



ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

November 21, 2018

The Mosaic

Volume 32, Issue 22

Holding the Cross

I recently purchased fifty small wooden crosses. They sit in a basket in my office, waiting to be given to folks who need something to grasp when going through struggles or trials. According to Sacred Ordinary Days, the liturgical company that aids in Christian spiritual formation, each cross is unique and beautifully crafted from olivewood from Bethlehem. The craftsmen making the crosses receive a fair price to support their families.



Over the past several weeks, I have given holding crosses to Sandra and Scott Tilden to clasp as they planned and participated in their mother's memorial service. Ruth May received a cross as we prayed for her upcoming surgery. I have a cross in my desk that I hold when I say my prayers and call each of your names. Sometimes we need a tangible symbol of God's love for us as we approach difficult moments in our lives or move closer to the divine in prayer. Holding a cross can be a comfort during prayer, a helpful companion as we read the Bible, and a reminder of God's presence as we examine our lives at the end of each day.

I think, most of all, as we head into a time of giving thanks and joyful adoration of a newborn Christ, we can hold the cross and also be grateful. As we studied the Gospel of Mark in worship on Sundays and in my Wednesday evening Bible studies, we saw Christ walk willingly into suffering and pain in order to make known God's love for us. In essence, Jesus was held to the cross by love, not by nails. And Jesus remained on the cross, allowing crucifixion to destroy his body, because throughout his ministry he asked his followers to carry their crosses, not come down from them.

And, with a holding cross, we too can carry Jesus' love. We can carry Jesus' power over suffering and pain in our pockets, holding the cross in our hands and rubbing them with our fingers and palms when we feel anxious, alone, abandoned, or sad. Or, we might strive to be more grateful, to hold the cross and be grateful for friends and family, grateful for a loving church and a warm home, grateful for breath in our lungs and sunlight in our eyes, grateful that as we move through Thanksgiving and into the Advent season that God came to earth because of divine and infinite love. Indeed, holding the cross can lead to gratefulness.

Diana Butler Bass, in her new book *Grateful*, quotes Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel when talking about gratefulness in suffering. She clarifies that Elie Wiesel is not thankful for the Holocaust. But at the same time, he talks of how, when they were in the camps, it was the people who could wake up in the morning and see the sunshine and say, "Thank God I'm alive one more day" or, "Look at how lovely that cloud is," they were the ones who could carry on through the suffering. It was those people who could see through the evil and find that there were moments of grace or the presence of wonder or tokens of love even in the midst of the most horrible of situations. Bass emphasizes that we should never be grateful for suffering, but the truth is we can be grateful *through* suffering, and that little prepositional switch – that's where the empowerment comes.

As we head into Thanksgiving and a season of gratefulness, you might need to visit my office, pick out a pocket cross, and join with me as we seek to be grateful, even in the midst of great suffering, holding Jesus' love close to our hands and hearts. I look forward to us holding our crosses together.

Pastor Mike

The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for December 6 & 19, 2018.

Coming Events

Sunday November 25 – Reign of Christ Sunday (Poinsettia Requests Due)

- 9:30 am Donuts, Coffee/Juice — Family Hall
- 9:45 am Christian Education — Christian Education Classrooms & Portable 1
- 10:55 am Morning Worship — Sanctuary

Tuesday November 27

- 6:30 pm Social Justice — Library

Wednesday November 28

- 3:30 pm Holy Rollers Mission Project — Room 202
- 5:30 pm Family Supper — Family Hall
White Chicken Chili, Salad, Bread, Chocolate Cake
- 6:00 pm Eventful Advent — Family Hall
- 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Sunday December 2 – First Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Green

- 9:00 am Equity in Access — Library
- 9:30 am Donuts, Coffee/Juice — Family Hall
- 9:45 am Christian Education — Christian Education Classrooms & Portable 1
- 10:55 am Morning Worship — Sanctuary
- 12:15 pm Education Committee — Room 206

Tuesday December 4

- 6:30 pm Missions Committee — Room 202

Wednesday December 5 – Mosaic

- 3:30 pm Holy Rollers Mission Project — Room 202
- 5:30 pm Family Supper — Family Hall
Eggplant Parmesan, Salad, Garlic Bread and Noah's Pudding
- 6:00 pm Youth Activities/Study Hall — Youth Basement
- 6:15 pm Children's Choir/Missions — Children's Building
- 6:15 pm Midweek Service — Family Hall
Advent Study with Mike Gregg & Noah's Pudding with our friends from Dallas Institute Dallas
- 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



**Come and share Noah's Pudding Wednesday evening, December 5, 2018,
with our friends from the Dialogue Institute Dallas.**





Missions Matters

Royal Lane has a long history of answering God's call to love through service. "Missions Matters" will appear in the Mosaic on a regular basis. It will highlight our continuing commitment to missions and other matters where we reach out to the community. This will be a place where we will tell our stories and perhaps help you find what "matters" most to you.

Contact Karen Miller if you have a story to share!



The Gathering

Each quarter, our congregation will focus on a few foods to donate to North Dallas Shared Ministries. As always, any food and clothing donations will be appreciated, but we will try to bring more of these needed items. **NDSM cannot accept donations in glass containers.**

We would also like to provide bags for the families to use as they take their clothing and shoes home. NDSM is asking for department store bags (paper or plastic), preferably with handles. They will also take any reusable shopping bags. You can drop off food and bags in the Plastic NDSM bins in the Sunday school rooms, by the desk in Family Hall, and in the narthex of the Sanctuary.

October – December

Chili, Soup, Pasta, Canned pasta sauce.

We will be accepting food items as the "White Gift" at the Mourning Light service, Wednesday evening, December 19, 2018.

The tradition of White Gift has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today's white gift services in many churches across several denominations. The story is told that a minister's wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday school Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others.

Welcome

*to Pam & Mike Keith who
joined RLBC on
November 11, 2018.*



Stewardship Update

We invite you to join your RLBC Family in celebrating the ministries of this church with generosity and love. As of Monday, November 19, we have received 98 pledges for a total of \$570,225 toward the 2019 operating budget. Our goal is \$700,000 to continue to support all the ministries of Royal Lane. Please consider increasing your pledge, making a pledge, or giving a one-time gift to help us reach our goal. You may place your pledge card in the offering plate or email Janet Schultz.

Prayer Requests:

Kay Edmondson, friend of **Cathy Webb**

Jo & Bill Ferguson

Robbye Foster's brother, **Robert**

Barney Gilbreath, friend of **Karen Miller**

Heather Graves, niece of **Daryl Willey's** cousin,

Byron Willey

David Hayes, father of **Reann Tiemann**

Family & Friends of Kurt Kaiser, composer, on his death

Marilyn Lanfear, mother of **Theresa Helms**

Lauren Madeley, friend of **Brett Washburn**

Ruth May

Forrest McKinney

Jill Mullinax, daughter of **Jack & Judy Mullinax**

Kathy Peck, mother of **Tonya Dotson**

Gary Raiza, son, **Joan Wright**, sister of **Maebelle Raiza**

Payton Rempert, nephew of **Ken Rempert**

George Ricks, friend of **Karen Miller**

Liz Rowan, (daughter of **Jo & Bill Ferguson**) and **Matt**

Rowan, husband of **Liz Rowan**

Sandra Tilden, daughter of **Dorothy Tilden**

Ray & Sharon Vickrey

Garry Walker, cousin of **Melissa Walker-Luckett**, his father, **Milburn Walker**, and brother, **Mike Walker**

Jordan Weilage

John Wolf, Garland Pipe Organ

Please continue to pray for:

Jackie Arnold, sister of **Cathy Webb**; **Lyn & Gordon**

Brown; **Jerome Collins**, friend of **Mike Hurder**; **Doug**

Leinneweber; **Minnie Macias**, mother of **Rodney**

Macias; **Barbara Mandeville**, sister of **Sandy**

Washington;

William "Oz" Osborne; **Robert Putman**; **Emelda**

Schultz, mother of **Laurence Schultz**; **Ron Sumter**, father

of **Steve Sumter**; **Ray Thompson**, father of **Dan**

Thompson; **Melissa Yale**, friend of **Ruth May**

Remember the homebound: **Norman Morris**; **Betty Renfroe**; **Libba Studdard**; **James C. Walker**

Remembering Kurt...

Kurt Kaiser died on November 12; bringing to an end a life well-lived that touched millions of people around the world for generations, and leaving a legacy of music that will live forever.

When we moved to Waco in 1969, where I attended Baylor Law School, Bettie and I joined Seventh and James Baptist Church, just off the Baylor campus. I became a member of the Men's Sunday School Class which, at that time, was taught by Ray Vickrey. Members of the class included Kurt Kaiser, Jarrell McCracken (founder of Word Music), Charlie Brown (Music Editor at Word), Wayne Philpott and Tom Norfleet (both executives at Word) and Charlie Jaynes (Jan Quesada's father), as well as a number of Baylor religion professors. Approximately a year later, David Matthews became our pastor.

We all became good friends and it proved to be the kind of friendships that bonded in a deep and lasting way. That was certainly the case with Kurt Kaiser. Kurt was a "star" and was well-established, and continuing to ascend, in the music industry as a composer, arranger, producer and performer. But, in the context of our "church family" and Ray Vickrey's Sunday School Class, Kurt "was one of us." What bonded one with Kurt was not the fame and success of his career. It was not the awards and notoriety that distinguished him in the profession in which he excelled. What drew you to Kurt was his goodness of heart, his

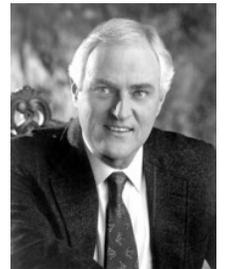
genuineness as a human being, his kindness and caring for others, and his generosity of spirit.

On any given Friday night, a bunch of us would pile into two cars and drive to Belton for dinner at our favorite Chinese restaurant. On any Wednesday night, Kurt might show up at choir practice and play the piano for rehearsal. Pat, Kurt's wife, once told me that Bruce Seldine, who produced most of Michael Jackson's recordings, once told her that Kurt was THE BEST pianist he had ever heard. Yet, as noted above, in our world Kurt was "one of us" and he enriched our world as much with the person he was as with the talent he shared with all of us. He meant so much to me that we named our son (who grew up here in Royal Lane) after him.

On the morning of the day of Kurt Kaiser's funeral, I attended "Grandparents' Day" at St. Marks with my seven-year old grandson, Mac. I am not the first person to be brought face-to-face with the stark juxtaposition of the conflict of emotions brought about by (1) the overwhelming sadness at the end of the life of someone as meaningful as Kurt Kaiser and (2) the boundless joy of watching my seven-year old grandson perform in the class play at his school on Grandparents' Day. Is that what they call the cycle of life?

My gratitude for both cannot be adequately expressed.

Wayne Meachum



Deacons of the Week

November 25

Blake Vickrey [972] 358-1546

Charlotte Sewell [214] 533-7326

December 2

Paulette Harrison [214] 577-8058

Dennis Turnbull [214] 240-9061

Scriptures of the Week

November 25

2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12

Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

December 2

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

Midweek Service

Wednesday

in Family Hall

6:00 pm, November 28

Eventful Advent

with the Children of RLBC

6:15 pm, December 5

Advent Study &

Noah's Pudding

Mike Gregg & 'Friends from

Dialogue Institute Dallas

Join us for a Fellowship Meal

at 5:30 pm.

Midweek Menu

Wednesday, November 28

*White Chicken Chili, Salad, Bread,
Chocolate Cake*

Wednesday, December 5

*Eggplant Parmesan, Salad, Garlic
Bread and Noah's Pudding*

*Menus are available on the
RLBC website calendar.*

Open "Midweek Family Dinner" for details

In the Box-Hawkins Gallery

Debi Wooten's Wreaths

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

Happy Birthday!

November

Jayda Parrish.....	23
Shirley Bohannon	24
Joey Belgard.....	26
Ed Bright	26
Sheryl Gambill	26
Doug Leineweber	27
Anna Mays	27
Vickey Daniel.....	29
Annaleigh Gregg	30

December

Rosa Belgard	1
Sarah Fuller Phillips	1
Andrew Chastain	2
Ben Helms	3
Connie Bechtol	4
Steven Gonzalez	4
Jonah Hammett.....	4
Derrick Ragsdale	4
DeeDee Young	4

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



Royal Lane Baptist Church

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ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

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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

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Ray Vickrey, Pastor Emeritus
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