



# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Diverse People United in Christ*

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April 6, 2022

The Mosaic

Volume 36, Issue 7

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## ***The Servant Leader***

*Steve Graham*

For Luke there is no crowd. Only the disciples are there walking in front of Jesus, who is sitting awkwardly astride a young colt, his feet dangling upon the ground. There is another noticeable difference in Luke's account of the triumphal entry. According to Luke, the disciples are throwing their coats. There are no palm branches. They, instead, lay out their Coats in front of the donkey. They sing "Blessed is the King who comes." There is no Hosanna in their song. They sing, "Peace in Heaven and Glory in the Highest and Peace on Earth."

Jesus enters Jerusalem. If pressed, how would the disciples understand his entrance into this Holy Week?

I'm not so sure that they could have told you. They Knew what they hoped he would do, and yet did they understand what he had been telling them he would do. Denial dies hard. Instead, they would have simply said, "Oh, I'm sure Jesus will be Jesus. He'll keep doing more of the same and aren't we glad!"

All along, Jesus has been laying his life down. He would continue to lay down his life until there was no life to be laid down. That, after all, was his most impressive character trait, his willingness to serve. Jesus was, from beginning to end, the servant leader. I am, like you, attracted to and repelled by the servant leader. As he enters Jerusalem and is hailed as king, he teaches us that he is the servant king. He is the blessed servant who comes in God's name. He is the one whom Paul would say though He had equal status with God didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death--and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion (Philippians 2:6-8, The Message).

On Palm Sunday, the eve of Holy Week, the image of Jesus coming into Jerusalem, riding on the back of a donkey, we see yet another step downward. Jesus, rich as he was, made himself poor for our sake, in order to make you rich by means of his poverty (2 Corinthians 8:9, TEV).

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for April 20 & May 4, 2022.  
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

## **Royal Lane History**

Each week during Lent a bit of Royal Lane History has been included in the Lenten Resolves.  
Interviews – Week 3, 4 and 5 in Lent

### **Nancy K. Ferrell**

Nancy relocated to Dallas from Kentucky and was searching for a church that aligned with her values. While working at Vista Program in 1981, she met Bruce Lowe, a longtime Royal Lane member who worked at the Department of Health and Human Services. Bruce was a longtime civil rights advocate and former pastor from Louisiana. In the 1950s when Bruce was a new seminary graduate, he led a movement toward integrating white churches.

Nancy indicated that one of the things that attracted her to the church was the strong commitment to congregational leadership so that decisions are not controlled by a pastor or a small group of individuals. She said she appreciates the egalitarian nature of the church, that titles and status don't matter. She believes that everyone has a voice, no matter their job or affiliation.

Nancy shared that the church, by its nature, accepts women, LGBTQ individuals, and people of color into church leadership and this acceptance is part of the church's culture. Nancy said the church never equivocated on this issue of acceptance. She shared, "There was no fanfare, we just always did the right thing. No tooting horns, no waving banners." She said when the Baptist General Convention of Texas removed Royal Lane's membership for ordaining an LGBTQ individual, Royal Lane was unapologetic in its response to the convention.

Several events in the church's history are memorable for Nancy. She remembers the significance of Ray Vickrey being called to serve as the church's pastor. To most churches, Ray was not a suitable option because he was a divorced man, but Royal Lane accepted him fully, which became a gift to the church. During Ray's tenure, Royal Lane had a partnership with Tabernacle Church, an African American church. During the partnership, the churches held joint bible school, housing rehab workdays and pastor exchange.

Another memory for Nancy is the ordination of Garland Hamic in the early 2000s and seeing the pride on his mother's face. She remembers Cookie Stokes serving as the first female deacon chair and attending an association meeting with her. She said she and Cookie were the only females there and they initially did not recognize Cookie as a deacon chair.

Nancy said the church has a history of mission work with a commitment to low-income communities. Royal Lane was one of the founding members of North Dallas Shared Ministries. The church also has a history of participating in Habitat for Humanity workdays. In the past, Royal Lane provided ESL and Head Start classes to Vietnamese and Chinese immigrants and sponsoring some of those families.

### **Janet Schultz**

In December 1979, Janet Schultz visited Royal Lane for the first time. She had relocated from Michigan to join Laurence in Dallas. At her initial visit, she did not enjoy the service, the sermon was dry, and she found most congregants unfriendly. She cried after leaving, telling Laurence that she did not like the church, but she agreed to try one more Sunday. This experience wasn't better, but he was able to convince her to try a Wednesday evening service. She enjoyed Wednesday evening worship and began to make friends, so she joined the church. Janet and Laurence then were married January 25, 1980, at Royal Lane.

Janet's favorite memory at Royal Lane is when Ray Vickrey became the pastor. In the early years of her membership, she enjoyed helping with Mission Friends. More recently, she has enjoyed working with the children in Godly Play. Janet likes that the church volunteers with Cornerstone Baptist Church through the community garden, Holy Rollers and building repairs.

Janet stated that it was evident to her that there was a racial barrier in the church in the 1980s, but people ignored it. She said there was a misunderstanding about people who received aid from the government and believed people of color were lazy and didn't want to work. She said in Michigan the closing of automotive manufacturing led to many families needing assistance because there was no other alternative.

Janet and Laurence moved to Austin, then Idaho and then Florida before returning to Dallas. The couple visited Royal Lane about 20 years after leaving and were thrilled to find Ray Vickrey was still the pastor. When they were welcomed with open arms, they decided to become members again. Janet said it felt like being welcomed home.

*(continued, page 6)*

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# Coming Events

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<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 10 – Palm/Passion Sunday</b>
9:15 am	Children's SS Classes — Zoom
9:45 am	Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building
10:00 am	Youth SS Class — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary or Royal Lane YouTube Channel
7:30 pm	Deacons Meeting — Zoom
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 11</b>
3:00 pm	Building Action Task Force — Library
7:30 pm	Transition Support Team — Zoom
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 12</b>
7:00 pm	Pastor Search Committee — Library
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 13</b>
10:00 am	Holy Rollers — Room 202 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)
6:15 pm	Midweek Study with Steve Graham — Zoom
7:00 pm	Youth Gathering — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 15 – Good Friday</b>
5:30 pm	Choir Dinner — Library
6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
8:00 pm	Good Friday Service — Sanctuary
8:00 pm	Children's Good Friday Service — Vickrey Hall
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 16</b>
2:00 pm	Walk Through Holy Week & Easter Egg Hunt (2:00 – 4:00 pm)
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 17 – Easter Sunday</b>
8:00 am	Flowering of the Cross — Sanctuary & Front Lawn
8:30 am	Easter Breakfast — Vickrey Hall
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary or Royal Lane YouTube Channel
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 18</b>
3:00 pm	Building Action Task Force — Library
7:30 pm	Transition Support Team — Zoom
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 19</b>
9:00 am	American Cross Blood Drive — Vickrey Hall
7:00 pm	Pastor Search Committee — Library
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 20 – Mosaic</b>
10:00 am	Holy Rollers — Room 202 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)
6:15 pm	Quarterly Church Conference — Vickrey Hall & Zoom
7:00 pm	Youth Gathering — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 21</b>
6:30 pm	Publicity/Outreach — Zoom
<b>Fri - Sun</b>	<b>April 22 - 24</b>
	Alliance of Baptists — Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth Texas — Zoom
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 23</b>
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.*

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## The Alliance of Baptists 2022 Virtual Annual Gathering

For a thousand years, western Christianity has seen the cross through the lens of substitutionary atonement—that Jesus died in our place and reconciled sinful humanity to God. The Annual Gathering seeks to re-examine this theology and explore new atonement ideas through panels, workshops, and worship. The gathering is also an opportunity to enjoy a weekend of rejuvenating fellowship with like-minded followers of the way of Christ.



**Don't forget to register for Annual Gathering!**  
**April 22-24 – Theological Retreat April 21**



<https://allianceofbaptists.org/events/2022-annual-gathering/>

## **Sacred Places: Come Away for Awhile and Rest**

April 30, 2022. 10am-8pm

Sister Grove Farm. Van Alstyne, Texas

Just a few weeks remain for you to turn in your \$50 check to the church office (write WOC retreat in the memo line)—it will serve as your registration for our retreat!

We suspect it will be the perfect day of spiritual restoration that your body and soul needs. What to bring: an open mind and heart, comfy clothes, and shoes for walking outside, a notebook, and a pen.

## **Planting Day – Cornerstone Garden**

We had a wonderful morning at Cornerstone Baptist Church, adding compost to the beds, mixing the soil, and planting tomatoes and mustard greens (and one brave cucumber plant). We are so grateful to JJ and Wanda from Cornerstone for working so hard to arrange this planting day. We will be back!





## Royal Lane Missions Seasons of Service...Easter

60 Easter baskets were created for children experiencing homelessness. These Easter baskets will be distributed to families served by Hope Supply. Thank you all for helping to make Easter special for our beloved community!



# Royal Lane History

(continued from page 2)

## Cookie Stokes

John and Bettye Stokes, Cookie's in-laws, were members of Royal Lane where John was a deacon. When Cookie and her husband moved to Dallas in 1969 after serving in El Paso and Okinawa, they became members at Royal Lane. Cookie said her mentor as a new member was Mollie Cowden, who taught her Sunday School and shaped her faith and her subsequent life of service.

Cookie shared that she values everything about Royal Lane and her passions are children and missions. She said she stays in Dallas because she does not want to leave her church. She said Easter is her favorite day on the church calendar because it is the highest holy day. Cookie was ordained as a deacon in 1979, but the first female deacon was Jerry Moore in the mid-1970s. She said Jerry had been ordained as a deacon at First Baptist Church in Austin. For deacon elections, all ordained individuals were listed in the bulletin as a candidate. She said Jerry was included with the men and was elected. Cookie said Royal Lane never took a vote like other churches about ordaining women; rather, individuals who were known and loved were nominated and elected. In 1986, Cookie was elected to serve as the Deacon Chair, the first female chair for the church.

Cookie remembers activities that strived to add diversity to the congregation, but it was never as much as the church hoped. She remembers when she first came to the church that the women provided ESL classes for women from other countries who had moved to the United States with their husbands. During Ray Vickrey's tenure, she said Royal Lane tried some exchange services with Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, a predominantly black congregation. In the 1970s, Royal Lane sponsored a family of Vietnamese refugees. She also remembers the kindergarten class for children from a black congregation in west Dallas. After the kindergarten program, Royal Lane continued to work with the congregation in the 1980s.

Cookie participated in Friendship International House, a host program for international college students. Through Cookie, many Royal Lane members hosted these students during the two-week holiday break. Cookie has fond memories of participating in the 1998 mission trip to Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia. Koinonia Farm, founded in 1942, is a community of believers committed to racial equality, pacifism and economic sharing. Cookie expressed pride that Royal Lane's mission trips always involved racial justice and education.



### Welcome New Members

Mary Lamberson

Rick & Kay Carpenter

### How to Connect

See the Weekly Mosaic, Weekend Update or Web Calendar for Links and details for

In-Person, Livestream, Virtual or Zoom events —

[royallane.org/resources/events](http://royallane.org/resources/events)

Group hosts and leaders will provide links for events with no published link.

## Needed for Easter Egg Hunt

Please bring by Wednesday, April 13

Individually wrapped candies, plastic eggs and small prizes that can be put in the eggs. Baskets for donations are available in the Church Office and Vickrey Hall. Please remember that these must be safe for our youngest children.

Need some ideas?

Stickers

Seed Packets (*to plant after Easter*)

Hot Wheel Cars

Bouncy Balls

Erasers

Lip Gloss/Chap Stick

Character Band-aids

Fruit Snacks

Silly Bands

Small containers of bubbles

Playdough

Small dolls & figures

Plastic Animals/Bugs

Bracelets/Necklaces

Rubber Stamps





## Deacons of the Week

**April 10**

John Helms

Cheryl Robinson

**April 17**

Nate Green

Sarah King

**All In-Person  
Fellowship Meals  
Temporarily Suspended**  
*(bring your own sack meal  
options may be offered)*

**Midweek Studies**  
*(in-person or zoom)*  
**6:15 p.m. Wednesday**

**April 13**

"Holy Envy"

by Barbara Brown Taylor  
with Steve Graham

**April 20**

Quarterly Church Conference

## Scriptures of the Week

**April 10**

**Palms Readings**

Luke 19:28-40

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

**Passion Readings**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23-56 or Luke 23:1-49

**April 17**

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

## February 2022 Financials

### YTD Actual

Revenues\* \$134,378

Expenses \$117,959

Surplus (Deficit) \$ 16,418

\*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/](http://royallane.org/give/)

Giving menu includes:

General Fund

The Lowe Scholarship Fund

Columbarium



**The Box Gallery**  
**Watch for May 2022 Opening**

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

## Happy Birthday!

**April**

Jane Carter.....	6
Megan Thompson Simpson .....	7
Brad Carter .....	9
Cynthia Kupres.....	10
Melissa Robinson .....	10
Erin Waters.....	11



*Royal Lane Baptist Church*

6707 Royal Lane

Dallas, Texas 75230-4145

# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Diverse People United in Christ*

**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**

**Royal Lane Baptist Church**

**6707 Royal Lane**

**Dallas, TX 75230-4145**

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**[www.royallane.org](http://www.royallane.org)**

Rosa Barrientos, Housekeeping  
Ben Chamero, Livestream Technician  
Steve Graham, Interim Pastor  
Laura Keller, Minister to Children,  
Interim Minister to Youth

Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant  
Janet Schultz, Administrative Assistant  
Blake Vickrey, Sound Technician  
David Weigle, Organist  
Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship