



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Preparing for worship

This week the ministers of Wilshire were on retreat in Beech Grove, Indiana, spending time deepening our relationships with each other, with God and with ourselves. It seems the overwhelming message of our time together challenged us to seek the uncovered places in our lives where God may still have unfinished work.

Even at a very young age, I have always felt a very strong connection to worship. Maybe that was because of my parents' disciplined commitment to our weekly family worship or because I began playing for worship so young; I'm not sure. What I do know is, corporate worship has always been a unique opportunity for me to hear the voice of the Divine. To experience God gently but insistently speaking into the dark places of resistance and pain. To find strength and peace in the support of others in the community of faith.

In our worship, we each bring our individual experience, concerns, hopes, dreams, sorrows and joys. When we show up authentically (and

even when we don't), the Spirit works among us and in us in a powerful way.

This morning, I can't help but be drawn to the texts in our anthem and congregational song, "Speak, O Lord" and "We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight." Both are prayers in song that call on God to show up and breathe into the uncovered places in our lives — "Speak, O Lord ... shape and fashion us ... cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see ... may our faith abound to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found."

As we ponder living into a different kind of Lent, may these coming moments of worship lead us to a tangible acknowledgment of God's working in our lives and God's extravagant love and lavish care for us. May the Spirit illuminate and awaken the numb places of our hearts and draw us into more meaningful connection with God and each other.

—Ariel Merivil



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

March 10, 2024
11:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Sally Gary

Prelude

Chorale in D Minor
Wilshire Winds
Shana Gaines, director

J.S. Bach/arr. Topolewski

Opening Sentences

John Gillis

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, we recognize our predisposition to hold it all together even when everything around us seems to be falling apart. While society may equate vulnerability as weakness, may we instead remember that to be vulnerable and tender toward ourselves and the world is the heart's greatest act of courage.

+Congregational Song

To God Be the Glory
No. 349

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Gospel Reading — John 3:14-21

Claire Flores

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Chosen One must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One might have eternal life. Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life. God sent the Only Begotten into the world not to condemn the world, but that through the Only Begotten the world might be saved. Whoever believes in the Only Begotten avoids judgment, but whoever doesn't believe is judged already for not believing in the name of the Only Begotten of God. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light came into the world, people showed they preferred darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. Indeed, people who do wrong hate the light and avoid it, for fear their actions will be exposed; but people who live by the truth come out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what they do is done in God.”

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

Anthem

Speak, O Lord
Sanctuary Choir

arr. John Ferguson

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
To receive the food of your Holy Word
Take your truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in your likeness

Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All your purposes for your glory

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity

Teach us Lord, full obedience
Holy reverence, true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity

And by grace we'll stand on your promises
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built
And the earth is filled with your glory

Prayers of the People

Julie Girards

+Congregational Song

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

DUNLAP'S CREEK

Stanza 1: choir

Stanzas 2-4: all



1. We walk by faith and ___ not by sight; with gra-cious words draw near,
2. We may not touch your ___ hands and side, nor fol-low where you ___ trod;
3. Help then, O Lord, our ___ un-be-lief; and may our faith a-bound
4. And when our life of ___ faith is done, in realms of clear-er ___ light



O ___ Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
but ___ in your prom-ise we re-joice and cry, "my Lord and God!"
to ___ call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.
may ___ we be-hold you as ___ you are, with full and end-less sight.

Offertory

Go to Dark Gethsemane
Wilshire Winds

arr. Shana Gaines

You were dead because of your sins and offenses, which you committed in your allegiance both to the present age and to the ruler of the power of the air — that spirit who is even now at work among “the children of rebellion.” And all of us were among them; we lived at the level of the flesh, following every whim of the flesh, every fancy of this age, and so by nature deserved God’s wrath like the rest. But God, rich in mercy and loving us so much, brought us to life in Christ, even when we were dead in our sins. It is through this grace that we have been saved. God raised us up and, in union with Christ Jesus, gave us a place in the heavenly realm, to display in ages to come how immense are the resources of God’s grace and kindness in Christ Jesus. And it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith — and even that is not of yourselves, but the gift of God. Nor is it a reward for anything that you have done, so nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to do the good things God created us to do from the beginning.

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 “Embracing Vulnerability” Timothy Peoples

Silent Reflection

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

+Congregational Song *My Faith Has Found a Resting Place* LANDÁS
No. 584

Sharing of Decisions Timothy Peoples

Benediction Timothy Peoples

Postlude Improvisation on themes of the day Jeff Brummel

The flowers today are given in memory of Bill Sholar
by Gail, Steve, Andy, Jessica and Callum Brookshire.

Meet today's worship leaders

Steven Cury-Frederick joined Wilshire in 2023 and is married to Elias. They have been together since 2007 and legally married in 2014. In 2015 they moved to Dallas from Steven's hometown in the Dominican Republic to start a family, which now includes their 1-year-old daughter, Samantha. Steven currently attends Odyssey Class and serves on the Hospitality Team and the Preschool Education Committee.

Claire Flores joined Wilshire in October 2023. Originally from Houston, she moved to Dallas to finish nursing school and now works as a bone marrow transplant nurse at Baylor University Medical Center. Claire also volunteers at Sammons Cancer Center and East Lake Pet Orphanage. At Wilshire she is a member of Ithaka Class and plays oboe in Wilshire Winds.

Sally Gary and her wife, Karen Keen, joined Wilshire in December 2022. Sally is co-director of Shiloh Class. A former attorney and communications professor, Sally serves as executive director of CenterPeace, a nonprofit organization helping LGBTQ+ people find a place to belong in the body of Christ.

John Gillis has been a Wilshire member since 1966 and is the father of two adult children, John Gillis Jr. and Julie Gillis Little. A retired trial lawyer, John is a member of the Compass Sunday School Class and serves on the Adventurers Committee.



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.

Staff contacts

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

Communications

- Mark McKenzie, Communications Director (3169)

Congregational Care

- Barbara Clayton, Pastoral Care Assistant (3125)
- 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

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, Senior Pastor Emeritus and Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director (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

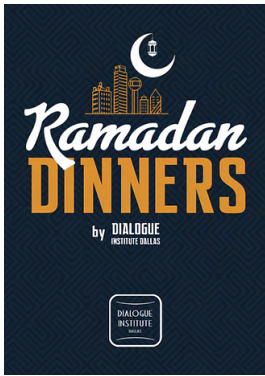


News & Announcements
March 10, 2024

Condolences to

Family and friends on the death of **Betty May**, March 5.

RSVP for Ramadan Dinner



Wilshire will host Dialogue Institute Dallas for an interfaith Ramadan dinner on the evening of Thursday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. in Community Hall.

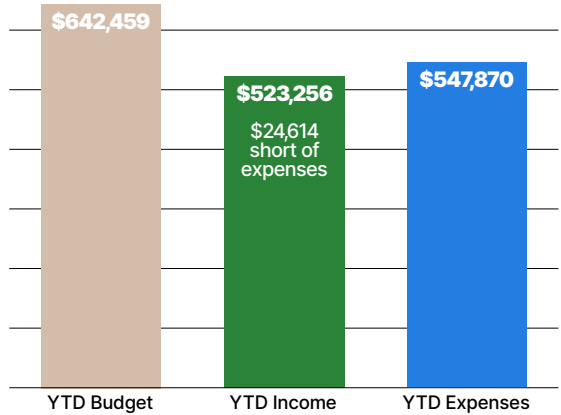
The event will help us learn from our Muslim neighbors as we break bread together. Please RSVP; find the link at

wilshirebc.org/events/ramadan-dinner.

Care Teams info session today

Wilshire's Care Teams ministry is holding an information session for potential volunteers today at noon in Room 1205-L. Care Teams help those with needs due to an accident, illness or other crisis. Examples include providing food or transportation, helping with pets or doing household chores. Lunch will be provided at the meeting with priority given to those who registered in advance. Contact: Linda Garner (l Garner@wilshirebc.org).

Unified Budget Update



| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Pathways Endowment YTD gifts | \$15,226 |
| Pathways Endowment Feb. balance | \$9,774,440 |

SPRING BREAK!

Sunday, March 10

Children's Choirs and Youth Choir will not meet for rehearsals.

Wednesday, March 13

There will be no lunch or dinner service and no Lunch & Learn or Wednesday evening activities. Sanctuary Choir will rehearse at 7 p.m. as usual.



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.

Puerto Rico trip: Fixing roofs, building relationships

BY MONICA MULLINS

Eleven Wilshire members traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico, last week to work with Primera Iglesia Bautista de Río Piedras as they continue to serve the people of this island who are rebuilding after the devastation of 2017's Hurricane Maria. The oldest Baptist church in Puerto Rico, this congregation has changed and adapted in the intervening years as their community has continued to face the hardships of tropical weather, an earthquake and COVID. They are inspiring and lead the teams that come to work alongside them with grace, kindness, faith and great skill!

Our team worked hard and played hard. In three days we successfully removed the damaged roofs of two homes and replaced them with new wood supports and tin panels. We became increasingly efficient and skilled with every hour on the job. The team quickly learned how to work together to accomplish the tasks at hand. We also dipped our feet in the Atlantic Ocean and explored historic Old San Juan. We tried new food, took cold showers, played a lot of dominoes and ate more than our fair share of ice cream.

The work and play were rewarding and fun. Our worldviews were expanded, our Spanish skills improved and our hearts were inspired by the work of this church and its former pastor, Rev. Laura Ayala, now coordinator for global missions for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

However, the greatest surprise and gift of this trip was each other. The authenticity and transparency with which each member served the community and shared their lives, joys, sorrows and experiences have changed my life for the good. We got a taste of heaven in our fellowship and have returned home with deep relationships



that we will continue to nurture.

Each member of our team sacrificed something to take this trip and yet returned home richer for it. I know that not everyone can take such a trip. There are legitimate impediments that prevent some from taking a trip like this — health issues, financial concerns and family and career commitments. However, I challenge you to join Wilshire in missions and service whether here in our own community or in a place like Puerto Rico.

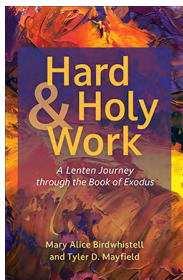
There is more to be done. Regardless of your skills, age, background and experience (or perhaps because of these things), there is a place for you to serve, people with whom to partner and friends to be your companions for the journey. We feel compelled to return. Won't you join us?



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 are leading a discussion group on the book in Room 1205-G. Ends Palm Sunday, March 24.

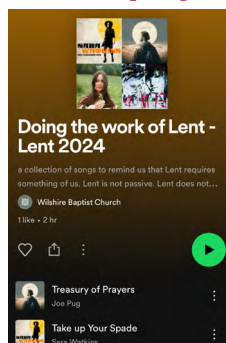
■ **Sunday School.** Several classes, including Youth, are studying the book during Lent.

■ **Family Study Guide.** A guide for parents to use with children is available in the church office and can be downloaded at wilshirebc.org/lent.

Sundays and Wednesdays

Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples is focusing on the spiritual practice of fasting in his Lenten messages. 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. Wednesday night Bible Study during Lent features dialogue and a deeper dive into the Sunday sermon.

Lenten playlist on Spotify



Wilshire's eclectic Lenten playlist is available on the digital music service Spotify. Search for "Doing the work of Lent - Lent 2024" or find the link at wilshirebc.org/lent. The basic version of Spotify is free to use.



Holy Week

Palm Sunday March 24

- Road to Resurrection, 9–11 a.m., Community Hall
- 11 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday March 28

- 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Easter Sunday March 31

- 6:45 a.m., Sunrise Service at T.&P. Hill, White Rock Lake
- 9:30 a.m. Columbarium Service of Remembrance
- 11 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
- Flowering Cross

Order Easter lilies by March 24



Help beautify the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday, March 31, by purchasing lilies in memory or in honor of a loved one. Dedications will be listed in the worship folder on Easter. 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.



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

Join us in traveling the path of Jesus during his last week on earth in this hour-long multigenerational 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 kindergarten 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.*

Wilshire Welcome next Sunday

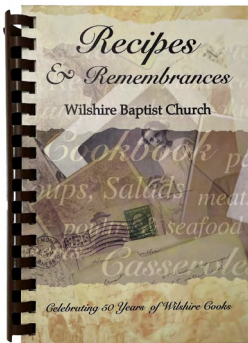
Wilshire Welcome, a one-hour session to help guests and new members learn what the church is all about, meets Sunday, March 17, at 9:45 a.m. in the Prayer Room near the chapel. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org).



Adventurers to Fort Worth

On Thursday, March 21, the Wilshire Adventurers will head to the Fort Worth Stockyards for shopping, dining and watching the cattle drive. The \$20 cost covers transportation by bus. Lunch is on your own. The bus will leave Wilshire at 9 a.m. and return at 2 p.m. Adventurers is a fellowship group for those 60 and above. Guests are welcome. Register at wilshirebc.org/events/stockyards.

Request from History Committee



The History Committee is seeking a copy of *Recipes & Remembrances*, a Wilshire cookbook published in 2001 on the occasion of the church's 50th anniversary. If you have a copy and are willing to donate it to Wilshire's archives, please contact Janice

Jernberg at jmjernberg1@gmail.com or Max Post at mpost77@yahoo.com.

Women of Wilshire

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

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | April 4 | Noon | 1205-L | *Happiness: A Memoir: The Crooked Little Road to Semi-Ever After* by Heather Harpham. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org).

■ 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.

Youth Spring Retreat

Wilshire Student Ministry will hold its Spring Retreat Friday, April 12, through Sunday, April 14, at Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Glen Rose. The \$100 registration fee covers transportation, lodging, meals and a T-shirt. The theme for this year's retreat is *Reel to Real: A Study of Christ Figures in Film*. Register at wilshirebc.org/events/spring-retreat.

Health screenings on March 15

Life Line Screening will be in Room 3301 on Friday, March 15, to offer screenings for carotid artery disease, atrial fibrillation, abdominal aortic aneurysm and peripheral arterial disease (poor lower-body circulation). The special package price for all four screenings is \$149. To register for an appointment, call 1-800-640-6307 or visit lsa.social/hc. If you have questions, contact Parish Nurse Linda Garner at 214-452-3151 or lgarner@wilshirebc.org.

Photographers wanted

Wilshire Communications Director Mark McKenzie is seeking professional or hobbyist photographers to help document church events on a volunteer basis. Contact Mark at mmckenzie@wilshirebc.org.



Eclipse Party on April 8

Join Wilshire friends to view the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Prayer Garden and James Gallery. The church will provide viewing glasses, snacks and music. Bring your own lawn chair. The partial eclipse will start at 12:23 p.m., and the total eclipse will start at 1:40. Hosted by the Churchwide Social Committee and the Adventurers.

Parenting and the Enneagram



Learn how the Enneagram can help with parenting at a seminar in Community Hall on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guest speakers Joey and Billy Schewee of the @enneagramparents

Instagram account will lead us in exploring how your Enneagram type — and that of your child — informs your parenting style. Prior Enneagram knowledge is not required. Teachers, counselors and grandparents will also benefit. A \$10 per-person cost will cover lunch, snacks, water and coffee. Learn more and register at wilshirebc.org/events/enneagram-parenting.

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.

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, March 10

- *Hard & Holy Work* Discussion, 1205-G, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Care Teams Info Session, 1205-L, noon
- Pathways Committee, Pastor's office, noon
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12

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

Wednesday, March 13

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Ukulele Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 11 a.m.
- Adventurers Committee, 1205-G, 1 p.m.
- Bylaws work group, 2202, 5:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 14

- Stephen Ministry Training, 1100-B, 10 a.m.
- Stewpot Meal Service, 11:15 a.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, March 15

- Life Line Screening, 3301, 9 a.m.

Saturday, March 16

- Nova Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, March 17

- *Hard & Holy Work* Discussion, 1205-G, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Wilshire Welcome, 1100-B, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Finance Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Missions Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Personnel Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2221, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- 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.

Gina Ortegon

Hometown: Pensacola, Florida

Present City: Allen

Education: Bachelor of Interior Design, Auburn University

Profession: Manufacturers' Sales Rep

Tell us about your family.

I'm married to Ronnie Ortegon, and we have three daughters: Elena, 22, Erika, 22, and Ana, 17.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I worked as an interior designer in Dallas in the hospitality industry, then I developed a software program for hospitality designers. I was a stay-at-home mom for about seven years. I'm now a sales rep for several companies who manufacture carpet, fabric and leather. I call on designers who do hotel design, so I know the people and the products. It's really fun.

Any favorite hobbies?

I like to camp, kayak and hike. I have taken up knitting again after many years and am very good at rectangles (blankets and scarves.)

What are your favorite places to travel?

The beach is always my first choice. Ronnie and I would also love to go back to the UK one day.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

Ronnie and I grew up in different faith backgrounds, so once married, we tried to be Methodist for several years. In between joining different Methodist churches, we'd visit Wilshire (I had a friend from back home who went here), and George Mason would see us and say, "Ronnie and Gina! How are you?" We just felt very welcomed and it was a good fit for us. We joined in 2001.



Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

We are members of Epiphany Class. I haven't missed a Women's Retreat since Wilshire started having them. We volunteer in the preschool hallway when we can. That was a lifeline for me when my girls were young and Ronnie was traveling a lot with work, so we want to be there for families when we can. I'm also on the Interior Design Committee, the Building & Grounds Committee and will be the deacon chair in 2025.

What has surprised you most about Wilshire?

I'm surprised we are not a larger congregation ... Wilshire is great. We can do hard things, and God is blessing us. I think everyone would like it here. Invite your friends.

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

There are many transitions happening in my life right now. I'm learning how to lean on God and be more flexible but intentional with my practices. I have a way to go.

What's something interesting most people would not know about you?

My family lived in England when I was in elementary school.

What adjectives best describe you?

Calm, funny, earnest.



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

Register 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.