



ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

September 21, 2022

The Mosaic

Volume 36, Issue 18

An Interview with Amanda Tyler

Amanda Tyler will be the Guest Preacher this Sunday, September 25. Amanda, the lead organizer of Christians Against Christian Nationalism and the leader of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, recently spoke with Texas Standard.

Texas Standard: How do you define Christian nationalism?

Amanda Tyler: I define Christian nationalism as a political ideology and cultural framework that tries to merge our identities as Americans and Christians. So Christian nationalism suggests that to be a “true American,” one must be Christian – and truth be told, a certain kind of Christian that espouses certain positions on moral issues and in politics.

This is a topic that seems to sort of come back in waves – was America founded as a Christian nation? As a Christian yourself, how did you come to think about this quite a lot?

I lead a Baptist faith-based organization that fights for religious freedom for all people. And you’re right that we’ve seen a recurrent narrative of the mythology of a Christian nation. And when people talk about America as a Christian nation, they normally do not mean that in a demographic sense, as a majority Christian nation, but rather from a historical position, that the country was founded by Christians in order to privilege Christianity, and that Christian values, or sometimes Judeo-Christian values, are woven into the fabric of our founding documents. And this story – this mythology – goes against the very text of the Constitution, a constitution that mentions religion exactly once, and that is to prohibit religious tests for public office.

In Texas recently, we’ve been following the back-and-forth over a new law that requires public schools to prominently display “In God We Trust” signs if they’re donated. What’s your perspective on this issue?

Well, I think this is an example of Christian nationalism being put right into our public schools. And it’s concerning because it is targeted at our most impressionable neighbors: children in public schools. This is a recent law that passed in Texas, but it’s part of a multiyear effort from something called Project Blitz, a project of the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation that’s promoted bills exactly of this kind from their model legislation playbook. And why this is so problematic is because it sends this message that to fully belong in our society and in our public schools, that one must have a certain religious perspective.

Do you see this as especially critical right now, or is this just part of the ongoing back-and-forth over the role religion should have in American life?

Christian nationalism has been a pervasive and persistent ideology in American history. But over the past several years, I think we have seen a building up of Christian nationalism in ways that are increasingly violent, but also in threats to American democracy itself, as we saw on Jan. 6 at the Capitol and how Christian nationalism intensified the effect there. So I do believe that this is a particularly critical time for those of us, Christians or not, who are alarmed about Christian nationalism to get more information and to speak up for their neighbors.

(continued)

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for October 5 & 19, 2022.
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

And those are some of the reasons that the people that I work with at Baptist Joint Committee, working with our ecumenical neighbors, set up something called Christians Against Christian Nationalism three years ago. And that's a place where people can get a lot of information about exactly what Christian nationalism is and how to stand with their neighbors in their communities against it.

There are a lot of people who hold pretty strong opinions about Christianity and its role in American life that don't necessarily go all the way to what you've defined as Christian nationalism. What do you tell them when they see what you do as undermining some of their own values?

Well, I would hope that they would understand, first of all, the difference between Christian nationalism and Christianity. That is part of the core of our Christians Against Christian Nationalism work: to understand that Christian nationalism as an ideology not only threatens American democracy and religious freedom for everyone, I think most acutely for our neighbors who practice different faiths and those who choose not to practice a faith, but it also threatens our faithful walk as Christians. And that's because Christian nationalism can very quickly lead to idolatry when it causes us to confuse our allegiances to country and our allegiances to God. If we don't stand up and say something, then we are accommodating it to a certain degree, and that only allows it to take deeper roots and to proliferate even more in our communities.

IT'S TIME FOR CARE GROUPS

Fellow Members of Royal Lane:

As most of you know, Care Groups have been an important part of Royal Lane Baptist Church for decades – having been interrupted by the pandemic as well as suffering the deaths of a number of the leaders of individual groups. The Care Group experience is one of the most fulfilling experiences of fellowship and service in the Royal Lane membership.

A Care Group is made up of any number of members – usually 8 to 10 – chosen by the members themselves. A Care Group membership might be determined by geographic proximity, personal friendships or any other criteria decided upon by the members of the group. The group usually meets each month in the home of a member, in a restaurant or any other location decided upon by the group. Many groups meet for lunch in the home of a member after the church service on Sunday.

Such meetings with small groups of the membership of Royal Lane is a rich environment in which the members can get to know each other in a meaningful way, develop close and caring relationships, share each other's joys and concerns and as needed, minister to each other in the way Christ taught.

The Fellowship Committee strongly supports the reinstitution of Care Groups in the life of Royal Lane and stands prepared to assist any members who would like to form such a group and embark upon experiencing the blessings of a Care Group.

For additional information or for assistance in forming or reinstituting a Care Group, please contact Wayne Meachum (469-939-9404) or Sheryl Gambill (214-732-6435).

*Wayne Meachum, Chair
Fellowship Committee*

Pumpkin Patch 2022

The Pumpkins Are Coming October 1st at 9:00am!

Please join us in volunteering at the RLBC Pumpkin Patch. We have many volunteer opportunities for all ages and abilities. Volunteering at the Pumpkin Patch is a wonderful way to get to know fellow members, interact with our beloved community, and



help raise money which funds programming and the various missions and ministries at RLBC. Please point to the QR Code or enter the bit.ly code below to take you to the Sign-Up Genius to choose your volunteer times. We appreciate you!



<https://bit.ly/3d0MBaD>

Coming Events

Sunday	September 25 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:45 am	Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am	Children's Christian Education — Vickrey Hall
10:00 am	Congregational Affiliation Committee — Library
10:00 am	Youth SS Class — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
10:10 am	Non-Traditional Class — Room 212
10:55 am	Morning Worship, Amanda Tyler, Guest Preacher — Sanctuary or Royal Lane YouTube Channel
12:15 pm	Safety Sub-Committee — Vickrey Hall
12:30 pm	Lunch Bunch — Prego Pasta House, 4930 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75206
2:00 pm	Trio de Bois, Chamber Music Concert — Sanctuary (Admission by Donation)
Tuesday	September 27
7:00 pm	Pastor Search Committee
Wednesday	September 28
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Youth Portable (Portable 1) (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall
6:15 pm	Midweek Study with Dean Dickens — Vickrey Hall & Zoom
7:00 pm	Youth Gathering — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
Saturday	October 1
9:00 am	Pumpkin Delivery and Opening of Pumpkin Patch
10:00 am	WOC Fall Retreat — Spring Grove Farm (10:00 am – 3:00 pm)
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
Sunday	October 2 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost / World Communion Sunday
9:45 am	Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am	Children's Christian Education — Vickrey Hall
10:00 am	Youth SS Class — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
10:10 am	Non-Traditional Class — Room 212
10:55 am	Morning Worship, Chelsea Turpen, Guest Preacher — Sanctuary or Royal Lane YouTube Channel
12:15 pm	First Sunday Youth Lunch and Parent Meeting — Youth Portable
12:15 pm	Missions Division — Library
7:30 pm	Education Division — Zoom
Tuesday	October 4
7:00 pm	Pastor Search Committee
Wednesday	October 5 – Mosaic
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Youth Portable (Portable 1) (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall
6:15 pm	Midweek Study with Dean Dickens — Vickrey Hall & Zoom
7:00 pm	Youth Gathering — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

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 In-Person, Livestream, Virtual or Zoom events — royallane.org/resources/events
Group hosts and leaders will provide links for events with no published link.

Hope Supply – Saturday, September 17

We had a wonderful experience at Hope Supply on Saturday morning. We had 24 Royal Lane volunteers come to Hope Supply to help repackage diapers which are given to North Texas families experiencing homelessness. Our group repackaged 8,250 diapers for the most vulnerable in our Beloved Community. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and service. Thank you to all who were able to come!



Thank you, Ms. Sarah!

Sarah Plunk graciously served our children and their families this summer as the Interim Children's Minister. While Sarah has stepped down from this role, we are very grateful for the love and dedication she gave during this time of transition. Would you join us in embracing Sarah with notes of appreciation, of love, and of encouragement? Colorful cardstock will be provided and can be dropped in the offering plate or at the back of the sanctuary.



WOC Fall Retreat News

For all who are attending the WOC fall retreat on October 1st.

Please meet in the church parking lot at 8am if you are interested in carpooling

Bring along a folding chair, and dress in comfy clothes and shoes. We will be outside for part of the day, so come prepared to enjoy this gorgeous natural setting.

Drop Your Pants Update

Thanks to all of you who have brought your donations, we have taken our second load of men's pants and jeans to Cornerstone Baptist Church. If you have men's pants or jeans to donate, please drop them in the baskets in the Narthex or Vickrey Hall through the end of September.

Deacons of the Week

September 25

Alan Greider

Sandy Washington

October 2

Sarah Fuller Phillips

Barrett Wooten

Scriptures of the Week

September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31

October 2

Lamentations 1:1-6 Psalm 137
2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10

Midweek Program 6:00 p.m. Wednesday in Vickrey Hall

September 28 & October 5

Midweek Talks with

Dean Dickens

"Paul and Barny:
What Do We Do Now?"

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

Announcements, Birthday Celebrations
and Prayer Concerns at 6:00 pm.



July 2022 Financials

YTD Actual

Revenues*	\$436,062
Expenses	\$456,290
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$ 20,228)

*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/

Giving menu includes:

General Fund

The Lowe Scholarship Fund

Columbarium

2022 October Women's Retreat

Happy Birthday!

September

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

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

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

Christian Education: Saturday & Sunday

Sunday Worship: 10:55 am

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Barret Wooten, Interim Minister to Youth
Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship