



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparing for worship

Last weekend, I decided it was time to explore some art museums around the city. As I made my way through the various exhibits, I examined each piece closely, noticing the colors, brush strokes, lighting, shadows and a plethora of other details, all while making sure I read the provided description. Along the way, I noticed many pieces with nothing more than a descriptive title, estimated date, materials and dimensions. No added description of the piece or artist information. What stories lie behind the making of such mysterious works of art?

Stories are the primary tool our brains use to organize memories and make sense of the world around us. There are entire careers dedicated to preserving and telling stories. The Bible itself is a collection of stories that have been passed down for centuries and used in generations of ongoing story-making and storytelling.

This morning you will hear various stories through the art of music. Take note of the stories you hear in each song. The ones you listen to and the ones you sing. Encounter the stories through the music itself, not just the words. The swelling, the fading, the changing notes. Being

an expert on music composition is not necessary to understand the stories being told. For stories are not only heard; they are felt.

As you listen and participate this morning, I invite you to hear familiar stories in new ways. Recognize and note if something feels different than it did the last time you encountered it. If there is a more unfamiliar story, notice what grabs your attention. Maybe even talk about it with another person after worship.

Art, and the stories attached, is not created in a vacuum. It is curated at a certain time under certain circumstances and is often directed toward a particular audience. Art tells stories while being created within a story itself.

What stories have you yet to hear? What stories might God be calling you to encounter more closely? What stories might you tell?

Art is embodied.

Music is embodied.

Stories are embodied.

May you feel the presence of God as you engage with the stories told this morning.

—James Dolph



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: *Rythme, Joie de vivre*, Robert Delaunay, oil on canvas, 1930.

September 20, 2026
11:00 a.m.
Seventeenth 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

Darren DeMent

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

Dale Wood

+Call to Worship

Charles Yarbrough

One: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,

All: Whose faithful love lasts forever!

One: When we are hungry and thirsty, lost in the wilderness,

All: God satisfies our thirst and fills the hungry with good things.

One: When we are weary and worry consumes us,

All: God hears our concerns and cares for us deeply.

One: God turns deserts into pools of water, and thirsty ground into springs.

All: So let us worship the Lord who still draws near.

+Congregational Song

Lift Every Voice and Sing
No. 638

LIFT EVERY VOICE

+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

1-2 God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.
al - le - lu - ia!

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

O give thanks to the LORD; call on God's name;
make known the LORD's deeds among the peoples.
Sing to the LORD, sing praises to God;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Seek the LORD and the LORD's strength;
seek God's presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works God has done,
God's miracles and the judgments God has uttered,
O offspring of God's servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

...

Then the LORD brought Israel out with silver and gold,
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.
Egypt was glad when they departed,
for dread of them had fallen upon it.
God spread a cloud for a covering
and fire to give light by night.
They asked, and the LORD brought quails
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.
The LORD opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.
For God remembered God's holy promise
and Abraham, God's servant.
So God brought the people out with joy,
God's chosen ones with singing.
The LORD gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,
that they might keep the LORD's statutes
and observe the LORD's laws.
Praise the LORD!

Go out and tell our story
Let it echo far and wide
Make them hear you
Make them hear you
How justice was our battle
And how justice was denied
Make them hear you
Make them hear you

And say to those who blame us
For the way we chose to fight
That sometimes there are battles
That are more than black or white
And I could not put down my sword
When justice was my right
Make them hear you

Go out and tell our story
To your daughters and your sons
Make them hear you
Make them hear you
And tell them, in our struggle
We were not the only ones
Make them hear you
Make them hear you

Your sword can be a sermon
Or the power of the pen
Teach every child to raise his voice
And then, my brothers, then
Will justice be demanded by
ten million righteous men

Make them hear you
When they hear you,
I'll be near you again!

+Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Exodus 16:2-15

John Skinner

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because the LORD has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against the LORD — what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the LORD, for the LORD has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer

of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

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!

Anthem

Exultate Deo
Nova

Palestrina

Candy McComb, director; Bill Jernberg, accompanist

*Exultate Deo, adiutori nostro,
Jubilare Deo Jacob.*

Take up a psalm and bring the timbrel
And the sweet psaltery with the harp,

Rejoice greatly to God our helper,
Shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

*Buccinate in neomenia tuba
Insigni die solemnitatis vestrae.*

*Sumite psalmum et date tympanum
Psalterium jucundum cum cithara*

Blow the trumpet on the new moon,
On the notable day of your solemnity.

Message

"Manna! Manna! Manna!"

Timothy Peoples

Congregational Song

Find the Light

David Ramirez

I wish upon you peace
I wish upon you grace
I wish for less of what you want
And more of what you need
I wish upon you an old life
With a heart that stays young
But most of all I wish upon you love

I wish upon you truth
When all you feel is doubt
I hope you know that an open mind
Still knows when to shut things out
I wish upon you a brave heart
That will always rise above
But most of all I wish upon you love

As the sun sets the moon begins to rise
So even in the darkness you'll find the light
You'll find the light
You'll find the light
Yes, even in the darkness you'll find the light

I wish upon you an easy life
I wish upon you hard times
I hope you know that both joy and pain
Each need their moment to shine
I wish you ears that are quick to listen
That you're slow to use that tongue
But most of all I wish upon you love

As the sun sets the moon begins to rise
So even in the darkness you'll find the light
You'll find the light
You'll find the light
You'll find the light
Yes, even in the darkness you'll find the light

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

Guide My Feet
No. 637

GUIDE MY FEET

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne in C

Dietrich Buxtehude

Candy McComb, congregational song leader

Today's flowers are given by David, Chad and Brett Clanton
in loving memory of Jann Aldredge-Clanton, wife, mother and
tireless advocate for peace, justice and women in ministry.



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

J'Von Brown started last month as Wilshire's children's choir coordinator. He is also the fine arts coordinator and music director at UME Preparatory Academy in Dallas. J'Von recently completed a performance diploma in vocal performance at Southern Methodist University, where he also earned a master's degree and was a Meadows School of the Arts Scholarship recipient. He has performed with Palm Beach Opera, served as vocal director for Hued Songs in Miami and taught in schools and arts organizations in South Florida. J'Von sings this morning with his wife, Jasmine Williams.

Candy McComb retired this summer after eight years as Wilshire's children's choir coordinator, but she remains active in music ministry through co-directing Nova and singing in Sanctuary Choir. A former school choir director, Candy serves as a deacon and directs the Odyssey Sunday School Class with her husband, Vic Henry. Candy and Vic joined Wilshire in 2017 and have two adult sons.

John Skinner and his wife, Mary, joined Wilshire in 2022 and are members of Labyrinth Class, where John serves as co-director. Their two daughters are Emily, a third grader, and Caroline, who is in first grade. John serves on the Children's Education Committee, the Committee on Committees and the Lay Support Team for Pastoral Resident Amanda Hines. He works as a retail manager.

Weldon Sloan and his wife, Kit, joined Wilshire in 2022. Their daughter, Betty Ann, is almost 4, and their son, Warren, is 11 months old. The Sloans are members of Ithaka Class, and Weldon serves on the Personnel Committee and teaches preschoolers in Sunday School. He works as an oil and gas litigation attorney.

Jasmine Williams, soprano, is a Florida native committed to musical excellence, expressive storytelling and the transformative power of the performing arts. She earned a bachelor's degree in music from Palm Beach Atlantic University and completed a master's degree and performance diploma at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, where she studied with Professor Barbara Hill-Moore. Jasmine's professional experience includes work with Houston Grand Opera in its 2025 production of *Porgy and Bess*. She is married to J'Von Brown, Wilshire's children's choir coordinator.

Charles Yarbrough and his wife, Judy, joined Wilshire in 1975 and rejoined in 1989 after five years living in Houston. They have four adult children — including Wilshire member Collin Yarbrough — and seven grandchildren. Charles is a member of Cord of Three Class, a deacon and sings in Sanctuary Choir. He retired seven years ago from Atmos Energy, where he was VP of rates and regulatory.

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 20, 2026

Visioning Survey ends today

Today is the last day to take the Visioning Team's online survey, which should take about 15 minutes. We hope to hear from everyone via the survey, even those who attended a Visioning Day session last Sunday. Scan the QR code to access the survey online. The link can also be found at wilshirebc.org/visioning.

- If you filled out a paper survey, please turn it in to the church office this morning.
- If you have any questions or concerns, you can email the Visioning Team at visioning@wilshirebc.org.



Visioning Day was a success — all thanks to you!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for one of our sessions last Sunday. Your energy and ideas helped us take an important step toward discovering who we are as a church. A very special shoutout to our amazing volunteer facilitators, note takers and timekeepers! Your support helped keep the day moving and made the experience possible. Thanks to everyone for being part of the vision! —*Visioning Team*

Zoom session today

Long-distance members and anyone else who couldn't participate in Visioning Day last Sunday are invited to join a discussion on Zoom today, Sept. 20, at 5:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be posted today at wilshirebc.org/visioning.



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.

Condolences to

■ **Ruth Kaun** on the death of her daughter-in-law, Jaclyn Kaun, Sept. 14.

■ **Sam and Peggy Tinsley** on the death of their nephew, Todd Fitzgerald, Sept. 13. Cousin is **Price Tinsley**.

Blood Drive going on today



Carter BloodCare is holding a blood drive at Wilshire today, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome; look for the Carter bus near the porte cochere. There is an urgent local

need for certain blood types. All Carter donors during September will receive a magnetic phone charger while supplies last.

Two ways to get involved with migrant ministry

■ Wilshire has the opportunity to expand our migrant ministry through the Thriving Congregations Immigration Ministry of our partner **FaithWorks**. The advocacy agency is forming a two-year cohort for churches to learn from each other as they develop specific ways to serve and advocate for the local migrant community. To learn more, attend a short meeting after worship on Sept. 27 in Room 1205-L. Contact: Gladys Kolenovsky (gladkol@swbell.net) or Cindy Estee (cesteedallas@aol.com)

■ Local agency **La Colectiva** provides daily support to individuals and families who show up for appointments at ICE's Dallas Field Office. If you'd like to volunteer, a training is being held on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 6 p.m. Associate Pastor Heather Mustain plans to attend and welcomes anyone to join her. Contact Heather (hmustain@wilshirebc.org) to let her know if you're interested.

SONGWRITER VESPERS

DOLLY PARTON

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27



Songwriter Vespers is next Sunday

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. Coffee and light snacks will be served.

Wilshire's Songwriter Vespers series blends elements of a coffeehouse performance and a worship service, with music from a full band and various singers led by Associate Pastor Darren DeMent.

"I was going to use a different songwriter," Darren said, "but given the outpouring of love for Dolly, it felt almost sacrilegious to announce someone else. I wasn't sure she fit the vibe, at least not her big hits, but it didn't take long listening through her catalogue to find more than enough to use. The set will be a mix of Dolly standards everyone knows and some lesser known songs that tell more about who she was as a songwriter."

Ralph Manuel departing staff

RALPH MANUEL will be stepping down from his role as Wilshire's handbell coordinator at the end of September and will be recognized during worship on Sept. 27. He has held the part-time position and directed Carillon Ringers since 2019.



Ralph and his wife, Donna, are moving to Fort Worth to share a duplex with his brother and sister-in-law. Ralph said they have no immediate plans to leave Wilshire as members: "We love Wilshire and appreciate the support and love we have felt here since we joined in 2018."

Minister of Music Ariel Merivil said, "Ralph's talent as a composer, arranger and pianist is matched only by his quiet, modest spirit. He has been endlessly kind and generous with his gifts in service to music ministry at Wilshire. I am so grateful for the work he has done with Carillon Ringers and for how willingly he has supported and contributed to our music in worship."

In addition to his work with handbells, Ralph has sung in Sanctuary Choir, played piano solos and served as music director for Faith in 3D productions. A former missionary and music minister, he is a published composer and arranger.

Ralph said, "I'm grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of music leadership of this church these past seven years and to have worked with so many wonderfully talented bell ringers during this time. It is a privilege to share the gift of music with all fellow worshippers."

Blessing of the Animals

**Sunday
Oct. 4
5:30 p.m.**



Everyone is invited to bring their pets as our pastoral residents host a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 5:30 p.m. in the south parking lot (near the office). The residents will offer a brief litany and prayer along with blessings for your family's animals. Water for both humans and animal friends will be available. We ask that all pets be leashed or in tanks, cages or carriers.

Time With Tim next Sunday

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)

Together for Hope conference

Mission partner Together for Hope is hosting its annual conference in Jackson, Mississippi, from Oct. 21 to 23. If you're interested in learning more about asset-based community development, rural poverty initiatives or the agency's mission, you can attend the conference alongside Associate Pastor Heather Mustain. Please contact Heather (hmustain@wilshirebc.org) by Oct. 1 if you'd like to go.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Sept. 23: Guest speaker
Dr. Barbara McClure

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. 23 menu:** Lemon herb chicken thighs, spinach and tomato orzo, eggplant ratatouille, crisp Greek salad, sweet orange cake. **Kids:** Chicken tenders, butter orzo.

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.



Brite professor to speak on human flourishing

6 p.m. | Community Hall | Dr. Barbara McClure, professor of pastoral theology and practice at TCU's 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.

Looking ahead

Sept. 30 | Join us at 6 p.m. for a one-week discussion of why stories matter.

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

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.

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.

**FRIDAY
NIGHT LIVE**

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. Registration is open at wilshirebc.org/events/fnl.

Join the party!

Try a committee or service team

BY CAROLYN MURRAY

WHEN FOLKS ASK ME my favorite thing about my job at Wilshire, most are surprised when I quickly answer “Committee on Committees.” Seems like a bland answer for someone who loves to plan (and attend) a good party! But matching people and their skills and passions with the work of the church has all the feels of a festive party.

Starting today, you'll see a list of committees in the *Tapestry* — and you'll probably move right past it to see what's for dinner on Wednesday. But I encourage you to pause and ask yourself: Where do my gifts and talents align with the ministries and needs of the church?

As Baptists, we are the church. There is no organization or leadership telling us how to be Wilshire. You are Wilshire. I am Wilshire. We are Wilshire. We need you to be us!

At minimum, committee service means attending meetings. Most meet about once a month, usually on Sunday after church. (Yes, lunch is provided!)

It could mean reviewing a building maintenance proposal. It might be brainstorming opportunities for our children's ministry or mobilizing a project with a mission partner.

We usually ask for a three-year commitment that will start in January 2027.

If you're still not sure you're ready to jump into committee participation, I encourage you to see which service teams might be a good match. You can move on and off these teams at any time and only serve when you are available.

So take a look, find a place where your gifts and passions fit and jump in. Wilshire is better because you are part of it.

It's committee nomination time

The Committee on Committees is beginning to nominate church members for 2027 committees.

If you are not on a committee and are interested in serving or suggesting someone, scan the QR code or visit wilshirebc.org/committee-interest-form to fill out our online form. Paper forms are available in the office.

Names received will be evaluated against committee openings and needs, and all current and potential members will be contacted. Proposed committees will be presented at January's Annual Church Conference for approval.

Please make submissions by Sunday, Oct. 4. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)



Scan code or visit
wilshirebc.org/committee-interest-form

COMMITTEES

■ **Building, Interior and Grounds.** Assists staff with maintenance and security of church property. Consults with other committees and staff on decor of interior public spaces.

■ **Children's Education.** Reviews performance of the children's education program and makes recommendations to the minister to children. Promotes growth, reviews curriculum, helps recruit and retain teachers and establishes policies to ensure the safety of children.

■ **Deacon Nominating.** Makes annual recommendations for selection of deacons.

■ **Finance.** Develops the church budget and works with the finance director to monitor income and expenses, approving monthly financial statements and reporting to the church.

■ **History.** Maintains church archives to preserve a record of our history together.

■ **Library.** Advises and supports administration and events for the Wilshire Library.

■ **Missions and Advocacy.** Helps guide congregational engagement in our Christian witness through acts of compassion and justice by supporting and engaging with mission and advocacy partnerships.

■ **Pathways to Ministry.** Supports the work of the Pathways to Ministry program, including the pastoral residency.

■ **Personnel.** Establishes duties of ministry staff and maintains personnel manual. Recommends new ministry staff to the church. Recommends ministry staff compensation.

■ **Preschool Education.** Reviews performance of the preschool education program and makes recommendations to the minister to preschoolers.

Promotes growth, reviews curriculum, helps recruit and retain teachers and establishes policies to ensure the safety of children.

■ **Risk Management.** Works with staff to reduce and manage safety and liability risks.

■ **Wilshire Adventurers.** Plans activities for the Adventurers, a fellowship group for those 60 and above.

SERVICE TEAMS

You can use the same online form to sign up for service teams, which allow you to serve when available.

- Baptism
- Funeral
- Health
- Home Technology
- Home Visitation
- Hospitality
- Interior Design
- Lord's Supper
- Transportation Support
- Worship Guild
- Video/AV

Committee on Committees: Michael Bufkin, David Clanton, Jill Granberry, Laura Smith, Gladys Kolenovsky, Patty Latham, Ann Meripolski, Michael Moorhead, John Skinner. Staff Liaison: Carolyn Murray

Final days for deacon nominations

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

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.

Wilshire Library open to public

Did you know the Wilshire Library has more than 15,000 items, has weekday hours and is open to the public? You can search the collection from home and even reserve a book and pick it up at the church. Learn more and find the search link at wilshirebc.org/resources/library.

■ **Library hours:** Sundays, 9–10:45 a.m.; Wednesdays, 2–7 p.m.; other weekdays: 9 a.m.–2 p.m.; Saturdays, closed.

Men's Book Club

Tuesday, Oct. 20 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *A World Appears: A Journey into Consciousness* by Michael Pollan. Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net)

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)

Québec City

Sept. 20–25, 2027

**WILSHIRE ►
ADVENTURERS**

To learn about the trip and express your interest, scan the QR code or visit wilshirebc.org/adventurers-trip by Oct. 2. Brochures are available in the office.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Vickery Meadow volunteer reflects: “Is it enough?”

BY CINDY ESTEE

THE FOOD VARIES — usually beans, rice, canned goods and some fresh produce. Sometimes there is chicken. Sometimes milk. Volunteers set up the food on long white tables and wait for the people to come. For the most part, they are immigrants. They walk to the food tables from their residences.

I stand behind a box filled with packages of beans. “Beans?” I ask each person. “Would you like some beans?” Some nod yes, and others say no. And they move to the next item. There is little time for interaction.

It is blazing hot. I look down at the produce and hope the lettuce doesn’t wilt. The line keeps moving. I run out of beans and open up another container and replenish the box. A little girl with enormous black eyes smiles at me. I smile back. It is not much, but it is something. Her mother nods and takes some beans.

It seems so transient, so little. How do we show that we understand, that we are all part of the same fabric? I bite back my frustration and think I should pray, but I don’t. I get busy with the beans.

I think about all of the societal wrongs and failures that give rise to this kind of need. The big picture wounds that need to be addressed. And I say, “Beans?” to the next in line. Is it enough? Of course not. But I hear the Risen One telling Simon Peter, “Feed my sheep,” and trust him to use those simple beans for his purpose that day.



A group from Wilshire serves the fourth Friday morning each month at the Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation’s Mobile Food Pantry. If you can help, contact Charlie Estee at cesteedallas@gmail.com.

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. 20

- Adventurers Trip to Boston
- Worship Service, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Deacon Nominating Committee, Community Hall, Noon
- Youth Choir Lunch, Youth Center, Noon
- Children's Choir Lunch, 2223, Noon
- Missions and Advocacy Committee, Community Hall, Noon
- Preschool Ed. Committee, Community Hall, Noon
- Children's Ed. Committee, Community Hall, Noon
- Finance Committee, Community Hall, Noon
- Personnel Committee, Community Hall, Noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.
- Visioning Team Meeting, 2202, 5 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 21

- Deacons Meeting, Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

- Godly Play Network Meeting, Preschool Classrooms, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

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

Thursday, Sept. 24

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

Friday, Sept. 25

- Service at Vickery Meadow Mobile Pantry, 8:30 a.m.
- MomCo, James Gallery, 9 a.m.
- Friday Friends, 3103, 10 a.m.

Pagett Gosslee

What brought you to Wilshire?

In 1968, our dear friends Charlene and Bob Law picked up my then-husband Steve Holley and me on a Wednesday and brought us to dinner at Wilshire. I had known Charlene at Baylor University, and they knew we were looking for a church.

Who was the pastor when you joined?

Bruce McIver. We loved him from the very beginning. He and Lawanna were so warm and welcoming, and it did not take long for Wilshire to feel like home.

What ministries or staff members have impacted your life?

We have wonderful memories of Charlene and Bill James and their years of friendship and ministry. I value the impact of Bill James and Darren DeMent on our youth programs; our three children — and now seven of our grandchildren — have been involved in Wilshire's youth programs, choirs and trips. I also remember when Kim and George Mason came. One memory that stands out is being in Bruce's hospital room with Lawanna and George. I was working at Baylor Hospital at the time. We talked about the dream that would become Pathways to Ministry. It was an idea we believed in, and we did not wait long to help get it funded and underway. I am so grateful to have watched Pathways grow and to see the many lives it has touched. I have been especially grateful to worship alongside my longtime friend, Gladys Kolenovsky. I was thrilled when she joined Wilshire and when a friendship that



had meant so much to me outside the church could become part of my Wilshire life as well.

What are some favorite memories?

Many of my favorite Wilshire memories are woven into our family's milestones. Shannon, Megan and Stephen were all baptized at Wilshire, and both Shannon and Jimmy Nadalini and Megan and Trey Wilson were married here. It was especially meaningful when my parents, June and Bill Daves, joined, and we were able to have four generations in the pews.

What is something most people don't know about you?

When Mike and I married, we began a tradition that continues today: we start with the 9 a.m. service at St. Michael and All Angels and then make our way to Wilshire for 11 a.m. worship. Both churches are important to us, and we feel fortunate to be part of both communities.