



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

February 18, 2024
First Sunday in Lent

Preparing for worship

Today is the first Sunday in the season of Lent and coincides with a new season in the life of our church as we welcome Ariel Merivil as our new minister of music. In the search committee's conversations with Ariel, we heard his desire to build on Wilshire's strong foundation of excellence and creativity in worship while exploring fresh, new ways for us to sense the presence of God in this place. His description of worship as an intentional and focused time when we direct our attention to God and reflect on God's presence in our lives provides wise counsel as we start our shared Lenten journey.

The Baptist church of my youth provided beautiful and meaningful times of worship on Easter Sunday but rarely provided any guidance on ways to prepare for Easter through the season of Lent. I've been at Wilshire many years, and I continue to be amazed by the opportunities our church provides for us to take these days seriously. From Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, we are

encouraged to learn more about Christ and challenged to walk in his ways with the knowledge that God's Spirit is with us providing encouragement and strength for our journey.

May this time of worship help us as we explore what this season will be for us. While we worship together today, let's meditate on the Scriptures, listen to the music and let the words spoken and sung spark our imaginations about how we choose to follow Christ on the way to the cross.

As Ariel shared with our committee, "My hope is that when worship is over, the community leaves feeling encouraged, uplifted, inspired or contemplative about seeking God intentionally for themselves and the lives of those around them."

May God's Spirit use our time of worship and our journey through Lent to inspire and transform us to do the work God would have us do in the world.

—LeAnn Hampton



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Building a Community of Faith Shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ

Partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Member, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

On the cover: *Baptism of Christ*, Arsen Bereza (Ukrainian, b. 1989), acrylic on metal on board.

February 18, 2024

11:00 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

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

Ariel Merivil

Prelude

Nimrod from *Enigma Variations*

Wilshire Winds

Shana Gaines, director

Edward Elgar
arr. Alfred Reed

Opening Sentences

Carol Tommey

On this first Sunday in Lent we pause to remember that doing the work of Lent requires our full attention. As we journey through this season may we commit to staving off the numerous distractions and diversions that will attempt to overwhelm us and strive to be fully aware of God's presence with us in each and every moment.

+Congregational Song

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. ANNE



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2. As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and did the vic - tory win,
3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through your pas - sion - tide,
4. A - bid with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,



teach us, O Christ, to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to con - quer sin.
for - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bid.
an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at last at - tain!

Psalm Reading — Psalm 25:1-10

Margaret Rice

To you, YHWH, I lift up my soul. My God, I trust in you; don't let me be ashamed, don't let my enemies triumph over me. No — none who hope in you will be ashamed, but shame will come to the wantonly treacherous. Show me your ways, YHWH! Teach me your paths! Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation. I wait all the day long for you. Remember your mercies, YHWH, your love — your ancient and unwavering love! Pardon the sins of my youth and

+All congregants who are able are invited to stand.

Hearing devices are available in the Narthex and South Atrium.

my rebellious ways; remember me because of your love, because of your goodness, YHWH! And how good and upright you are, YHWH! You instruct sinners in the path, you guide the humble in what is right, and teach them your way. All of your paths, YHWH, are full of love and faithfulness for those who keep your Covenant and Testimonies.

Children's Anthem

Love, Joy, and Peace
Combined Children's Choirs
Candy McComb, director
Shana Gaines, flute; Bill Jernberg, pianist

Jim Ailor

Be love, joy, and peace. Be patient, kind, and good.
Be faithful and gentle and show self-control.
Teach me, Lord, to be like you. To show your love in all I do.
Take my heart, ev'ry part. Make me new, so that I will be more like you.

Children's Moment

Julie Girards

Anthem

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
Sanctuary Choir
Noemie Golubovic, cello; LeAnn Hampton, flute

Eric Nelson

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come.
What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Prayers of the People

Katie Murray

Offertory

A Hymn Tune Rhapsody (For You and For Me)
Wilshire Winds

Jerry Brubaker

+Gospel Reading — Mark 1:9-15

Elliana Mitchell

It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests." Immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for

forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds and believe this Good News!"

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
And for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

Message

"Fasting & Embracing"

Timothy Peoples

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

+Congregational Song

Come Away from Rush and Hurry

BEACH SPRING



1. Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still - ness of God's peace;
2. In the pas - tures of God's good - ness we lie down to rest our soul.
3. Come, then, chil - dren, with your bur - dens, life's con - fu - sions, fears, and pain.



from our vain am - bi-tion's wor - ry, come to Christ to find re - lease.
From the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep - ly, are made whole.
Leave them at the cross of Je - sus; take in - stead his king - dom's reign.



Come a - way from noise and clam - or, life's de - mands and fren-zied pace;
At the ta - ble of God's pres - ence all the saints are rich - ly fed.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them, he a - lone will sat - is - fy.



come to join the peo-ple gath - ered here to seek and find God's grace.
With the oil of God's a - noint - ing in - to ser - vice we are led.
All our long - ings find at - tain - ment when to self we glad - ly die.

Sharing of Decisions

Timothy Peoples

Benediction

Timothy Peoples

Postlude

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel

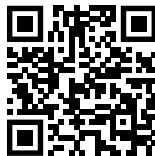
The flowers today are given in honor of Ariel Merivil
by the Minister of Music Search Committee.

Meet today's worship leaders

Elliana Mitchell is the daughter of Damien and Keri Mitchell. The family, including Elliana's grandfather, Hank Mitchell, officially joined Wilshire in December. Elliana is a ninth grader in the International Baccalaureate program at Woodrow Wilson High School, where she sings in the school choir. She also plays piano, enjoys reading and is active in Wilshire's student ministry, singing in Youth Choir and Shekinah

Margaret Rice and her husband, Gene, joined Wilshire in 2020. They are the parents of Wilshire member Kristen Rice and grandparents of Eric and Elliott Jackson. Margaret is active in Koinonia Class, helps with children's missions on Wednesday nights and serves on the Christian Advocacy Committee.

Carol Tommey has been a Wilshire member since 1982. Her two adult children, who grew up at Wilshire, are Blake, who lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Lesley-Ann and their son, Otis; and Claire, who is married to Cody and lives in Austin. Carol is a member of Cord of Three Class, recently served on the Missions Committee and was a Youth Choir sponsor for 10 years. She is retired from a 39-year career as a public school teacher.



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.

Music reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under One License #A-739361. All rights reserved.
Love, Joy, and Peace ©2023 Celebrating Grace Music, a division of Celebrating Grace, Inc. *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* ©2015 Birmamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. *Come Away from Rush and Hurry* ©1999 Marva J. Dawn

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, ECLC Assistant Director and Curriculum Specialist (3139)
- Carole McClung, ECLC Administrative Assistant (3115)
- Ramona Randle, ECLC 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)
- Shana Gaines, Wilshire Winds Director (3163)
- Ralph Manuel, Handbell Coordinator (3161)
- Candy McComb, Children's Choir Coordinator (3124)
- Ariel Merivil, Minister of Music (3135)

Operations and Technology

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

Pathways to Ministry

- Charlie Fuller, Pathways to Ministry Director and Coach in Residence (3123)
- 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)
- Chelsea Hopkins, Spiritual Formation Coordinator (3130)
- Staci Langley, Childcare Coordinator
- Katie Murray, Minister to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)

Tapestry



News & Announcements
February 18, 2024



Welcome, Ariel!

Today is the first Sunday on the job for Wilshire's new minister of music, Ariel Merivil. Ariel started at Wilshire on Monday, Feb. 12, and has already helped lead Ash Wednesday services.

Ariel comes to Wilshire from Lincoln, Nebraska, where he served First-Plymouth Congregational Church as associate minister of music starting in 2017. He was called as Wilshire's minister of music on Dec. 17, 2023, in a congregational vote.

Ariel says, "I am overjoyed to be in worship with you today and feel so grateful for the work God will do through us in music and worship together!"



**Off tomorrow?
Come help us pack
15,120 meals.**

Join us on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 19, as we partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack healthy meals for those in need. The event (postponed from Jan. 15) will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in Community Hall. Our goal is to pack 15,120 meals, which is doable with Rise Against Hunger's fun assembly line method. This project is for everyone, with opportunities to serve while seated or standing. Children



are a great help. Sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/meal-packing or via the QR code. Signing up is not required but will help things run smoother tomorrow.

- *If you signed up for Jan. 15 and plan to come Feb. 19, there's no need to sign up again.*
- *If you signed up for Jan. 15 but can't make it on Feb. 19, please let Abbey Adcox know.*



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

Condolences to

Jennifer, Maggie and Charlotte McGregor on the death of their husband and father, **Jonathan McGregor**, Feb. 13.

New member

Ariel Merivil

Staff news



■ **Debby Burton** is transitioning to a new part-time role as a first step toward her eventual retirement. Debby has been executive assistant in the senior pastor's office since 1998. In her new position, she will support Pathways to Ministry in an administrative role reporting to Pathways director Charlie Fuller. Debby will continue to assist Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples until a replacement can be hired. She will also continue to serve as church clerk and support ministries including the Funeral Ministry Team.



■ **Glenda Williams** has resigned as Wilshire's receptionist after accepting a surprise offer to return to work in her former field as a hotel catering supervisor. Glenda had recently retired from the hospitality industry when she came to Wilshire in January 2023. Her last day at Wilshire will be Feb. 23.

■ Wilshire is actively hiring to fill both the executive assistant and receptionist positions. See the job postings at wilshirebc.org/employment.

Souper Bowl goal surpassed

Thanks to your generosity at the Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 4, Wilshire surpassed its goal of \$15,000 and will send **\$18,900** to Twelve21 Global for its Farm School Project. The gift represents a combination of Missions Plus funds and money given at the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Time to order Easter lilies



It's time to order Easter lilies to adorn the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Congregants are invited to provide the flowers in honor or in memory of beloved family members, friends or teachers. Dedications will be listed in the worship folder on Easter,

March 31. Each plant costs \$20, and orders can be made at wilshirebc.org/easter-lilies or in the church office. The deadline for inclusion in the listing is Palm Sunday, March 24.



Sign up by today for Feb. 23 Marriage Connections

There's no program for the next Marriage Connections on Friday, Feb. 23. Simply drop off your kids (infant-grade 6) at the church for free childcare starting at 6:30 p.m. and pick them up at 9:30. Registration is required by today, Feb. 18; visit wilshirebc.org/events/marriage-connections.

Single, Adoptive and Foster Care Parents Night Out, Feb. 23

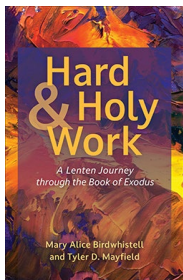
Wilshire will offer free childcare (infant-grade 6) for single, adoptive and foster parents on Friday, Feb. 23, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Registration is required and closes today, Feb. 18; visit wilshirebc.org/events/pno.



Doing the work of Lent

Every year when Lent comes around, it is important to be reminded that Lent requires something of us. Lent is not passive. Lent does not simply happen to us; we have to make the conscious decision to engage ... to engage in the work of Lent. This year we invite you to discover what it means to do the work of Lent. We'll explore the spiritual practice of fasting and examine how our lifelong spiritual journeys inform the way we engage in the world around us.

Book study: Hard & Holy Work



We hope you'll join us this Lenten season in reading and studying *Hard & Holy Work: A Lenten Journey through the Book of Exodus*. This new book by Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Tyler Mayfield explores how Moses' spiritual awakening at the burning bush informed his

involvement in the hard and holy work of liberation — and what that can mean for us. The book is available from major book retailers.

■ **Discussion Group.** On Sundays from 9 to 9:45 a.m., Darren DeMent and Katie Murray will lead a discussion group on the book in Room 1205-G. The group starts today and continues through Palm Sunday, March 24.

■ **Sunday School.** Several classes, including Youth, will study the book during Lent.

■ **Family Study Guide.** A guide for parents to use with children is available in the church office.

Sundays and Wednesdays

Timothy's Lenten messages will focus on the spiritual practice of fasting. While we often think of it only in terms of food, fasting is an intentional letting go to make space to hear sacred whispers or accept holy interruptions. On Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Community Hall, starting Feb. 21, Timothy will lead "talk-back" sessions that expand on his Sunday messages.

