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DECEMBER 5, 2024 Volume 38, ISSUE 23

A Different Kind of Christmas

As we enter this Advent season, I have been reflecting on what this time of year has meant to me over the chapters of my life so far.

Though I find myself grasping for the childhood wonder of my youth, I often fail at sustaining that feeling of magic that used to feel so accessible. Though I catch glimpses of it through the eyes of my young children, the complexities of "real life" and the busyness that comes with this season weigh more heavily.

For many of us, our sense of joy becomes crowded out by stress, loss, or unexpected changes. We are bombarded by the demands of our jobs, our families, even our own emotions. Life doesn't seem to slow down during the holidays for us like it used to and all we want (all I want) sometimes, is a little bit of peace. While Advent means many things to each of us, I cannot help but return to one of the most basic Christian images again and again – one of an unexpected baby born in an unexpected place to an unexpected couple.

That singular image is a seed of hope when all else seems to be falling apart. This year, my prayer is that we let that image work on us. Advent is a season where we can recognize that though life may not proceed as we planned, we might just find hope and transformation where we least expect it.

Warmth and peace this season,

Tori Jones

Ministries and Communications Coordinator

Special Church Conference

A special church conference will be held *Sunday, December 15th* following worship to approve two items. The Deacons are recommending the congregation approve and affirm the ordination of Beth Johnson and are presenting Kenna Curry and Mara Bim as candidates to begin the ordination process at Royal Lane.

Our January church conference will be held **Sunday**, **January 26**, **2025**, following joining Sunday during worship and all church lunch in Vickrey Hall.

Kelley Keith, Deacon Chair

A ROYAL WELCOME



Let's welcome our newest members:

Mara Bim, Brad & Kirsten Eason, Ziah Huddleston, Shirley O'Reilly, Haley Simental & Maddie Wiltse











IN OTHER NEWS





Hope Supply was so excited to receive the stockings you all lovingly made. Thank you to all who donated time and toys to help our most vulnerable children feel loved this Christmas!



Red Cross Blood Drive

We are hosting a blood drive sponsored by the American Red Cross from 9am-3pm on Tuesday, December 10th. A diverse blood supply is important to meet the needs of patients of all backgrounds - scan the QR code to register!





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/3YmlR8b

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday, December 8 – Advent II, Hanging of the Green

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

9:45 am: New Sunday School Class — Library

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

12:15 pm: Racial Justice Team — Vickrey Hall

Tuesday, December 10

9:00 am: Blood Drive — Vickrey Hall (9:00 am - 3:00 pm) 9:30 am: Contemplation and Communion — Narthex

Wednesday, December 11

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

Menu: Smoked Sausage, Roasted Vegetables, Salad, Dessert

Program: Glen Hummel & SimonSez Brass, "Sounds of the Season"

1:30 pm: Holy Rollers — Room 212 (1:30 - 3:30 pm)

6:30 pm: Youth Gathering — Youth Portable

7:15 pm: Choir — Sanctuary

Thursday, December 12

6:00 pm: Advent Bible Study — Library

Friday, December 13

5:30 pm: Posada y Piñata & Holiday Parents Night Out — Vickrey Hall

Sunday, December 15 – Advent III, Joining Sunday

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

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

12:00 pm: Special Church Conference — Sanctuary

12:15 pm: Social Justice, Room 212

Tuesday, December 17

9:30 am: Contemplation and Communion — Narthex

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wednesday, December 18

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

Menu: Baked Fish, Rice, Peas, Salad, Dessert

Program: Alison Read, "Holiday Harp"

1:30 pm: Holy Rollers — Room 212 (1:30 - 3:30 pm)

6:00 pm: Mourning Light Service — Sanctuary (childcare provided)

7:15 pm: Choir — Sanctuary

CHURCH WIDE PRAYER LIST

Rosa Barrientos

Jean Stokes Bilson, aunt of Cookie Stokes

Scott Bryant

Lynda Smith Collier

Father of Chris Crook

Hal Johnson

Helen Kirk, aunt of Joey Belgard

Brian Layne, friend of H.A. Robb

Donna Ledgerwood

Mehran, friend of Jordan Weilage

Karen Miller on the death of her daughter, Lauren

Blaine Ruddle, grandson of Cookie Stoke's sister, Kristene Ruddle

Niece and family of Duanne Stockton

Carol Tabor

Chelsea & Sam Turpen

David Weigle, on the death of his mother, Willie May (Tommy) Weigle

UPCOMING EVENTS



LUNCH + LEARN

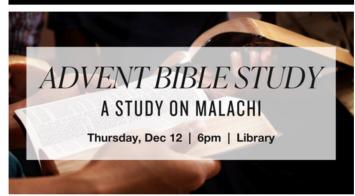


Lunch + Learn

Wednesday, December 11, 12:00 pm

Glen Hummel and SimonSez Brass, Dallas Brass Ensemble presents *Sounds of the Season*. Lunch line opens at 11:30 am.

BIBLE STUDY



Advent Bible Study

Thursday, December 12th, 6:00 pm, Library

The Advent Bible Study, led by Kenna Curry, will be a book study on Malachi. The ancient compilers of the Bible place Malachi as the last book of the Old Testament because they felt it prepared the way for the Gospels.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT



Posada y Piñata Family Event

Friday, December 13, 5:30 pm, Vickrey Hall

Parents night out, a re-enactment by the children of RLBC of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem, and the traditional breaking of the Piñata. *(childcare provided)*

MOURNING LIGHT



Mourning Light

Wednesday, December 18th, 6:00 pm, Sanctuary

The Mourning Light service is for all those who are struggling this Christmas. Whether you've lost someone to death or estrangement, are dealing with an illness or a life change, are unemployed or worried about finances, you are welcome as we seek comfort, and peace.

WEEKLY DETAILS



DEACONS OF THE WEEK

December 1 - 7

Jack Mullinax Margaret Darden December 8 - 14

Adam Visconti Jeanie Chuang

SCRIPTURES OF THE WEEK

December 8

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

December 15

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

IN THE BOX GALLERY







"THE REUNION" ARTISTS RECEPTION

Saturday, December 7: 5-7pm

Marilee V Haynes Gary McCoy Jan Thomas

The Box Gallery is open by appointment 10:00 am-4:00pm on weekdays.

Exhibit dates:

October 5 - January 3



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 | Mike Keith

5 Charlotte Sewell

7 Polly Lamberth

13 Gillian Simeon

14 David Soames

15 Kevin Hall

15 Janet Schultz

16 Jordan Simmons

16 Kate Thompson

16 Cayton Wright

17 Chris Cechan

17 Clint Cechan



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

Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician

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 Mike Hurder, Maintenance Director Ellen Miers, Housekeeping Ben Chamero, Livestream Technician Brandon Green, Audio Technician Brian Stinecipher, Audio Technician

