



ROYAL LANE
BAPTIST CHURCH

THE MOSAIC

OCTOBER 17, 2024
VOLUME 38, ISSUE 20

An Article by Amanda Tyler

Dear Friends,

Below is an article written by Royal Lane member, Amanda Tyler, and her advocacy work with the Baptist Joint Committee of Religious Liberty. In August, several Royal Laners joined Amanda in testifying against the proposed Bible curriculum for public schools. Read below about how their advocacy made a difference.

Pastor Victoria

A little more than a year ago, I moved back home to Texas with my husband and our son. We moved for family reasons, though I knew at the time that being outside of the Washington Beltway meant that I, and therefore BJC, would have more opportunities to be involved directly in advocacy work for religious freedom — not just in Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court but on the state and local level, too.

What I didn't expect was how quickly those opportunities would arise. In late May, I was listening to a local news program in Dallas when I heard about a new proposed curriculum from the Texas Education Agency that would teach Bible stories in reading and language arts curriculum to kids as young as five years old in Texas public schools. I knew that teaching about the Bible in objective, age-appropriate ways could be part of a well-rounded public education, but what I heard about this curriculum led me to believe that something else was happening here.

I reached out to Dr. Mark Chancey, a professor of religion at SMU who is also one of the country's leading experts on the teaching of religion and Bible in schools. I have known Dr. Chancey for many years, and I even interviewed him for my book, *How to End Christian Nationalism*. He told me he had started to read the massive curriculum and also had concerns that the material would be taught in devotional ways and present faith claims as fact, which was particularly troubling for such young students who did not have the intellectual maturity to discern the difference.

Dr. Chancey put me in touch with other advocates who had experience with debates about curriculum at the State Board of Education (SBOE), which sets this policy. I met with [Lisa Jacob](#), BJC's North Texas Organizer for Christians Against Christian Nationalism, and we started meeting with our local leaders to review the curriculum together and devise a plan of action. We worked with our interfaith partners at Texas Impact, several Jewish advocacy groups, and Texas Freedom Network to [host webinar trainings](#) on how to navigate the complicated state bureaucracy to submit public comments. Written comments had an August deadline, and we also explained how to register to provide live testimony before the SBOE hearing in Austin in September. I joined the dozens of people who traveled from across the state and region to testify about their concerns with the curriculum and the impact on religious freedom.

I worked with the BJC team to carefully review the curriculum's teaching of religious freedom. We submitted a public comment with our concerns about how the curriculum cherry-picks history and reinforces the mythology of America as a "Christian nation" rather than providing an accurate telling of history and religious freedom, including the separation of church and state. I also submitted comments personally on problems with lessons that preached to kindergartners about the Sermon on the Mount, taught the Parable of the Prodigal Son to first graders, and provided a telling of the crucifixion and resurrection narrative to third graders during their study on ancient Rome.

(continued next page)

The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for November 7 & 21, 2024.

The deadline for the Weekly Mosaic and the Mosaic is Monday, 5:00 p.m. prior to publication.

It was gratifying to find out, through the panicked social media postings of people who embrace Christian nationalism, that our efforts were making a difference. For example, Lance Wallnau, a prominent preacher in the extreme dominionism wing of the Christian nationalism movement, posted a cell phone video from a moving car to urge his followers to send an email that day to express their support for the curriculum, noting that messages of opposition to the curriculum had numbered 2,000 compared to only 200 in support. Wallnau's involvement also confirmed what we already suspected: that the curriculum is part of a larger concerted effort to push the teaching of Christian nationalist ideology in public schools.

As I write this column, we don't know what the outcome of our advocacy will be. The SBOE is set to vote on the curriculum in November. If they vote to adopt the curriculum as written, our advocacy efforts will shift to the more than 1,200 school districts in Texas, which will then decide on whether they will teach this curriculum to their students. Given the size and influence of the Texas public education system, other states are watching what happens in Texas and, if this curriculum is adopted, they may attempt to make a similar change in their states.

These experiences of on-the-ground advocacy have shown me just how empowering, effective, and yes, even fun, it is to be an active part of a democratic movement pushing back against a bold attempt to create a theocracy, starting in the public schools.