Lenten playlist

Wilshire has curated an eclectic Lenten playlist on the streaming music service Spotify. Simply search Spotify for "Doing the work of Lent - Lent 2024." Spotify's basic version is free.

Holy Week

- Road to Resurrection interactive experience, Palm Sunday, March 24, 9-11 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday service, March 28, 7:30 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, March 31. Sunrise service, T&P Hill at White Rock Lake, 6:45 a.m.



Family Lenten Experience Palm Sunday, March 24 9–11 a.m. in Community Hall

Join us in traveling the path of Jesus during his last week on earth in this hour-long multigenerational Easter event geared for all ages. We'll create and wave palm branches, taste the Passover meal, visit the Garden of Gethsemane and join in other engaging experiences by visiting five sequential stations, rotating every 10 minutes in small groups.

The event is open to everyone from 9 to 9:30 a.m. with one group starting at 9 and another group at 9:15. Please sign up for a time; use the QR code or find the link at wilshirebc.org/events/road-to-resurrection.

Older preschoolers and children's kin-

dergarten through 6th grade Sunday School classes will participate during Sunday School from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

If you're interested in playing a character or helping with setup (March 22 and 23) or cleanup, please contact Julie Girards at jgirards@wilshirebc.org or 214-452-3104.



**Sign up to enter
at 9 or 9:15 a.m.**

*Older preschoolers and
K-6 classes will visit
during Sunday School.*

Adventurers host jazz band

The Wilshire Adventurers will enjoy lunch and a performance from the UpSwing Jazz Band on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 11:30 a.m. in Community Hall. The 18-piece UpSwing plays big band swing, jazz and Latin music. Lunch costs \$10 each. No RSVP necessary. Adventurers is a fellowship group for those 60 and up.

Register for San Francisco trip



Registration is open for the Wilshire Adventurers trip to San Francisco, scheduled for Sept. 10–14. To learn more and register, visit wilshirebc.org/events/san-francisco. The deadline to register is Feb. 28. Adventurers is a fellowship group for those 60 and above.

Teacher training event offered

Spiritual formation ministers Darren DeMent and Katie Murray will lead a training event for adult Sunday School teachers on Feb. 25 after worship. Lunch will be provided. Several experienced Wilshire teachers representing various teaching styles will be featured in a panel discussion covering lesson planning methods, approaches to Scripture and more. This should be a great resource for current teachers and those who are considering it. Registration is requested. Use the QR code above or look for the event in the Events section of Realm (onrealm.org/wilshirebaptist/registrations).



Sign up for Feb. 28 Blood Drive

Carter BloodCare's bus will be at Wilshire for a blood drive on Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Find the appointment link at wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive or use the QR code on page 16.

Care Teams info session

Wilshire's Care Teams ministry is holding an information session for potential volunteers on Sunday, March 10, at noon. Lunch will be provided but registration is required by March 3. Care Teams help those who have needs due to an accident, illness or other crisis. Examples include providing food or transportation, helping with pets, household chores or repairs, or sitting with a loved one to give respite to a caregiver. Lawyers and financial experts are needed to give pro bono advice to senior adults or others. Register for the information session at wilshirebc.org/events/care-teams-info. Contact: Linda Garner (lgarner@wilshirebc.org)

Wilshire Welcome, March 17

Wilshire Welcome, a one-hour session to help guests and new members learn what the church is all about, will meet Sunday, March 17, at 9:45 a.m. in the Prayer Room near McIver Chapel. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org).

Let's play mahjong!

Join Women of Wilshire for mahjong the first Friday each month at 10 a.m. and the second Wednesday each month at 6 p.m. Please sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/mahjong.

WOW book clubs

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** meets March 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor to discuss *Democracy Awakening* by Heather Cox Richardson. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org).

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** meets March 7 at noon in Room 1205-L to discuss Kate Morton's *The Secret Keeper*. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org).



**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)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

FEB. 21

Koinonia Café | 5–6 p.m. | Community Hall | Buffet-style dinner for the whole family. Pricing at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Feb. 21:** Cottage pie, Brussels sprouts, bread, tomato soup, salad, lemon bars, strawberry cookies, jello. **Kids:** Cheese quesadilla, rice.

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.

Lenten Bible Study | Feb. 21–March 27 | 6–7 p.m. | Community Hall | During Lent, Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples will utilize the Wednesday Bible Study time for “sermon talk-back sessions” that expand on his message from the Sunday before. Timothy’s Lenten sermons will focus on the spiritual practice of fasting.

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.

Three Wilshire staff members mark milestone anniversaries



Leticia Vega Facilities Staff 20 years

Leticia Vega marked her 20-year work anniversary at Wilshire on Jan. 7. As part of the facilities staff, she is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the Wilshire building. While her responsibilities haven't changed much over the years, "supplies and equipment have improved, which helps me do my job more efficiently," said Leticia.

Leticia's sister is Facilities Supervisor Maricela Escutia, who began working at Wilshire first and suggested Leticia apply. Leticia said one of the best parts of her job is "being able to drink coffee with my sister every weekday at break time for the past 20 years."

Leticia and her husband, Juan, have been married over 30 years and have four children and four grandchildren.

Director of Hospitality Holly Irvin said, "Leticia works to serve others day in and day out. Her dedication and hard work are truly commendable. Leticia has a strong work ethic which makes her a reliable and trusted member of our team. I know for a fact that we all appreciate the essential role she plays in caring for our facility. Thank you for the many years of service at Wilshire!"

Leticia said, "I would like to thank God for blessing me with my job, the congregation for their faithful giving, and Maricela and Holly for ensuring we have what we need to do our jobs — and for their support."



Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz Food Service 10 years

Food service staffer Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz celebrated 10 years of full-time employment at Wilshire on Feb. 1.

Wilfredo is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the kitchen and dishes. He also works on setup for all food and beverage service, including coffee on Sunday mornings.

"I'm proud of how I do my job," Wilfredo said. "The kitchen staff takes pride in what we do."

Wilfredo learned of the Wilshire job from his brother, Elias Vasquez, who joined the food service staff in 2006. Wilfredo began as a part-time employee in 2010 and joined the staff full-time in 2014. While not at work, he enjoys watching TV, exercising and hanging out with his dog, Coco.

Director of Hospitality Holly Irvin said, "Wilfredo is an integral part of our kitchen staff. He works hard behind the scenes to ensure that the kitchen and dishes are spotless. I have seen Wilfredo juggle a wide range of tasks and he makes it look so effortless. Wilfredo is continuously thinking ahead, rarely does he need to be advised of what to do next. He is always ready to roll up his sleeves to meet the needs of his teammates and get the job done quickly and thoroughly. We couldn't have a successful food service ministry if it wasn't for the backbone of our kitchen, Wilfredo."



Eric Mirochna IT Manager 5 years

On Jan. 16, Eric Mirochna celebrated his five-year anniversary as a Wilshire staffer. As IT manager, Eric is responsible for all technology implementation and support at the church, including computers, software, phones and networking.

“I like problem-solving,” Eric said. “I’m pretty good about figuring out ways to do things.”

Eric grew up at Wilshire. His parents are Conrad and Janell Mirochna, and his brothers are Matthew and Daniel. Since coming to work at the church in 2019, Eric met and married his wife, Laura, and became stepfather to Joshua Brown, now a high school senior.

Eric had been on the job about a year when the pandemic forced the shutdown of the building. In addition to helping employees get set up to work remotely, Eric found himself in the new position of diagnosing IT issues over the phone. “It ultimately helped my communication skills pretty significantly, in terms of knowing what to ask to get to the root issues,” he said.

Eric said he never planned a career in technology but acknowledges a fascination with computers dating to elementary school. As a teen he and one of his brothers built their first computer by updating and adding parts to an old model. In 2019 Eric was working part-time doing IT work at Trek Resources, an oil and gas company where his dad works, when he learned of Wilshire’s job opening and applied.

Eric returned to school in recent years and is set to earn a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Texas Woman’s University in May. He previously attended Texas A&M University.

He said he wouldn’t work at just any church. “Wilshire’s goals and values align pretty well with mine. I’m there to support the mission of the church.”



Save the date! **Auction items needed**

The annual Youth Choir Spaghetti Lunch and Silent Auction will be held Sunday, March 3, in Community Hall after worship. This event will help fund the choir’s summer trip to New Orleans to sing, serve and sightsee. If you’d like to donate items or services to the silent auction, contact Jason Woodbury at woodbury.jason@sbcglobal.net. Suggestions include restaurant gift cards, new household items and event tickets. Professional services make great donation items, so if you’re a musician, tutor, photographer, baker, designer, accountant or have some other service to provide, consider donating a gift certificate of your time or service.



Blood Drive



 **Josey R.**
Blood Recipient
Brownwood, Texas

Wed., February 28, 2024
10:00am - 3:00pm

Wilshire Baptist Church

4316 Abrams Rd.

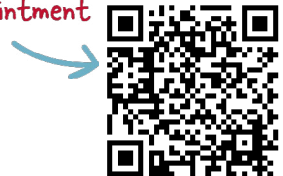
Carter BloodCare Bus

Contact:

Linda Garner, PhD RN

lgarner@wilshirebc.org

Schedule an appointment



Receive a pullover!*



CarterBloodCare.org
800-366-2634 | Text CBCDonate to 999-777

*While supplies last. Item may be substituted for item of equal value.

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 confidential care from a Stephen Minister, please reach out using our dedicated email address, stephenministry@wilshirebc.org, or call 214-452-3176.

stephen
MINISTRY®



Conversations Art by Vikki J. Martin South Lobby | Ends Feb. 28

wilshirebc.org/events/conversations

ECLC now enrolling for fall

Wilshire's Early Childhood Learning Center is enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year. ECLC is a licensed early care program offering a comprehensive approach to education for infants to Pre-K. Learn more at wilshirebc.org/eclc.

Evening knitting group

Anyone who enjoys knitting is invited to Peggy Tinsley's Garland home one evening each month, usually the third Thursday, to work on their projects in fellowship with others. The group is open to knitters of all skill levels. Contact Sara Tinsley for more details at saratinsley1@yahoo.com.

Ushers and greeters needed

The Hospitality Ministry Team is seeking new ushers and greeters to serve on a rotational basis. Contact: Barbara Clayton at bclayton@wilshirebc.org for more information.

Laura Cordell

Hometown: Fort Worth

Present City: Dallas

Education: B.S., Texas Tech University;
M.B.A., The University of Texas at Arlington

Profession: Director, Market Access, Sanofi Vaccines

Tell us about your family.

I am a VERY proud solo mom of Barron, who is two years old.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I have been with Sanofi Vaccines for over 20 years in multiple roles including in sales and sales leadership. I have relocated several times for my company, most recently moving from Chicago back to Dallas in 2018. I am so happy to be back in Texas close to my family. My family is a tremendous support system, especially my mom!

What are your favorite places to travel?

I have traveled to over 20 countries. Most recently Barron and I traveled to Australia to celebrate my parents' 50th wedding anniversary. I LOVE to travel, and I am so excited to show Barron the world. I was also just selected to attend the Olympic games in Paris in August 2024.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

I am in the Labyrinth Sunday School Class. My son attends ECLC and I am a member of MOPS. I am excited to get more involved!



What has surprised you most about Wilshire?

I continue to be amazed and thrilled with the intentional and thoughtful focus and action on diversity and inclusion. I am so proud to be part of the Wilshire family, and it makes my heart so happy that my son sees people

who look like him within our church family.

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

Incredible things! God has trusted me as a mommy to the most precious little boy and has guided me to believe and have the confidence that I can raise my son as a solo mom. And God continues to provide amazing means of support to include my career (which I love), my family and my community support. (Thank you, Wilshire!)

Tell us about your faith journey.

I was raised in a Baptist church with my three brothers. I came to accept the Lord at a very young age. Over the years my faith has remained strong and certainly helped me navigate many tough and challenging situations. I always feel recentered and refreshed, ready to tackle the week after Sundays at Wilshire.

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.

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 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.

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, Feb. 18

- Art Exhibit, South Lobby, through Feb. 28
- *Hard & Holy Work* Discussion Group, 1205-G, 9 a.m.
- Third and Fourth Grade Open House, 2225, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Time with Tim, Pastor's Office, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2221, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Building & Grounds Comm., Community Hall, noon
- Finance Comm., Community Hall, noon
- Library Comm., Community Hall, noon
- Missions Comm., Community Hall, noon
- Personnel Comm., Community Hall, noon
- Wilshire Bells, Handbell Room, 12:15 p.m.
- Children's Choirs, 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 19

- Meal Packing, Community Hall, 10 a.m.
- Memorial Service for Jonathan McGregor, Sanctuary, 1:30 p.m.
- Wilshire Winds, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 20

- Adventurers Event, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Wilkinson Center Pantry Assistants, noon
- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 21

- 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.
- Deacon Work Group, The Shire, 5:30 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Preschool Music, Missions & More, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- MOPS Steering Meeting, 3105, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Risk Management Committee, 1205-G, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 22

- Stephen Ministry Training, Prayer Room, 10 a.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 23

- Friday Friends, 3301, 10 a.m.
- Memorial Service for Charlie Burgin, Sanctuary, 1 p.m.
- Marriage Connections, James Gallery, 6:30 p.m.
- Single, Foster & Adoptive Parents Night Out, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 24

- Puerto Rico Mission Trip



SUMMER 2024

Children & Preschool Wilshire Baptist Church

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: SEEKERS IN SNEAKERS

Monday-Friday, June 10-14, 9 a.m.-noon.

At VBS, kids will use their investigative skills to dig into the Bible and discover Jesus. It's a great opportunity to make new friends, sing fun songs, solve clue puzzles, do art projects and science explorations and play active games. For completed kindergartners through sixth graders. Limited to 15 per grade. **Cost:** Free. **Register by:** June 3.

COOKING CAMP

Monday-Friday, July 8-12, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Completed first through sixth graders will learn about food safety and nutrition and prepare a three-course lunch, served daily. Bring an apron from a previous camp and get a \$5 refund on the first day. **Cost:** \$100. **Register by:** June 30.

LISTEN TO YOUR ART!

Monday-Friday, July 8-12, 12:30-5 p.m.

Creative arts camp has something for everyone who has completed grades one through six: music, visual arts, drama, movement, crafts, a cool T-shirt and more! On Friday all kids will stay for dinner, and families are invited to a 6:30 p.m. performance and art showcase. Lunch not included; snacks provided. **Cost:** \$100. **Register by:** June 30.

FULL-DAY: COOKING CAMP AND LISTEN TO YOUR ART!

Monday-Friday, July 8-12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Completed second through sixth graders can register for Cooking Camp and Listen to Your Art! Lunch included with Cooking Camp. **Cost:** \$175. **Register by:** June 30.

PRETEEN CAMP

Saturday-Tuesday, July 27-30

Passport Kids! is for completed third through sixth graders. We'll travel by bus to the Heart of Texas Baptist Camp and Conference Center near Brownwood. Campers will experience high-energy worship, interactive Bible study, recreation, missions and more, led by camp staff with help from Wilshire chaperones. Chaperones needed. **Cost:** \$400. \$50 deposit guarantees a spot. **Full payment due:** June 30.

PRESCHOOL EVENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: SEEKERS IN SNEAKERS

Monday-Friday, June 10-14, 9 a.m.-noon.

Preschool VBS is for those who turned 3 through 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2023, but have not completed kindergarten. Class sizes are limited. **Cost:** Free. **Register by:** June 3.

CREATION STATION

Monday-Thursday, July 22-25, 9 a.m.-noon

Creation Station includes art, music, movement, cooking and more! For preschoolers who were 3 by Sept. 1, 2023 up through children who have completed kindergarten. **Cost:** \$100. **Register by:** July 14.

CONTACTS

Julie Girards, Minister to Children, jgirards@wilshirebc.org

Chelsea Hopkins, Registration, chopkins@wilshirebc.org

Candy McComb, Listen to Your Art!, cmccomb@wilshirebc.org

Carol Cabaniss, Listen to Your Art! Registration, ccabaniss@wilshirebc.org

Registration opens Feb. 23 at wilshirebc.org/summer-camps

Cancellation Policy: Refunds minus a credit card processing fee are available with notice at least one week prior to camp start date. Within a week of camp, no refunds will be issued.