



# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Diverse People United in Christ*

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October 19, 2023

The Mosaic

Volume 37, Issue 20

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## ***Don't Defund Public Schools Voucher scheme wastes money, violates Constitution***

The following was written by Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, along with Rev. Charlie Johnson, Rev. George Mason, Dr. Andy Stoker, and Rev. Neil Thomas. It was published in the Dallas Morning News on Wednesday, October 10. You can read it online here: <https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2023/10/11/dont-defund-public-schools/>

The education community in Texas has remained patient and courteous throughout the spring general session of the Legislature despite the record \$32.7 billion surplus. They have upheld the values of kindness and respect that society expects. However, there comes a point when patience wears thin, and the truth must be spoken: it is time to allocate the necessary resources to educators and school districts.

Simply put, it's time to provide the funding our educators and school districts need. This funding is not a luxury; it is a necessity. It is essential for Texas teachers to keep pace with the rising cost of living. School districts must fulfill their role in shaping the future workforce of Texas, which boasts the ninth-largest economy in the world. It is imperative to honor the trust placed in you by Texas taxpayers, who expect their hard-earned money to be invested wisely.

The time for political games and holding funds hostage for private schools must end. Public schools are the heart of our educational system and need their fair share of resources. Even after passing tax relief measures earlier this summer, there remains a surplus of \$14 billion, not to mention the over \$21 billion in the state's rainy day fund. Moreover, inflation ensures that surplus funds will continue to accumulate in the foreseeable future. This is not the government's money to wield for hardline negotiations; it belongs to the people of Texas.

Over 90% of Texas students attend public schools, yet the state has not increased funding to school districts since 2019. Operating costs have significantly risen during this period. Additionally, our teachers, who demonstrated unwavering dedication during the global pandemic, have yet to receive sufficient salary increases to keep pace with inflation.

It is high time to allocate the necessary resources to public schools to address these issues.

Due to legislative inaction during the spring, school boards across Texas were forced to approve deficit budgets merely to survive this academic year. For example, Dallas ISD approved a \$186 million deficit budget, Garland ISD faced a \$69 million deficit, and Plano ISD had to manage a \$24 million shortfall. This approach is akin to depleting one's savings to pay the electric bill — it is unsustainable and morally unacceptable.

What is most disheartening is the lack of significant funding for schools this year and the mounting frustration within the education community: educators, administrators and parents alike. It should not have come to this point.

*(continued)*

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for November 2 & 16, 2023.  
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

Instead of prioritizing public schools, Gov. Greg Abbott has traversed the state promoting a program that redirects tax dollars to private schools, masquerading under the banner of “education freedom.” Comparable programs in other states have proven to be financially burdensome. Arizona’s private school subsidy program, initially allocated at \$65 million, is estimated to cost \$900 million next year. In Florida, a similar program has been used for non-educational purposes like [theme park tickets, kayaks and televisions](#).

Voucher programs like these do not align with the principles of fiscal conservatism. Moreover, the effectiveness of private school subsidies in improving student achievement remains highly questionable. In other states, established private schools have yet to embrace these subsidies due to limited capacity and high costs. Consequently, makeshift private schools have arisen, unable to match the offerings of public schools, resulting in most students returning to the public system.

The notion that funding for Texas public schools has been delayed to channel resources to private schools should anger the parents of millions of children and the thousands of educators who tirelessly serve them. Our students have only one chance to experience their current grade level; they should not be made to wait.

In a disturbing breach of the American principle of separation between church and state, Abbott has called upon ministers and pastors to advocate for this subsidy program from their pulpits on Sunday, Oct. 15. Texans understand a fundamental truth that eludes the governor: Genuine faith must be voluntary and cannot be endorsed or supported by state authority. Using tax dollars to subsidize religious instruction is a violation of this principle.

Abbott’s threats against state representatives who support public education constitute a desperate attempt to intimidate them. The Texas House has consistently opposed private school subsidies for over two decades, and there is no reason for that stance to change now.

The time for delay has passed; enough is enough.

*Pastor Victoria*

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## The RLBC Fall Festival is Coming!



