



ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

September 15, 2021

The Mosaic

Volume 35, Issue 18



Reflections on 9/11. The end of a long day... waiting for the light!

Yesterday, I grabbed my cell to turn off the alarm and saw the date, I remembered. 9/11

Like many, I was pushed back twenty years into my living room at the 2nd floor apartment of the Methodist building in Mexico City. The children were at school and it was my time with my usual cup of coffee and news. It was almost 9 am when I saw the images of one of the twin towers pierced and surrounded in black smoke... you know the rest. I closed my eyes, thought about Afghanistan and prayed: "Lord, is there hope for us? Can we do it? Can we build a world in peace?"

Some of us knew this was a changing moment in our history. At the time, I have been working for 11 years as a missionary with International Ministries of the American Baptists Churches. I knew that some people and groups mistrusted and resented us associating our presence as religious workers to past historical interventionist activities against socialist or leftist or popular governments in Latin America. Even when I am a Puerto Rican with a strong national identity, I couldn't help sometimes fearing especially after 9/11 that my family could become a target just because we had a USA passport. Just because we were citizens of a nation that throughout its history have brought pain and suffering to millions to keep its power, wealth and influence in the world.

We lived that day differently. Thousands were shocked and traumatized. Responders hastened to save lives. Media rushed to gain information, images and stories. Governments tightened their defenses. Parents, partners, families, friends and nations mourned. With pain and sorrow, anger mounted vowing to hunt down those responsible. Defense came in a spiral of violence. The "war on terror" brought costly invasions to Afghanistan and Iraq, close to 900,000 deaths and 38 million people displaced. Our defense has cost us at least \$5.8 trillion.^[1]

That day, terrorists celebrated, as some did yesterday, justifying the massacring of thousands with religious and righteous discourses. Yet, "...conflict remains the primary driver of terrorism" and the surge in far-right political terrorism has increased exponentially.^[2] But this more than seeing the world with different eyes, but acquiring power in different ways.

Power itself doesn't corrupt but it does "heighten our moral identity, ethical behavior and innate aggressiveness."^[3] Evil dresses in many disguises, but when power is involved there is none more hideous dress than a 'righteous' one for it clothes the twisted craving for power, or deep-seated fear as justice (Is 5:20). The spiral of violence and terror will accompany us until we learn to seek true equity, justice, love and ecological balance for all. That will require 'power' to be seen in a different way and 'truth' about ourselves and our actions.

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*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for Date & Date, 2021.
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

There is no measure for the horrors and suffering especially for those who loss a dear one in the mayhem of that day or during the long years it took the toxic fumes to claim or damaged the lives of the responders, the survivors and those who lived or worked in the neighborhood. But there is also no measure for the courage, the passion for life, the resiliency and will to move forward of each and every one affected by 9/11.

It is late. Midnight is here. So, I write this purposely at the end of this long day, waiting for a new day to be born. In that juxtaposition of an unending pandemic and ideological lies that brings an eerie similar use of 'righteous dresses' this night, I resist giving up hope. And I hope for a new day to be born because I believe that the way of Jesus opens up the possibilities of life for all. And maybe, just maybe because there are so many of us seeking peace, there will always be a path for life after this day.

May the Lord keep our faith.

May the Spirit kindle our hope.

May our actions birth Peace.

[1] Dylan Matthews. "20 years, \$6 trillion, 900,000 lives: The enormous costs and elusive benefits of the war on terror." Vox. Sep 11, 2021. <https://www.vox.com/22654167/cost-deaths-war-on-terror-afghanistan-iraq-911>

[2] "Global Terrorism Index 2020: Measuring the Impact of terrorism." Institute for Economics & Peace. 4 Feb 2021. <https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GTI-2020-web-2.pdf>

[3] DeCelles, Katherine A. et al. "Does power corrupt or enable? When and why power facilitates self-interested behavior." *The Journal of applied psychology* 97 3 (2012): 681-9 .

Special Church Conference – September 19

Following worship, Sunday, September 19th, we will have a special church conference to select our Pastor Search Committee. Earlier this summer, the Member Resource Committee solicited and received recommendations of persons to serve on the Pastor Search Committee from the church membership per the Royal Lane bylaws. The Board of Deacons are nominating seven (7) committee members and two (2) alternates who have agreed to serve if elected. These nominees will be placed before the church membership for election September 19th. A Zoom Meeting will be created for virtual attendees, and an electronic ballot will be available.

Save The Date

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Your Transition Support Team is planning a special event for you and your fellow members of Royal Lane for September 26, 2021.

5:00 pm – Family "Dinner" Night – Zoom

Details to follow. SAVE THE DATE and don't miss it!!!!

The Pumpkin Patch is Coming Back!

Pump up the wheel barrel tires, find your work gloves, and exercise your core! We will unload the trailer, **Saturday September 25, 9:00 AM – Noon**, on the west side of the church. You can unload pumpkins, cart pumpkins into the "patch", or help with sales once we let customers "harvest" their selections!

This year, due to health precautions, we will allow our customers to measure their own pumpkins in order to distance appropriately. There will be more detailed instructions posted at the Pumpkin Patch so everyone will know what to do to stay safe.

If you are not able to lift pumpkins, but would like to help, you can donate cash to help hire "day workers" to unload the truck. Contact JJ Berrier at 469-831-7339, if you can make a donation.

Use this URL Link - <https://qrqo.page.link/KUW6s> - or the QR Code to take you to the Sign-Up Genius web page to volunteer in the 2021 Pumpkin Patch! Select which days and times you can volunteer to work the sales desk, and then click "submit". Your donation of time is appreciated, and you may have some seasonal fun, too!

Coming Events

Saturday	September 18
1:00 pm	Third Saturday Fun — Angry Birds @ Top Golf, 8787 Park Ln, Dallas, TX
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
Sunday	September 19 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:45 am	Formations Class — Library
9:45 am	Foundation Stones — Room 208
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary or Royal Lane YouTube Channel
	Following Worship – Special Church Conference — Sanctuary or Zoom
12:15 pm	Program Council — Vickrey Hall or Zoom
7:30 pm	Deacons Meeting — Zoom (Deacon Chat, 7:15 pm)
Monday	September 20
7:30 pm	Transition Support Team — Zoom
Tuesday	September 21
7:00 pm	Member Resource Committee — Zoom
Wednesday	September 22
10:00 am	Holy Rollers — Room 210 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)
6:30 pm	Midweek Bible Study with Steve Graham — Zoom
7:00 pm	Youth Gathering – Game Night & Popcorn — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
Saturday	September 25
9:00 am	Pumpkin Delivery — Pumpkin Patch
9:30 am	Pumpkin Patch Open for Sales (9:30 am – 5:00 pm)
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
Sunday	September 26 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:45 am	Formations Class — Library
9:45 am	Foundation Stones — Room 208
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary or Royal Lane YouTube Channel
1:00 pm	Pumpkin Patch Open for Sales (1:00 – 5:00 pm)
5:00 pm	Family “Dinner” Night sponsored by the Transition Support Team — Zoom
Monday – Friday	September 27 – October 1
11:00 am	Pumpkin Patch Open for Sales (11:00 am – 6:00 pm)
Monday	September 27
7:30 pm	Transition Support Team — Zoom
Wednesday	September 29
10:00 am	Holy Rollers — Room 210 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)
6:30 pm	Midweek Bible Study with Steve Graham — Zoom
7:00 pm	Youth Gathering – Pumpkin Patch
Saturday	October 2
9:00 am	Pumpkin Patch Open for Sales (9:00 am – 5:00 pm)
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
Sunday	October 3 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost / World Communion Sunday
9:45 am	Formations Class — Library
9:45 am	Foundation Stones — Room 208
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary or Royal Lane YouTube Channel
12:15 pm	Choir Lunch & Rehearsal — Library & Sanctuary
12:15 pm	First Sunday Youth Lunch
1:00 pm	Pumpkin Patch Open for Sales (1:00 – 5:00 pm)
Monday – Friday	October 4 – October 7
11:00 am	Pumpkin Patch Open for Sales (11:00 am – 6:00 pm)

(continued)

Coming Events *(continued)*

Monday **October 4**
7:30 pm Transition Support Team — Zoom

Wednesday **October 6**
10:00 am Holy Rollers — Room 210 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)
6:30 pm Midweek Bible Study — Zoom
7:00 pm Youth Gathering — Youth Portable (Portable 1)

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

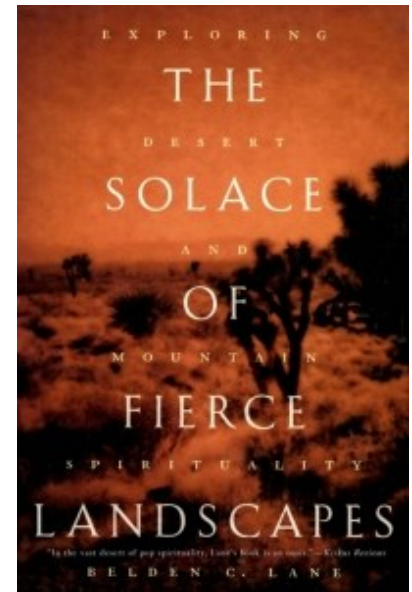
See the Weekly Mosaic, Weekend Update or Web Calendar for Links and details for Zoom, Livestream and Virtual events — royallane.org/resources/events
Group hosts and leaders will provide links for events with no published link.

Study for Wednesday Evening with Steve Graham

I am looking forward to Wednesday evening gatherings on zoom from 6:30 – 7:00 pm, a time for prayer and solace. For the beginning days of this fall I would most like to scratch around with the stepping stones in Belden Lane's *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality*. I was introduced to this remarkable work on retreat with others at Big Bend National Park.

A brief beginning thought for us to explore:

The spiritual function of fierce terrain...is to bring us to the end of ourselves, to the abandonment of language and the relinquishment of ego. A vast expanse of jagged stone, desert sand, and towering thunderheads has a way of challenging all the mental constructs in which we are tempted to take comfort and pride, thinking we have captured the divine. The things that ignore us save us in the end. — Belden Lane



Women of the Church October 12, 6:30 pm

What is an estate? Is that something that only very wealthy people should bother with?

Come find the answer to this question and much more when our own Bill Elliott will present "Taking Care of Business: Personal Legal Planning". As an experienced tax, estate planning and probate attorney, Bill will share his experience and observations to help us plan wisely.

Stewardship – 2022

Watch your mailbox, order of worship, Weekly Mosaic and Mosaic for communication and pledge cards for the 2022 Stewardship Campaign that will take place in October.

*Stewardship Chairs,
Sarah & Greg King*

Deacons of the Week

September 19
(Deacons to be scheduled)

September 26
Nate Green
Donna Wood-Martin

October 3
Terry Berrier
Karen Miller

All In-Person Midweek Services & Fellowship Meals Temporarily Suspended

6:30 p.m. Wednesday
September 22 – October 6

*"The Solace of Fierce Landscapes:
Exploring Desert and
Mountain Spirituality"*
by Belden Lane
with Steve Graham



The Box Gallery
is Temporarily Closed

To change mail or email preferences for *The Mosaic*, contact Barbara Merry, 214-361-2809, ext. 10 or bmerry@royallane.org.

Scriptures of the Week

September 19

Proverbs 31:10-31
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Psalm 1
Mark 9:30-37

September 26

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
James 5:13-20

Psalm 124
Mark 9:38-50

October 3

Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Psalm 26
Mark 10:2-16

July 2021 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues*	\$432,543
Expenses	\$379,995
Surplus (Deficit)	\$52,547

*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.

Happy Birthday!

September

Dawn Brown.....	17
Lisa Gill.....	18
Janina Washington.....	18
Kelley Keith.....	19
Christin Lavery.....	19
Michael Rogers.....	20
Denise Turnbull.....	20
Sarah King.....	21
Larry Allen.....	22
Georgia Bradford.....	24
Janet Ramirez.....	26
Michael Robinson.....	26
Terry Berrier.....	28
Amy Ward-Meier.....	29
Austen Maddox.....	30

October

Jaime Clark Soles.....	1
Daryl Willey.....	1
Harry Hunter.....	2
Violette McKinney.....	3
Cathy Walling.....	4
Walter Will.....	5



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: 6:30 pm - Zoom

Sunday School: Saturday & Sunday - Zoom

Sunday Worship: 10:55 am

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Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship