



ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

February 23, 2023

The Mosaic

Volume 37, Issue 4

From Dust to Dust

Yesterday was Ash Wednesday, the day we begin the Lenten season. I typically don't care for Ash Wednesday much. It's always been a little depressing, and as someone who's been afraid of death since they were a kid, talking about my own mortality is not my favorite thing to do.

It's always been more ritual than meaning for me. Having the ashes spread across my forehead is part of the routine, but not so much a part of me.

Yesterday, a friend of mine wrote a reflection on Ash Wednesday and spoke about the *gift* of being dust. When you can acknowledge and admit that you are dust - from it and destined for it - then you can receive life with more gratitude and live with more beauty and compassion.

In a strange way this really spoke to me. I tend to exhaust myself trying to perfect my life - my parenting, my ministry, my own being. I work hard, *really* hard, to make myself the best I can be. I'm lured by success and driven by a desire to achieve. And yet, I'm learning that this illusion that I live by, that I can make myself into what I want to be, in many ways becomes the source of all my disappointments and regrets. Because the truth is, I'm not in control. Try as I might, I can't perfect my life or even protect my life. And for the first time on this year's Ash Wednesday that admission became a huge sigh of relief.

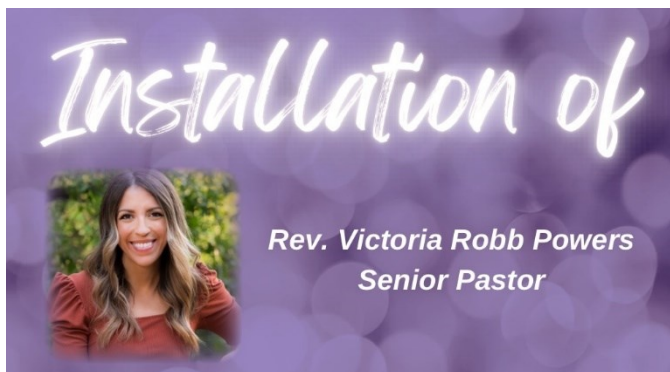
I don't have to work so hard. I am mere dust, and life is a mere gift. For me, to surrender to the dust that I am, gives me reprieve. It's like a giant exhale that relieves all the tension in my body, and then my heart swells with gratitude. From dust I was formed. I was created. I was made. It's a truth that makes me more tender, more compassionate, more loving.

As the ashes were imposed across my own forehead last night, for the first time I could say with conviction, "Thank you, God." What a wondrous thing.

From dust you were formed, to dust you shall return.

Pastor Victoria

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for March 9 & 23, 2023.
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*



Installation of Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers will be installed as the Senior Pastor of Royal Lane Baptist Church at our regular worship service on February 26. Join us for this celebration and for a reception in Vickrey Hall following the service.

Care Groups

To borrow a lyric from a 70s-era Christian musical, *Do you really care...* about care groups? A good number among our fellowship would like to be part of a care group. If you are one of those number, our Fellowship Committee wants to know. But it's hard to care about something you don't know about. So, here goes!

Care groups meet once a month or so to share a meal - in a home or restaurant. It's a small group of 8 to 15 folk who share an interest in getting to know one another. There is no agenda other than sharing stories and food in a relaxed and welcoming space.

To join or help start a new group put a note in the offering plate, or contact Wayne Meachum, Linda Cross, Sheryl Gambill or Sharon Vickrey.

We want you to be cared for and we want you to help us care for others.

Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering 2023

Join the Alliance of Baptists this April 21-23 in Atlanta for their Annual Gathering! This year's theme for the gathering is "To Set the Captives Free" and the keynote speaker is Derecka Purnell, author of *Becoming Abolitionists: Police, Protests, and the Pursuit of Freedom*. Join the Alliance as we learn more about the abolitionist movement. Registration is now open at www.allianceofbaptists.org