We need lots of people to help this be a smashing event. The Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 29, from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm and we need volunteers to help setup/clean-up, run games, bring candy or cookies, and open their trunk and pass out candy (candy will be provided).

Sign up using the QR code or entering this link - <https://bit.ly/3ZxZo8i>

Volunteering to bring candy and cookies? Bring candy prior to or on Sunday, October 29, between 10 am and noon and drop in marked boxes in the sanctuary narthex. Leave cookies for the cookie walk in the kitchen on October 29. Contact Kelley Keith ([kkeith19@gmail.com](mailto:kkeith19@gmail.com)) or Lisa Chastain ([lisamerced@gmail.com](mailto:lisamerced@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.

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## November 5, All Saints’ Sunday

On Sunday, November 5, 2023, we will honor the saints of Royal Lane Baptist Church who have passed away since October 26 of 2022. If you have a family member you would like to honor in this service, please leave a message with the church office, 214-361-2809, by Friday, October 27 for listing in the Order of Worship. Include name, date of death, and your relationship to this person. We have gathered many names for this list. Please check with the church office to make sure we have included your family member.

You may also submit your remembrance requests by email to [bmerry@royallane.org](mailto:bmerry@royallane.org) or [ddoom@royallane.org](mailto:ddoom@royallane.org) in the church office.



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# Coming Events

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<b>Sunday</b>	<b>October 22 – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost</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
10:10 am	Non-Traditional Class — Christian Education Building, Room 212
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel
	Godly Play & Young Disciples: Following Time for Young Disciples — Christian Education Building
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>October 25</b>
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building, Room 201 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall
	Menu: Greek Chicken, Orzo, Roasted Vegetables, Villager's Salad, Dessert
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
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>October 28</b>
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>October 29 – Reformation Sunday</b>
8:30 am	Children & Youth Committee — Vickrey Hall
9:45 am	Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am	Parents, Youth & Children Gathering — Vickrey Hall
9:45 am	Youth SS Class — Youth Portable
10:00 am	Royal Welcome — Library
10:10 am	Non-Traditional Class — Christian Education Building, Room 212
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel
	Godly Play & Young Disciples: Following Time for Young Disciples — Christian Education Building
4:00 pm	Church Wide Fall Festival (4:00 – 6:00 pm)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 1</b>
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building, Room 201 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall
	Menu: Italian Pot Roast, Polenta, Arugula and Artichoke Salad, Dessert
6:00 pm	Midweek Gathering & Study, Community Conversation on Stewardship — 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
<b>Friday</b>	<b>November 3</b>
	Youth Retreat — Sister Grove Farm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Date</b>
	Youth Retreat — Sister Grove Farm
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.

## RLBC Pumpkin Patch 2023

You can still sign up and work at the pumpkin patch! A second load of pumpkins arrived on October 15. 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](https://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



## Come to the Fall Festival at Royal Lane Baptist Church

- Photo Booth
- Games
- Crafts
- Costume Parade
- Trunk or Treat

**Fun for All!**





## Deacons of the Week

**October 22**

Margaret Darden

Sharon Vickrey

**October 29**

John Helms

Cookie Stokes

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

**October 25**

Sunday's Sermon:

"Family Matters" with  
Jonathan Greer in conversation  
with Pastor Victoria

**November 1**

Community Conversation on  
Stewardship  
with Pastor Victoria

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

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

In the Box Gallery

October 1 – December 20, 2023

"Enhanced"



**Sandra Freeman**

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

## Scriptures of the Week

**October 22**

Exodus 33:12-23

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Psalm 99

Matthew 22:15-22

**October 29**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Matthew 22:34-46

## September 2023 Financials

### YTD Actual

Revenues\* \$ 578,696

Expenses \$ 617,402

Surplus (Deficit) (\$ 38,705)

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

Giving menu includes:

General Fund

The Lowe Scholarship Fund

Columbarium

## Happy Birthday!

### October

Becky Fuller.....19

Shelley Mulry.....20

Melissa Walker-Luckett.....20

Sadie Watson.....20

Wynne Amerson .....21

Barbara Gunnin.....21

Robert Putnam.....21

Carla Gaylor.....27

Sheila Calhoon .....29

Carter Simmons .....31

Cathy Webb.....31



*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