



# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Diverse People United in Christ*

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December 7, 2023

The Mosaic

Volume 37, Issue 23

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## ***The Tortuous Embrace of Life***

A good friend of mine sent me a quote from Dan Snyder's book *Praying in the Dark*. It reads as follows:

"Whether spirituality begins with an altar call at a tent revival or gazing at the stars, it is essentially a conversation between the depths of our own being and the mystery of the universe. What does anyone do with the wonder of simply being alive, breath by breath, or what does anyone do with a loved one's suffering and our own helplessness? This world holds us in an exquisitely tortuous embrace where her right hand caresses us with astonishing beauty and her left shatters us with unspeakable sorrow. Spirituality in all its forms is fashioned out of eons of human efforts to be fully present to both wonder and tragedy. Beauty elicits a cry of celebration and sorrow a cry of agony. How does anyone take the raw human experience of undefended vulnerability and turn it into courage, wisdom, hope, and the capacity to love? We never get closure on these questions but we wouldn't be fully human if we didn't keep asking them."

I've been reflecting on this a lot recently. It seems for so many of us, life feels like a mixed bag of celebration and sorrow, beauty, and agony. As we continue the Advent journey, my hope is that we create space for both the joy and grief of life. This is, of course, why God chose to become human, so God could know us more deeply and become more acquainted with the raw reality of human existence. Isn't that the wonder of Christmas? That God loved us so deeply, God chose to experience undefended vulnerability, so that God could draw nearer to each of us.

Advent does not demand your joy if you don't have it to give. Advent is the miracle that whatever it is you feel, God wanted to feel it too, so God came in human flesh, undefended and unprotected, to close the gap between us and the divine. You are not alone, that is the joy of Christmas. God took on human flesh to know the wonder and tragedy of being alive, to journey the heights and depths of life so that truly there would be nowhere you could go that God wouldn't be with you.

*All my love,*

***Pastor Victoria***

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for December 21, 2023 & January 4, 2024.  
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

# Advent & Christmas— 2023

## *The Songs of Christmas*

### December 10 – Advent II – Magnificat

Sermon: “The Song of Mary”

Anthem: Magnificat – Taylor Davis

*Magnificat anima mea*

*Shall I Rejoice* – Terry York, text, Brittany Jones, soprano

Children’s Anthem: “How Far Is It to Bethlehem” – Robert Sterling

### December 17 – Advent III – Gloria

Sermon: “The Song of the Angels”

Anthem: *Angels Carol* – John Rutter

Guest Artist, Singer, Songwriter: Ken Medema

### December 20 – Mourning Light/Advent IV – Nunc Dimittis

*Mourning Light: There will be opportunities to speak the names of those whom you mourn and remember.*

*A Candle will be lit in their memory and an ornament created to place on the Chrismon Tree.*

5:30 pm – Dinner — Vickrey Hall

6:00 – 7:00 pm — Sanctuary

Sermon: “The Song of Simeon”

Anthem: *Nunc Dimittis* – Charles V. Stanford, Chris Denney, bass

### December 24 – Christmas Eve

10:55 am – Family Nativity Service — Sanctuary

6:00 pm – Carols, Candlelight, & Communion — Sanctuary (*childcare provided*)



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# Coming Events

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<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent</b>
8:30 am	Deacons Meeting — Vickrey Hall
9:30 am	Children & Youth Committee — Library
9:30 am	Foundations Class Christmas Brunch — Vickrey Hall, Christian Education Building, room 212
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
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel Godly Play: Following Time for Young Disciples — Godly Play Room
12:15 pm	Racial Justice Team — Vickrey Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 12</b>
9:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive — Vickrey Hall (9:00 am – 3:00 pm)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 13</b>
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building, Room 201 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall Menu: Chili with All the Fixings, Fritos, Salad, Dessert
6:00 pm	Midweek Gathering & Study — Vickrey Hall & Zoom
6:00 pm	Children's Gathering — Godly Play Room
6:30 pm	Youth Gathering — Youth Portable
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 16</b>
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
5:00 pm	Posada y Piñata, Parents Night Out — Vickrey Hall ( <i>childcare provided</i> ) 5:00 – 9:00 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 17 – Third Sunday of advent</b>
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
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel Godly Play: Following Time for Young Disciples — Godly Play Room
7:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party (7:00 – 8:00 pm)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 20</b>
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building, Room 201 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall Menu: Potato soup, Salad
6:00 pm	Mourning Light / Lighting of 4th Candle of Advent Wreath — Vickrey Hall & Sanctuary
6:00 pm	Children's Christmas Party
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 23</b>
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*

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## 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](http://royallane.org/resources/events)  
Group hosts and leaders will provide links for events with no published link.

## Parents Night Out

Parents night out and kids experiential and fun night learning about the Nigh of Las Posadas with a re-enactment by the children of LBC of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem, and the traditional breaking of the Piñata. (Childcare provided.)



## Family Nativity Service

Join us for a family Christmas Eve service at 10:55 AM. This will be an interactive chance for children to be part of the nativity story, enjoy Christmas Caroling, and celebrate the hope and endless possibilities that the Christ child brings.



# Poinsettia Dedications

## Given in Memory of:

Dan Bohannon  
*by Shirley Bohannon*

Joanne Patton  
*by Bill Brown &  
Matthew Johnson*

Dois Gene Nelson  
Diane Nelson  
Sloan Carpenter  
*by Darlene Carpenter*

Linnie & Marion Carpenter  
Evelyn Meredith  
*by Rick & Kay Carpenter*

Mother & Daddy  
My Dear Husband  
*by Madge Cruse*

Patricia Crutcher  
*by Rick Crutcher*

Lynn Darden  
Margaret & Sam Furr  
*by Margaret Darden*

Max Edgar  
*by Sam Eppler*

Brianna B. Jordan  
*by Nancy K. Ferrell*

Ed & Nell Thomas  
I.E. (Gene) Garrett  
Otis & Emily Lou Kerley  
*by Betty E. Garrett*

Gerry Gunnin  
*by Barbara Gunnin*

Olan & Pharis Hanes  
*by Angela Hanes & Family*

Anna Marie & Bruce Lowe  
*by Paulette & Harold Harrison*

Steve Dolloff  
*By Harry Hunter*

Wendall & Opal James  
Alvie & Pauline Cook  
Calvin James  
*By Shirley James*

Marie Coble  
Warren L. Coble  
*by Cynthia Kupres*

Tom Tomlin  
Ann Charlesworth  
Lori Kuykendall  
Nick Godfrey  
*by Christin & Richard Lavery*

Tina Clune, sister of Ruth May  
Thomas & Jacqueline Ledgerwood,  
parents of Donna Ledgerwood  
Bill & Ryvers May,  
parents of Ruth May  
Thomas Ledgerwood Jr.,  
brother of Donna Ledgerwood  
*by Donna Ledgerwood &  
Ruth May*

Doug Martin  
Donna & Billie Wood  
Ozzie & Jack Anderson  
*by Donna Wood-Martin &  
Scott Martin*

Roy & Allie Moore and sons  
Lorraine & Zackey Meachum  
Gene Sprout  
Pauline Salazar  
Richard Seib  
*By Bettie Meachum*

Zackey & Lorraine Meachum  
Roy & Ruth Moore and Charles,  
Harold, Billy, George, and Scott  
Mary Katherine & John Roberts  
*by Wayne Meachum*

Donald E. Meier  
*by Patsy Meier*

Jim Merry & William Hannon  
*by Barbara Merry*

Myrtie & Norman Miller,  
parents & grandparents  
Truett Miller, brother & uncle  
Josey Calhoun, cousin  
*by Karen & Lauren Miller*

J.S. & Mireya Rhodes  
*by Steven Rhodes*

Jim Sewell  
Frank & Jean Whitaker  
*by Anne Sewell*

Terry L. Simmons  
*by Karen Simmons*

Raymond L. Vickrey  
Edgar B. Francis, Nadine Francis  
Irian & Bernice Vickrey  
Bill & Elsie Graham  
*by Sharon Vickrey*

Mark Walker  
Mary L. Walker  
Roy Lockett  
Snowflake  
*by Jamie &  
Melissa Walker-Lockett*

Anna Walling  
Kathy Peck  
Linda Myre  
*by Cathy Walling*

Dennis Hartley Waters  
*by Lisa Waters,  
Rebecca Sparling,  
Erin Waters*

Everett & Shirley Manning &  
Mark S. Brandon  
*by Marcy Waters*

Jim Sewell  
Ruth Logan  
Bill Logan  
*by Charlotte Sewell &  
Brian Watson*

Marian White's father, and  
Shirley & Gene White,  
grandparents of Ryan White  
Bill Dalton & Anita McCluney  
*by the White-Carmen Family*

Orville & Elnora Wisdom  
Linda & Charles Spear  
William Logan Irby  
*by Garey Wisdom*

Duane D. Young, Sr.  
*by DeeDee Young*



# Poinsettia Dedications

Given in Honor of:

Holly, Clay, Faith, Shelby & Blake  
*by Shirley Bohannon*

My Treasured Royal Lane Family  
*by Sheryl Gambill*

Our Grandchildren:  
Porter Scott Soames  
Ellie Jane Soames  
Aidy Carol Fine  
Eli Roy Fine  
Victoria Powers and her family  
*by Christine  
Nicolette-Gonzalez  
& Scott Gonzalez*

The Hammett Family – Jeff,  
Jennifer, Jonah & Jacob  
The Keith Family – Phil, Kelley,  
Claire & Owen  
*by Paulette & Harold Harrison*

Percy Parrish Family  
*by Martha & Kathy Hatcher*

Rick & Vickie Green  
*by Shirley James*

Summer Jones  
Bruce Luedke  
*by Mike Jones*

John Phillips  
*by Rita Kirk*

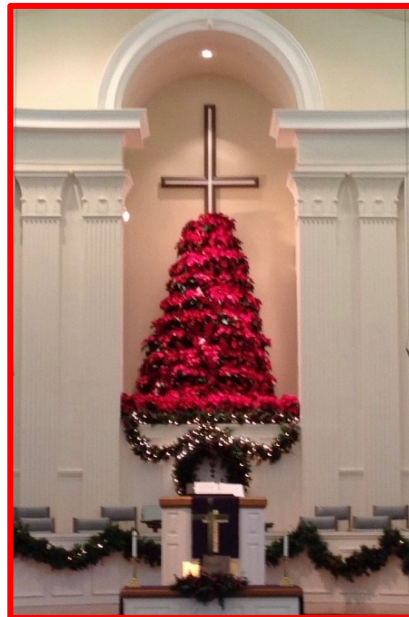
Jackie Martin  
*by Donna Wood-Martin &  
Scott Martin*

Kurt Meachum & Family  
Aubrey Connatser & Family  
Royal Lane Ministers & Staff  
*by Bettie Meachum*

Kurt & Amy Meachum, Allie,  
Kendall & Ben  
Aubrey & Adam Connatser,  
M.K. & Mac  
Suzanne Duvall  
Rhea Hobson  
*by Wayne Meachum*

Our Children  
Deacons of Royal Lane  
Royal Lane Music Ministry  
Royal Lane Ministers & Staff  
*by Jack & Maryanne Pfeffer*

The entire Sewell/Watson Family  
*by Anne Sewell*



James C. Walker  
Zadie F. Luckett  
The Stewarts  
The Seymours  
Rev. Victoria Robb Powers & Family  
Joey & Rosa Belgard  
*by Jamie &  
Melissa Walker-Luckett*

Anne Sewell  
Donna Sewell  
Sue Watson  
Bob Watson  
Grace Watson  
Emma Watson  
Sadie Watson  
*by Charlotte Sewell &  
Brian Watson*

Brad Carter  
Linda Hueston  
Questers Sunday School Class  
*by Garey Widom*

Brittany & Nathan Jones  
Barrett, Jacquie, Harper, Turner,  
and Harrison Wooten  
Blair Wooten  
Harry Sr. & Nancy Wooten  
Polly Smith  
*by Harry & Debi Wooten*

Harry & Debi Wooten  
Brittany & Nathan Jones  
Barrett & Jacquie Wooten, Harper,  
Turner, & Harrison  
Blair Wooten  
*by Harry Sr. & Nancy Wooten*

## Deacons of the Week

### December 10

Joey Belgard  
Sheryl Gambill

### December 17

Patsy Meier  
Barrett Wooten

## Midweek Program Wednesday

### December 13

Expounding on  
Sunday's Sermon  
with

Jonathan Greer in conversation  
with Pastor Victoria

### December 20

Mourning Light &  
Lighting of the 4th Candle on  
the Advent Wreath

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

## Scriptures of the Week

### December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11  
2 Peter 3:8-15a

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Mark 1:1-8

### December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Psalm 126  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

## October 2023 Financials

### YTD Actual

Revenues*	\$ 661,934
Expenses	\$ 691,440
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$ 29,506)

\*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/](http://royallane.org/give/)

Giving menu includes:

General Fund  
The Lowe Scholarship Fund  
Columbarium

## Happy Birthday!

### December

Polly Lamberth.....	7
Gilleen Simeon.....	13
Linda Binder .....	14
David Soames .....	14
Janet Schultz .....	15
Jordan Simmons.....	16
Kate Thompson.....	16
Chris Cechan.....	17
Clint Cechan.....	17
Mike Hurder.....	19
Nolan Meier .....	20



## Thank You

Thanks to everyone who donated gifts  
and/or helped fill the stockings. We  
could not do it without your generosity.

Mission Committee



## *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**

**Office: [214] 361-2809**

**[www.royallane.org](http://www.royallane.org)**

**[facebook.com/royallane](https://facebook.com/royallane)**

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