



# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Diverse People United in Christ*

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December 4, 2019

The Mosaic

Volume 33, Issue 23

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## ***Growing Deep Roots***

In this Advent season, we are doing the work of Christmas. And the work we must do comes from a powerful poem written by the Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman. In this poem, as outlined in the previous issue of the Mosaic and my sermon from Advent 1, "The Work of Christmas Begins," Thurman speaks of the importance of bringing vitality and peace to those who are oppressed and those in need. Thurman encourages a Christmas spirit to flow through our lives and through this world every single day of the year, not simply at Christmas. And in order to bring the good news of Christ to a hurting people and do the work of Christmas, we must grow deep roots into the faithfulness and justice of God.

Dr. Thurman tells a story of growing our roots deep so as to remain strong when the world changes around and us and life gets difficult. He talks about reading an interesting account in the National Geographic Magazine concerning certain trees found growing in the Sahara Desert. The trees were not part of any oasis but stood alone in the midst of the heat and wind without obvious moisture. It seems that hundreds of years ago what is now the desert was rich and luxurious growth. As the desert appeared, the vegetation was destroyed until at last there was nothing left of the past glory except an oasis scattered here and there. But not all; for there were a few trees that had sent their roots so far down into the heart of the earth in search of moisture and food that they discovered deep rivers flowing full of concentrated nutrients. Here the roots were fed so effectively that the trees far above on the surface were able to stand anything that happened to them at the hands of the desert heat and the blowing sand.

This is the secret to those whose lives are fed by the deep inner resources of God. To people who are sure of God's love, divine wisdom and strength become the answer to life's greatest demands, and indeed, to its most searching and withering changes. It is my hope as we do the work of Christmas this Advent season, we will grow our roots deep into the words of God, bring freedom to those who are burdened, and remain in fervent and transformative prayer. The world may be tumultuous and violent around us, but we will stand firm in the sustenance of God and in the power of the life-changing work of Christmas.

*Pastor Mike*

### **Advent Devotions**

A Special Edition of The Mosaic with Advent Devotions is available in the narthex of the church.  
Copies have been mailed to those that regularly receive a mailed copy of The Mosaic.

Learn more about Advent at <http://royallane.org/advent-2019/>

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for December 18, 2019 & January 8, 2020.  
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

# Just Housing Workshop



**Registration:** <https://tinyurl.com/w8ggk5>

**When:** December 14, 3:30-5:30pm

**Where:** First Community Church, 9120 Ferguson Rd, Dallas, TX 75228

**What:** Between high property values, low wages and high rent, the housing in Dallas costs too much for low- and middle-income families. Most of us spend a third of our paycheck or more on housing, leaving us strapped for everything else. Some people would have us believe that those of us who can barely afford our housing costs or are living in poor-quality housing are in this situation because of our own poor choices. But the truth is that corporations and decision makers have created a system that has left us behind and pushed us out.

Every person should have a good, safe, affordable place to live - no matter what. As a beloved community, we have a responsibility to make it so if we want our families and neighbors to thrive. Faith in Texas envisions a Dallas that provides diverse, fair and safe housing for all people, regardless of income source, gender identity and sexuality, citizenship status, and criminal history. Join us on December 14 as we discuss the history of housing in Dallas, the current moral crisis, and prepare for action to make Just Housing a reality!

At the Just Housing Workshop, you will...

- Learn about the destructive history that has created the modern housing crisis
- Discover how you help enact new policies that proactively create Just Housing
- Commit to action to build power with impacted organizations and neighborhoods

## Purpose

To prepare interested community members to take part in the Just Housing Campaign by educating them on the history and policy, equipping them to place their story in the context of our moral narrative, and inviting them to active roles.

## Outcomes

Participants...

- Understand our Just Housing policy asks in the context of our city's history
- Can share their "WHY" in the context of our moral narrative
- Invited to take action

# JUST HOUSING WORKSHOP



EVERY PERSON SHOULD HAVE A GOOD, SAFE, AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE - NO MATTER WHAT. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE IT SO.

DECEMBER 14, 3:30-5:30PM



FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH  
9120 FERGUSON RD, DALLAS, TX 75228



## Stocking Stuffers for Healing Hands Ministries

Please bring small toys and candy to fill stockings for the children and teenagers who visit the clinic at Healing Hands Ministries. Bring items through the second week in December, then come join us Saturday December 14, when we will fill the stockings at the Women of the Church meeting from 10:00-12:30.

Suggestions: small plush animals, fuzzy socks, small Christmas toys, card games, bubbles, ear buds (for teens), small holiday coloring books, Christmas candy, etc.

Bring Finger Foods – brunch or dessert – to snack on as we stuff stockings at the December 14 meeting.

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# Coming Events

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- Sunday December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Green**  
8:30 am Deacons Meeting — Portable 1  
9:30 am Donuts, Coffee/Juice — Box Gallery  
9:45 am Christian Education — Christian Education Classrooms & Portable 1  
10:55 am Morning Worship — Sanctuary  
12:15 pm Second Sunday Youth Lunch — (Meet in the Library following worship)  
7:00 pm Verdigris Concert – ‘Twas The Night Before Christmas — Sanctuary
- Tuesday December 10**  
6:00 pm Personnel Committee — Library
- Wednesday December 11**  
3:30 pm Holy Rollers Mission Project — Room 202  
5:30 pm Midweek Family Dinner – Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Salad, Bread, Cheesecake — Vickrey Hall  
6:00 pm Youth Activities/Study Hall — Youth Basement  
6:15 pm Children’s Activities — Children’s Building  
6:15 pm Midweek Service – Bible Study with Mike Gregg — Vickrey Hall  
    Luke 10:1-42, The Mission of the Seventy-Two and The Good Samaritan  
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
- Friday December 13**  
6:00 pm Youth Christmas Party — Youth Basement (6:00 – 9:00 pm)  
6:00 pm Parents of Children & Youth Christmas Party — Vickrey Hall (6:00 – 9:00 pm, childcare provided)
- Saturday December 14**  
10:00 am Women of the Church – Stuffing Christmas Stockings for Healing Hands — Vickrey Hall (10:00 am – 12:30 pm)
- Sunday December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent / Choir Music Sunday**  
9:30 am Donuts, Coffee/Juice — Box Gallery  
9:45 am Christian Education — Christian Education Classrooms & Portable 1  
10:55 am Morning Worship — Sanctuary
- Wednesday December 18 – Mosaic**  
3:30 pm Holy Rollers Mission Project — Room 202  
5:00 pm Fine Arts Committee — Room 206  
5:30 pm Midweek Family Dinner – Chicken Noodle Soup, Salad, Bread, Brownies — Vickrey Hall  
6:00 pm Mourning Light Service & Food Offering for NDSM — Holy Communion offered — Vickrey Hall  
6:00 pm Youth Activities/Study Hall — Youth Basement  
6:15 pm Children’s Activities — Children’s Building  
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

*The deadline for the order of service, the Midweek, and the Mosaic is Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. prior to publication.*

“Like” RLBC on Facebook or “Follow” RLBC on Twitter

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## Staff Love Gift

During this Giving time of year let’s not forget those who give so much to us all year. Our church staff willingly and lovingly provide many services for us throughout the year. As in the past, if you’d like to express your personal appreciation, please place your check in the offering plate today, Sunday, December 8. Be sure your contribution is clearly marked “Staff Love Gift.” You may also go online and donate under “Staff Love Offering” at [onrealm.org/RoyalLane/Give](http://onrealm.org/RoyalLane/Give)

*Paulette Harrison, Deacon Chair*



## *The Work of Christmas Calls Us*

*The work of Christmas calls us, to recommit our heart  
to find the lost among us: all those who feel apart;  
to heal all broken creatures, in body, mind or soul;  
this candle draws us closer to hope that makes us whole.*

*The work of Christmas calls us to grow in heart and mind;  
to feed the hungry masses, to poverty resigned;  
to free the captive pris'ner, unjustly stripped of rights;  
these candles light our pathways, in peace, through  
darkened nights.*

*The work of Christmas calls us to suffer with the least,  
with love, to teach the nations, 'til all come to the feast;  
'til systems of unfairness give way to equity,  
by candlelight, we struggle to set all people free.*

*The work of Christmas calls us more deeply into prayer,  
that Christ, who walks among us, be made known  
ev'rywhere;  
a sense of joy surrounds us, expressed through Mary's song;  
these candles yet illumine the day awaited long.*

*The work of Christmas calls us upon this Holy Night  
to love all those excluded, and bring them to your Light;  
in deeds of love and mercy, make music in the heart;  
for in a lowly manger, God brings a brand new start!*

*The work of Christmas calls us to tasks which never end,  
to reconciliation, injustices to mend;  
when Beth'lem's star is absent, and kings and princes gone,  
and shepherds back to herding, The work of Christ goes on.*

Text: Michael G. Dell, for Royal Lane Baptist Church, Dallas, TX,  
Advent 2019

Music: RUTHERFORD, Chrétien Urhan (1834)

## **Mourning Light Service & Food Offering**

**December 18, 6:00 p.m. – Vickrey Hall.**

We will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a meal of soup and bread. A service of healing and wholeness for those who mourn during the Advent and Christmas seasons will be held at 6:00 p.m. We will receive communion as a part of this service. **Bring a gift of canned goods or nonperishable food to bring forward at communion to support North Dallas Shared Ministries.** (childcare provided)

NDSM Needs: Chili, Soup, Pasta, Canned Pasta sauce. (NDSM cannot accept glass containers.)

Artwork – 2019 Blue Christmas, John Stuart, used by permission



*Welcome*

**to new members**

Sarah & Greg King joined Royal Lane on November 24, 2019. Pictured with their children, Graham and Cilla.

## Deacons of the Week

### December 8

Paulette Harrison  
Sarah Fuller Phillips

### December 15

Jeff Hammett  
Blake Miller

## Midweek Service

### Wednesday in Vickrey Hall

**6:15 pm, December 11**

Bible Study with Mike Gregg

Luke 10:1-42

**6:00 pm, December 18**

Mourning Light &  
Food Offering for NDSM  
Holy Communion offered

Join us for a Fellowship Meal  
at 5:30 pm.

In the Box Gallery

**Randy Box &  
Debi Wooten**

Gallery open by appointment  
10-4, weekdays, 10-5 Wednesdays

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

### December 8

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Romans 15:4-13

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19  
Matthew 3:1-12

### December 15

Isaiah 35:1-10  
James 5:7-10

Luke 1:47-55  
Matthew 11:2-11

## Midweek Menu

*Wednesday, December 11*

Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Bread,  
Salad, Cheesecake

*Wednesday, December 18*

Chicken Noodle Soup, Salad, Bread,  
Brownies

### Midweek Meal Prices

Adults - \$7 per person  
Families - \$15 per family  
Seniors - \$5 per person

Menus are available on the  
RLBC website calendar.

## Happy Birthday!

### December

Connie Bechtol.....	4
Steven Gonzalez.....	4
Jonah Hammett.....	4
Derrick Ragsdale.....	4
DeeDee Young.....	4
Mike Keith.....	5
Charlotte Sewell.....	5
Brodie Keller.....	6
Tim Schaefer.....	8
Sean Berrier.....	13
Gillian Simeon.....	13
Linda Binder.....	14
Kevin Hall.....	15
Janet Schultz.....	15
Jordan Simmons.....	16
Kate Thompson.....	16
Chris Cechan.....	17
Clint Cechan.....	17



## Royal Lane Baptist Church

6707 Royal Lane  
Dallas, Texas 75230-4145

# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

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*Diverse People United in Christ*

**The Mosaic is published twice a month**

**Office Hours:**

**Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Wednesday Midweek: 6:15 pm**

**Sunday School: 9:45 am**

**Sunday Worship: 10:55 am**

**Royal Lane Baptist Church  
6707 Royal Lane  
Dallas, TX 75230-4145**

**Office: [214] 361-2809**

**Fax: [214] 361-2988**

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

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Rosa Barrientos, Housekeeping  
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