



ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

September 21, 2023

The Mosaic

Volume 37, Issue 18

Uncomfortable Conversations: Explaining Death and God's Eternal Presence to Children

This was published September 20, 2023, through *Caring Magazine* and was written by our Senior Pastor, Rev. Victoria Robb Powers.

Children are notorious for asking questions, *all kinds* of questions. Questions about where babies come from, questions about why things are the way they are, and questions about what happens when you die. None of these questions are easy, and they almost never come at a time when we're prepared to answer them.

When it comes to questions about death, parents are quick to want to assure their children that there's nothing to worry about or fear. The only problem is: that's not actually true. Most everyone has some degree of fear when it comes to death, and no one can say with total certainty what happens when you die.

Christians are particularly prone to talking about life after death as a type of party or celebration. I can hear the old, popular children's song about heaven from my youth: "It's a big, big house, with lots and lots of rooms. And a big, big yard, where we can play football!" Sadly, for me, I always hated football, so this song didn't provide me with any excitement about what was waiting for me when I died. What's more, the concept of "eternity" gave me more dread than promise. I would routinely get sick over the idea of time without end. What was meant to give me hope, gave me fear.

When I shared my fear about death with my parents or my church leaders, they'd swoop in to rescue me and tell me, through fake smiles, that I should be excited about death. I get to be with Jesus, they'd say, and if I was given the choice, I'd never want to come back to earth. This just added guilt to my fear, compounding my anxiety about the whole thing.

It's not a bad thing to **want to assure our children** that it will be ok when they die, but it's important that our words of assurance aren't actually rooted in an anxiety we're trying to hide. Children are impeccable at discerning truth, so more often than not, they'll know if we're not being honest.

Years ago, I was standing in my front yard talking to my 5-year-old neighbor who had just lost her cat. "My mom tells me he's in heaven now," she said, "and one day I'll be there too and will see him again." I could see the sadness in her face. I asked her, "How do you feel about that?" She said, "Sad. I actually don't want to go to heaven. I really like it here." I smiled and said, "I do too."

So, if we want to be honest and helpful to our children, what can we actually say about life after death? As it turns out, a lot of what Evangelical Christianity says about "heaven" isn't **rooted in Scripture**, but the influence of Western culture rooted in Greek mythology. So, what are we to do?

Perhaps the old adage "less is more" applies well here. Faith isn't about certainty but surrender to mystery. Death is our last submission to what we don't know, our last yes to a faith we cannot see. Instead of bombarding our children with false assurance or with a pressure to look forward to death, let's retreat to what our faith promises us: in life and death, God is there.

(continued)

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for October 5 & 19, 2023.
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

In Romans 8, the Apostle Paul assures us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus—nothing present and nothing to come. In life and in death, God and God's love is there.

When my children ask me what happens when they die, I say this: You go to God. I give that answer, because I believe it to be true, and because it leaves space for the mystery of everything else. What's amazing is that the answer suffices. The stress we carry to give our children the right answer that solves all their doubts and fears is not only futile, but often unnecessary. I've found that this answer is enough. My children still have concerns, but they don't carry the same anxiety I did as a child, partly because I'm not trying to persuade them to believe in something I can't guarantee. To normalize a child's fear is sometimes the best thing you can do. Death is a normal thing to fear, and children shouldn't feel guilty if they're afraid of it. But what they should know is, despite their fear, God is still there. That nothing in the universe, nothing in life and death, nothing present and nothing to come, can separate them from God.

Where do we go when we die? We go to God.

Taken from "My Love, God Is Everywhere" (Thomas Nelson, 2023) by Victoria Robb Powers and Cameron Mason Vickery. Used with permission.



Book Launch – *Bearing It*

October 1, 2023, 4:00 PM

You and your friends won't want to miss this event! On Sunday, **October 1st**, you are invited to attend the exciting in-person launch of the book *Bearing It: Twelve Women Find Resilience*. You Can Too. Five of the book's resilient women we are so fortunate to call Royal Laners! They are part of a diverse group from 34-74 years young who tell their inspiring stories of how they came out on the other side of life's challenges.

The readings will begin promptly at 4:00 pm — arrive early for a good seat and to hear some lovely piano music — with book signings and a reception afterwards. Books will be available for \$20 cash, check, or Venmo.

Deacon Nominees

According to Article VIII, Section 1b of the By-Laws, the Member Resource Committee shall review and supplement such recommendations and shall nominate six (6) persons to serve on the Board of Deacons; such nominations to be published in the Sunday morning orders of worship the last Sunday in the month of September (9/24/23) and the first Sunday in the month of October (10/1/23). The church shall be called into special conference during the Sunday morning worship service of the second Sunday of the month of October (10/8/23) for the purpose of electing six (6) Deacons. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at said special conference, provided that any additional nominees have been contacted in advance and have theretofore agreed to serve if elected.

This year the Member Resource Committee presents the following six (6) nominees to serve three-year terms for outgoing deacons and one (1) deacon to serve a two (2) year unexpired term. All terms begin November 1, 2023.

Nominees to serve three-year terms:

Joey Belgard	Jeff Hill
Leslie Cechan	Charlotte Sewell
Cheryl Gambill	Adam Visconti

Nominee to serve two-year term:

Jack Mullinax

Called Church Conference – Election of Deacons

October 8, 2023

October 18, 2023 – Quarterly Church Conference

The October Quarterly Church Conference will include a presentation by the Member Resource Committee of the 2023/2024 Church Leadership Roster for congregational approval. The Leadership Roster includes the names of those who are being nominated and who have agreed to serve on the various committees of the church.

Coming Events

Sunday September 24 – Sunday

- 9:45 am Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am Children's Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am Youth SS Class — Youth Portable
10:10 am Non-Traditional Class — Christian Education Building, Room 212
10:55 am Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel
Godly Play – Following Time for Young Disciples — Godly Play Room
12:30 pm Godly Play Training — Godly Play Room
Lunch provided following worship — Vickrey Hall

Wednesday September 27

- 3:30 pm Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building, Room 201 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall
Menu: Roasted Pork Loin, Sweet Potatoes with Balsamic Glaze, Peas, Salad, Baked Apples
6:00 pm Midweek Gathering & Study — Vickrey Hall & Zoom
6:00 pm Children's Gathering — Godly Play Room
6:30 pm Children's Choir — Christian Education Building, Room 202
6:30 pm Youth Gathering — Youth Portable
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Thursday September 28

- 7:30 pm Women of the Church Fall Fling — Home of Pastor Victoria

Saturday September 30

- 9:00 am Pumpkin Unloading — Pumpkin Patch
12:00 pm Pumpkin Patch Opens

Pumpkin Patch Sale Hours

Sundays: 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Monday – Friday: 11:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturdays: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

- 2:00 pm Questers Class — Zoom

Sunday October 1 – Eighteen Sunday after Pentecost / World Communion Sunday

- 9:45 am Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am Children's Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am Youth SS Class — Youth Portable
10:10 am Non-Traditional Class — Christian Education Building, Room 212
10:55 am Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel
Godly Play – Following Time for Young Disciples — Godly Play Room
Children 3-year through Third Grade
Young Theologians – Following Time for Young Disciples — Christian Education Building, Room 202
Children Fourth and Fifth Grade

Wednesday October 4

- 3:30 pm Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building, Room 201 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall
Menu: Chicken Divan, Broccoli, Rice, Salad, Dessert
5:45 pm Godly Play Training — Godly Play Room
6:00 pm Midweek Gathering & Study — Vickrey Hall & Zoom
6:00 pm Children's Gathering — Godly Play Room
6:30 pm Children's Choir — Christian Education Building, Room 202
6:30 pm Youth Gathering — Youth Portable
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Saturday October 7

- 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

RLBC Pumpkin Patch 2023

The pumpkins are coming! Our annual pumpkin patch helps us bring in funds that support all of our ministries, and we need everyone's help to make it a success. Please scan the QR code and sign up for a shift. Volunteering at the pumpkin patch is a fun way to get to know our Royal Lane family and connect with our community. You don't need to be able to lift a pumpkin to volunteer, we have spots for everyone of all abilities. We'll see you at the pumpkin patch! Sign up at bit.ly/45yoRRg or scan the QR code.



Pumpkin Patch Sale Hours

Sundays: 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Monday – Friday: 11:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturdays: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

WOC Fall Fling

September 28, 7:30 PM

Let's kick off fall and enjoy a relaxing evening of fun, food, and friendship at the home of Pastor Victoria. Bring a girlfriend! This is meant to be an outreach to women in our network and community. BYOB. For childcare, contact Karen Miller, (214) 724-0655.



How to Connect

See the Weekly Mosaic, Weekend Update or Web Calendar for Links and details for In-Person, Livestream, Virtual or Zoom events — royallane.org/resources/events

Group hosts and leaders will provide links for events with no published link.



*Sinatra
Knights*



**Fighting
Hunger**

Wayne Meachum's
Tribute to

FRANK SINATRA



Harry Wooten
Conductor



Brett Shipp
Host



David Weigle
Keyboards

Westin Hotel Galleria – Dallas North Tollway @ LBJ

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Cocktails: 6:00 – Dinner: 7:00 – Showtime: 8:00

Admission: 4 cans of food for those in need

Reservations: <https://www.justrsvp.me/sinatraknights>



Deacons of the Week

September 24 - 30

Mike Keith

Garey Wisdom

October 1 - 7

Patsy Meier

Christin Lavery

Scriptures of the Week

September 24

Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

October 1

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32

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

September 27 & October 4

Expounding on
Sunday's Sermon
with

Pastor Victoria &
Jonathan Greer

Join us for a Fellowship Meal
at 5:30 pm.

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

August 2023 Financials

YTD Actual

Revenues* \$ 514,078

Expenses \$ 550,475

Surplus (Deficit) (\$ 36,397)

*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

Happy Birthday!

September

Sarah King19

Larry Allen.....22

Georgia Bradford24

Janet Ramirez.....26

Michael Robinson26

Terry Berrier28

Madge Cruse28

Austen Maddox.....30

October

Jaime Clark-Soles1

Violette McKinney.....3

Cathy Walling4

Walter Will.....5

In the Box Gallery

Through September 29

Art & Pictures from the Church Archives

October 1 – December 20, 2023

"Enhanced"



Sandra Freeman

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



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

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Ben Chamero, Livestream Technician

David Doom, Ministries Assistant

Brandon Green, Sound Technician

Beth Johnson, Minister to Children,

Youth & Families

Barbara Merry, Ministries Assistant

Ellen Miers, Housekeeping

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor

Blake Vickrey, Sound Technician

David Weigle, Organist

Rev. Harry Wooten, Minister of Music & Worship