



# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Diverse People United in Christ*

---

October 21, 2020

The Mosaic

Volume 34, Issue 20

---

## ***Canoeing the Mountains***

I read a book last year called *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. Rev. Tod Bolsinger reviewed the exploration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and their search for a water route to the Pacific Ocean. But we know from history, while they had prepared to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean, instead they found themselves in the Rocky Mountains. Lewis and Clark and their expedition team were at an insurmountable impasse. Their canoes and their maps would not help them. And so, they had to adapt. They couldn't do what they did best, travel by canoe. They couldn't canoe the mountains.

You see, Lewis and Clark were experts at river rafting and they came face to face with a set of mountains that were bigger than their imagination could fathom. And it's the same for us. We are doing church and staying connected in ways we couldn't have anticipated. Our old ways of doing church seem to be of little use when the barriers of the world seem large and looming. If we're going to scale the mountains of this COVID existence, racial unrest reality, and polarized world, we need to leave behind canoes and find new navigational tools.

It's not going to do us any good to paddle harder. We need to adapt. And the key to adaptation begins with going back to our deepest core values, which, as Royal Lane Baptist Church, is loving God, loving our neighbors, and loving ourselves. These values will carry us as we move through another stewardship season and pledge our tithes for 2021. These values will guide us as we celebrate Reformation Sunday, the day Martin Luther protested the abuses of the Church and demanded a better way. These values will hold us as we remember all of the saints who have gone on to glory during the pandemic including Ed Bright, Jo Ferguson, Ray Vickrey, and Doug Leineweber. These values will give us hope as we notice the star and travel to the manger by a totally different route this year. These values will give us the strength to explore new terrain and do so with certainty. Although Lewis and Clark could have stopped in failure, they chose to move ahead in confidence in order to find a whole new world. It hasn't been easy for Royal Lane Baptist Church these past seven months, but we have traversed this new landscape together through service and in love.

How have we boldly explored uncharted territory? We have helped to relieve loneliness, anxiety, and stress. We've made food runs for families, phone calls to shut-ins, and Zoom check-ins with friends. We've written letters and sent emails. We've prayed for our congregation and shared space with those in need. We've been patient with new ways to worship and learn. We've accomplished benevolence work through Everyone Eats, implemented free COVID testing, provided snacks to Foster Elementary school teachers, and in our newest project, fed the city with 700 sack lunches. We've been proactive in taking a stand with our black siblings. We've found new ways to be the church online in a physically distant reality. And we've all stepped up with our Stewardship campaign so far this year with our time, talents, and treasures so that we can continue to be bound to one another in hope and love.

I know it feels as if we can't do enough to ease the pain in our congregation and our city. It often feels as if the viruses of hurt, hate, and helplessness are spreading. But I believe God is manifesting God's self in new and beautiful ways to powerfully change our world... and we have served, worked, planned, navigated, and explored in order to bring God's beloved community to fruition.

Well done, servants and saints. Well done, explorers!

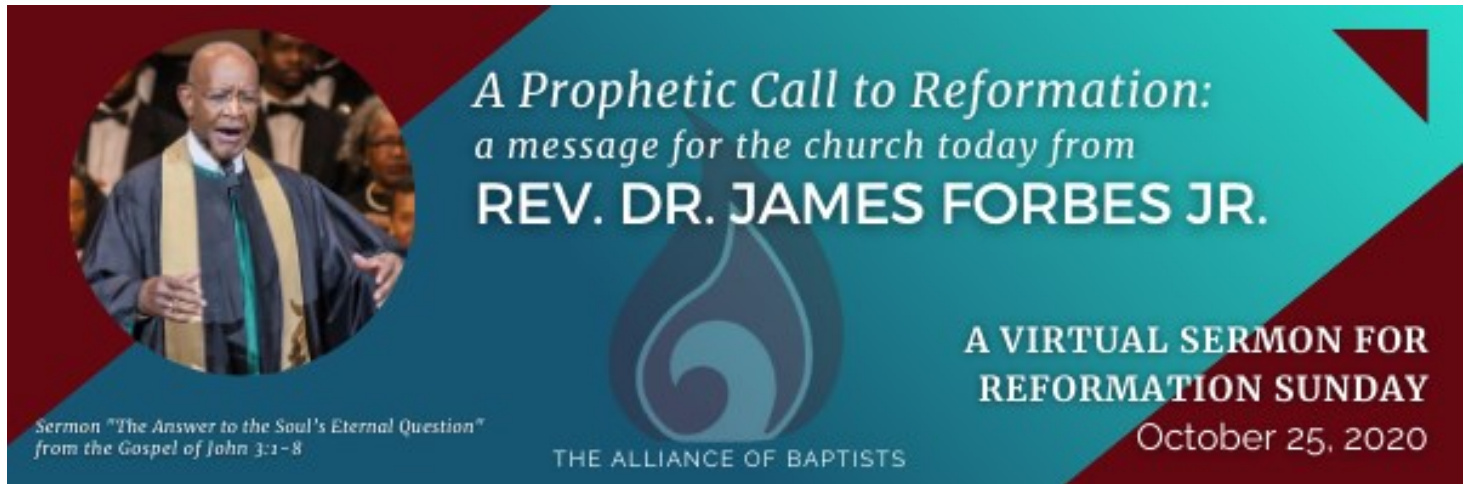
*Pastor Mike*

**Join Us this Sunday!**  
**October 25, 11:00 am – Reformation Sunday**  
**Sermon brought by Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Jr.**  
**Livestream – Royal Lane Baptist YouTube Channel**

**The Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr.,** is National Minister of the Drum Major Institute, Senior Minister Emeritus of The Riverside Church, The Harry Emerson Fosdick Distinguished Professor at Union Theological Seminary, and President of the Healing of the Nations Ministries (all of these institutions of New York City).

Additionally, Dr. Forbes is a highly acclaimed author, scholar and nationally sought-after speaker, affectionately referred to in national and international religious circles as the *preacher's preacher* because of his extensive preaching career and his charismatic style. *Newsweek* magazine once recognized Forbes as one of the 12 “most effective preachers” in the English-speaking world. As a passionate educator, administrator, community and human rights activist and interfaith leader, Dr. Forbes was twice designated as one of America’s greatest Black preachers by *Ebony* magazine.

As Senior Minister of the Riverside Church—an interdenominational, interracial, and international church built by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. in 1927, Dr. Forbes led a 2,400 member church. Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ. Forbes was installed as the fifth senior minister of Riverside on June 1, 1989 and retired on June 1, 2007. He was the first African-American to serve as minister of this multicultural congregation. Dr. Forbes is an ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches.



*A Prophetic Call to Reformation:*  
*a message for the church today from*  
**REV. DR. JAMES FORBES JR.**

**A VIRTUAL SERMON FOR  
REFORMATION SUNDAY**  
October 25, 2020

Sermon "The Answer to the Soul's Eternal Question"  
from the Gospel of John 3:1-8

THE ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS

---

*Sunday, November 1 — 4:00 pm*  
*Royal Lane Baptist YouTube Channel*

*A Service of Worship*  
*in Celebration of the Life*  
*of*  
**Raymond Vickrey**  
*Pastor Emeritus, Royal Lane Baptist Church*

---

# Coming Events

---

<b>Friday</b>	<b>October 23</b>
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>October 24</b>
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>October 25 – Reformation Sunday / Deacon Ordination</b>
9:45 am	Foundation Stones — Zoom
10:00 am	4-6 Year Old Sunday School — Zoom
10:00 am	Women's Share & Prayer — Zoom
11:00 am	Morning Worship – Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. James Forbes Jr.— Royal Lane Baptist YouTube Channel Deacon Ordination – Christin Lavery and Donna Wood-Martin
3:00 pm	1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
4:00 pm	Formations Class — Zoom
4:00 pm	Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat — Church Grounds (4:00 – 5:00 pm)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>October 27</b>
9:00 am	Red Cross Blood Drive — Vickrey Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>October 28</b>
6:30 pm	Midweek Bible Study with Mike Gregg — Zoom Luke 23:1-25, Jesus before Pilate and Herod
7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Zoom
<b>Friday</b>	<b>October 30</b>
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>October 31</b>
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>November 1 – All Saints Sunday / Daylight Savings Ends</b>
9:45 am	Foundation Stones — Zoom
10:00 am	4-6 Year Old Sunday School — Zoom
10:00 am	Women's Share & Prayer — Zoom
11:00 am	Morning Worship — Royal Lane Baptist YouTube Channel
3:00 pm	1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
4:00 pm	Memorial Service – Rev. Raymond Vickrey, Pastor Emeritus — Royal Lane YouTube Channel
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>November 3 – Election Day</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 4 – Mosaic</b>
6:30 pm	Midweek Bible Study with Mike Gregg — Zoom Luke 23:26-56, Jesus Crucifixion, Death, and Burial
7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Zoom
<b>Friday</b>	<b>November 6</b>
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>November 7</b>
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom

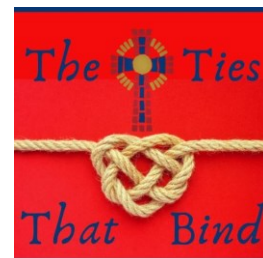
*The deadline for the order of service, the Midweek, and the Mosaic is Monday, 5:00 p.m. prior to publication.*

*"Like" RLBC on Facebook or "Follow" RLBC on Twitter*

---

## Stewardship 2021

Our stewardship theme for this year is "The Ties That Bind". We are bound together by many aspects of our lives even though we cannot be physically together every Wednesday night and Sunday morning. We are grateful for all the ways our ties have not changed due to COVID-19. As a church community we continue to care for the vulnerable and those who struggle with chronic health issues. We reach out to the elderly. We teach our children. We worship virtually. And we help each other in hard times.



## **We Remember our Saints**

### **Tributes to those who have passed away while we have been apart.**

**Edwin “Ed” Benjamin Bright**  
**November 26, 1941 – May 1, 2020**

Early Friday morning on May 1, 2020 Ed took his last breaths at home with his wife, Sheila, by his side. He had been surrounded each day that week by the people he loved the most – his wife, children, and grandchildren. All shared stories and expressed their love and even in his weakened state, he showed his sense of humor and he would often say, “I love you, hon.”

Ed was born on November 26, 1941 in Waco, TX, but lived his formative years in Lubbock, TX where he graduated from Monterrey HS and Texas Tech University with a degree in Animal Science. Four years of College ROTC provided him a pathway into the U.S. Army as an officer. Following a 30-year career in the Texas Army National Guard, he retired as Lieutenant Colonel in 1994.

In 1966, his career as a County Extension Agent – Texas A&M University began with 2 years in Navarro County and an additional 35 years in Dallas County. This was the longest any County Extension Agent served Dallas County. Ed was head of 4-H in Dallas County, which involved organizing new clubs, training volunteer leaders and working with youth in all aspects of 4-H. As a result of his work, he was recognized in the following ways: Distinguished Service Award – National Agricultural Agents Association, Distinguished Service Award – National 4-H Agents Association and Search for Excellence Award – Texas A&M University. He was Founder and First President of the Texas 4-H Agents Association and upon retirement in 2003, Ed was granted Emeritus status from Texas A&M. In addition to his work, Ed acquired his Masters Degree in Education from A&M.

Volunteering was important to Ed and that continued in retirement. In 1996, he organized, helped incorporate, and served as president for 10 years of NPNA, a voluntary neighborhood organization serving 1189 households. Crime watch and prevention was a strong interest and he was currently serving as Vice President – Crime Watch. With this job came the opportunity to meet some of the city’s finest police officers from the NW Division of the Dallas PD. Along with three others, he founded District 13 Crime Watch, which includes crime watch representatives from most neighborhoods in the NW Police Division. The group supports and assists the police department, as well as District 13 City Council Representative. He was a community representative to a management council for the neighborhood elementary school, member of various committees at church, and was appointed to the city’s Red Light Commission and Dallas County’s Trail and Preserve Program (TAPP) Board. TAPP studied and planned the jogging/walking/biking trails that are being enjoyed in NPNA and other areas of the county today.

Ed was preceded in death by his first wife of 21 years, Paula George Bright; parents Olly and Jean Rhea Street Bright; brothers-in-law Jim White and John George; and nephew Donnie White.

He is survived by the following: His wife of 29 years, Sheila George Bright, along with 3 special daughters and spouses – Laurie and Jeff Page, Lisa and Mike Gill, and Leslie and Forrest McKinney. His grandchildren were the highlight of his life and include granddaughters Carson Gill, Sophie and Violette McKinney, and grandson Michael Page. Also included are his sweet sister and spouse, Harry and Barbara Bright Hopton; his two sisters-in-law, Conde George White and Jaye Cunningham George; nephews Scott and Rusty George, Stephen Hopton and nieces Kelley Hopton Mansfield, Wendie White Woodward and Jennie George Strozier; 12 great nieces and nephews and 2 great great nephews and a great great niece. Family was very special to him.

Other things Ed liked were his friends, our ranch, homemade ice cream, sports, helping others, old country music, talk radio, guns and antique duck decoys and their history, spearmint gum, hot sauce, old western shows, history, Thanksgiving, funny sayings of which he had many, his denim shorts year round, homemade vegetable beef soup, hunting, fishing and life in general!





**Mary Josephine “Jo” Smith Ferguson**  
**December 26, 1943 – August 14, 2020**



From the year 1943 when she was born a Christmas baby near her parents' farm in southeast Missouri, until August of 2020 when she died, Jo Ferguson brought her not-so-secret weapon — a megawatt smile— into most of the rooms she entered.

A dynamic, shooting star of a woman, Jo was funny, insightful and beloved. She carried her own joy and sense of justice, wonder, chaos and beauty in ways that were hard not to notice. She loved any excuse to wear a hat or a costume. Complex, vibrant and sensitive Jo Ferguson was a woman whose creativity and compassion could be endearing and stunning, even to strangers.

Born to James and Myrtis Smith as the younger sister of Billy Lane Smith, Josephine became many things during her 76 years. She was the proud older sister of Melanie Glynn Smith (Uribe) as well as a Lilbourn High School drum majorette, a saxophone player and a beauty queen. After graduating from Baylor University, Jo became a dynamic wife who loved to dance with her football captain and Naval officer sweetheart. They worked together in the early 70s to launch a thriving Town & Country Cleaners business. She soon became a proud and humorous mother who created opportunity for her two daughters, Melanie and Elizabeth, always cheerleading their dreams. As a book group loyalist, a realtor, a substitute teacher and lover of Jungian psychology and the arts, Jo Ferguson's many interests were always informed by the people who gave her hope and laughter, even in troubled times.

She was passionate about Royal Lane Baptist Church where she took on many roles including deacon, choir member, Easter Bunny, Critter Race Director, and where she served as a champion of children, youth, feminist theologians and great preachers for decades. She also initiated the New Wineskins Class in the early 90s given her conviction that the pronouns for God are flexible.

After years of coming to terms with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) she died at home in North Texas surrounded by the love of her husband of 53 years, her daughters, granddaughters and Luna, the dog. She is survived by her husband Bill Ferguson, her daughters Melanie Ferguson and Elizabeth Rowan, her son-in-law Matthew Rowan, her granddaughters Madeleine and Eleanor Rowan, her sister Melanie Smith Uribe, and her many beloved in-laws, cousins, nephews and nieces. She is preceded in death by her parents James and Myrtis Smith, her brother Billy Lane Smith, her nephew Mark Lane Smith and niece Marisa Ana Marie Uribe.

A memorial service will take place in the Fall of 2021 when all who wish to celebrate Jo will be able to travel and congregate more freely and safely. Memorial contributions may be made to Royal Lane Baptist Church Children's Program or Memorial Garden, Cure PSP or The Anita Martinez Ballet Folklorico.

Godspeed, Jo Ferguson. Your friends and family carry on in your memorable wake.

---

**November 1**  
**Daylight Savings Ends**



**Raymond “Ray” Lavelle Vickrey**  
**February 19, 1934 – September 17, 2020**

Dr. Raymond Lavelle Vickrey, 86, of Richardson, died of complications from Alzheimer's disease on September 17.

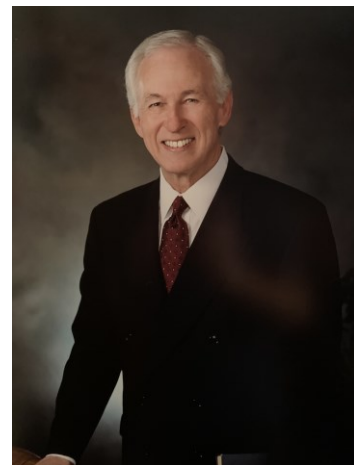
Ray served as senior pastor of Royal Lane Baptist Church in Dallas from 1981-2008 and used his time as pastor to bring people traditionally marginalized in ecclesial settings into the fold of leadership in the church, and to build interfaith friendships to support religious liberty for all. Ray Vickrey was the guy your mother really wanted you to bring home. Kind, charming, humble, well-read, a deep thinker, very funny, open minded and oh so handsome. All Ray's life people gravitated to him and once he entered your life you wanted him there forever. He treasured his family relationships and his friendships were deep and lifelong.

A member of the Baylor Athletic Hall of Fame, Ray was a two-time Southwest Conference champion in the long jump and a member of the university's 440-yard relay team that broke the world record in 1956.

Ray earned a Master of Divinity degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and later a doctorate from the Graduate Foundation of Notre Dame. Ray worked in student ministry at Baylor and was executive director of the Baylor Alumni Association 1971-77. He served as minister of single adults at First Baptist Church Richardson before becoming Royal Lane's senior pastor.

Ray would much rather be remembered by what his friends said about him than something he said in a sermon. His wisdom was authentic and his laughter generous.

He is survived by his wife Sharon, brother Bob Vickrey, children Larry Vickrey, Raelynn (Dan) Olson, Blake Vickrey and Garrett (Cameron) Vickrey; granddaughters Lucinda, Finley, Zetta, & Sloane.



**Douglas “Doug” Leinneweber**  
**November 27, 1939 – October 17, 2020**

Doug Leinneweber, husband of Susie Leinneweber, passed away on the morning of October 17, 2020 due to complications from Alzheimer's. He is a veteran and will be buried at the National Cemetery. Tribute to Doug will be included in a future issue of The Mosaic.



**Royal Lane Baptist Church**  
**Sunday, October 25 ~ 4:00 - 5:00**  
Sponsored by the RLBC Youth and Fellowship Committee

## Deacons of the Week

**October 25**

Garey Wisdom

Blake Miller

**November 1**

Sarah Fuller Phillips

Karen Simmons

## Scriptures of the Week

**October 25**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

**November 1**

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalms 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

## All In-Person Midweek Services

&

## Fellowship Meals Temporarily Suspended

**6:30 p.m. Wednesday**

Bible Study with

Mike Gregg

**October 28**

Luke 23:1-25, Jesus before

Pilate and Herod

**November 4**

Luke 23:26-56,

Jesus' Crucifixion, Death,  
and Burial

## August 2020 Financials

### YTD Actual

Revenues \$522,107

Expenses \$499,852

Surplus (Deficit) \$22,255

**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

Columbarium

The Lowe Scholarship Fund

Other

*Optional Memo Line available.*

## Happy Birthday!

### October

Wynne Anderson.....	21
Barbara Gunnin .....	21
Robert Putman.....	21
Debi Veninga.....	25
Libba Studdard .....	25
Susie Leinneweber .....	26
Carla Gaylor .....	27
Sheila Calhoon .....	29
Fred Binder.....	30
Steve Box, Jr.....	31
Cathy Webb.....	31

### November

Kate Valentine.....	1
Tonya Dotson .....	2
Cheryl Robinson.....	2

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for  
November 4 & 18, 2020.*

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

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



## *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: Open by Appointment**

**Wednesday Midweek: 6:30 pm - Zoom**

**Sunday School: Saturday & Sunday - Zoom**

**Sunday Worship: 11:00 am – Royal Lane YouTube Channel**

**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)**

Rosa Barrientos, Housekeeping

Michael Gregg, Pastor

Laura Keller, Minister to Children

Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant

Tim Schaefer, Minister to Youth

Janet Schultz, Administrative Assistant

Blake Vickrey, Sound Technician

David Weigle, Organist

Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship