



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**January 21, 2024**

*Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

# Preparing for worship

Have you ever assessed your listening skills honestly? I recently did and realized I am often least attentive when I'm listening to those I love most. There are times when Chris or the kids mention a person or anecdote that I have no memory of previously hearing. It's often funny, but also convicting.

Surrounded by ambient noise — traffic, a dog's bark, constant phone notifications — we hear up to 20,000 words daily, recalling only 25 to 50 percent. Amid this noise, who and what we hear is crucial. Barbara Brown Taylor noted, "Hearing just happens; listening is a choice." Making the choice to listen is risky. It requires presence, attention, vulnerability and maybe accountability. Failure to listen harms relationships and hinders personal growth, while authentic listening builds connection and compassion.

The riskiest listening may be for the voice of the Spirit. In worship, we hear prayers, hymns and a good word preached. But are we hearing or listening? Are we attentive? Then there's silence, the pause after the message, sixty seconds feeling like a lifetime. Most aren't comfortable with

silence. Ten to twenty seconds may be manageable, but beyond thirty seconds, restlessness and anxiety set in. How can we listen for God's voice if we aren't still enough to hear it?

Considering the challenges of silence, it becomes evident that embracing quiet reflection is crucial for deepening our connection — to ourselves, others and the divine. In a world filled with constant noise, finding solace in silence is transformative. In this quiet space, we open ourselves to truly listening, not just with our ears but with our hearts.

In this context, today's anthem, "Draw Me Near," echoes the sentiment that God's voice is the voice we hear. As we approach the pause for reflection, let's be intentional about our receptiveness to silence. Quieting our minds, we create an environment to truly listen — not just to words but to the whispers of the divine. Let the anthem guide us, drawing us nearer to the sacred, as we take a moment to listen, reflect and draw inspiration from the beautiful silence unfolding.

—Abbey Adcox



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*

Partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Member, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

January 21, 2024  
11:00 a.m.  
Third Sunday after Epiphany

## Chiming of the Hour

The people of Wilshire gather this morning to worship God. In order for this service to be focused upon that purpose, please silence all electronic devices.

## Welcome to Worshipers

Kathryn Woodbury

## Prelude

*The Water is Wide*  
Wilshire Winds  
Shana Gaines, director

arr. Darren W. Jenkins

## Opening Sentences

Tess McNicholas

Gracious and all loving God,  
you call to us across deep waters and dark places.  
Yours is the light which guides us  
and the voice which we follow.  
Reveal yourself to us as we worship you.  
May those without hope be encouraged;  
those who are sad, cheered;  
those who are seeking, find you;  
and may all things be according to your will.

—Rev. Richard J. Fairchild

## +Congregational Song

*Come, Thou Almighty King*  
No. 2

ITALIAN HYMN

## Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Katie Murray

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ... When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

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+All congregants who are able are invited to stand.  
Hearing devices are available in the Narthex and South Atrium.

**Solo**

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*  
Katherine Pottkotter, soprano  
Amy Pottkotter, piano

Robert MacGimsey

Sweet little Jesus boy  
They made you be born in a manger.  
Sweet little holy child  
Didn't know who you were

Didn't know you'd come to save us Lord;  
To take our sins away.  
Our eyes were blind we couldn't see,  
We didn't know who you were.

Long time ago you were born,  
Born in a manger low,  
Sweet little Jesus boy.  
The world treats you mean Lord,  
Treats me mean too,  
But that's how things are down here:  
We don't know who you are

You have told us how  
We are trying.  
Master you have shown us how  
Even when you were dying.  
Just seems like we can't do right,  
Look how we treated you.  
But please sir, forgive us Lord  
We didn't know 'twas you.

Sweet little Jesus boy  
Born long time ago  
Sweet little Holy Child  
And we didn't know who you were.

**Prayers of the People**

Kathryn Keller

**Offertory**

*River Songs*  
Wilshire Winds

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

**+Gospel Reading** — Mark 1:14–20

Clint Justice

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the

sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

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**

*Draw Me Near*  
Sanctuary Choir

Patrick Houlihan

Lead me, Lord, when my heart is troubled.  
Teach me to trust and not fear.  
Comfort me with your holy presence.  
Draw me near, my Lord, draw me near.

Show me, Lord, when I lose direction.  
Guide when my path is unclear.  
Lead me to your holy presence.  
Draw me near, my Lord, draw me near.

In your presence, there is shelter.  
In your presence, there is peace.  
You provide my blessed hope,  
For your grace fulfills my greatest need.

Like a sheep, I seek you, my Shepherd,  
Yours is the one voice I hear.  
I follow and I bow in your presence.  
Draw me near, my Lord, draw me near.

Draw me near, my Lord, draw me near.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord.  
Draw me near.

**Message**

“Belief in the Gospel”

Timothy Peoples

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

Refrain

It's me, it's me it's me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer;

it's me, it's me it's me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer.

Stanza

Not my broth-er, nor my sis - ter, but it's me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer;  
 Not the teach-er, nor the dea-con, but it's me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer;  
 Not my fa - ther, nor my moth-er, but it's me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer;

not my broth-er, nor my sis - ter, but it's me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer.  
 not the teach-er, nor the dea-con, but it's me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer.  
 not my fa - ther, nor my moth-er, but it's me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer.

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Postlude on ITALIAN HYMN

arr. Albert Travis

*The flowers today are given by Angie Moore in memory of her mother, Marilyn J. Moore, and by Wilshire in honor of Timothy Peoples on his first anniversary as Wilshire's senior pastor.*

# Meet today's worship leaders

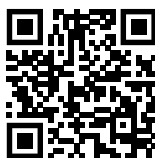
**Clint Justice** and his wife, Kim, began attending Wilshire in early 2023 and officially joined in December. They are members of Labyrinth Class. Clint and Kim are parents to three children, Jonathan, 9, Joel, 7, and Rinnah, 5, and their extended family at Wilshire includes Kim's parents, Mary and Kenton Keller, and sister, Kathryn Keller. Professionally, Clint has held various roles in finance and small business ownership.

**Kathryn Keller** joined Wilshire in 2020. She is married to Merik Gillett, Wilshire's operations director. Kathryn and Merik have two sons, Henri, 5, and Hayz, 3. Kathryn is active in Labyrinth Class and serves on the Pathways to Ministry Committee. She works as a psychologist and co-owns Dallas Therapy Collective.

**Tess McNicholas** is the daughter of Stacie and Phil McNicholas and big sister to June, Nell and Lena. The family joined Wilshire in 2016. Tess is a fifth grader at Sudie L. Williams Talented and Gifted Academy in DISD. She is a competitive gymnast and sings in Young Musicians at Wilshire.

**Katherine Pottkotter** is the daughter of Kurt and Amy Pottkotter and sister to Joshua and Audrey. The family joined Wilshire in 2019. Katherine is a sophomore at Lake Highlands High School and has sung in the Texas All State Choir, the Greater Dallas Choral Society and the Dallas Opera Chorus. She is active in Wilshire's student ministry, sings in Youth Choir and Shekinah and helps with Pre-K Choir.

**Kathryn Woodbury** is the daughter of Paula and Jason Woodbury and sister to Garrett and Sher Moo Ku. Kathryn is a ninth grader at Lake Highlands High School, where she is involved with choir and theatre. She also participates in National Charity League and is a Life Scout in Scouts BSA. At Wilshire, Kathryn is active in student ministry and sings in Youth Choir and Shekinah.



**Connect with Wilshire.** Scan the QR code using your smartphone camera to make a financial contribution, fill out our online guest card or submit a prayer request. You may also use the response card or offering envelope found in the pew rack. These items can be placed in the offering plate or in one of the secure offering boxes located near the Sanctuary exits.

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*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*, Robert MacGimsey © 1934 Carl Fischer. *Draw Me Near*, Patrick Houlihan © 1998 Timespann, div. of Lorenz Corp.

# 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 without phone extensions do not have Wilshire email addresses.

## Communications

- Mark McKenzie, Communications Director (3169)

## Congregational Care

- Barbara Clayton, Pastoral Care Assistant (3125)
- Linda Garner, Parish Nurse (3151)
- Carolyn Murray, Coordinator of Congregational Life (3170)
- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

## Early Childhood Learning Center

- Kelly Akins, Assistant Director and Curriculum Specialist (3139)
- Carole McClung, Administrative Assistant (3115)
- Ramona Randle, Director (3140)

## Finance

- Lori Gooden, Director of Finance (3131)

## Food Services

- Luke Munion, Food Service Staff
- Haley Robinson, Food Service Director (3117)
- Gillian Tinsley, Food Service Staff
- Elias Vasquez, Food Service Staff
- Leyvi Vasquez, Food Service Staff
- Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, Food Service Staff

## Hospitality and Facilities

- Maricela Escutia, Facilities Supervisor
- Holly Irvin, Director of Hospitality (3150)
- Daniel Latin, Facilities
- Leticia Medina, Facilities
- Kevin Sierra, Facilities
- Leticia Vega, Facilities
- Glenda Williams, Receptionist (3165)

## 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)
- Charlie Fuller, Interim Minister of Music (3123)
- Shana Gaines, Wilshire Winds Director (3163)
- Ralph Manuel, Handbell Coordinator (3161)
- Candy McComb, Children's Choir Coordinator (3124)

## Operations and Technology

- Rene Altamirano, Maintenance Technician
- Merik Gillett, Operations Director (3146)
- Eric Mirochna, IT Manager (3136)

## Pathways to Ministry

- George Mason, Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director and Senior Pastor Emeritus (3133)

## Senior Pastor

- Debby Burton, Executive Assistant (3132)
- Geri McKenzie, Executive Director of Administration (3159)
- Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor (3132)

## Spiritual Formation

- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Staci Langley, Childcare Coordinator
- Katie Murray, Minister to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)



# Tapestry



News & Announcements  
January 21, 2024

## Annual Church Conference

**TODAY AFTER WORSHIP  
COMMUNITY HALL  
LUNCH PROVIDED**

Head down to Community Hall after worship today for Wilshire's Annual Church Conference. We'll adopt a 2024 budget, elect deacons and committees, consider church bylaws revisions recommended by the deacons and hear a State of the Church Address from Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples. Lunch will be provided.

■ A packet of conference materials was emailed to members this week, and a few printed copies will be available at each table. To



view the packet on your mobile device, use the QR code or visit [wilshirebc.org/events/church-conference](http://wilshirebc.org/events/church-conference).

■ Children's and Youth Choirs will rehearse as normal today; kids not involved in these activities are welcome at the conference. Contact Carol Cabaniss at [ccabaniss@wilshirebc.org](mailto:ccabaniss@wilshirebc.org) to inquire about childcare for infants through grade 6.

■ Zoom is available for the conference, but only in-person attendees will be able to vote. Find the Zoom information at [wilshirebc.org/events/church-conference](http://wilshirebc.org/events/church-conference).



**Sundays:** Worship at 11 a.m. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Our service livestreams at [youtube.com/wilshirebaptist](http://youtube.com/wilshirebaptist) and at [wilshirebc.org/worship/livestream](http://wilshirebc.org/worship/livestream). Keep up with Wilshire by subscribing to our YouTube channel and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

## New deacons recommended

The Deacon Nominating Committee has recommended eight Wilshire members to be ordained as new deacons: Lauren Anne Cove, Laurie Diffie, Mary Lu Hare, Rick Hibbs, Mary Morgan, Steven Murray, Rob Roden and Price Tinsley. Eight deacons were nominated to return to active service: Leigh Ann Brown, Fred Cullum, Bill Jernberg, Richard Luttrell, Sam Tinsley, Rhonda Walton, Megan Wilson and Alison Wingfield. Nominations will be voted on at the Annual Church Conference on Jan. 21, and new deacons will be ordained during worship on Jan. 28.

## 2024 deacon officers

Deacon officers for 2024 will be: Paula Woodbury, chair; Gina Ortegon, chair-elect; and Luke Willson, vice-chair.

## Time with Tim on Feb. 18

Time with Tim, an informal chance for guests and new members to meet and visit with Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples, will be held Feb. 18 at 9:45 a.m. in Timothy's office. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org)).



## Meal packing postponed to Feb. 19

The Rise Against Hunger meal packing event scheduled for Jan. 15 has been rescheduled for Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon. More details and a new sign-up link are coming soon.

# SUMMER

## Children's summer dates

Mark your calendar for our 2024 summer activities for children, and watch for more details. Registration will open by Feb. 29.

- **Vacation Bible School** | June 10-14 | 9 a.m.-noon | Three-year-olds through grade 6
- **Cooking Camp** | July 8-12 | 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Grades 1-6
- **Listen to Your Art Camp** | July 8-12 | 12:30-5 p.m. | Grades 1-6
- **Full day** Cooking/Art option available for grades 2-6, July 8-12
- **Passport Kids Camp** | July 27-30 | Overnight camp in Brownwood | Grades 3-6

## Children's Sunday School open houses for families

Each children's Sunday School class is hosting an open house from 9:30 to 10 a.m. in the coming weeks. Parents are invited to meet their child's teachers and other families. Coffee and continental breakfast will be provided.

- Kindergarten: Feb. 4, Room 2226
- First Grade: Jan. 28, Room 2228
- Second Grade: Feb. 11, Room 2224
- Third & Fourth Grade: Feb. 18, Room 2225
- Fifth & Sixth Grade: Jan. 21, Room 2230

## Adventurers movie tomorrow



On Monday, Jan. 22, at 1 p.m. the Wilshire Adventurers will enjoy the movie *Enola Holmes* in Community Hall. Popcorn, cookies and drinks will be provided. No charge. No reservation needed. *Enola Holmes* is a 2020 mystery starring Millie Bobby Brown as the teenage sister of Sherlock Holmes. Adventurers is a fellowship group for anyone 60 or above.



**For everyone.  
Now every week.**

**Join us each Wednesday  
11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.  
Community Hall**

All ages are welcome for a buffet lunch (\$10 each) and minister-led Bible Study.

Pay at the door. No RSVP needed.

Contact: Barbara Clayton  
([bclayton@wilshirebc.org](mailto:bclayton@wilshirebc.org))

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

**JAN. 24**

**Koinonia Café | 5–6 p.m. | Community Hall** | Buffet-style dinner for the whole family. Pricing at [wilshirebc.org/events/wnl](http://wilshirebc.org/events/wnl). **Jan. 24:** Spaghetti and meatballs, roasted broccoli and cauliflower, garlic bread, salad, creamy tomato soup, coffee cake, caramel pecan cookies, jello. **Kids:** Spaghetti and meatballs.

**Music, Missions & More | 6–7 p.m. | Age 3–Pre-K** | Preschool choir, plus fun activities focused on God’s love.

**KidConnect | 6–7 p.m. | K–Grade 6** | A rotation of art, music and more to help kids learn how to love God and others.

**Bible Study: The Work of Christmas Begins | Jan. 10–31 | 6–7 p.m. | Community Hall** | In his poem “The Work of Christmas,” Howard Thurman reminds us the work of Christmas doesn’t happen during Advent in our waiting and preparation, but after all the pomp and circumstance. When things seem to have calmed down and become quiet is when we need to get out the hammers, saws and drills to make noise and create an atmosphere of justice. Join Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples as we discuss how we can contribute to the work.

**Watershed | 6:30–7:30 p.m. | Grades 7–12** | Bible study and music in the Youth Center.

**Sanctuary Choir | 7 p.m. | Choral Hall** | No audition. New singers welcome.

*Childcare for infants to 2-year-olds whose parents are involved in church activities is offered 6–7:15 p.m.*

## Puerto Rico trip planned



Wilshire will return to Puerto Rico for a mission trip from Feb. 24 to March 1. Monica Mullins will lead the group, which will partner with a church in San Juan. No experience necessary; there will be work for

all skill levels. Cost: \$400 plus airfare. Sign up at [wilshirebc.org/events/puerto-rico](http://wilshirebc.org/events/puerto-rico). Contact: Abbey Adcox ([aadcox@wilshirebc.org](mailto:aadcox@wilshirebc.org)).

## Join team for Point in Time Count

HUD's annual Point in Time Count for Dallas County will take place Thursday, Jan. 25, starting at 6 p.m. Volunteer teams will be deployed under the direction of Housing Forward to take a census of unhoused neighbors, and Wilshire is forming a team to be led by Heather Mustain. Contact Abbey Adcox ([aadcox@wilshirebc.org](mailto:aadcox@wilshirebc.org)) to learn more or register.



## Souper Bowl of Caring is Feb. 4

The annual Souper Bowl of Caring, benefiting the Phil Strickland Hunger Offering, will be held Sunday, Feb. 4, at noon in Community Hall. Join us for soup and all the fixings, and donate an amount equal to what you would spend at a nice restaurant for lunch. This year's beneficiary is **Twelve21 Global's Farm School Project**, which aims to establish a sustainable food source to benefit Twelve21's two schools in Tanzania and the communities they serve for years to come. Learn more at [wilshirebc.org/events/souper-bowl](http://wilshirebc.org/events/souper-bowl).

★ Learn how your congregation can mobilize voters

★ Hear from local election officials

★ Connect with other faith leaders committed to public witness in civic engagement

# FAITHFUL CIVIC LEADERSHIP!

Scan to Register!



## North Texas Faith Votes

A project of Texas Impact

sponsored by

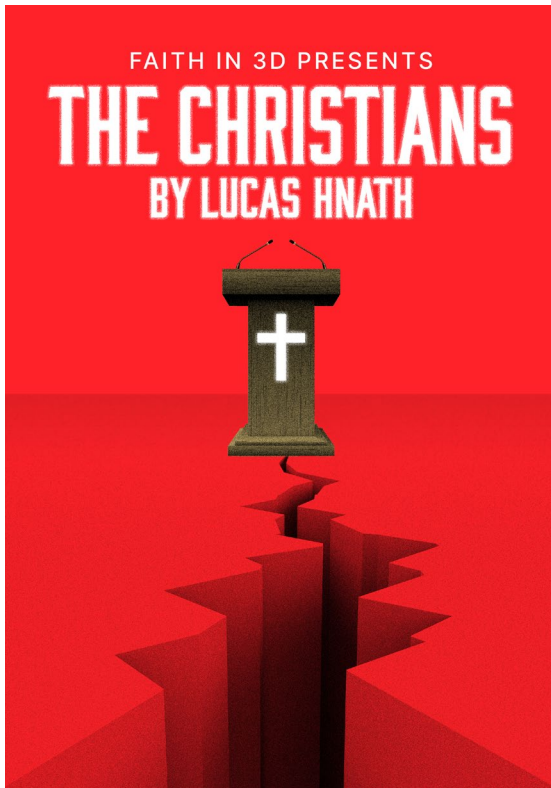


Join faith communities from across North Texas for an afternoon of networking and hands-on civic engagement training

★ Saturday, Feb 3  
12:30-4PM

★ NorthPark Presbyterian Church  
9555 N Central Expressway  
Dallas, 75231

VISIT [TXFAITH.ORG/NTFV](http://TXFAITH.ORG/NTFV)



### Save the dates for Faith in 3D

Wilshire’s Faith in 3D initiative will present *The Christians*, a dramatic play by Lucas Hnath, on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Nancy Poynter is directing the cast of five Wilshire actors, and Ralph Manuel is directing a 25-voice choir. *The Christians*, which explores the aftermath of a controversial sermon delivered by a megachurch pastor, has been called “a gripping and introspective examination of faith, belief and the consequences of theological shifts within a congregation” (*Oklahoma Gazette*). A *New York Times* reviewer called playwright Hnath “one of the brightest voices of his generation.” This year’s production marks the 10th anniversary of Faith in 3D.

### Adventurers San Francisco trip

Plans for the September 2024 Adventurers trip to San Francisco are underway! Join us for sightseeing and community building, including visits to Alcatraz, Muir Woods and Napa Valley. Please complete our interest form at [wilshirebc.org/san-fran](http://wilshirebc.org/san-fran) or in the main office. This doesn’t commit you to going but tells us you’re strongly considering it. Registration will start soon. The cost will be, at most, \$2,500 per person, covering transportation, lodging, attractions and some meals. Wilshire Adventurers plans social and education opportunities for those 60 and older. Guests are welcome.



### WOMEN OF WILSHIRE

#### Let’s play mahjong!

Join other Women of Wilshire for mahjong the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. and the second Wednesday each month at 6 p.m. All skill levels welcome. Please sign up; visit [wilshirebc.org/events/mahjong](http://wilshirebc.org/events/mahjong).

#### WOW book clubs

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** meets monthly at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. On **Feb. 13**, the group will discuss *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. Contact: Debby Burton ([dburton@wilshirebc.org](mailto:dburton@wilshirebc.org)).

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** meets one Thursday a month at noon in Room 1205-L. On **Feb. 1**, the group will discuss Christy Lefteri’s *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org)).



## **Conversations**

Art by Vikki J. Martin  
South Lobby  
Through Feb. 28

*Conversations*, an art exhibit intended to spark dialogue on racial justice, will be on display in the South Lobby from Jan. 21 through Feb. 28. The 24 watercolor and scratchboard pieces in Vikki J. Martin's *Clotilda* series use the life cycle of the cotton plant to memorialize the enslaved people transported to the U.S. by the schooner *Clotilda*, the last known slave ship to bring captives from Africa to the American South.

Vikki J. Martin grew up in Oklahoma, earned a BFA in painting from the University of Tulsa and an MFA in drawing from UT Austin. From 1983 to 2017 she taught art and art history at the Episcopal School of Dallas. Her work has won awards, is included in public and private collections and has been shown regionally and nationally in galleries and museums.

Read Martin's statement about the work at [wilshirebc.org/events/conversations](http://wilshirebc.org/events/conversations).

# Someone to talk with.

If you are facing a life challenge and would like to have a spiritual friend to walk alongside you for a season of healing, perhaps you would benefit from a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry pairs trained lay people with individuals in need of Christian companionship during times of life crisis. Wilshire has trained Stephen Ministers available. To learn more about receiving care from a Stephen Minister, reach out using our dedicated email address, [stephenministry@wilshirebc.org](mailto:stephenministry@wilshirebc.org), or call 214-452-3176.

stephen  
MINISTRY.

# Brad Russell

**Hometown:** Port Lavaca, home of the fighting Sandcrabs. My grandparents' farm/ranch near San Antonio was my second home. My father was once named King Reboog, which is Goober spelled backwards, for the local peanut festival.

**Present City:** Plano (Is it true nothing good comes from north of 635?)

**Education:** BS Advertising, UT Austin (BS makes sense, doesn't it?); MDiv, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (witness to the 1994 SBC takeover); DMin, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Presbys were nicer and more fun); Clinical Pastoral Education, Baptist Medical Center, San Antonio

**Profession:** Market research analyst; independent consultant for smart products and Internet of things. I have also worked at or as a granary, ranch, oil field, construction, Texas legislature, advertising agency, PR consultant, adjunct professor, house cleaner, fertility clinic, psychologists' office, pastor, church planter, Hispanic theological university, marketing director and online media editor.

## **Tell us about your family.**

Kenda, née Robinson, and I just celebrated our 31st anniversary. We have a newly married daughter, a son in medical school, and a daughter in nursing school. They all get their compassion from their mother, an LMSW for a hospice.

## **How about your work or volunteer life?**

Several years ago we were pleased to discover and support the work of Covenant House, which addresses youth homelessness, particularly LGBTQ+ youth, young people of color, and pregnant and parenting youth.



## **Favorite hobbies?**

I have sung in Credo Community Choir of Dallas but am taking a break. I am a novice fiction writer, currently working on a collection of short stories and a novel.

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

We joined in 2017. The inclusion decision was critical for us, along with the warm community and progressive public theology and action.

## **Where are you engaged at Wilshire?**

I teach, therefore I am. I've taught in about nine different classes. We have belonged to the Epiphany class since day one. I serve as a deacon, chaired the Pathways Committee and sat on the Pastor Search Committee. I participate in Faith in 3D productions and volunteer in missions activities.

## **What do you think God is up to in your life right now?**

Teaching me how to mature wisely and become what Rohr calls the "Holy Fool" who can hold the paradoxes together by patiently trusting God and valuing my full humanity and that of others.

## **Something interesting most people would not know about you?**

My 40s midlife crisis led to triathlons, and I completed three Half Ironman races, my favorite being the Vineman 70.3 in Sonoma. Also, I have eaten smoked caterpillars in Zimbabwe. They do not taste like chicken.

# How to Give

*Your gifts are changing lives inside and outside our walls. Below are several methods you can use to contribute financially. Thanks for your generosity.*

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

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

**AUTOMATIC BANK PAY.** Visit your bank's website and set up Wilshire as a payee. The bank will send the church a check.

**MAIL.** Send to Finance Director Lori Gooden's attention at Wilshire.

**TEXT.** Text WILSHIRE and a dollar amount (ex: WILSHIRE 50) to 73256.

**DONATE STOCKS.** Contact Lori 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 QR code with your smartphone camera to make an electronic contribution.**

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At Wilshire, we use a one-fund approach to giving called the Unified Budget. Your gifts support the basic mission, ministry and operations of the church. Once the Unified Budget is fulfilled, gifts overflow into visionary aspects of our mission.

# This Week

## Sunday, Jan. 21

- Art Exhibit: South Lobby through Feb. 28
- Fifth/Sixth Grade Sunday School Open House, 2230, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Wilshire Welcome, Prayer Room, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2221, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Annual Church Conference, Community Hall, noon
- Children's Choirs, 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

## Monday, Jan. 22

- Adventurers Afternoon at the Movies, Community Hall, 1 p.m.
- Wilshire Winds, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.

## Tuesday, Jan. 23

- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- Faith in 3D Choir Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## Wednesday, Jan. 24

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Ukulele Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 11 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Preschool Music, Missions & More, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Housing Collective Consciousness Cohort, 1205-L, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Jan. 25

- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.
- Housing Forward Point in Time Count, First United Methodist Church, Dallas, 6 p.m.

## Friday, Jan. 26

- Friday Friends, 3301, 10 a.m.

## Saturday, Jan. 27

- Sanctuary Choir Epiphany Party, Susan Leonard's home, 6:30 p.m.