



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparing for worship

“Hello! It’s so good to see you!”

We hear and say this greeting often when we’re with other people. In fact, you’ve probably already said this, or something like this, to someone today. The phrase offers a warm welcome and opens the door to the start of a conversation.

Whenever I see my good friend Adam, I say, “Hi, Adam! It’s so good to see you!” Instead of the exchange that typically follows — sharing with one another what we did over the weekend, how we are doing overall or what our upcoming week might look like — Adam will say, “Oh, hey, Amanda, it’s so good to be seen.” The first time Adam and I had this interaction, it gave me pause. I hadn’t realized how often I would say “It’s good to see you” to someone as a mere pleasantry. I would habitually give a rehearsed, hurried reply while on my way to the next thing on my mental to-do list. Adam’s response disrupted my normal pattern and allowed me an opportunity to stop and truly see him. And in turn, it gave an invitation for him to fully see me.

It can be challenging for us to stop and fully

see. In the midst of busy schedules, full calendars and not to mention the ever-growing to-do lists, sometimes a disruption to our normal can be a good thing. I wonder how often our lives with God might feel like a hurried and rehearsed exchange of pleasantries. I wonder how often we might look past one another instead of taking time to fully see the person in front of us. What would it be like for you to fully notice, to see God and to sit in the comfort that God truly sees all of you?

Throughout worship today, I invite you to pause and fully see. As you pass the peace, may you fully see the image bearer in front of you. As you watch our fifth graders add movement and images to our Scripture passage, may you see this familiar story with fresh and full eyes. In the words of today’s choral anthem, may you see how God is making all things new.

So, settle into your space, take a deeper than normal breath and know that it is so good to see you. And it is so good to be seen.

—Amanda Hines



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: *The Sea*, Gustave Courbet, circa 1865, oil on canvas.

September 13, 2026
11:00 a.m.
Sixteenth 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

Julie Girards

Prelude

Praise Him, Praise Him! arr. Mona Williams Coalter
Garrett Woodbury and Kathryn Woodbury, piano

+Call to Worship

Susan Clarke

One: Sing a song to the God who knows us
All: The One who loves us, every part of who we are
One: Sing a song to the God who sees us
All: The One who meets us in our times of need
One: Sing a song to the God who holds us
All: The One who is near to us through every season
One: Sing a song to the One who does great wonders
All: To God be the glory!

+Congregational Song

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship
No. 296

HOLY MANNA

+Passing of the Peace

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

+Response in Song

God Welcomes All

THEMBA AMEN

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

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD, for the LORD has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider God has thrown into the sea.
The LORD is my strength and my might,
and has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise the LORD;
my father’s God, and I will exalt the LORD.
The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is God’s name.
Pharaoh’s chariots and his army God cast into the sea;
his elite officers were sunk in the Red Sea.
The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power —
your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.
In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;
you sent out your fury; it consumed them like stubble.
At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up;
the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.
The enemy said, ‘I will pursue; I will overtake;
I will divide the spoil; my desire shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.’
You blew with your wind; the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.
Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

...

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD, for the LORD has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider God has thrown into the sea.”

Missions Moment

Gladys Kolenovsky, Patty Latham

Offertory

A Kind and Gentle Soul
Wilshire Winds
Shana Gaines, director

James Swearingen

Trapped. There was no way around it. Pharaoh had changed his mind, chasing after God’s people. And now with a great shimmering sea to their front and a pack of angry Pharaoh-soldiers fast approaching from behind, God’s people were trapped. Stuck. Doomed.

Babies wailed, and old men grumbled as everyone turned their frightened eyes to Moses. What now? “Be calm! God will make a way!” Moses assured them. Hello? God? Will you make a way?

“Lift up your staff and stretch your hand over the water,” God told Moses. Moses looked down at the shepherd staff that he had chosen over Pharaoh’s crook. God had asked him to stand for life and flourishing instead of power. God had promised to go with him. It all came down to this: A shepherd against a pharaoh. God against Egypt. Staff versus crook. Flourishing versus power.

As Moses lifted the staff, a mighty wind blew, and the waters rolled back, splashing and piling into walls on either side. A path appeared – a way through the water. Tiptoeing, dust-kicking, jaws dropping, God’s people crossed the mighty sea on dry land. And as soon as the last foot climbed the opposite bank, the waters folded back in with a crash! The chase was over. Pharaoh had lost. God’s people were free.

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

He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought
No. 68

HE LEADETH ME

Message

“The Sea Before Us”

Timothy Peoples

Anthem

All Things New
Sanctuary Choir

Elaine Hagenberg

Light after darkness, gain after loss,
Strength after weakness, crown after cross;
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears,
Home after wandering, praise after tears.

Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, God is making all things new,
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear.
God is making all things new, God is making all things new.

Sight after mystery, sun after rain,
Joy after sorrow, peace after pain,
Near after distant, gleam after gloom,
Love after loneliness, life after tomb.

Silence

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

+Congregational Song

To God Be the Glory
No. 349

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

As your community of faith, we commit ourselves to be the family of God for you; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, as we are shaped together by the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Closing Voluntary

Of Time and Change
Wilshire Winds

James Swearingen



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.

Meet today's worship leaders

Kevin Cabaniss grew up at Wilshire and is married to Carol. They are parents to three young adults: Peyton, Tanner and Trace. Kevin is a deacon, teaches Fifth Grade Sunday School, serves on the Risk Management Committee, sings in Sanctuary Choir and Nova, plays in Carillon Ringers and has been a Faith in 3D participant. He serves as the VP over Legal, Compliance and Offers and Contracts at Airbus Helicopters, Inc.

Susan Clarke joined Wilshire in 2021. She serves as director of Open Bible Class, is a member of the Library Committee and volunteers with Friday Friends. Susan enjoys cooking, gardening and traveling.

Gladys Kolenovsky joined Wilshire in 1982. She is a deacon, teaches in Cord of Three Class, volunteers for children's Cooking Camp, serves on the Committee on Committees, Funeral Ministry, Immigration Ministry and led the recent Deacon Bylaws Workgroup. Gladys retired after 44 years at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, where she directed the dyslexia department and their Legacy Scholarship Program. She and Bobby celebrated their 50th anniversary last year.

Patty Latham and her husband, Paul, joined Wilshire in 2018 and attend Cord of Three Class. Patty is a deacon, a Stephen Minister and a Library volunteer. She serves on the Committee on Committees and the Hospitality Team and volunteers at immigration court. Patty and Paul have two adult daughters and one granddaughter.

Larry Link joined Wilshire in 2022 and served as interim minister to senior adults in 2022 and 2023. He is retired from a long ministry career, mainly in adult education, and now serves as a director in Compass Class. Larry has three adult children, 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His daughter Katy and her kids are Wilshire members. Larry's wife of 62 years, LaVon, passed away in 2025.

Britt McClung and his wife, Carole, joined Wilshire in 2011 and serve as directors of Genesis Class. They are the parents of Ava, a graduate student at Yale Divinity School; Miriam, a first-year student at Carleton College; and Ruby, a sophomore at Lake Highlands High School. Britt is a deacon, chairs the Risk Management Committee and participated in Faith in 3D this year. He works as litigation counsel for Onity Group.

Garrett Woodbury is the son of Paula and Jason Woodbury and brother to Kathryn Woodbury and Sher Moo Ku. Garrett grew up at Wilshire and recently graduated from Baylor University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music composition. He is now preparing for graduate school and transcribing and engraving gospel works for Dr. Stephen Michael Newby at Baylor.

Kathryn Woodbury is a senior at Lake Highlands High School, where she is involved with theatre and choir, including the show choir Espree. She also participates in National Charity League and is an Eagle Scout. At Wilshire, Kathryn is active in student ministry, sings in Youth Choir and recently served on the Lay Support Team for Pastoral Resident Maggie Morey. Kathryn's parents are Paula and Jason Woodbury, and her siblings are Garrett Woodbury and Sher Moo Ku.

Staff contacts

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

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

- Christina Evans, Interim Missions and Advocacy Coordinator (3159)
- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

Music and Worship

- J'Von Brown, Children's Choir Coordinator (3124)
- 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)
- Annette Owen, Pathways to Ministry Director (3158)
- 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)
- Tim Cruise, Student Ministry Assistant[†]
- 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)

[†]These staff members have Wilshire email addresses but do not have Wilshire phone extensions.

Tapestry



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements
September 13, 2026

Today is Visioning Day

Attend a discussion at 9, 9:45 or 12:15

Visioning Day is your chance to participate in a small group discussion as part of our Visioning process. The Visioning Team looks forward to hearing from everyone today as we consider these four important questions:

- How would you describe Wilshire to someone unfamiliar with our church?
- Why do you drive by other churches to come to Wilshire?
- What atmosphere do we tend to create when our people get together?
- If Wilshire were immediately uprooted from the community, what would people in the Dallas area feel is missing?

Sessions will be held in Community Hall at 9 a.m., 9:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Choose the time that works best for you.

Refreshments will be provided, with a box lunch available at 12:15.

Childcare is available. If you need childcare for the 12:15 session but did not register in advance, contact Minister to Preschoolers Kelly Akins (kakins@wilshirebc.org).

Long-distance members and anyone not here today can join a Zoom session next Sunday, Sept. 20, at 5:30 p.m. We will post the Zoom link at wilshirebc.org/visioning earlier that day.

One more week to complete Visioning Survey

The Visioning Team thanks everyone who has already completed our survey. The rest of you still have time. The survey closes next Sunday, Sept. 20, and should take about 15 minutes to complete. We hope everyone will take the survey, even those who participate in a Visioning Day session.

Scan the QR code to access the survey online. The link can also be found at wilshirebc.org/visioning.

■ If you'd rather fill out the survey on paper, copies are available in the office. Be sure to grab one today so you can bring it back completed by next Sunday.



**Survey closes
Sunday, Sept. 20**



Sundays: Chapel Worship, 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.

New members

- **Annette and David Owen with Conrad**
- **Jay Druley**

Condolences to

- **Ben and Kristi Reavis** on the death of Ben’s stepmother, Deborah Reavis, Sept. 8. Grandchildren are **Emily** and **Owen Reavis**.
- **Ed and Jennifer Wagner** on the death of Ed’s father, Sept. 10. Grandchildren are **Noah**, **Haydn** and **Elly Wagner**.

Two named to part-time roles

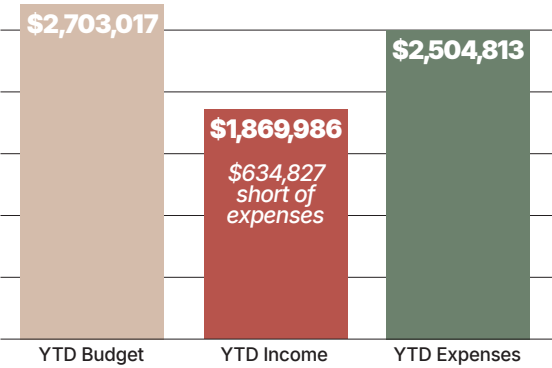
- **Tim Cruise** has begun work on Wilshire’s staff as part-time student ministry assistant. He reports to Associate Pastor Darren DeMent. Tim joined Wilshire in 2014 and served as a student ministry intern during summer 2012 and from 2014 to 2016. He teaches English at DISD’s Roosevelt High School and previously taught in Fort Worth and Chicago. Tim is married to Dr. Sydney Curtis and recently completed a master’s degree from Brite Divinity School at TCU.
- **Christina Evans** will join Wilshire’s staff tomorrow as interim missions and advocacy coordinator, a part-time role reporting to Associate Pastor Heather Mustain. Heather said, “Christina brings a host of administrative experience and skill paired with a deep love to see the gospel put into action.” Christina and her husband, Mark, joined Wilshire in 2024 with their two kids, Liam, 7, and Eliana, 5.

Sign up for Sept. 20 blood drive



Carter Blood Care will hold a blood drive at Wilshire next Sunday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome; appointments are recommended. Scan the QR code or visit wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive.

Unified Budget Update



Pathways Endowment YTD gifts..... \$19,786
Pathways Endowment August balance..... \$11,829,637

Time With Tim on Sept. 27

Time With Tim, a informal chance for guests and new members to visit with Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples, will be held Sept. 27 at 9:45 a.m. in Tim’s office. No RSVP needed. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Preschool parents brunch, Oct. 4

All parents of preschoolers are invited to a brunch at 9:45 a.m. on Oct. 4 in James Gallery. Minister to Preschoolers Kelly Akins says the event will be an informal time for preschool parents to get to know each other.

Adventurers AI talk is open to all

On Sunday, Oct. 4, Wilshire member Teri Walker will offer a Tech Talk on AI (artificial intelligence) over lunch in Community Hall. Teri will equip us to confidently navigate this quickly evolving phenomenon. This Adventurers-hosted event is open to anyone. Registration is not required, but it’s the best way to make sure you get lunch. Visit wilshirebc.org/events/ai.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

September 16

Family Dinner

5 p.m. | Community Hall | Buffet dinner with kid-friendly options. Cash/check/credit accepted. See prices at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Sept. 16 menu:** Pasta bar; chicken Alfredo, pesto and bolognese sauces; roasted cauliflower and broccoli; Caesar salad; mine-strone soup; tiramisu.

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.

Watershed

6:30 p.m. | Grades 6–12 | Wilshire Student Ministry’s midweek gathering in the Youth Center.

Sanctuary Choir

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

Childcare is offered from 6 to 7:15 p.m. for infants to 2-year-olds with parents involved in church activities.

PRAYING WITH OUR FEET

The Gospel and the March on Selma



Selma series concludes

Sept. 2, 9 and 16 | “I felt like my feet were praying,” Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote after marching with other civil rights leaders. Join us as we explore the work of those leaders and consider how the pursuit of justice is also a pursuit of the gospel.

Guest speaker on Sept. 23

Dr. Barbara McClure of Brite Divinity School will join us at 6 p.m. to explore what it means to truly flourish — not simply to be happy or successful, but to live with deeper meaning, purpose and wholeness.

Adventurers to Québec in 2027

The Wilshire Adventurers are planning a trip to Québec City in Canada on Sept. 20–25, 2027. To learn more and express your interest in going, visit wilshirebc.org/adventurers-trip by Oct. 2. Brochures are available in the office.

Midday on Abrams set for Oct. 7

The next Midday on Abrams will be held Wednesday, Oct. 7, with Robin Sullens as guest speaker. Robin, a Wilshire member and staff chaplain with the VA, brings a wealth of knowledge from her 20+ years of experience helping individuals and families navigate medical decisions. Midday on Abrams includes lunch, fellowship and informative speakers on the first Wednesday every month. Lunch (\$10) starts at 11:30 a.m.; the program begins at noon.

Next Friday Night Live is Oct. 9

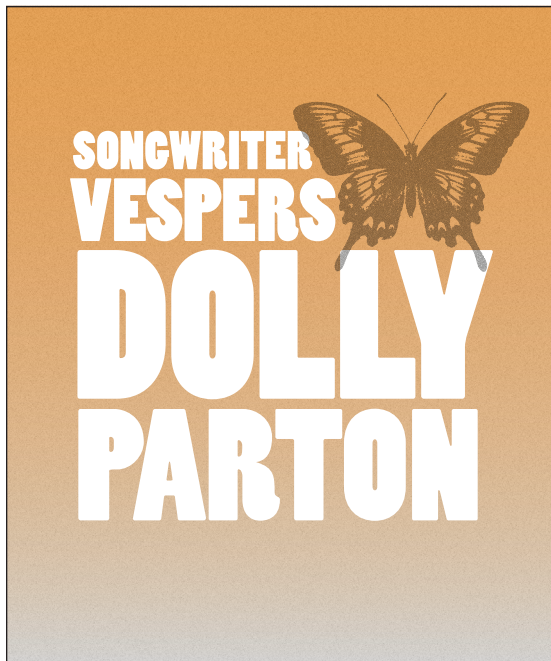
The next Friday Night Live will be offered Oct. 9. Held about once a month, this event is actually three events that work together: Marriage Connections, open to all couples; Kids Night Out; and Preschool Night Out. Find more details at wilshirebc.org/events/fnl.

Adopt a book on Oct. 11

At the Wilshire Library's Adopt-a-Book event on Sunday morning, Oct. 11, you can help the Library defray the cost of new books by purchasing a dedication in honor or memory of a loved one. Dedications will be printed on plaques placed inside the books, which will then be available to be checked out. Monetary donations are also welcome to help the Library build its collection. Stop by the South Atrium from 9 to 10:45 a.m. or after worship.

Men's Book Club

Tuesday, Sept. 15 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *Fire on the Mountain* by Edward Abbey. Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net)



SONGWRITER VESPERS
DOLLY PARTON

Songwriter Vespers: Sept. 27
Dolly Parton, the iconic songwriter and performer who died Aug. 25, will be the focus of the next Songwriter Vespers, set for Sunday, Sept. 27, at 4:30 p.m. in Choral Hall. Wilshire's Songwriter Vespers series blends elements of a coffeehouse performance and a worship service, with music from a full band and various singers. Songwriters featured in the past include John Prine and Townes Van Zandt. Coffee and light snacks will be served.

Women of Wilshire Book Clubs

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Oct. 13 | 6:30 p.m. | 1205-G | *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood. Contact: Debby Burton (debbyb0929@gmail.com)

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Thursday, Oct. 1 | Noon | 1205-L | *All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Deacon nominations sought

THE DEACON NOMINATING COMMITTEE asks Wilshire members to submit names of persons to be considered for deacon service.

Nominees should be individuals who have modeled consistent, faithful service and leadership and who have been Wilshire members at least one year. You may also nominate deacons in reserve to rotate into active service. Nominate as many individuals as you wish. New deacons will be ordained and start their three-year terms after being approved at Wilshire's Annual Church Conference in January. The Deacon Nominating Committee appreciates your prayerful consideration.

What is a deacon, anyway?

The role of deacons originates from Acts 6, where the early church appointed leaders to serve the community's growing needs, allowing the apostles to focus on prayer and teaching. These deacons were chosen for their spiritual maturity and wisdom.

In Baptist tradition, deacons are seen as servant leaders who support the congregation, care for the congregation and promote unity. At Wilshire, deacons are expected to bring their unique spiritual gifts and life experiences to serve the church faithfully.

Deacons at Wilshire are called to demonstrate commitment to Christ and the church, show spiritual maturity and leadership and live with balance, integrity and humility.

Their responsibilities include tithing, attending monthly meetings, serving communion (including to the homebound), participating in hospitality and worship care, and supporting church leadership.

Ultimately, the deacon ministry at Wilshire is rooted in service, not status, emphasizing Christ-like leadership through prayer, presence and faithfulness.

Please submit nominations by Friday, Sept. 25



Online: Scan the QR code or visit wilshirebc.org/deacon-nominations. At the link you will find reference lists of active deacons, inactive deacons and those who have chosen honorary emeritus status.

Paper Form: Pick up a nomination form in the church office, fill it out and return it to the attention of Chelsea Hopkins.

Deadline: Friday, Sept. 25.

Note: If you have been ordained as a deacon in another church and have not served at Wilshire, please let Chelsea Hopkins know (chopkins@wilshirebc.org).

wilshirebc.org/deacon-nominations

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Ask Congress to delay SNAP cost share implementation

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is one of our nation's most effective tools for fighting hunger by helping working families, children and older adults access nutritious food. Protecting and strengthening SNAP is hunger advocacy. Food banks provide an essential emergency response, but they cannot replace the scale and purchasing power of federal programs. Ensuring that eligible Texans can access SNAP — and that the program remains adequately funded — is essential to reducing hunger and helping families achieve greater stability.

New federal changes approved through H.R. 1 (the so-called “Big Beautiful Bill”) would shift more SNAP costs to states for the first time in the program's history. The first change takes effect Oct. 1, when Texas will be required to pay 75% of SNAP administrative costs, up from the 50% it has historically covered. A second change, planned for Oct. 1, 2027, requires states to share benefit costs based on their SNAP error rates.

The current SNAP error rate in Texas is 9.34%, which could require the state to fund \$709 million in SNAP benefits each year if the rate does not improve. Texas is working to get the error rate below 6%, but it was given only three months to do so. Meaningful improvement requires technology upgrades, staff training, and changes that take time to implement and show results. Before the pandemic, Texas consistently had an error rate below 6% and can do so again with adequate time. States with the highest error rates have already received additional time, and all states should have a fair chance to improve before facing major financial penalties.

North Texas Food Bank and the Feeding Texas network are urging lawmakers to request a two-year extension of the cost-share requirement, which has already been granted to other states. Program integrity and improved payment accuracy are important shared goals, as is protecting food assistance for Texas families, children, veterans and seniors. Delaying the cost share is a practical way to support both accountability and access to food.

Feeding Texas makes it easy for you to contact your representatives in support of a delay. Scan the QR code or visit <https://secure.feedingtexas.org/a/delay-snap-cost-share>.



Empowering the Masses pantry drive continues

Join us during September as we help our mission partner Empowering the Masses stock its new pantry location in Pleasant Grove. Empowering the Masses provides for basic needs, delivers educational resources, and provides access to careers that are stable and lucrative, paving a path for sustainable success in life.



Scan the code to shop via an Amazon wishlist and have items shipped directly to Empowering the Masses. **Link:** <https://a.co/01xOWXIn>

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, Sept. 13

- Visioning Day Session, Community Hall, 9 a.m.
- Worship Service, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Visioning Day Session, Community Hall, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Visioning Day Session, Community Hall, 12:15 p.m.
- Youth Choir Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Children's Choir Lunch, 2223, noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 14

- Wilshire Winds, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15

- Wilkinson Center Pantry Assistants, noon
- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Book Club, Parlor, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Family Dinner, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Preschool Music and More, 6 p.m.
- WNL Adult Spiritual Formation, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 17

- Knit Unto Others, 1205-G, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19

- Nova, Choral Hall, 9 a.m.
- Memorial Service: Martha Newfield, McIver Chapel, 2 p.m.

Mike Moorhead

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

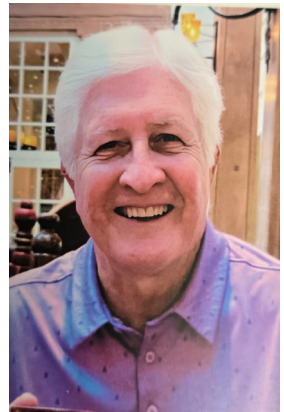
Shaeron and I came to Wilshire in November 1972 at the invitation of Bob Lemons, a former Wilshire member and a friend from Second Baptist in Lubbock. We were directors of the College and Career class at Richardson Heights Baptist Church, but we didn't feel at home there. We visited Wilshire one Sunday evening and before the service was completed we knew we would join the next Sunday morning. We felt Wilshire was home.

Who was pastor when you joined?

Bruce was pastor then, but he was on leave due to some medical issues. His associate, Nathan Stone, was in the pulpit when we joined, and immediately we bonded with Nathan. We liked Nathan personally, and his messages rang true to us. We also loved the music ministry of Bill James.

What was the building like when you joined?

The building had less space for children then, there was no third floor, and the church offices were much smaller. Also the parking lots were much smaller, the James Gallery did not exist and Community Hall, then called Fellowship Hall, was much smaller.



What ministries or staff members have impacted your life?

I have been most influenced and appreciative of George Mason; we didn't always agree theologically, but we agreed to disagree. I have been blessed in many ways by Jeff Brummel, whose musical talents and outgoing personality and sense of humor have delighted me immensely.

Why have you stayed so long?

We have stayed for over 50 years because during much of that time our Sunday School class, Compass, was both home and family to us. The ability to plan our own curriculum is a major benefit of Compass, and the continued influx of new members reaffirms decisions we made over 50 years ago.