

# The Campanile

## FROM RALPH TAMPER

### REJOICE! A CHILD IS BORN

During the Advent and Christmas season each year, Christians around the world stop to reflect on God's greatest gift to his children., the sending of His Son to show us what human life can and ought to be. The sending of His Light into the world has inspired poets, musicians, and dancers throughout the ages. **On December 17 at the 11:00 am worship service**, our Chancel Choir will present Tom Fettke's, THE FIRST LIGHT.

Please plan to come celebrate anew the giving of God's greatest gift to us. Join in our service of great rejoicing and inspiration as the Christmas Story is told again. Let the celebration begin with your presence and your prayers.

### BABIES IN HOUSTON SHOULD NOT BE HUNGRY

We live in one of the wealthiest, most vibrant cities in the world and yet every day there are babies who suffer the pain of hunger and who go to sleep without enough to eat. Our food pantries receive very little in the way of baby food and supplies needed for infant survival. **On Sunday, Dec. 17, the members of the Chancel Choir invite you to bring items of baby food and supplies to the 11:00 worship.** Present the gifts as you enter the sanctuary by placing them in the manger that will be located in the chancel. The collected items will be taken to Braes Interfaith Ministries on Monday for the hungry babies of Houston.

Between now and then, SHOP TIL YOU DROP in the baby food isle of your favorite grocery store.

Jesus came as a baby to that manger in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. Every great figure in history entered the world as a baby. The next great person to change the world has come or will come as a baby. Let's make certain that we do our little part to make certain that as many as possible are able to go to sleep with a full tummy.

### THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE

For the second time in my professional ministry, I have had the privilege to serve in this place. As I wrap up my work as your Interim Minister of Music on December 17, I want to thank each of the musicians, the pastor, you, and God for that privilege. I also want to ask each of you to pray for Glenn Foster as he begins his ministry with you. Sing, pray, walk, and worship as God directs. AS commanded in Hymn #702, Sing with All the Saints in Glory. Let your daily prayer time include that great petition found as Hymn #430, O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee.

Blessings, love, and peace to each of you.

*Ralph Tamper*

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### Join Us for Sunday Worship

8:45 AM  
Praise & Celebration Service

9:45 AM  
Sunday School for all

11:00 AM  
Traditional Worship

## Words from the Pastor



This past Sunday, in between worship in the morning and the Hanging of the Greens that afternoon, I attended a block party in my neighborhood. It was such a busy day at church, I was going to skip it, but I am so glad I did not. I

was a little embarrassed to have lived at the parsonage for 1-1/2 years and only know two of the neighbors by name -until I met someone who had lived in the neighborhood for ten years and she did not know the family across the street from her.

Unfortunately, this scenario is all too common in our world today. We miss out on the opportunity to know and be known by those around us. At the block party, I found out that the neighbor who has walked by my house every day at 4 p.m. - who always stopped to talk when I was in the yard - is now bedridden. I regret the months that he lay in bed – alone – and I did not even notice he had stopped his daily walks. There were other

concerns and joys that were shared among people I had not known before. Now we have a connection – a connection that has the potential to grow into relationship if we choose to nurture it.

In many ways, life in our churches is no different than life in our neighborhoods. Too often we are too busy to take time to really know each other, to share our stories with each other, to truly be a community of faith. The Christmas season is a time for sending and receiving Christmas cards and letters, for shopping for the perfect gifts, for parties and for church activities. In the midst of our busyness, let us take the time to stop and get to know each other, to share with each other our joys and concerns, to share our lives. The cards and parties, and even church activities will soon be forgotten, but the relationships nurtured, the community established will last forever.

This Christmas, let us be people who offer ourselves in Christian fellowship to each other.

*Lisa Callaway*

## NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!



"Its a bird! Its a plane!, Nope, its just Ben." If I am a bird, it would have to be a penguin, because I don't fly, I am a bit rounded in the mid-section, and I waddle a bit when I try and move too fast. If I am a plane, I would guess a jumbo jet, because I am large and hard to steer in the right direction. But, just like everyone else, I am just me, for better *and* worse. I am thrilled to be here and given the opportunity to work with various departments at St. Philip's. These are the two main areas I will be working with, for now:

**Youth:** A youth is someone who is in the 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade. That is the only requirement. The goal is to make St. Philip's UMC a place for them to come, feel comfortable, escape from the trials of this world, grow in their faith, heal from their wounds, and connect with friends that will be a life-long positive influence. There has been some great work done in this department over the years, and I am looking forward to continuing the run, and adding a bit of my own flavor to the mix.

**Young Adult:** A young adult is someone who is between the ages of 18-35 (not exclusive). This is the age where many people wander off and stop going to church. Why? Because they don't feel connected anymore. The way to solve that is to reach out to them and let them know that there are other people here just like them. I am hoping to start this up, beginning with some fellowship activities, maybe a Sunday School class, and growing it into whatever meets the needs of this group.

There are a lot of wonderful things that are just waiting to happen here, and I am honored to be a part of it, and to serve God in ministry with such wonderful people of the faith.

In Christ,

Ben Hinshaw, Ministries Assistant

## CALENDAR EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 15 SS Fellowship class Christmas Party /6:30 pm FH
- 16 Book Club at 9:30 am in Room 103
- 17 The Other SS Class Christmas Breakfast 9:45 am
- 17 Choral Cantata at 11 am "The First Light"
- 24 Christmas Eve Morning Service at 10:30 am
- 24 Sunday School at 9:15 am
- 24 Christmas Eve Services at 6 pm & 8 pm  
(Communion at both Services)
- 25 Merry Christmas to all! Office closed on 12/26

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### *Miracles Sunday, December 3, 2006*

#### REQUESTED BY

Ava Duncan  
Jolinda Johnson  
Bob & Betty Fritts  
Janet Mott  
Mindy Jones  
Prayer Ministry

#### PRAY FOR

Norma Manning & Dot Cody  
Joseph, friends, & self  
Dorothy Boyd  
Lou Ann Johanning  
Melinda Moses  
Virginia Frazier, Mark Hopperstad

Sympathy expressed to Philip Arismendi in the loss of his grandmother, Dorothy Townsend. *If you have a prayer request you may contact Cheryl Little at 713/728-8947 or*

## **YOUR GENEROUS OFFERING & WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Date	Nov. 26	Dec. 3
<b>Offering*</b>	\$ 38,263.00	\$70,985.24
	<i>*(Includes Miracle Sunday gifts.)</i>	
<b>Attendance</b>		
Sunday School	86	107
8:45 am	54	58
11:00 am Service	107	132

## PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED

On Sunday, Jan. 25, '07 please bring the following items to help Braes Interfaith Ministries minister to needy families.

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Soup (Dry or Canned)
- Crackers



Thank you for your continued generosity!

## **FLOWER CALENDAR OPEN**

The altar flower calendar is open for 2007. To donate flowers you may call the church office. Generally our florist places two vases on the altar each Sunday. The cost is \$22 for one and \$44 for two.

On the date you donate flowers, you may take them from the altar following the 11:00 am worship service.

Check with Dee in the church office for details at 713/666-2175.



## **SUNDAY, DEC. 24**

### **DON'T FORGET!**

- 9:15 am—Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 am—**ONE** Morning Worship Service-



### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Christmas Eve** Services including candlelight and communion at:

- 6:00 pm—Music led by Philip's Joy
- 8:00 pm— Music led by the Chancel Choir



**ST. PHILIP'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Touching Lives...Making Disciples for Christ*

5501 Beechnut Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77096  
Voice: 713/666-2175 \* Fax: 713/666-2349  
E-Mail: staff@spumc.com  
DATED MATERIAL 12/07/06  
DISCOVERY CLUB DAY SCHOOL  
713/666-2761

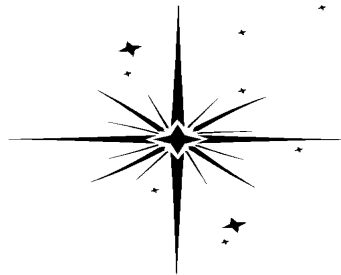
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Church Staff

Lisa Callaway – Senior Pastor  
Glenn Foster—Director of Music Ministries  
Ralph Tamper—Interim Minister of Music  
Ben Hinshaw—Ministries Assistant  
Monica Ferriera – Day School Director  
Dee Ramirez – Church Secretary

*Next Publication date is JAN. 4, '07 the deadline for articles is anytime before noon, Dec. 29, '06.*

***A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!***



*...and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

*Luke 1:31-33*