Amanda Tyler



The Royal Lane Library

Did you hear Royal Lane is updating their library? Well, now there is a way for you to help! Scan the QR code or search "Royal Lane Baptist Church" in Amazon Registries to find our Library wish list! If you see any books on the list you would be willing to donate, please do so. We are excited to fill our shelves with books that better reflect who Royal Lane is!

Link: <https://amzn.to/3YmIR8b>

UPCOMING *EVENT*



The Fall Festival is coming!
October 27, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
at
Royal Lane Baptist Church



DJ
Bounce House
Costume Parade
Games
Trunk or Treat
Popcorn
& MORE



UPCOMING *EVENTS*



Pumpkin Patch through October 31

Sunday, October 20 – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45 am: Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building
- 9:45 am: Children's Christian Education — Christian Education Building
- 9:45 am: Youth Christian Education — Youth Portable
- 11:00 am: Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel
Godly Play (following Time for Young Disciples) — Godly Play Room
Children 3-years of age through Third Grade
- 12:15 pm: Social Justice — Christian Education Building, Room 212
- 4:00 pm: Book Launch: A Conversation with Amanda Tyler — Sanctuary
"How to End Christian Nationalism"

Early Voting October 21 - November 1

(No Lunch + Learn October 23 or October 30)

Tuesday, October 22

- 9:30 am: Communion and Contemplation — Narthex

Wednesday, October 23

- 1:30 pm: Holy Rollers — Library (1:30 - 3:30 pm)
- 6:30 pm: Youth Gathering — Host Home or alternative site
- 7:15 pm: Choir — Sanctuary

Friday, October 25

- 5:30 pm: Young Adult Group — Taco Joint, Mockingbird & Abrams (5:30-8:00 pm)

Saturday, October 26

- 2:00 pm: Questers Class — Zoom

Sunday, October 27 – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45 am: Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building & Library
- 9:45 am: Children's Christian Education — Christian Education Building
- 9:45 am: Youth Christian Education — Youth Portable
- 11:00 am: Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel
Godly Play (following Time for Young Disciples) — Godly Play Room
Children 3-years of age through Third Grade
- 3:00 pm: Fall Festival — East Parking Lot (3:00 - 5:00 pm)

UPCOMING *EVENTS*



Tuesday, October 29

9:30 am: Contemplation and Communion — Narthex

Wednesday, October 30

1:30 pm: Holy Rollers — Library (1:30 - 3:30 pm)

6:30 pm: Youth Gathering — Pumpkin Carving

7:15 pm: Choir — Sanctuary

Saturday, November 2

2:00 pm: Questers Class — Zoom

Sunday, November 3 – All Saints Sunday (*Daylight Savings Time Ends*)

9:45 am: Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building

9:45 am: Children's Christian Education — Christian Education Building

9:45 am: Youth Christian Education — Youth Portable

10:00 am: Royal Welcome Class — Library

11:00 am: Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel

Godly Play (following Time for Young Disciples) — Godly Play Room

Children 3-years of age through Third Grade

12:15 pm: Missions Team — Christian Education Building, Room 212

12:15 pm: Youth First Sunday Lunch — Gazebo Burger

7:00 pm: Education Division — Zoom

Election Day - November 5 — Be Sure to Vote!

Tuesday, November 5

9:30 am: Contemplation and Communion — Narthex

Wednesday, November 6

12:00 pm: Lunch + Learn — Vickrey Hall & Zoom (Lunch line opens at 11:30 am)

Menu: To be announced

Program: Victoria Robb Powers, *Looking Forward at Royal Lane*

1:30 pm: Holy Rollers — Vickrey Hall (1:30 - 3:30 pm)

6:00 pm: Children's & Youth Supper — Vickrey Hall

6:15 pm: Children's Choir — Christian Education Building, Room 202

6:30 pm: Youth Gathering — Youth Portable

7:15 pm: Choir — Sanctuary

UPCOMING *EVENTS*



COMMUNITY MISSION



Holy Rollers

Wednesdays, October 23 & 30, 1:30 pm, Library

On Wednesday, October 23 and 30, the Holy Rollers will be meeting in the Library to allow us to open our space for Early Voting and Election Day. This group will move back to Vickrey Hall and Room 212 after November 5.

SMALL GROUP EVENT



Young Adults

Friday, October 25, 5:30 - 8:00 pm

The Young Adults Group will meet at the Taco Joint on Abrams and Mockingbird. Contact Kenna Curry for more details. kcurry@royallane.org

CHURCH WIDE EVENT



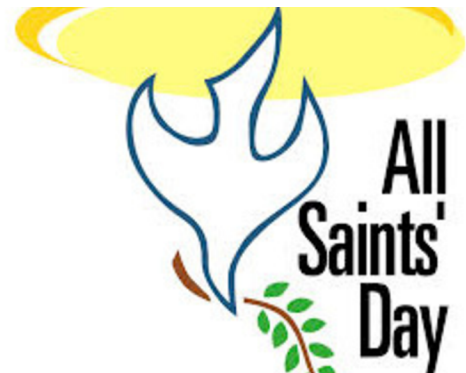
Fall Festival

Sunday, October 27, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, East Parking Lot

Come be a part of the annual Royal Lane Fall Festival! Volunteers needed to help setup/clean-up, run games, bring candy, bring cookies, or open up their trunk and pass out candy (candy provided). Contact Kelley Keith or Lisa Chastain. SignUp at <https://bit.ly/3zPWL9t> And come to the Festival. Games, trunk or treat, and more!



WE REMEMBER



All Saints Day

Sunday, November 3

On All Saints Day, we will honor the saints of Royal Lane Baptist Church who have passed away since November 5 of 2023. If you have a family member or loved one you would like to honor in this service, please leave a message with the church office, 214-361-2809, by Tuesday, October 29 for listing in the Order of Worship. Include name, date of death, and your relationship to this person.

WEEKLY *DETAILS*



DEACONS OF THE WEEK

October 20 - 26

Joey Belgard
Sheryl Gambill

October 27 - Nov. 2

Patsy Meier
Barrett Wooten

November 3 - 9

Garey Wisdom
Sharon Vickrey

SCRIPTURES OF THE WEEK

October 20

Job 38:1-7 (34-41)
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

October 27

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

November 3

Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

IN THE BOX GALLERY



"THE REUNION"

Marilee V Haynes
Gary McCoy
Jan Thomas

October 5 - December 21

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

18	Todd Kettler
18	Jasmine Parrish
20	Melissa Walker-Luckett
20	Sadie Watson
21	Wynne Amerson
21	Barbara Gunnin
21	Robert Putman
27	Carla Gaylor
29	Sheila Calhoon
31	Carter Simmons
31	Cathy Webb

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Tonyia Dotson
2	Cheryl Robinson
4	Marcia Parrish
5	Grace Watson

CHURCH WIDE PRAYER LIST

Rosa Barrientos
Jean Stokes Bilson, aunt of
Cookie Stokes
Scott Bryant
Darlene Carpenter
Brad Carter, husband of Garey Wisdom
Jessica Cavins and family on the death of
Jessica's father, Jim Tindall
The Clark-Soles Family
Linda Smith Collier
Wade Culler, friend of Ruth May &
Donna Ledgerwood
Becky & Thomas Decker, friends of
Brooke & Ben Helms
Glenn Estapa, friend of Larry Forth &
Stephen Lewis
Helen Kirk, aunt of Joey Belgard
Brian Layne, friend of H.A. Robb
Susan Matthews
Danny Ray
Niece and family of Duanne Stockton
Janina Washington
Dee Dee Young on the death of her
daughter, Anne



ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH

6707 Royal Lane, Dallas, TX 75230-4145

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9:00 am-5:00 pm
(214) 361-2809

JOIN THE COMMUNITY

Sunday Worship: 11:00 am
Wednesday Lunch + Learn: 12:00 pm
Christian Education: Saturday & Sunday

ROYALLANE.ORG

ROYAL LANE STAFF

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor
Rev. Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship
Beth Johnson, Minister to Children, Youth, & Families
Barbara Merry, Ministries Assistant
David Doom, Ministries Assistant
David Weigle, Organist
Kenna Curry, Pastoral Intern
Rosa Barrientos, Housekeeping
Mike Hurder, Maintenance Director
Ben Chamero, Livestream Technician
Brandon Green, Audio Technician
Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician

