



ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

May 11, 2023

The Mosaic

Volume 37, Issue 9

The Starry Night

My son has a great affinity for Vincent van Gogh's "The Starry Night." I'm not sure where it started, but a few years ago he started recreating "The Starry Night" on his own. He'd draw it on cocktail napkins, scratch pieces of paper, and once on a canvas Christmas morning in the backyard. For his birthday last year, his grandma bought him a 2,000+ piece Lego set of the iconic painting, and he completed it on his own in less than a month. The box said it was for 18 years of age and up.

Last week I went to New York City for a pastor's conference, and he asked me to go see it, assuring me that the original was at the Modern Museum of Art in Manhattan. I wasn't so sure, but turns out, after I googled it, it's there - room 502, on the fifth floor.

During the conference, we were given three hours of silent retreat - three hours to spend however we wanted in the city, in silence. I decided to take my trip to the MoMA then. Without speaking a word, I found my way to the subway, took the 20-minute ride up the island, got off and walked to the entrance of the museum. I bought my ticket and took five escalators up to the fifth floor. I didn't know where to start so I went to the first room I saw, room 523. It connected to another room, room 522. Then another, room 521. I kept following the rooms as they decreased in number getting closer and closer to "The Starry Night."

515, 514, 513... 509, 508... 504, 503... To my surprise, my heart started pounding. I don't know why, but my body was becoming overwhelmed with emotion. Something about anticipating the moment, the moment in which I would see for the first time the original painting that has inspired so much and so many, including my seven-year-old son, made my body pulse with energy.

I went through the final doorway to room 502, and there it was. Right there. There were about a dozen people crowded in front of it, but it wasn't hard to see it, and eventually I had my turn in the front, standing two feet from the masterpiece. And I wept. I ugly wept, and, unfortunately, I had no kleenex. So, tears and snot just fell across my face as I took in the beauty of such art.

Eventually I sat down on a bench nearby and pulled up Cheryl Strayed's book "Tiny Beautiful Things." I had remembered that she wrote a letter once about van Gogh. A woman had written to her asking for advice about a sexual assault she had suffered. Cheryl wrote back and shared that a close friend of hers, who's a semi-famous artist, had been sexually assaulted three different times in the course of her life by three different men.

Cheryl asked her once how she was able to keep going and make such beautiful art despite the horrors that happened to her. Her friend said, "At a certain point we get to decide who it is we allow to influence us... I could allow myself to be influenced by three men who abused me, or I could allow myself to be influenced by van Gogh. I chose van Gogh."

I sat on that bench and thought about that line. "I chose van Gogh." I also thought about my son and his love for the painting, and all I could think was that I hope his life derives more meaning from van Gogh than all the other horrors this world has to offer.

Life is so brutal, we know that acutely after this last weekend, and I hope these things in some ways influence us - influence us to action, to vote, to speak up and fight. But I also hope our lives can derive meaning from all the beauty of this world too. And I hope our hearts remain soft enough that we can stop and admire the gifts of life and appreciate the wonder of the starry night.

Pastor Victoria

The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for May 25 & June 8, 2023.

The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.

Coming Events

Sunday	May 14 – Sixth Sunday of Easter
	Please note room changes this week during HVAC upgrade.
9:45 am	Adult Christian Education — Locations to be determined by each adult class.
9:45 am	Children's Christian Education — Youth Portable
10:00 am	Youth SS Class — Library
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel
	Godly Play – Following Time for Young Disciples — Youth Portable
Wednesday	May 17
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Library (3:30 – 5:30 pm)

Wednesday, May 17

**No Midweek Dinner of Midweek Gathering & Study
due to improvements and maintenance in
Vickrey Hall and the Education Wing.**

7:00 pm	Youth Gathering — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
Thursday	May 18
7:00 pm	Women of the Church, "Daughters of Abraham 101" — Youth Portable

Saturday	May 20
	Third Saturday Youth Activity
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom

Sunday May 21 – Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday / Graduation Sunday

8:30 am	Program Council — Vickrey Hall
9:45 am	Royal Welcome — Pastor's Office
9:45 am	Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am	Children's Christian Education — Christian Education Building
10:00 am	Youth SS Class — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
10:10 am	Non-Traditional Class — Room 212
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel
	Godly Play – Following Time for Young Disciples — Godly Play Room
12:15 pm	Graduate Reception — Vickrey Hall

Wednesday	May 24
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building – Room 201 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall
	Menu: Meatball Subs, French fries served with a Salad. Dessert: Brownies
6:00 pm	Midweek Gathering & Study — Vickrey Hall & Zoom
	"Pastoral Care Today: A Conversation with Royal Lane Chaplains"
7:00 pm	Youth Gathering — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Thursday May 25 – Mosaic, Volume 37, No. 10

Saturday	May 27
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom

The deadline for the order of service, the Midweek, and the Mosaic is Monday, 5:00 p.m. prior to publication.

"Like" RLBC on Facebook or "Follow" RLBC on Twitter

Alliance of Baptists Videos & Slide Show

Did you miss the Alliance of Baptists Annual Meeting? Visit the Alliance of Baptists YouTube Channel at <https://bit.ly/42qhqd5> to view the videos of each speaker. You can also find a link on the Alliance of Baptist Facebook Page or on the Royal Lane Facebook Page.

Don't miss the slide show on the Alliance of Baptist YouTube Chanel at <https://bit.ly/42GS3DF> and if you check slides at 47 and 137, you will see some Royal Lane faces. You may find more!!



“From tolerance, to respect, to loving one another”

Women of the Church

hosting

Daughters of Abraham

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, Youth Portable

Guest speaker, Janice Harris Ford, Founder in 2001 after 9/11

Topic: “Daughters of Abraham 101”

Daughters of Abraham is an interfaith group of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim women. No one denies the differences in the faiths, but the focus is on similarities. The women share a love of God and a desire for peace in the community and in the world.

Please join us. As hosts you are invited to bring refreshments. This is not our regular meal, but desserts and finger foods are welcome. Some women are vegetarian.



Make your appointment early!



*Kindness is
in your blood*

Blood Drive
Royal Lane Baptist Church

Vickrey Hall
6707 Royal Lane
Dallas, TX 75230

Tuesday, June 20, 2023
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**American
Red Cross**

Deacons of the Week

May 14

Tex Quesada
Christin Lavery

May 21

Mike Keith
Garey Wisdom

Midweek Program 6:00 p.m. Wednesday in Vickrey Hall

May 17

No Midweek Dinner or Program

May 24

"Pastoral Care Today:
A Conversation with
Royal Lane Chaplains"
Join us for a Fellowship Meal
at 5:30 pm.

Announcements, Birthday Celebrations
and Prayer Concerns at 6:00 pm.



Coming Soon
to the Box Gallery

Sherry Houpt

Gallery open by appointment
10-4, weekdays, 10-5 Wednesdays

To change mail or email preferences for *The Mosaic*,
contact Barbara Merry, 214-361-2809, ext. 10 or
bmerry@royallane.org.

Scriptures of the Week

May 14

Acts 17:22-31
1 Peter 3:13-22

Psalm 66:8-20
John 14:15-21

May 21

Acts 1:6-14
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
John 17:1-11

March 2023 Financials

YTD Actual

Revenues*	\$ 241,756
Expenses	\$ 205,283
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 36,473

*Includes annual pledges paid up front in full.

Text "GIVE" to 214-609-1200

Follow the prompts to complete the process.
Standard text message rates may apply.

Donate online at royallane.org/give/

Giving menu includes:

General Fund
The Lowe Scholarship Fund
Columbarium
Children's Camp

Happy Birthday!

May

Andy Cavins.....	11
Stephen Lewis	11
Jaclyn Ramirez	12
Deanna Green.....	13
Alexander Gitlin.....	15
Linda Hueston	15
Wayne Meachum	15
Karen Miller	18
Samuel Quesada	18
Greg King.....	19
Nate Green	20
Mike Jones	20
Scott Gonzalez	22
Sheila Bright.....	23
Rick Carpenter	23
Jacob Hammett.....	23
Betty Renfroe	24
Jane Stubblefield	24



Royal Lane Baptist Church

6707 Royal Lane
Dallas, Texas 75230-4145

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

The Mosaic is published twice a month

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Wednesday Midweek: 6:15 pm

Christian Education: Saturday & Sunday

Sunday Worship: 10:55 am

**Royal Lane Baptist Church
6707 Royal Lane
Dallas, TX 75230-4145**

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www.royallane.org
facebook.com/royallane**

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Janet Schultz, Administrative Assistant
Blake Vickrey, Sound Technician
David Weigle, Organist
Rev. Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship