



ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

August 19, 2020

The Mosaic

Volume 34, Issue 16

Watching or Participating?

One of the first cooking shows Amanda and I obsessively watched was “Top Chef” on Bravo. In fact, one of the winners, Richard Blais, who had an intimidating faux-hawk and genuine cooking skills, opened a restaurant called Flip Burger down the street from a house we rented in Atlanta. Amanda and I became regulars there, noshing on the fancy burgers and sipping Krispy Kreme milkshakes. And we’ve passed on our love for delicious food and cooking shows to our girls. Their current favorites are “Chopped” and “Kids Baking Challenge.” They often bring their foodie enthusiasm into dinner conversations as we talk about how to incorporate four crazy ingredients into a sumptuous meal.

The process of watching a cooking show is called vicarious consumption. And this type of removed consumption can often be more rewarding to those of us who can’t cook than the process of cooking and eating in real life. Because, you see, most people enjoy and like food, even if we aren’t the ones eating it. Ashwini Nadkarni, an associate psychiatrist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Massachusetts, says that “some patients have actually shared their practice of this behavior with me. What they’ve articulated is that cooking shows are so riveting – in spite of the person’s hatred of cooking – because it makes them believe in the possibility of what could be.”

At the beginning of the coronavirus-inspired isolation and quarantine, we watched what was going on in the world and were consumed with fear and worry. Yet, beyond the fear, we imagined exiting the pandemic stronger and more passionate for change, believing in the possibility of what could be. But the longer the pandemic lasts, I feel like our energy and enthusiasm is fading. Our brains and our spirits need participation in activities and investment in each other. I saw a study recently that showed a brain scan of a child watching someone play with a toy and the MRI images of that child’s brain lit up. However, when the child actually had the opportunity to play with the toy, the kid’s brain was on fire with activity!

We are in a difficult time and we long for our brains and our spirits to be on fire with passion and purpose. Yet, the pandemic has seemed to transition us from participating in activities to simply watching from the sidelines. We watch peoples’ lives as we scroll through social media rather than getting outside and making memories. We watch content creators play video game streams rather than playing the games ourselves. We binge cooking shows rather than spending time in the kitchen and experimenting with new meals.

How do we participate safely in the world during this difficult season when most of us feel as if we are sitting passively on the sidelines? What can we do in these uncertain days to move the needle from watching to participating? Although we don’t have control over the virus, just like we don’t have control of the weather, we are in charge of our lives and can find small and safe ways to be actively engaged. Maybe it means walking in the neighborhood. Maybe it’s trying out a new hobby. You might explore ways to make a little extra cash. Maybe you could begin to work on that book you’ve been meaning to write. Maybe you could join in Royal Lane’s book discussion on *White Fragility* as we find ways to dismantle systemic racism, or join a Sunday School class, or participate in meditative prayers on Fridays. Maybe, just maybe, it means getting in the kitchen and cooking a meal to share with family and socially-distanced friends. Whatever we choose, it’s time to do less observing and more doing. Are we ready to take a small step from watching to participating? I know I am.

Pastor Mike

The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for September 2 & 16, 2020.

The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.

Coming Events

Friday	August 21
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
Saturday	August 22
2:00 pm	4-6 Year Old Saturday School — Zoom
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
Sunday	August 23 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
9:45 am	Foundation Stones — Zoom
10:00 am	Women's Share & Prayer — Zoom
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Livestream
3:00 pm	1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
4:00 pm	Formations Class — Zoom
Tuesday	August 25
12:00 pm	Pastor's Book Group — Zoom
Wednesday	August 26
6:30 pm	"White Fragility" — Virtual Conversation (Registration Required)
Friday	August 28
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
Saturday	August 29
2:00 pm	4-6 Year Old Saturday School — Zoom
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
Sunday	August 30 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:45 am	Foundation Stones — Zoom
10:00 am	Women's Share & Prayer — Zoom
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Livestream
3:00 pm	1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
4:00 pm	Formations Class — Zoom
Tuesday	September 1
12:00 pm	Pastor's Book Group — Zoom
Wednesday	September 2 – Mosaic
6:30 pm	"White Fragility" — Virtual Conversation (Registration Required)

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

Congratulations to Shawng Lahpai on the release of his recent book. Note from Shawng about his book: **"Taing-Yinn Tharr and the Acts of the Apostles"** was officially published on August 7th at Amazon. In this book, I analyze the exercise of the apostleship between the apostles and multiple-Christian-groups during the celebration of the Jerusalem council in the neocolonial context of Burma. It might be the first time I have taken this challenge to voice our beliefs and movements to liberate the value of the unionization in light of the apostolic salvation in the form of such an academic conversation on behalf of the 60 million-co-inhabitants of the country. I'm sure this humble work would offer an opportunity for us to embrace the truth that allows us to co-exist in our respective multi-ethnic groups since we share the same universal salvation." *Shawng Lahpai* – <https://amzn.to/3aBfm0F>



Join us in August and September for our virtual conversation about race and white fragility. Copies of "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo are available for purchase online and in the Church Office. Contact Laura Keller, lkeller@royallane.org, to purchase books in the Church Office. \$12.00 per copy. Registration is required. A Zoom link and instructions for joining will be emailed to you after you have completed the registration process. Register Online at <https://bit.ly/3fNJ0c4>.



Deacon Recommendations

In October, the church will elect six (6) deacons to serve a three (3) year term, and two (2) Deacons to serve a one (1) year unexpired term. They will take office in November.

By-Laws Provisions

Article VIII, 3) "No one shall be eligible for election to the Board of Deacons unless such person has been a member of this Church for at least one (1) year prior to his or her election. Upon completion of a term on the Board of Deacons, no one shall be eligible for re-election to the Board of Deacons until the expiration of one (1) year, provided that this restriction shall not be applicable to any Deacon who has been elected to fill the unexpired term of another Deacon and who has served less than one year of such unexpired term. In order that there not be a conflict of interest (or the appearance of a conflict of interest), no member of the Board of Deacons shall also be a full-time or permanent part-time paid member of the staff of this Church. Only one member of an immediate family of the same household shall be elected to serve on the active board of deacons at the same time. Immediate family includes spouse, domestic partner, child, parent or sibling.

Listed below is the active Board of Deacons. The dates indicate when they will rotate off the Board. **Resigned or moved to reserve status.*

November 2020

Ray Cox
Melanie Ferguson
Paulette Harrison
Harry Hunter
Cathy Webb
Garey Wisdom

November 2021

Margaret Darden
Jeff Hammett*
Karen Miller
Charlotte Sewell
Karen Simmons
Dennis Turnbull*

November 2022

Terry Berrier
Alan Greider
Blake Miller
Sarah Fuller Phillips
Cathy Walling
Amy Ward-Meier

Please consider carefully and prayerfully your recommendations for deacons. Use the spaces below to suggest to the Member Resource Committee your recommendations for deacons.

Your Deacon Recommendations

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Nominations are due in the church office by noon on Friday, August 28th.

If you have any questions regarding the recommendation of deacon, please contact either Charlotte Sewell (214-533-7326) or Paulette Harrison (214-577-8058).

Qualifications and Characteristics of a Deacon

When accepting a call to serve as a deacon, the person is accepting a call from the congregation and from God. And so, a deacon is ordained because the ordination of deacons indicates that those serving in this capacity should be believers who are Christ-like, mature in faith, and exercise their office with prayer, patience, trust, and humility. Additionally, serving as a deacon puts that person in a leadership role within the congregation, one that should be modeled as that of a servant. The heart of a deacon's calling is to "lead by serving others" in the church and community, as well as to "lead by equipping church members" to serve in the ongoing ministries of the church.