Early Bird Full Adult Registration (by April 1): **\$125**

Full Adult Registration (April 1-16): **\$175**

First time attendee: **\$50**

Student (College and Grad School): **\$50**

It's Rough Out There: **\$50**

Workshop Leader: **Free**

Child ages 6-12 and Youth 13-17: **Free, but they must be registered**

Child registering for provided childcare for children ages 5 and under: **\$25**

Coming Events

Sunday	February 26 – First Sunday in Lent
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, Installation of Rev. Victoria Robb Powers — Sanctuary or Royal Lane YouTube Channel
	Following Worship – Reception Honoring Rev. Victoria Robb Powers — Vickrey Hall
5:30 pm	Sheryl Gambill Croup — Home of Sheryl Gambill
Tuesday	February 28
	Fellowship Advocacy Day — Austin, Texas
Wednesday	March 1
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building – Room 201 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall
	Menu: Chili Cheese Hot Dogs, Fries, Served with a Salad. Dessert: Pie
6:00 pm	Midweek Gathering & Study – Conversations that Matter — Vickrey Hall & Zoom
	“Why Telling the Truth about Ourselves and the Bible Matters” with Mark Wingfield
6:15 pm	Children's Choir and Activities — Godly Play Room, 204/206
7:00 pm	Youth Gathering — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
Saturday	March 4
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
Sunday	March 6 – Second Sunday in Lent
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, Holy Communion offered — Sanctuary or Royal Lane YouTube Channel
12:15 pm	First Sunday Youth Lunch
12:15 pm	Missions Division — Library
7:30 pm	Education Division — Zoom
Wednesday	March 8
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building – Room 201 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall
	Menu: Baked Ritz Cracker Chicken, Macaroni and Cheese, Roasted Broccoli, Salad. Dessert: Cookies
6:00 pm	IN FOCUS (Topic to be determined) — Vickrey Hall & Zoom
7:00 pm	Youth Gathering — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
Thursday	March 9 – Mosaic
6:30 pm	Publicity & Outreach Division — Zoom
Saturday	March 11
9:00 am	Second Saturday Work Day
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

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.



Lenten Devotions

“Bless the Lent We Actually Have”

40 days to reflect, pray, and bless our imperfect lives, by Kate Bowler. Copies are available in the narthex or church office. Or you may use the link below or point to the QR code to sign up to have a copy of the devotions sent to you from Kate Bowler's website.

<http://bit.ly/41d7fIS>



It's Easter Basket Time!

WOC and Missions will collect Easter Basket goodies beginning the last Sunday in February. Join us as we enjoy a potluck lunch and stuff the Easter Baskets on Sunday, March 26th, at 12:15 pm. Baskets will be delivered to Hope Supply, who will distribute them to families throughout the Dallas area. We will have baskets in the Narthex and in Vickrey Hall to collect your donations.

Please help us by bringing:

- Wrapped Easter Candy (no nuts or peanut butter, please)
- Chocolate Bunnies
- Bubbles
- Matchbox Cars
- Play-Doh
- Small Stuffed Animals
- Various Small Toys



Make your pledge today at
royallane.org/pledge

Total units pledged: 88

Total pledged: \$604,980



Women of the Church

Registration is NOW OPEN

for our spring weekend retreat on

“The Enneagram Path Towards Growth and Grace”
at Sister Grove Farm

LeAnn Gardner (www.leanngardner.com) is a friend to many Royal Laners and we are delighted to have her as our facilitator. She will help us explore this ancient spiritual tool called the Enneagram as we see how it can transform our relationships with ourselves, God, and others - with plenty of free time on the farm to nurture those relationships.

Cost is \$75 per person. Registration deadline is April 14th or until capacity is reached. Rooms vary. Most can accommodate up to four people. Linens and towels provided.

Use the bit.ly code below or point to the QR code to access registration form. Copies of the registration form are also available in the church office. Submit registration form and payment to the church office.

<https://bit.ly/3K8D6Eu>



Deacons of the Week

February 26

Nate Green

Cheryl Robinson

March 5

Tex Quesada

Christin Lavery

Scriptures of the Week

February 26

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

March 5

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

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

March 1

"Why Telling the Truth about
Ourselves and the Bible Matters"
with Mark Wingfield

March 8

IN FOCUS

Topic - To Be Announced

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

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

December 2022 Financials

YTD Actual

Revenues* \$694,125

Expenses \$760,279

Surplus (Deficit) (\$ 66,154)

*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!

February

Glenn Brown	23
Dina DiMaria.....	23
Cilla King	23
Daniel Robinson.....	23
Lisa Waters.....	23
Ashley Fleenor	24
Franklin Leo Gitlin.....	27

March

Addison Birdwell	1
Anastashia Cruz.....	2
Karen Simmons	3
Cookie Stokes.....	5
Dan Thompson	5
Ralph Swearingen	7
Lauren Miller.....	8



In the Box Gallery

Marilee Vergati Haynes

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.



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

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Ellen Miers Housekeeping
Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor

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