



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**August 2, 2026**

*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

# Preparing for worship

As we come to worship today, the theme that keeps coming back to me is that of rest. Summer is a busy time, and many people take vacations, which are designed for us to get away from the constant occupation of life, to relax, reflect and renew so that we are ready for what is to come.

If you've been on vacation, I hope you had time to do some of those things. For some, vacations mean simply trading their everyday busyness for a different activity list. Maybe you're visiting a new city and can't wait to see all the excitement it has to offer, resulting in a mad dash from one place to another. We all, however, need a time to withdraw, rest and maybe — dare I say it? — do nothing.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus withdrew to a deserted place because he was tired and weary. He needed to rest and renew his spirit and his body. Our call to worship acknowledges that we are weary and in need of renewal. We are exhausted from the work of love and justice, the hurry from here to there and the never-ending tasks that must be done. It seems like there are always things to do in this loud, busy world. Some of those activities have meaningful purpose, but some are just time fillers. Where do you find your rest, your chance to reflect and renew?

Rest can be defined as a “period of inactivity,

relaxation or sleep to recover physical or mental strength.” In physics, an object at rest is stationary or not moving, which is relative to a specific reference frame. In music, a rest is a marked pause or silence. The silence is as important, if not more important, than the notes that are played. To rest can also mean something that can be used as a support, such as a cane or other object to lean on or steady yourself.

There are two hymns in the service today that speak of rest. Jeff will play “Be Still My Soul” during the passing of the cup. The words to this hymn are on page 57 in our hymnal. This is a beautiful melody, and I hope that you will allow yourself to be still and rest. The last hymn is “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go.” Listen to the words of the first verse:

*O love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.*

God invites us to cease from the anxiousness of everyday life, to trust, to find peace in the present and lean into God's promises. May it be so. Amen.

—Kelly Akins



**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.*

---

**On the cover:** *Far More Abundantly*, Lauren Wright Pittman, hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper, with gold leaf detail.

August 2, 2026  
11:00 a.m.  
Tenth 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** Carolyn Murray

**Prelude** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arr. Paul Manz

**+Congregational Song** *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* GROSSER GOTT  
No. 9  
Stanzas 1–3

**+Call to Worship** Connie McDaniel

One: God of love, we come to you hungry for your Word.

**All: With the loaves and fishes of our worship, feed us.**

One: We come to you weary and in need of renewal.

**All: With the loaves and fishes of your grace, heal us.**

One: We come weary from the work of love and justice.

**All: With the loaves and fishes of your Spirit,  
give us strength for the work to come. Feed us, God, for we need you.**

—from *Unfolding Light: Daily Reflections and Worship Resources*

**+Response in Song** GROSSER GOTT

**Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit: three we name you,  
Though in essence only one; undivided God we claim you,  
And adoring bend the knee while we praise the mystery.**

---

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

Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry;  
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.  
From you let my vindication come;  
let your eyes see the right.  
If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,  
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;  
my mouth does not transgress.  
As for what others do, by the word of your lips  
I have avoided the ways of the violent.  
My steps have held fast to your paths;  
my feet have not slipped.  
I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;  
incline your ear to me; hear my words.  
Wondrously show your steadfast love,  
O savior of those who seek refuge  
from their adversaries at your right hand.  
...  
As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;  
when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

**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.

**Offertory**

*Appalachian Praise*  
Amy Pottkotter, piano

arr. Brad Nix

**+Gospel Reading** — Matthew 14:13–21

David Nabors

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said

to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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** “Impromptu Miracle” 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** *Be Still, My Soul* arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

**Passing of the Cup** *My Jesus, I Love Thee* arr. Gordon Young

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

**+Congregational Song** *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* DONNA  
No. 631

**Recognition of Darren DeMent**

**Sharing of Decisions** Timothy Peoples

**Benediction** Timothy Peoples

**Postlude** Improvisations on themes from the day Jeff Brummel  
Amy Pottkotter, guest music director

Today’s flowers are given in honor of Darren DeMent  
and in gratitude for his 30 years of ministry at Wilshire.

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Connie McDaniel** and her husband, Steve, joined Wilshire in 2025 after returning to Dallas from Morocco, where they lived for 35 years. They are the parents of Wilshire member Angela Brindle and grandparents to Nicolette. The McDaniels attend Cord of Three Class and lead Marriage Connections. Connie teaches ESL at Dallas College and previously taught art at an international school.

**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 recently served as staff liaison for Wilshire's 75th anniversary celebration.

**David Nabors** and his wife, Joan, joined Wilshire in 2014 when David became Wilshire's director of business administration. He retired in 2021 and now enjoys traveling and playing tennis. David and Joan attend Cord of Three Class, and David serves on the Personnel Committee, sings in Sanctuary Choir and Nova and participates in Faith in 3D. David and Joan have two adult sons, two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

**Amy Pottkoter** joined Wilshire in 2019 with her three kids, Joshua, Audrey and Katherine. Amy has served as pianist for Youth Choir and Shekinah and participated in multiple Faith in 3D productions at Wilshire. She is a professional vocal coach, soloist and accompanist.

**Kit Sloan** and her husband, Weldon, joined Wilshire in 2022. Their daughter, Betty, is almost 4, and their son, Warren, is 10 months old. The Sloans are members of Ithaka Class, and Kit will be teaching Kindergarten Sunday School beginning this fall. She works as a technical trainer at the law firm Kirkland & Ellis.



**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)
- 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

- James Dolph, Pastoral Resident (3152)
- Amanda Hines, Pastoral Resident (3154)
- George Mason, Senior Pastor Emeritus and Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director (3133)
- Jordann McMahan, Pastoral Resident (3155)
- Bryce Shelton, Pastoral Resident (3153)

## Senior Pastor

- Chelsea Hopkins, Executive Assistant (3132)
- Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor (3132)

## Spiritual Formation

- Kelly Akins, Minister to Preschoolers (3139)
- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Carole McClung, Spiritual Formation Ministry Assistant (3130)
- Katie Murray, Minister of Pastoral Care and to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)



## FORMED BY COMMUNITY

**Darren DeMent  
and Wilshire have  
shaped each other  
for 30 years**



**I**T'S FITTING THAT THE SAME SUMMER we celebrated Wilshire's 75-year history, we also celebrate Darren DeMent's 30 years of ministry among us.

Alumni from Darren's youth groups are now deacons, teachers, class directors, choir members, parents and leaders shaping Wilshire's future, and his own ministry has grown to shape the spiritual life of the entire congregation.

Wilshire will mark Darren's anniversary today with recognition in worship and a celebratory 5 p.m. musical event.

Thirty years at one church is remarkable, but especially in youth ministry. Even at Wilshire, the 14 youth pastors before Darren served an average of less than three years. With this anni-

versary, Darren joins George Mason, Bill James and Bruce McIver on the list of ministers to serve three decades at Wilshire.

Echoing George's line that "great churches make great pastors," Darren said his tenure says as much about Wilshire as it does about him.

"The reason you stay somewhere is because the place is worth staying at. My longevity speaks to the nature of the church as much as it does to anything I've been able to do."

Darren's connection to Wilshire dates to 1994, when he first worked Youth Camp at the invitation of then-Minister to Students John Brashier, who had previously been Darren's youth pastor in Baton Rouge. Upon graduating from LSU and starting seminary in Fort Worth, Darren joined



**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](https://youtube.com/wilshirebaptist). Keep up with Wilshire by subscribing to our YouTube channel and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

Wilshire's staff as a student ministry intern in 1996. After serving as interim student minister following Brashier's departure, Darren was named minister to students in 1999. In 2020, he gained additional responsibilities when he was named associate pastor.

"I don't think of it as 30 years as much as it's like six different five-year segments," he said. "About every five years something changes or is a little bit different."

Those changes have allowed him to grow alongside the congregation. Darren's role today encompasses Sunday School, Wednesday programming and spiritual formation across every stage of life.

"My hope, when I became the umbrella person over spiritual formation, was that we could figure out what that looks like from the cradle to the grave at Wilshire," he said. "What are the connective pieces that run through the whole thing?"

For Darren, spiritual formation extends well beyond the Sunday School room. "Worship is spiritual formation, and so is missions. It's all about being formed. I think we've got a better understanding now that everything works together."

Even as his responsibilities have grown, student ministry remains at the heart of Darren's



# SONGS FROM THE BASEMENT



**5 PM | SANCTUARY**

## Singalong event tonight

Everyone is invited back at 5 p.m. today for Songs from the Basement, a musical celebration of Darren's 30th anniversary.

The singalong event will feature Darren and others leading songs beloved by generations of Wilshire youth. In recent years, these songs have emerged from the subterranean Youth Center to become familiar to the wider church through their use in worship. Several of the songs appeared on the *Wilshire Roots* album.

"Whether you know the songs or not," Darren said, "I think it's going to be good because we're putting some really good singers and musicians on stage. If you've been to one of our Songwriter Vespers, it'll be a similar cast of characters."

A reception will follow the event in James Gallery.

work. Today, many of the students he once led are the adults leading Youth Camp, sponsoring choir tour, teaching Sunday School and mentoring the next generation of Wilshire students.

Mary Lu Hare, one of those alums, runs the @wilshirestudentministry Instagram account and is a constant presence at youth events. “Darren’s ministry is honest, authentic and accessible,” she said. “It shows up openly and allows everyone to show up as their real self. He offers a deep love and grace and kindness that many people never see, and that alone is worth celebrating.”

Rising ninth grader Alden Henry added, “Darren is what makes WSM go round. He always makes everyone feel welcome and included, and without him there wouldn’t be a WSM like there is today.”

Darren’s family life has been intertwined with his ministry work from the beginning. When he and his wife, Joannah, married in 1999, Wilshire’s Youth Choir made the Baton Rouge ceremony a stop on its summer tour. Now the couple’s two young adult children, Virginia and Elias, are alumni of that same youth group.

“Darren and Joannah are easily in my top two

most influential people in my life,” Mary Lu said. “And I know I’m not alone in that. The way Darren has shown up for students and alumni over the years is nothing short of miraculous superhero vibes.”

Music has been another constant in Darren’s ministry. A guitarist and mandolin player with a love for roots music and the singer-songwriter tradition, he has spent decades helping people discover God in places they might not expect.

“I’ve never been a big divider of sacred and secular,” Darren says. “It’s more about what you’re doing with it than what the thing itself is.”

That philosophy shaped the culture of Wilshire Student Ministry, where Darren developed the body of songs informally known as Songs from the Basement. Chosen less for genre than for their honesty and depth, the songs formed generations of students before becoming known to the wider congregation through their use in worship. Darren has long shared his musical gifts in worship, bringing an acoustic folk element to the church’s music ministry.

His musical imagination has continued to expand beyond student ministry. Songwriter Vespers, launched last year, has invited the congre-



gation to encounter God and faith through the work of influential songwriters, while Darren's expertly curated Advent and Lent playlists have become a beloved seasonal tradition for many.

"As my job description has expanded, I've tried to figure out things that I'm interested in and feel passionate about that I can put some energy behind and figure out ways to make those into offerings that people care about," Darren said. "Songwriter Vespers wasn't on anyone's radar. I just said, 'Hey, I want to do this.' And everybody said, 'Yeah, let's do it.'"

Whether through music, film or pop culture, Darren has spent 30 years inviting people into deeper conversations about faith. It is an approach he first developed with teenagers but one that has proven just as meaningful for the whole church.

Associate Pastor Heather Mustain said, "As Darren's colleague, I get to see the intentionality he puts behind everything he does. He is the very best storyteller and a wonderful ideator, helping create and cultivate spaces where people of all ages can find community and belonging. Darren makes me better; he makes us all better."

Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples pointed to the people whose lives Darren has touched. "Darren's humor, imagination and theological insight have enriched our staff, our church and everyone who has the privilege of serving alongside him. Darren has faithfully given his heart and soul to the good and beautiful work of building God's kingdom, and his legacy is evident in the people he has loved, led and served."

For Darren, 30 years feels less like reaching a milestone than continuing a journey.

"I've effectively grown up here. My entire experience of adulthood has been in this community. I sure hope I'm not the exact same person I was in 1996. Wilshire has been a place that's allowed me to figure out who I am along the way. It just felt natural to stick around."

## **Adventurers museum outing**

The Wilshire Adventurers will visit the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum on Thursday, Aug. 20, at 10:15 a.m. The group will see the museum's special exhibit, "The Walt Disney Studios and World War II." Admission is \$12 per person, and registration is required. Visit [wilshirebc.org/events/disney](http://wilshirebc.org/events/disney) to sign up.

## **Midday on Abrams is coming**

Starting Sept. 2, Wilshire will offer Midday on Abrams, a new monthly event with lunch, fellowship and informative guest speakers on a variety of topics. Midday on Abrams will be offered the first Wednesday every month. Lunch (\$10 ea.) will start at 11:30 a.m., and the program will run from noon to about 12:45 p.m.

## **Sanctuary Choir is open to all**

Did you know Sanctuary Choir is open to anyone? There's no audition, and we'd love to have you. The choir will kick off the fall with a retreat on Saturday morning, Aug. 15. Regular rehearsals begin Wednesday, Aug. 19, at 7 p.m. in Choral Hall. Email Ariel Merivil or Carol Cabaniss to get started.

## **Wilshire seeks music educator for children's choir 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. Learn more at [wilshirebc.org/employment](http://wilshirebc.org/employment).

## **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](http://wilshirebc.org/serve).

# New residents start this week

**W**ILSHIRE'S NEW PASTORAL RESIDENTS, James Dolph and Bryce Shelton, have moved into their homes on Resident Row and will begin their two-year terms at Wilshire on Monday, Aug. 3.

James (they/them) comes to Wilshire from Wake Forest University School of Divinity, where they completed a Master of Divinity degree in May. At Wake, James served on the divinity school's Student Leadership Council and as president of Kaleidoscope, an LGBTQ+ student organization. They also worked as a graduate assistant for the divinity school's admissions office and Art of Ministry program.

James was recently ordained at First Baptist Church of Greensboro, North Carolina, where they served as an intern in youth ministry and as acting youth minister. James, who grew up in Wakefield, Nebraska, majored in philosophy and religion, with a minor in psychology, at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln.

Bryce (he/him) completed his Master of Divinity degree this spring at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary. He previously attended SMU's Perkins School of Theology.

While at Truett, Bryce worked as a research assistant for the Center for Church and Community Engagement at Baylor's Garland School of Social Work and as a graduate library assistant. He also served on the leadership team for Baylor's Open Table Chapel.



James Dolph



Bryce Shelton

Bryce was a part-time facilities staffer and served a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-funded internship at Waco's Seventh and James Baptist Church. Since 2025, he has served on the governing board for CBF Texas.

A native of Tulia, Texas, Bryce was licensed and ordained by Tulia's First Baptist Church, where he served as a pastoral intern. He also served as co-pastor of a Comanche, Texas, church and worked as a funeral home assistant.

Bryce earned a bachelor's degree in Christian studies and practical theology at Howard Payne University in Brownwood.

As James and Bryce start, Amanda Hines and Jordann McMahan will begin their second year as residents. Annette Thornburg Owen was named director of Pathways to Ministry and will begin Aug. 31.

---

## WOW Book Clubs

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Aug. 11 | 6:30 p.m. | 1205-G | *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman. Contact: Debby Burton ([debbyb0929@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

## Men's Book Club



Tuesday, Aug. 18 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *Superbloom: How Technologies of Connection Tear Us Apart* by Nicholas Carr. Contact: Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)) or Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net))

# FALL Kickoff

KIDCONNECT

FAMILY DINNER

MUSIC

MISSIONS

WORSHIP

WATERSHED

SUNDAY SCHOOL

## SUNDAY, AUG. 16

### 9 a.m. Worship resumes

Our weekly contemplative service in McIver Chapel explores spiritual practices and includes music, Scripture, prayer and a message.

### Promotion Sunday

Preschoolers, children and youth will move to new Sunday School classes, and it's a great day for adults to try a new class or try Sunday School for the first time.

### Blessing of the Backpacks

Blessing of the Backpacks will be held during 11 a.m. worship on Aug. 16. Children can bring their school bags to church and will be invited to the front to receive a back-to-school blessing.

### Kickoff Lunch

Join us at noon for a BBQ lunch in Community Hall. Adults, \$10; kids 4–9, \$5; free for 3 and under; household max: \$35. Cash/check/credit accepted at the door.

■ **Volunteers eat free.** Find a sign-up link at [wilshirebc.org/events/fall-kickoff](http://wilshirebc.org/events/fall-kickoff).

*Children's and Youth Choirs will begin rehearsals after church on Sunday, Aug. 23.*

## WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19

### Family Dinner

**5 p.m.** | **Community Hall** | New name, same great buffet dinner. Kid-friendly options available. Cash/check/credit accepted.

### Preschool Music & More

**6 p.m.** | **Age 3–Pre-K** | Preschool choir plus activities and lessons focused on God's love.

### KidConnect

**6 p.m.** | **K– Grade 5** | A rotation of activities to help kids learn how to love God and others with every part of themselves. Includes choir for Kindergartners.

### Spiritual Formation

**6 p.m.** | Our lineup for adults will include a variety of opportunities to help you grow in your faith: Bible and book studies, topical series, missions activities, resident-led Vespers and more.

### Watershed

**6:30 p.m.** | **Grades 6–12** | Wilshire Student Ministry's midweek gathering.

### Sanctuary Choir

**7 p.m.** | **Choral Hall** | New singers are always welcome. No audition.

# Called to the smallest among us

ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS we can give a child is a caring adult who consistently shows up.

Every Sunday, our children's and preschool areas are filled with kids who are forming their first impressions of church, God's love and what it means to belong to a faith community. They may not remember every Bible story they hear, but they will remember how they felt. They'll remember the adults who welcomed them with a smile, knelt to listen to them, comforted them and celebrated their excitement. Those moments matter.

Research shows that the presence of caring, trusted adults is one of the strongest influences on a child's faith development. Parents are a child's primary faith nurturers, but the church has the privilege of surrounding families with additional caring adults who reinforce God's love. Every volunteer who rocks a baby, reads a story, sings a song or helps with a craft is doing more than childcare — they're helping lay the foundation for a lifelong faith.

As our preschool ministry continues to grow, so does our need for volunteers. Our greatest needs are in the two-year-old and Pre-K classes, but there are opportunities for all kinds of gifts. You don't need to be a Bible scholar or experienced teacher — just someone with a willing heart. We provide the curriculum, training and support.

If Sundays aren't possible, we'll also need volunteers for Wednesday Night Live preschool and children's classes beginning Aug. 19.

If you'd like to learn more about serving, contact Minister to Preschoolers Kelly Akins ([kakins@wilshirebc.org](mailto:kakins@wilshirebc.org)). Our children don't just need teachers. They need caring adults who will show them, week after week, what the love of Christ looks like.

## 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](http://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](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.

---

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, Aug. 2**

- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- *Songs from the Basement*, Sanctuary, 5 p.m.; Darren DeMent 30th Anniversary Reception follows, James Gallery

## **Tuesday, Aug. 4**

- Stephen Ministry CE and Supervision, 1205-G, 6 p.m.

## **Wednesday, Aug. 5**

- WSM Study-n-Swim, Wilson Home, 6:30 p.m.

## **Thursday, Aug. 6**

- Memorial Service for Edith Conner, McIver Chapel, 10 a.m.
- WOW Brown Bag Book Club, 1205-L, noon
- Knit Unto Others, 1205-G, 1:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, Aug. 8**

- *Wired for Wonder* with Harrison Litzell: Parent Event, Gail and Steve Brookshire's Home, 6 p.m.

## **Sunday, Aug. 9**

- Rising Sixth Grade Blessing Service, 2230, 9:45 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- *Wired for Wonder* with Harrison Litzell: Teacher and Volunteer Training, Community Hall, noon
- Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room, noon

## **Tuesday, Aug. 11**

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

# Judy Yarbrough

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

An SMU scholarship for Charles brought us to Dallas in 1975. After visiting two other churches, we found Wilshire and visited. When singing the invitation hymn, we looked at each other and said, this is home.

## **Who was pastor when you joined?**

Bruce McIver. He and Lawanna had a tremendous impact on our lives. Charles's job took us to Amarillo in 1984 and then Houston in 1987. We returned to Dallas in 1989. We rejoined the same Sunday as George and Kim Mason at the beginning of their time at Wilshire.

## **What are some favorite memories?**

When we first joined, there were no young adult classes, so we agreed to help start a class. We knocked on the doors of young adults who were new to the area or had visited Wilshire. Within one year, 25 people had joined our class! Many of those young adults provide leadership at Wilshire today. Another favorite memory is buying a 12-foot pew when the balcony of the Chapel was removed. It is now a 4-foot pew and has many fond memories as, over time, a length has been removed.

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

I was on staff twice. In 1993, I was hired as the receptionist. I had a mix of responsibilities, and each one brought a relationship with every person on the staff. I was interim preschool and



children's minister after Lois Harper retired in 1998. Rita Griffith, Jane Morgan, Deah McCoy and Mona Hagler joined me as preschool and children's coordinators. I could not have done it without them! George guided me through my call to ministry. He helped me navigate the turmoil that surrounded my seminary choices, and his encouragement to take part in some of the residents' activities helped me stay on the path of answering my call. It was a privilege hosting Darren decades ago and Timothy before his ministry at Emerywood. We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Timothy and Valerie back home where they belong!

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

We came to Wilshire as young adults and we raised Jennifer, Elizabeth, David and Collin here. They are living their adult lives and raising their own children with God's leadership. Charles and I have a place in the Columbarium. We're not going anywhere!