As a believer in God as revealed through the life and works of Jesus Christ, the deacon must care about the members of Royal Lane, be committed to and support the work of the ministries of the church, and appreciate and embrace the diversity of the congregation. This is achieved through careful listening, a humble attitude, and fervent prayer.

Duties and Responsibilities of a Deacon

- Accepts a 3-year commitment to serve on the Board of Deacons
- Faithfully attends each in person or virtual monthly deacons meeting and participates in discussions honestly and with openness to differing opinions
- Supports Royal Lane financially through pledging and regular giving
- Conscientiously fulfills her/his Deacon of the Week duties (on the assigned week):
 1. Greeting visitors in the narthex following worship
 2. Attend Wednesday evening Midweek Meeting and offering a prayer
 3. Contacting visitors by phone, card, or email to answer any questions they may have about Royal Lane
- Leads a Deacon Ministry Group (DMG) consisting of a small group of congregation members:
 1. Regularly check in with assigned DMG through text, email, phone call, or note.
 2. Let the DMG know of upcoming church events and activities
- Prays for the members of the DMG and shares needs with church staff
- Assists with the introduction and engagement of new members into the life and ministries of Royal Lane
- Actively participates as a member of at least one church committee
- Assists the pastor with the preparation and administration of the church ordinances: communion and baptism

Deacon Recommendation Procedure

This year, because we cannot safely meet in person, we will be suggesting members for nomination to the deacon board in a different way. On Sunday, August 2, we began accepting your suggestions for nomination. You can write your suggestions on paper and mail them to the church, where they will be collected for consideration. If you want to submit your suggestions online, you can do so through a link that was provided in an email sent to members on Sunday, August 2nd. We must receive any suggested names by Friday, August 28th. All names submitted will be gathered and considered by the Member Resource Committee.

Please be in prayer for the family and friends of
MARY JOSEPHINE "JO" FERGUSON

Wife of
BILL FERGUSON

Mother of
MELANIE FERGUSON

&
ELIZABETH ROWAN

Jo Ferguson "left the building" on August 14, 2020

Celebration of Life will be held
when we can gather again.

Notes of Comfort are welcomed by the family.

July 2020 Financials

Revenues*	\$481,535
Expenses	\$439,295
Surplus (Deficit)	\$42,240

*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/

Updated menu for giving includes:

General Fund

Columbarium

The Lowe Scholarship Fund

Other

Optional Memo Line available.

Deacons of the Week

August 16

Paulette Harrison
Cathy Walling

August 23

Harry Hunter
Blake Miller

August 30

Sarah Fuller Phillips
Karen Simmons

All In-Person Midweek Services &

Fellowship Meals Temporarily Suspended

6:30 p.m. Wednesday
August 5 - September 6

"White Fragility"
Virtual Conversation
Register Today!

The Box Gallery
is
Temporarily Closed

To change mail or email preferences for *The Mosaic*,
contact Barbara Merry, bmerry@royallane.org.

Scriptures of the Week

August 16

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 23

Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 30

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45c
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Happy Birthday!

August

Brandon Green	19
Beatrice Gregg	19
Doug Washington.....	20
Shannon Simmons Miller.....	21
Robbye Foster	25
Graham King	30
Don Meier	30
Tex Quesada.....	30
Ann Lou Brown.....	31
Thad Clark-Soles.....	31
Matthew Maddox	31
Kathy Mizell.....	31

September

Claudia Hinchliffe Nuss.....	1
Donna Krieger.....	1





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

Sunday School: 9:45 am

Sunday Worship: 10:55 am

Royal Lane Baptist Church

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Michael Gregg, Pastor
Laura Keller, Minister to Children
Jonah Hammett, Video Technician
Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant
Samuel Quesada, Video Technician

Tim Schaefer, Minister to Youth
Janet Schultz; Administrative Assistant
Blake Vickrey, Sound Technician
Ray Vickrey, Pastor Emeritus
David Weigle, Organist
Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship