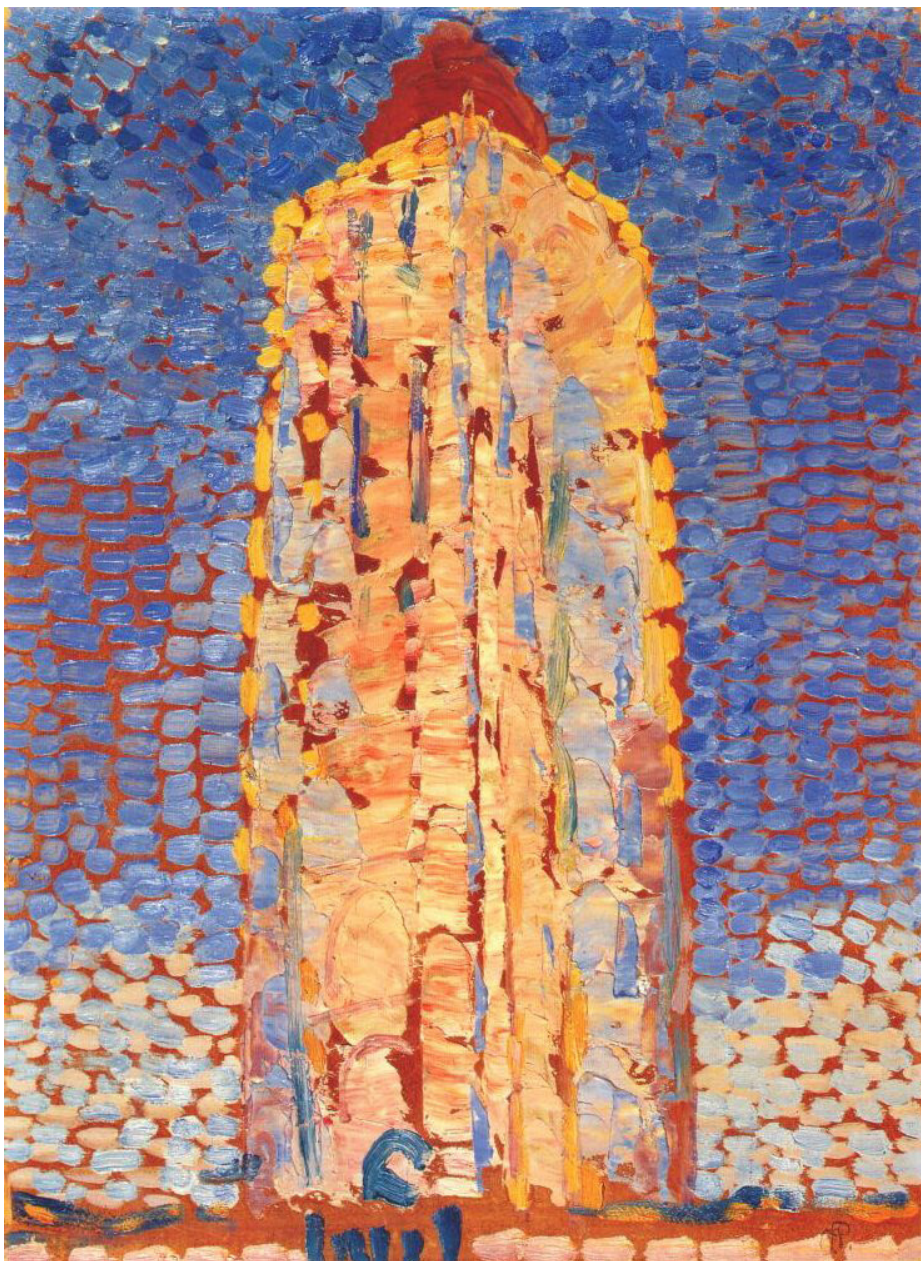




Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Preparing for worship

Our songs have the power to shape what we believe and know about God, yet I often wonder how often we think critically about what we're singing. Today's anthem text, "Unclouded Day" by Josiah Kelley Alwood, a circuit-rider preacher from Ohio, is like many texts we've sung before about heaven. As people of faith, we live with the hope that one day we will reach a promised land, a place where we believe God resides and where many of our loved ones already are.

*O, they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,
O they tell me of a home far away;
O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise,
O they tell me of an unclouded day.*

In spite of what you may believe about heaven, where it is, how or when we get there and who might be there, one thing is sure: it is a destination whose imagery has enticed and captivated our imagination for generations. Whatever draws us to it, whether fear of the alternative or hope of reunion, heaven has always been something we reach toward.

In our imagining of heaven, I wonder if we at times forget that God has called us to create a kin-dom of peace, justice and love here on earth. In longing for a home beyond the sky, have we forgotten our role to create a place of healing and welcome here on earth?

Each week, we corporately pray the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6. In it, we pray something like this:

*Our God in heaven, holy is your name,
May your kingdom come, and your will be done,
On earth, as it already is in heaven.*

In this prayer, we ask God to do in us what God has already done for us, to fulfill through us what God has already provisioned for us. It doesn't take much from the news cycle to recall the discord and turmoil that surround us. We are no strangers to a need for sanctuary, safety, justice, healing and reconciliation. These are the attributes of heaven. And God has already given us what we need to begin creating these spaces on this corner and throughout the intersections of our life together.

In our opening hymn, "Be Thou My Vision," we pray that God be for us all the things we are not: wisdom, truth, light and constant presence. The text presumes that the God of all things is also the God who has given us all things. So go out and be the people God has shaped, and carry into the world spaces of justice, peace, sanctuary and love. Amen.

—Ariel Merivil



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

4316 Abrams Road | Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214-452-3100 | wilshirebc.org

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

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

On the cover: *Lighthouse in Westkapelle (in Orange)*, Piet Mondrian, oil on canvas, 1909.

July 12, 2026
11:00 a.m.
Seventh 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

Ariel Merivil

Prelude

Pastorale: Fair Are the Meadows

arr. Alfred V. Fedak

+Congregational Song

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

No. 71

Stanzas 1–3

+Call to Worship

Thomas Lee

One: Beloved people of God, we gather today carrying our joys, our sorrows,
our questions and our hopes.

All: We come seeking the One who is our wisdom and our guide.

One: We trust the light that leads us in love, justice and hope.

All: When fear clouds our vision, help us to see with the eyes of compassion.

One: When the journey feels uncertain, remind us that we are not alone.

All: We lean on the everlasting arms of love, held by grace that never lets us go.

One: Let us walk together in faith, support one another in hope,
and live as bearers of God's light.

**All: We come to worship the One who guides our feet
and strengthens our spirits. Amen.**

+Response in Song

SLANE

High king of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.
I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,
and teach me your ordinances.
I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.
The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.
Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.
I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.

Offertory

To God Be the Glory

arr. Matthew H. Corl

+Gospel Reading — Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Heather Mustain

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!” ... “Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

In the Bulb
No. 545

PROMISE

Message

“It’s About Us”

Timothy Peoples

Anthem

Unclouded Day
Nova
Candy McComb, director
Bill Jernberg, accompanist

arr. Shawn Kirchner

O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,
They tell me of a home far away,
And they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise:
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

O the land of cloudless days.
O the land of an unclouded sky,
O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise:
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,
They tell me of a land far away,
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom
Sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day.

O they tell me of a king in his beauty there,
They tell me that mine eyes shall behold
Where he sits on a throne in the city that is made of gold.

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.

Recognition of Candy McComb

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Improvisations on themes from the day

Jeff Brummel

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Max Post by his family.

Meet today's worship leaders

Thomas Lee has been attending Wilshire since 2011 and is married to Amy. Their two children are Hamilton, a rising fourth grader, and Eleanor, who will soon begin kindergarten. Thomas is a member of Odyssey Class and plays trombone in Wilshire Winds. Along with teaching high school geometry, he is president and founder of Champion Sports, a broadcast company focused on high school sports.

Suzy McLaughlin first joined Wilshire in 1995 and rejoined in 2014 after a period living in Austin. Her daughter and son-in-law, Courtney and Gabe Leal, and their kids, Nicholas, Jordan and Brooklyn, are also Wilshire members. Suzy is a deacon, teaches preschool Sunday School, attends Foundations of Faith Class and serves on the Preschool Education Committee. She served this summer as a volunteer for VBS and Kindergarten and Preschool Camp.



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, submit a prayer request or join Wilshire as a member. Response cards and offering envelopes are available in the pew racks and can be placed in the offering plate or offering boxes.

Staff contacts

Phone numbers: 214-452- followed by extension shown below. **Email addresses:** first letter of first name and full last name followed by @wilshirebc.org (example: tpeoples@wilshirebc.org). Staff members with phone extensions have Wilshire email addresses.

Communications

- Mark McKenzie, Communications Director (3169)

Congregational Care

- Barbara Clayton, Pastoral Care Assistant (3125)
- 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

- Diego Arreguin, Steward
- Heather Bruhn, Sous Chef
- 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



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements
July 12, 2026

Condolences to

■ Becky Post, Cindy Post and Matt Post on the death of their father, **Max Post**, July 4.

■ Steve and Sheila Conner on the death of Steve's mother, **Edith Conner**, July 6.

Save the dates for fall starts

■ **Aug. 16** will be Promotion Sunday, when preschoolers, children and youth move to a new class. That same day, worship will include the Blessing of the Backpacks.

■ **Aug. 16** is also the day the 9 a.m. service in McIver Chapel will resume.

■ Wednesday evening activities will resume on **Aug. 19**. More details to come.

Drop-In Choir on July 19 & 26



Ever wanted to sing with Sanctuary Choir? Here's your chance. Join us for Summer Drop-In Choir on July 19 or July 26. Arrive at Choral Hall by 9 a.m. for a 45-minute rehearsal, then sing in worship that same morning. No robes, no sign-up, no experience needed. Just show up and sing. Bring a friend!

Our anthems will be:

■ **July 19:** "Grace" by Mark Hayes

■ **July 26:** "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" by Tom Fettke



Darren's 30th to be marked Aug. 2

Associate Pastor Darren DeMent will be honored on Sunday, Aug. 2, for his 30th anniversary of ministry at Wilshire. Worship that day will include a time of recognition for Darren, and everyone is invited back at 5 p.m. for a musical celebration in the Sanctuary. Darren started as a student ministry intern in 1996, was named minister to students in 1999 and became associate pastor in 2020.

Music educator sought for children's choir coordinator role

Wilshire is looking for a children's choir coordinator to help shape the next generation of musicians and worshipers in our community. This part-time position is an ideal fit for a current or former music educator who is looking for a church home that welcomes all people and takes both music and formation seriously. Find the full job description at wilshirebc.org/employment and help us spread the word.



Sundays: Chapel Worship (currently on break), 9 a.m. Sanctuary Worship, 11 a.m. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. 11 a.m. worship livestreams at youtube.com/wilshirebaptist. Keep up with Wilshire by subscribing to our YouTube channel and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

Candy McComb recognition today

CANDY McCOMB will be recognized in worship today as she retires from her role as Wilshire's children's choir coordinator.

Since 2018, Candy has overseen Wilshire's music activities for children and preschoolers. She led her final Listen to Your Art! camp this week and will wrap up her time on staff by the end of July.

"I began leading a Young Musicians choir when I started college 50 years ago," Candy told the *Tapestry* in May. "That's a nice round number, and it seems like a good time to step away. It has been such a privilege to serve with our staff and so many wonderful volunteers."

Minister of Music Ariel Merivil said, "Candy is a gifted and seasoned educator who has been a gift to our team. A natural relationship builder, she has led with heart and talent among our kids for the last eight years. We will miss her loving spirit, her creative energy and her gift for making beautiful music with our children."

Minister to Children Julie Girards added, "Candy is smart, creative, fun and knows how to make people laugh — qualities that make her especially gifted with children. We've dreamed up new ideas, worked through challenges, celebrated successes and supported each other through both family and work joys and struggles."

Candy is a former public school choral director, mostly in Garland ISD, and still serves as a choral clinician and contest judge around Texas.

She and her husband, Vic Henry, will remain as Wilshire members. Candy will continue to co-direct the adult choral group Nova and sing in Sanctuary Choir. "I hope to serve in some other ways at Wilshire and in my community," she said, "and I have lots of home projects to complete!"



Connect across generations



Being an intergenerational church is one of Wilshire's greatest strengths. One of the best ways to live that out is by serving in Sunday School with our children or preschoolers. You'll build relationships with kids, get to know their families and play an important role in nurturing the faith of the next generation. Help us continue building the kind of intergenerational community that makes Wilshire so special. Contact Minister to Children Julie Girards or Minister to Preschoolers Kelly Akins to learn more.

Serve at White Rock Center

Wilshire is assembling a team of volunteers for White Rock Center of Hope's Saturday morning drive-through food distribution on July 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. Sign up to serve at bit.ly/3Tni8rS.



Ways to serve with our 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.

Wilshire Welcome next Sunday

Wilshire Welcome, a one-hour session to help guests and new members learn about the church, will meet Sunday, July 19, in the Prayer Room (Room 1100B) near McIver Chapel. No RSVP needed. Contact Carolyn Murray for more information at cmurray@wilshirebc.org.

College class continues

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

Next Blood Drive is July 26

Carter Blood Care will hold a blood drive at Wilshire on Sunday, July 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 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.

Men's Book Club

Tuesday, Aug. 18 (No July meeting) | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *Superbloom: How Technologies of Connection Tear Us Apart* by Nicholas Carr. Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net)



WOW does dinner...or lunch

All Women of Wilshire are invited to meet up for a meal on one or both of these dates:

■ Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 p.m., Olivella's Pizza, Hillside Village (6465 E. Mockingbird Ln.)

■ Thursday, July 23, 11:45 a.m., Taco Joint (6434 E. Mockingbird Ln.)

WOW Book Clubs

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | July 14 | 6:30 p.m. | 1205-G | *Street Lawyer* by John Grisham. Contact: Debby Burton (debbyb0929@gmail.com)

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Thursday, Aug. 6 | Noon | 1205-L | *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Wired for Wonder

Helping Children Grow
in Faith, Connection
and Wholeness



Saturday, Aug. 8

Parent Session 6–9 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 9

Teacher Training
Noon–2:30 p.m.

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 churches engage with issues of inclusion, childhood spirituality and neurodiversity through 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.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING

Your gifts are changing lives inside and outside our walls. Here are some ways to make a financial contribution to Wilshire.

ONLINE. Set up a recurring or one-time gift charged to your debit or credit card or as an ACH from your checking account. Get started at wilshirebc.org/give.

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

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, July 12

- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Personnel Committee, 1205 L, noon

Tuesday, July 14

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

Wednesday, July 15

- WSM Study-n-Pickleball, North Parking Lot, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 16

- WSM Summer Missions, Bonton Farms, 9 a.m.

Friday, July 17

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

Saturday, July 18

- White Rock Center of Hope Service, 9 a.m.

Sunday, July 19

- Passport Kids! Preteen Camp Departure, North Parking Lot, 8:15 a.m.
- Drop-In Choir Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Wilshire Welcome, Prayer Room, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Missions and Advocacy Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Finance Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Adventurers Committee, Community Hall, 12:15 p.m.

Megan Wilson

What brought you to Wilshire?

My earliest memory is being in the nursery at Wilshire. My parents, Pagett Gosslee and Steve Holley, are still members today. As a young adult trying to find my own way, I visited other churches, but when I met Trey in 1999, Wilshire is where I brought him. I then realized that I had been sitting on the treasure the whole time. Now, Wilshire has raised two of our children, Davis and Evelyn, and is working her magic on our youngest, Cameron.

Who was pastor when you arrived?

Bruce McIver was my childhood pastor, and he baptized me alongside my sister, Shannon Nadalini. In 1989 when I was in the youth group, we traveled on a choir tour through Mobile, Alabama, where we stopped to have lunch with Kim and George Mason, who had recently been called as our new pastor.

What ministers or staff members have impacted your life?

I will most likely use the rest of my words listing Wilshire staff members who have impacted me. I was very close with my youth minister, Belinda Blessen. She was an absolute blast! We were a tight-knit youth group, and she had a lot to do with that. Bob Brooks was my Youth Choir director, and he influenced my love of Broadway music and made space for secular music to be performed at Wilshire. I like to think that out of the seeds Bob planted, Faith in 3D blossomed.



George Mason married Trey and me in 2000 and baptized my husband and two of my three children. I value his bravery and commitment to Wilshire and his continued guidance in my life. For the past 16 years, Trey and I have taught “down in the basement.” Wilshire Student Ministry is one of my favorite things about our church. Wilshire’s youth group was pivotal in my coming of age and WSM continues to shape who I am becoming. Because of the way Darren DeMent connects and unites, it is one of the most beautiful and accepting communities I have ever known. It isn’t perfect, but it’s darn close. I honor Wilshire’s past and am energized by where we are going. Evelyn was the youth representative on Timothy Peoples’s search committee. Last August, he baptized Cameron, and I will never forget the beauty of that day. Timothy is leading us forward in important ways, and I’m here for it!