain.

My soul for thee, the living God,  
Cries out, "Oh when shall I draw near,  
To see the glory of thy face,  
And stand in joy before thee there?"

These things do still I well remember  
When I with multitudes would go,  
With joyful voice into God's house  
With songs that grateful hearts bestow.  
My soul why art thou cast down?  
Why troubled art thou deep within?  
For yet in God I'll trust and sing,  
My savior and my God alone.

**+Gospel Reading** — Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26

Jason Woodbury

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners." ... While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread through all of that district.

For the Word of God in Scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
And for the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Message**

"A Gift to One Another"

Timothy Peoples

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Timothy Peoples

All followers of Christ are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, whether you are a Wilshire member or not. The bread used this morning is gluten free.

### Passing of the Bread

*How Great Thou Art*  
Flute ensemble; Shana Gaines, piano

arr. Wayne Fritchie

### Passing of the Cup

*Near the Cross*  
Cindy Fuller  
For text, see hymn no. 642

arr. Lloyd Larson

### Passing of the Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### +Congregational Song

*Standing on the Promises*  
No. 625

PROMISES

### Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

### Benediction

Timothy Peoples

### Postlude

*How Firm a Foundation*

arr. Don Hustad

Shana Gaines, congregational song leader  
Cindy Fuller, guest organist



**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.

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Tanya Benson** joined Wilshire in 1991. She serves as director of the Women's Bible Class, plays flute and piccolo in Wilshire Winds and volunteers with the Grief and Loss Center of North Texas. Tanya is a speech pathologist and is retired from Garland ISD.

**Alice Boyd** is a rising fifth grader who is active in Wilshire's children's ministry, including Sunday School and Children's Choir. Her parents are Kristin and Ryan Boyd, and her younger sister is Ana. Alice's grandparents Kaye and Kenneth Donn also attend Wilshire.

**David Clanton** joined Wilshire in 2010. He is a deacon, a member of Compass Class, serves on the Committee on Committees and sings in Sanctuary Choir. David has two adult sons, Chad and Brett, and three grandsons. His wife, Jann, passed away in 2024. A professional photographer, David serves along with others to record the events at Wilshire on camera.

**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. She works as a grant writer and consultant.

**Susan Kimball** grew up at Wilshire and is a member of Journey Class. She plays flute with Wilshire Winds, participates in Faith in 3D and sings in Nova. Susan works as a paralegal at Cavazos Hendricks Poirot, P.C.

**Carolyn Murray** grew up at Wilshire. Her parents are Bob and Charlene Law. Carolyn is mother to an adult son, Mason, who lives in Australia, and Lucy Kate, a senior at Santa Clara University. As Wilshire's coordinator of congregational life, Carolyn works to welcome guests and engage members in the life of the church. She is currently serving as staff liaison for Wilshire's 75th anniversary celebration.

**Jason Woodbury** and his wife, Paula, joined Wilshire in 1998 and attend Journey Sunday School class. Jason is a deacon, teaches youth Sunday School and volunteers with the Rental and Utility Assistance Program. He and Paula are the parents of Garrett, a recent Baylor University graduate; Kathryn, a rising senior at Lake Highlands High School; and guardians to Sher Moo Ku, a rising senior at Austin College.

# 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)
- Charlie Fuller, Coach in Residence (3123)
- 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)

## 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

- 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  
June 7, 2026

## A CELEBRATION 75 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Anniversary Weekend  
June 13-14



### Saturday, June 13

#### Homecoming Celebration

■ **4:45-7:30 p.m.** | Catch up with friends, explore the building and browse history displays. Start in James Gallery and follow the suggested route — or not! Volunteers will be on hand to guide you. Refreshments will be available in Community Hall.

■ **6-6:30 p.m.** | Join us in the Sanctuary to hear reflections and remembrances from our oldest to newest members. This time of stories, laughter and meaning making will be moderated by Jake Hall, pastoral residency alum.

■ **7-10 p.m.** | Come-and-go fellowship at Times Ten Cellars. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided. *6324 Prospect Ave.*

### Sunday, June 14

#### Worship Celebration

■ **11 a.m.** | Our 75-minute service in the Sanctuary will include a message by Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas, canon theologian at Washington National Cathedral. (See p. 11 for more about Rev. Douglas.) Youth Choir will sing, combining with Sanctuary Choir on some pieces. Sunday School will meet at 9:45 as usual.

## This Week in Wilshire History

### June 9-13, 1952.

Wilshire's first VBS was held at Free Methodist Church at Skillman St. and Richmond Ave.



### June 10, 2001.

Wilshire celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Meyerson Symphony Center.

■ **June 13, 1954.** Carol Monk was called as Wilshire's first youth director.

■ **June 13, 2010.** The Columbarium was dedicated.



**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.

## Condolences to

■ **Amy and Dirk Dalhauser** on the death of Dirk's father, Robert Dalhauser, May 31. Grandchildren are **Alex Dalhauser** and **Kate Dalhauser**.

■ **Melissa and Hugh Atkinson** on the death of Melissa's mother, Phyllis Davis Walker, June 3.

## New members

**Gary and Linda Cook**

## Gun violence awareness today



Wilshire is wearing orange today in observance of National Gun Violence Awareness Day (the first Friday in June) and the accompanying Wear Orange Weekend. Orange ribbons are available

outside the office and in the North Atrium.

## Youth Choir in Kansas City

Wilshire's Youth Choir traveled by bus yesterday to Kansas City, Missouri, for its annual weeklong choir tour. The choir is singing for worship today at Second Baptist Church in Liberty, where pastoral residency alum Jason Edwards is pastor. During the week, they will serve or sing at nonprofits including Hope Faith, Knabe's Markets, Giving the Basics and Avenue of Life, where they will serve and sing for unhoused youth. The group of 33 singers and 10 adults will also enjoy Kansas City BBQ, a baseball game between the Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers and attractions including the National WWI Museum and Memorial and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. The group will return Saturday and will sing several selections in worship on June 14.



## Vacation Bible School

Monday–Thursday, June 15–18  
Advance registration ends today

As kids learn and create at VBS, they'll connect with Jesus, build meaningful relationships and follow his example of welcoming all. For older preschoolers (age 3 by Sept. 1, 2025) through completed fifth graders. Free. Advance registration ends June 7. Walk-ins



will be accommodated as space allows. No Friday VBS due to the Juneteenth holiday. Register at [wilshirebc.org/events/vbs](http://wilshirebc.org/events/vbs) or scan the QR code.

## Break room help needed

You can show appreciation for our VBS volunteers by helping stock the volunteer break room with snacks. Handheld and bite-sized snacks can be brought to the main office each day of VBS by 8:30 a.m. We also are looking for people to serve as break room hosts. For full details and to sign up, scan the QR code at right to visit our SignUpGenius.



## Special events for parents and teachers, Aug. 8 and 9



*Wired for Wonder: Helping Children Grow in Faith, Connection and Wholeness* will be the theme when Wilshire welcomes Harrison Litzell on Aug. 8 and 9. A children's ministry expert, Litzell helps church-

es engage with issues of inclusion, childhood spirituality and neurodiversity through his work at Mercer University's Baugh Center for Baptist Leadership. On Saturday, Aug. 8, Litzell will meet with parents from 6 to 9 p.m. at the home of Gail and Steve Brookshire. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks and dessert will be served. On Sunday, Aug. 9, Litzell will offer a teacher training from noon to 2:30 p.m. with lunch provided. Childcare will be available for both events. Register at [wilshirebc.org/events/litzell](http://wilshirebc.org/events/litzell).

## Elevator and building updates

■ We are happy to report that all needed work on the **south elevator** has been completed. To those who have avoided using this elevator, we thank you for your patience.

■ Adjustments have been made to the **north elevator** that allow the door to remain open longer for entering and exiting. We encourage riders to not stop the door from closing, as this may trigger the elevator to shut down for safety reasons.

■ Our **water intrusion** project is near completion, with only a few items remaining before turning our attention to interior damage.

■ Our property insurance required us to replace several **electrical panels**. That work is done and passed inspection by the city.

■ Taken together, these projects amount to about a half million dollars of work. Thank you for your continued generosity.



## Kelly Brown Douglas is anniversary guest preacher

Our June 14 guest preacher, Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas, is canon theologian at Washington National Cathedral and a visiting professor at Harvard Divinity School. Her academic work focuses on womanist theology, racial justice, and sexuality and the Black church, and her current research involves expanding the moral imagination in fostering a more just future. Douglas's book *Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter* won the Grawemeyer Award for religion writing. From 2017 to 2023, Douglas was dean of the Episcopal Divinity School and professor of theology at Union Seminary in New York.



## Visioning to be highlighted at anniversary events

Wilshire's Visioning Team has been hard at work the last few months and is excited to host a "soft launch" of their efforts during Wilshire's anniversary weekend. Attendees at Saturday's homecoming event will have the chance to engage with reflection questions, and there will be a teaser discussion during Sunday's service. More visioning activities will roll out later this year.

# Wilshire on mission: 75 years of showing up

**F**ROM ITS EARLIEST DAYS, Wilshire understood missions not simply as charity, but as participation in God's work of justice, compassion and beloved community.

At its founding in 1951, the church committed to giving at least 10 percent of undesignated offerings to missions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program. Groups such as Girls' Auxiliary, Royal Ambassadors, Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union helped shape generations of members into people attentive to the needs of neighbors near and far.

Wilshire's earliest mission efforts reflected an expanding vision of care, supporting ministries in Korea and Hispanic ministries at home. In 1954, the church raised funds to help missionaries Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Low purchase a medical truck for their work in Nigeria. The congregation supported missionary families as extensions of its own community, sending Ross and Doryce Coggins and later commissioning Bill and Dellanna O'Brien for service in Indonesia. Even during major building campaigns, Wilshire repeatedly exceeded its annual Lottie Moon offering goals.

In the 1960s, Wilshire partnered with First Mexican Baptist Church of Dallas through the BGCT, with members volunteering weekly through tutoring and practical support. When floods damaged an Edinburg, Texas, church in 1967, Wilshire responded with money, supplies and volunteers, reflecting a growing commitment to showing up where suffering existed.

By the 1970s, mission engagement became increasingly hands-on, relational and global. Members traveled to build churches, Youth Choir participated in mission tours, and partnerships stretched from Texas to New Orle-



ans to Cairo. In 1975, amid the refugee crisis following the Vietnam War, Wilshire sponsored the Pham family, providing housing, financial assistance and practical support. After tornadoes struck Wichita Falls in 1979, members assisted recovery efforts, while another team traveled to Dominica following Hurricane David. The church also designated a house on Springside Lane for missionaries on leave.

In 1990, Wilshire adopted an alternative missions funding plan beyond the SBC and joined the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in 1991, reflecting a desire for a broader, more collabo-



orative and justice-centered approach to Baptist life.

Missions became increasingly visible in Wilshire's daily life after the church called its first minister of missions, Nona Bickerstaff, in 1992. Others who have served in this role are Karen Gilbert, Jason Coker, Mindy Logsdon and, since 2013, Heather Mustain.

By the 2000s, Wilshire's mission work emphasized refugees, housing justice and community development. Members supported Albanian refugees in Macedonia and Kosovo, participated in Habitat for Humanity projects in West Dallas and traveled on trips to Kenya, the Dominican Republic and Galveston after Hurricane Ike. The church helped launch church plants and organized initiatives such as a 2008 peanut butter drive that collected more than 10,000 jars for the North Texas Food Bank.

In the 2010s and beyond, advocacy and justice became even more central to Wilshire's mission

identity. Partnerships with Friendship-West Baptist Church and Temple Emanu-El fostered interfaith and interracial collaboration around issues such as predatory lending and civil rights. Mission efforts expanded to include advocacy grants, Room in the Inn, and partnerships in Tanzania and Macedonia.

Today, Wilshire continues to adapt its mission work to meet emerging needs. The church established a rental assistance program for housing-insecure neighbors and joined initiatives such as In Deed and Truth, embracing practices that encourage deeper reflection on history, justice and reconciliation. Mission trips to Puerto Rico and annual efforts such as Souper Bowl of Caring and MLK Day meal packing demonstrate that while Wilshire's vision of mission continues to evolve, it remains grounded in the conviction that God calls communities of faith to love boldly, serve humbly and work for the flourishing of all people.

# Forty years of faithful presence in South Dallas

**When others moved away from urban ministry, Cornerstone Baptist and its partners — including Wilshire — stayed. This long-term commitment has grown into a community-changing ministry serving thousands each month.**

BY KERI MITCHELL

**T**HE PARADOX OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH in South Dallas called “Cornerstone” is that its original building wasn’t supposed to have a foundation.

Cornerstone’s roots grew out of Second Baptist Church, established in 1888 at Ervay and Corinth. Seventy years later in 1958, Second Baptist moved to the then “suburbs” of East Dallas and became Westglen Baptist Church on Ferguson Road, mirroring the “white flight” of hundreds of other urban churches.

By the early ’60s, Second Baptist’s abandoned building had become the Ervay Street Baptist Center, a community ministry sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention’s Home Mission Board. Then in the ’80s, the SBC’s decision to end its financial support of urban mission centers shuttered Ervay Street Baptist — but when the SBC walked away, several local Baptist churches showed up.

“Wilshire was one of those churches that stepped up to pour into this particular congregation when many people were moving away from inner city work,” says Cornerstone Senior Pastor Chris Simmons, more commonly known in the community as “Pastor Chris.”

The coalition of churches purchased a property at 2815 Ervay, a few blocks south of the



*Chris Simmons has served as Cornerstone’s senior pastor since 1989. (Photo: Camilo Diaz Jr., Dallas Free Press)*

shuttered center, and Wilshire “led the volunteer efforts in the construction of the building,” notes the missions overview in Wilshire’s 35th anniversary booklet published in 1986, the same year Cornerstone Baptist Church opened.

The church was built in a “war zone,” a label conferred by Dallas police and reinforced by media because of the drive-by shootings, the gang activity and the prostitution, as Pastor Chris recalled in a recent interview: “We buried a lot of people in this neighborhood, a lot of young men. Many of the people who could get out of the neighborhood, got out. ... It left a lot of urban blight, a lot of vacant apartments that were owned by slum lords in order to continue to cover the drug trade.”

The plan was to build Cornerstone on a pier and beam foundation so that “when the church died, they could move the building and sell the land.” But for some reason — perhaps because the original Cornerstone building sits on toxic soil, says longtime Wilshire member Bob Law — the church was constructed atop a slab founda-

tion. There would be no escape hatch, no future flight.

“Now the church is the largest land owner in the neighborhood, owning some 52 properties in this particular community. God has been just so faithful over these years. We’re able to do a number of outreaches in this neighborhood because of Wilshire really believing in the work here, and not only back then,” said Pastor Chris.

Pastor Chris paused, overcome with emotion, when talking about Wilshire members Bob and Charlene Law, who began their mission work with Ervay Street in the ’70s even before Simmons arrived on the scene. Bob still frequents Cornerstone Kitchen most Thursdays to serve lunch to the community’s unhoused neighbors.

“My children see them as grandparents. They have been in all of my children’s weddings — I mean, really, really have been friends who have just really been right by our side this entire time.”

He spoke of Tom and Katie Bratcher, who helped shepherd Cornerstone’s preschool program. As Tom worked on the the original building’s baptistry, “some guys broke into the building and literally beat him and left him for dead.” After Tom recovered and was released from the hospital, “the very next day, he was back finishing that particular project.”

“It speaks to the heart of Wilshire’s people who understand the commitment to missions, and the dangers and challenges of missions, but willing to fulfill the task that God has called them to.”

Cornerstone outgrew the original building and now meets in a repurposed grocery store around the corner on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. That original structure now functions as an after school program and is flanked on all sides by the church’s expanding footprint — a kitchen that provides 10,000–15,000 meals a month to the unhoused, clinics for medical and dental care, a maternity home for pregnant women, reentry programs for people transitioning out of incarceration, a community garden



*Wilshire volunteers serving at Cornerstone, circa 1990.*

and convenience store, affordable housing and more.

“All of that,” Pastor Chris emphasized, “is because Wilshire believed that there was a need for a church in this particular community” 40 years ago, when few believed the church could survive in South Dallas.

“Many churches will parachute in and parachute out. The fact that Wilshire has walked with Cornerstone for many, many, many decades is a testament to the church’s commitment of not just showing up periodically, but really making an investment in the neighborhood.”

■ *Wilshire member Keri Mitchell is executive director of Dallas Free Press, a nonprofit newsroom focused on South Dallas and West Dallas, which co-published a version of this story and a corresponding video at [dallasfreepress.com](http://dallasfreepress.com).*

# 2026 Summer

## CHILDREN & PRESCHOOL

Camps are starting to fill up! Find all the details and registration links at [WILSHIREBC.ORG/SUMMER-CAMPS](http://WILSHIREBC.ORG/SUMMER-CAMPS)



## Summer college class

A summer Sunday School class for college students will meet through Aug. 9 in Room 2202. Trey Wilson is teaching. All college students are welcome, whether they're around all summer or can only pop in a few times.

## Women of Wilshire book clubs

■ **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))

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Thursday, July 2 | Noon | 1205-L | *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

## Serve with our mission partners



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

## Monthly service opportunities


■ A Wilshire group serves the fourth Friday morning each month at the **Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation Mobile Food Pantry**. Contact: Charlie Estee ([cesteedallas@gmail.com](mailto:cesteedallas@gmail.com))

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

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

## Men's Book Club


Tuesday, June 16 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather. Contact: Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)) or Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net))


FRIDAY  
JUNE 12 

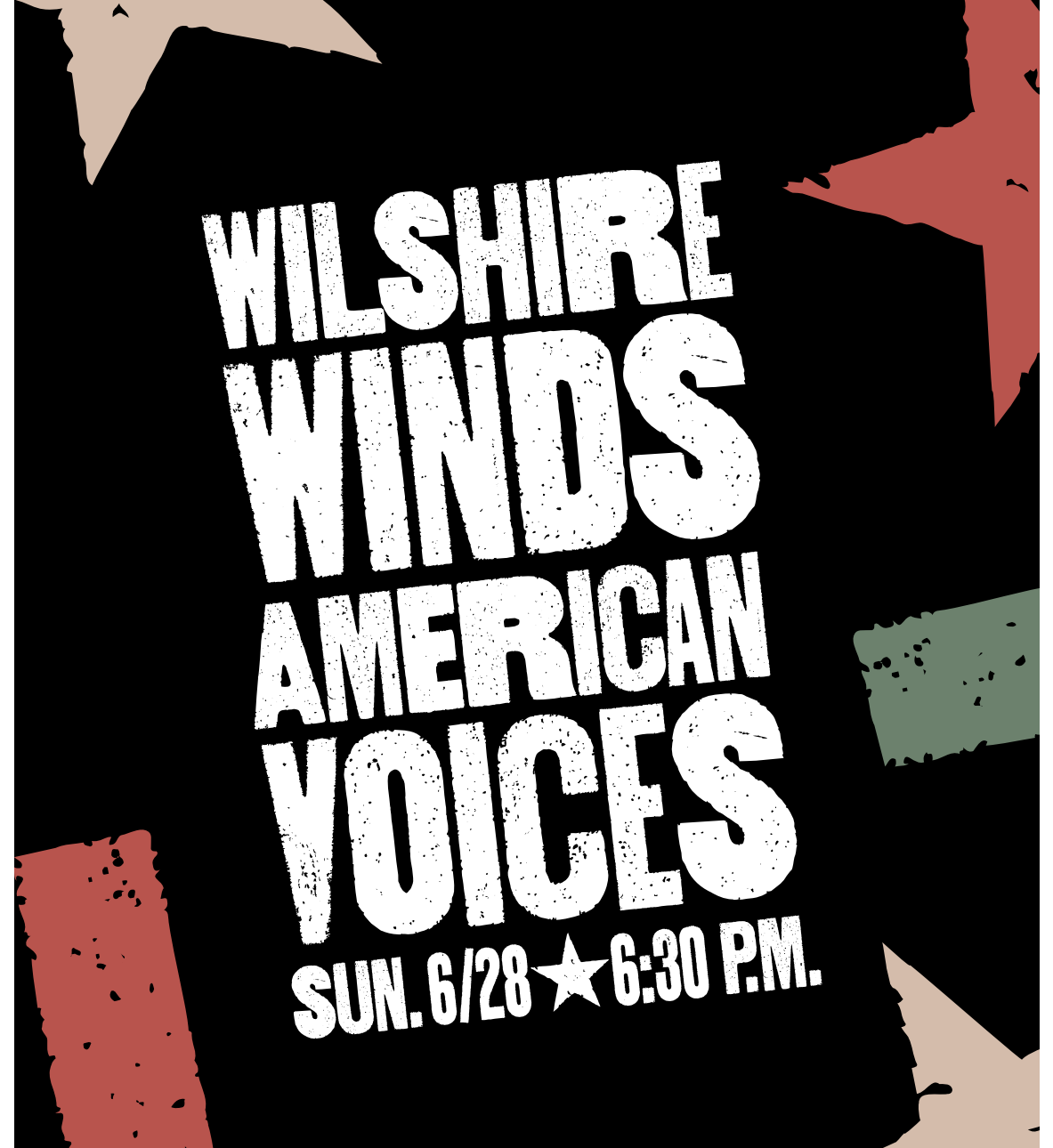
# PRIDE Stories & Tunes

7-9 PM

A CELEBRATION OF LGBTQ CHRISTIANS  
HOLDING ONTO FAITH

 UNION COFFEE BY OAK LAWN METHODIST  
3705 CEDAR SPRINGS RD., DALLAS, TX 75219





**WILSHIRE  
WINDS  
AMERICAN  
VOICES**  
**SUN. 6/28 ★ 6:30 P.M.**

Wilshire Winds will present a concert on Sunday, June 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. *American Voices* will explore the foundational promise of America through music reflecting the diverse journeys and struggles of its people. Shana Gaines directs the volunteer group of woodwind, brass and percussion players.

# benedictio: a good word



**WSM  
Youth Camp**  
June 29–July 4  
Ferncliff Camp  
Little Rock

**“Camp is such a phenomenal experience that everyone in the Wilshire Student Ministry should have a chance to enjoy.”**

Crosby Cole, 8th grade

**W**E OFTEN THINK of a benediction as the final moment of a worship service — a blessing as we depart. But the term comes from the Latin *benedictio*, meaning “a good word.” At its core, a benediction is about speaking goodness over what comes next.

In Genesis, a steady refrain echoes through the creation story: “and it was good.” Those words ground us in the powerful truth that goodness lies at the heart of everything God made.

And yet, so much of our attention today settles on what

is wrong — what is broken, corrupted or evil.

Perhaps we need to be reminded that goodness is the original word spoken over creation. Brokenness is not the starting point; it is a distortion of what was first made good. Maybe we simply need to hear that good word again.

At camp this summer, we want to reimagine the benediction. What if it’s not just a conclusion, but a beginning — a good word that sends us out to live and see differently and to carry that goodness with us into whatever comes next?

## **Camp Pastor**

We are excited that **Georgia McKee** will be our camp pastor this year. Georgia is no stranger to Wilshire; she recently completed her pastoral residency with us and now serves as Associate Pastor at Glencoe Union Church near Chicago. Georgia is married to Sophia, and they have two dogs, Goose and Dolly.



**Registration:**  
[wilshirebc.org/  
events/youth-  
camp-2026](http://wilshirebc.org/events/youth-camp-2026)

# 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.*

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**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 McCrae'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.

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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, June 7**

- Youth Choir Mission Tour to Kansas City, returning Saturday, June 13
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Adventurers Committee Meeting, Community Hall, noon

## **Monday, June 8**

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

## **Tuesday, June 9**

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

## **Wednesday, June 10**

- History Committee Meeting, History Room, 5:30 p.m.

## **Friday, June 12**

- Friday Friends, 3211 and 3301, 10 a.m.

## **Saturday, June 13**

- 75th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration, 4:45 p.m.
- 75th Anniversary Extended Fellowship, Times Ten Cellars, 7 p.m.

## **Sunday, June 14**

- Youth and Sanctuary Choirs Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- 75th Anniversary Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.

## **Monday, June 15**

- Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.
- Wilshire Winds, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## **Tuesday, June 16**

- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6 p.m.
- Men's Book Club, Parlor, 7 p.m.

# Kirk Newsom

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

Born in 1950, I was “brought” to Wilshire near its beginning in my mother’s arms, along with my twin, Kent, older brother, David, and father, Asa Newsom, Jr. The church was at times meeting at the Wilshire “Motion Picture” Theater. I’m told the “nursery,” where I was on the cradle roll, was in the waiting area outside the ladies room! My grandparents were charter members, but Dad and Mom chose not to be so that honor would belong solely to my grandparents.

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

Bruce McIver was “my” pastor and spiritual mentor. I was born with a congenital heart defect called aortic stenosis. When I was 9, I had open heart surgery, and Bruce organized a continuous prayer vigil at Wilshire during that six-hour surgery. Thankfully, God’s design for my life and that vigil worked for a successful outcome. In 1972, Bruce married me and my high school sweetheart, Lynn Cheek. After Baylor Law School, we raised our children, Chris and Juli, here under the leadership of George Mason. I was privileged to serve on the search committee recommending George as our pastor. Minister of Music Bill James and his wife, Charlene, were key influencers of special spiritual experiences during high school and beyond. I can’t say enough about George’s influence during our kids’ years at Wilshire, as well as his ministry of love to my parents in their final days.



## **What are some favorite memories or defining moments?**

Wilshire raised me, saved me, married me, raised and saved our kids, spiritually molded our kids, buried my parents — and now “we” have grown old(er) together! I’m reminded of one of Bruce’s favorite scriptures, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.” The charters believed they were destined by the Spirit of Christ to build a great church, but they had no idea what God had prepared for them to achieve because of their love for him. This 75-year-old church needs only your love and commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ to have a greater spiritual impact going forward than you could have imagined!

## **Why have you stayed so long?**

When I enter Wilshire I feel the presence of all those “saints” who came before and built her foundation. To be honest, I just can’t leave and miss seeing the unfolding reality of what God prepared for those who loved him then and for those who love him now.