



ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

December 21, 2023

The Mosaic

Volume 37, Issue 24

Taking Stock

Dear Friends,

As we rapidly approach the end of the year, it is important that we each take stock of our year-end giving. We are less than two weeks out from the end of our fiscal year, and our church needs your help.

How we handle our personal finances is a witness to the gospel and a sign of our spiritual lives. Jesus said it most simply: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." I'm writing because the missions and ministries we do together at Royal Lane Baptist Church are truly worthy of your financial support, and right now, we need you.

As of today, we need \$66,231 to fully fund our work for the year. That's it; that's the gap between what already has been given this year and what will be needed by year-end. It's not just a deficit number or wishful thinking. That's what it will take between now and December 31 to fully fund our 2023 operating budget.

If you are not caught up with what you had intended to give this year, please be sure to complete your pledge before December 31. Our church budgets off our anticipated gifts, so we depend on completed pledges to accomplish our mission.

If you have already completed your pledge, let me encourage you to consider an additional end of year gift to help offset our church deficit. If you have any gifts of appreciated assets that take a few days to process, perhaps you would be willing to make preparations for those. If you're interested in gifting shares of stock, for example, there are advantages to gifting assets that have appreciated in value. Or if you're age 70 1/2 or older, remember there are tax advantages to giving from the required minimum distribution from an IRA.

Let's finish the year strong together. If you need help with a gift, contact our church office at (214) 361-2809. If you would prefer to give online, visit royallane.org/give.

With Advent hope,

Pastor Victoria



*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for January 4 & 18, 2024.
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

RLBC Christmas Eve Offering / Fellowship Southwest December 2023

In nearly every moment of the Christmas story, characters heed promptings from angels. An angel announces to Mary she is chosen to be the mother of God, and she accepts. An angel encourages Joseph to support Mary in this calling, and he does. The magi return home from Bethlehem by another road, and the new family flees to another country in order to protect their child, all thanks to divine messengers.

Perhaps part of being “The Holy Family” is the willingness to follow the prompting of the divine.

And if that’s the case, we should bestow a holy designation on many families today who are fleeing their homes in order to protect their children. For it would take divine intervention for most of us to do what they do.



Fellowship Southwest has the privilege of encountering many families who are seeking asylum in the U.S. Versions of the same story are often repeated. People are given a choice: participate in violence and criminal behavior, or see your family killed. Instead, they find a third way, perhaps prompted by divine messages. Leave everything. Protect your children. Sound familiar?

It’s not a new idea to compare modern day immigrants and refugees to Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Kelly Latimore’s popular iconography makes this point (pictured here). Christmas of 2018, one church’s outdoor nativity scene went viral when they put a cage around it, alluding to the Zero Tolerance crisis that summer.

Once we acknowledge the comparison, we must heed the prompting of the divine and let it urge us into action. What is our role in their stories? Maybe we have the chance to be an angel, a kind innkeeper, or a wise one who discerns who can (or cannot) be trusted?

Fellowship Southwest invites you into one concrete action to support these families: Give to your Christmas Eve offering. Your offering will go to FSW’s Knox Fund for Immigrant Relief and be distributed to migrant ministries along the border. Your offering will fund migrant shelters and provide a “room in the inn.” Your offering will offer food, hospitality and basic necessities to migrants who have run out of resources. And your offering will support ministries that truly see Jesus in each migrant, ministries that offer spiritual, emotional and medical support as well. Join us in being the answer to prayer for the migrants we encounter this Christmas season.

The Holy Family of today might just be camped along the Rio Grande. Thank you for being part of God’s divine story for their safety and wellbeing.

Giving Link: <https://onrealm.org/FellowshipSouth/give/Immigrant>



Coming Events

Sunday	December 24 – Christmas Eve
10:55 am	Family Nativity Service — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel
6:00 pm	Carols, Candlelight, & Communion — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel (<i>childcare provided</i>)
Monday	December 25 – Christmas Day
	Church Office Closed
Wednesday	December 27
	No Wednesday Activities
Saturday	December 30
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
Sunday	December 31 – First Sunday after Christmas
9:45 am	Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am	No Children/s or Youth Education Classes
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel
	Godly Play: Following Time for Young Disciples — Godly Play Room
Monday	January 1 – New Year's Day
	Church Office Closed
Wednesday	January 3
	No Wednesday Activities
Saturday	January 6
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 or Web Calendar for Links and details for
In-Person, Livestream, Virtual or Zoom events.

Visit the Royal Lane Website: royallane.org
Connect / Upcoming Events



Can't come to a service? Join us online!



Sing the Songs of Christmas

An Advent hymn, celebrating the canticles of Christmas,
for Harry Wooten and Royal Lane Baptist Church, Dallas, TX,

Advent 2023, by Michael G. Dell

TUNE: JEFFERSON (William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835)

Advent 1

Sing the Song of Zechariah, sung to John who shows the way;
Herald to the world's Messiah, preaching of the promised day;
Hear the one whose exhortation startles us in dark of night;
Hear the call to preparation, as in hope we wait for Light.

Advent 2

Sing the Song of bless-ed Mary, in exultant, heartfelt praise;
For the One she is to carry topples earth's oppressive ways;
See the lowly being lifted, and the hungry richly fed;
As in love, the ground is shifted, under Christ, our living Head.

Advent 3

Sing the Song of Angels singing, in exub'rant notes of joy,
To the fearful shepherds, bringing Light no darkness can destroy;
In the highest be all glory, and on earth be peace to all;
As we see salvation's story, swaddling in a cattle's stall.

Advent 4

Sing the Song of Simeon, waiting patiently to see the Lord;
Fear of darkness now abating, seeing now the One adored:
"Lord, now let this faithful servant blissfully depart in peace,
As my prayer so deep and fervent, granted now, brings sweet release."

Christmas

Sing the Songs of Incarnation: God in flesh with us to dwell;
Sing the story of salvation; Love Divine all loves excel;
From the darkness and its perils, Jesus' birth now sets us free;
Sing the Canticles and Carols - Laud to God's Nativity!



Deacons of the Week

December 24

Garey Wisdom
Sharon Vickrey

December 31

Jeff Hill
Cookie Stokes

Scriptures of the Week

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Titus 2:11-14

Psalm 96
Luke 2:1-20

December 31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 4:4-7

Psalm 148
Luke 2:22-40

Midweek Programs Resume January 10 6:00 p.m. Wednesday in Vickrey Hall

January 10 & 17

Expounding on
Sunday's Sermon with
Jonathan Greer

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

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

November 2023 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues*	\$ 704,635
Expenses	\$ 770,865
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$ 66,231)

*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!

December

Harold Harrison.....	21
Michael Carter.....	24
Jess Lamberth.....	27
James Robinson.....	27
Lindsey Washington	27
J.J. Berrier	28

January

Anthony Hatcher.....	2
Matt Orwig.....	2



Coming to the Box Gallery

January 6, 2024



New Art Exhibit

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



Royal Lane Baptist Church

6707 Royal Lane

Dallas, Texas 75230-4145

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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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6707 Royal Lane

Dallas, TX 75230-4145

Office: [214] 361-2809

www.royallane.org

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