

# The Guild

Houston Baptist University

2012 WINTER NEWSLETTER

## Greetings from the PRESIDENT



Goodness, January has flown by and we're already into February, but I cannot resist saying Happy New Year! It makes me think of clean slates and new beginnings. "New" reminds me that there is hope and possibility. As we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior this past Christmas season, I was able to bring away promises that I know will help this new year be a great year. The first is "and they will call him Immanuel" which translated is "God with us." He is with us! All day, every day and in everything we do.

Secondly, *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you ... For nothing will be impossible with God."* God calls us to tasks that sometimes seem impossible, but by the exercise of His power and the realization of His presence nothing is impossible! We're not called and then left on our own. Whatever God asks us to do, He has the power that is necessary to accomplish it. We can't do it, but He can. "Do not be afraid" is as real a reminder to me as it was to Zechariah, Mary, and the shepherds. This is why I chose as one of my anchor verses this year: *"Not by strength or by might, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts.*" (Zechariah 4:6)

I also know that God is in control and nothing is a surprise to Him. As I looked at the Christmas story, I saw how God, from before the foundation of the world, had a plan. The timing in His plan was perfect. Everything worked together so that a baby could be born in Bethlehem. He would be named Jesus *"for He will save His people from their sins."*

And so as we begin this new year, I feel confident that God will use The Guild to bring Him glory. I thank Him for you and for the beautiful events that took place last

year and I look forward to our events which will come this spring. We have much to accomplish and I know that He *"is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us."* (Ephesians 3:20).

Christmas blessings to you in this New Year and Happy Valentine's Day,

Anne Roper

~ SAVE the DATE ~



**SILVER TEA**  
**April 12, 2012**

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Home of Sheryl and Doug Bech,  
123 Point Broad Oak, Houston, Texas.

*Join us as we honor two phenomenal women - Linda Higginbotham and Allene Lucas - and make a difference in the lives of graduate scholars.*



# NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

The New Member Orientation was held September 15 in the Green Room of the Morris Cultural Arts Center on the HBU Campus. Committee chairs Jan Rule and Patti Bailey welcomed our new members while Guild President Anne Roper shared the purpose and mission of our organization. First Lady Sue Sloan and Executive Board members also joined in greeting our new members as they shared details about scheduled future events. Following a brunch prepared by the Membership Committee, guests were given the opportunity to tour the Morris Cultural Arts Center and the museum exhibits housed within.

New Guild members are Monelle Rougeau, Donna Goeser, Mon'Sher Spencer, Margie Ugalde, Heather Davis, Jennifer Sailors, Patti Hatton, Janet Taylor, Catherine Moniaci, Lelah Feeley, Rita Tauer, Vicky Morris, Crystal Rothberg, Blair Belin, Leigh Anne Goodwin, Judge Denise Collins, and Phyllis Pittman.

Many thanks go to our membership committee composed of Peggy Boyd, Sharon Corry, Rita Knowles, Marilyn Mogas, and Suzie Snoddy for preparing a tasty lunch and making the day a special occasion.



*New members Heather Davis, Mon'Sher Spencer, Monelle Rougeau, Donna Goeser*



*Co-chairs Patti Bailey and Jan Rule with Anne Roper*



*Carole Menefee with members Margie Ugalde and Vicky Morris*



## SPRING EVENT

**"An Evening Backstage"**

**March 22, 2012**

**6:30 p.m.**

*Join us backstage at Dunham Theater on the HBU campus for a night of music and merriment. We will enjoy dinner, dessert and the musical stylings of Atwood and Comeaux.*

Guests are welcome at this event, but space is limited. Call for reservations when you receive your invitation.

# HBU GUILD FALL COFFEE

On a lovely fall day in October The Guild met at the stunning home of Lisa and Joe Calvert for our annual fall coffee honoring new members. As the ladies gathered beautiful piano music of familiar tunes and hymns was played by Carla Barrows and the rooms filled with love and laughter as can be felt by women who share a common cause and Christian fellowship. Greeters were welcoming, the table offering was delicious, and the fall centerpiece beautifully inviting.

Dr. Sloan delivered an enlightened view of the development of HBU. Anne Roper led the program which included a heart-felt prayer from Chaplain Lu Frazier, words from scholarship recipient Cindy Shieh, who attended with her principal, a report from Vice President Sharon Saunders, and an overview of Guild events to come.

Co-chairs, Marsha Eckermann and Peg Harman were grateful for a lovely gathering celebrating the membership and camaraderie of the HBU Guild.



*Co-chair Marsha Eckermann, Anne Roper and hostess Lisa Calvert*



*Principal Pamela Brown, scholarship recipient Cindy Shieh and Dr. Robert Sloan*



*Margaret Kennedy, Janet McGuire, Sharon Saunders, Betty Vernon and Angie Angel*



*Fall Coffee Committee members*

## THE GUILD INSTITUTE IN CHRISTIAN FAMILY STUDIES

Gary Thomas, an international speaker, best-selling author and writer-in-residence at Houston's Second Baptist Church did not disappoint Houston Baptist University students with his convocation presentation "Don't Get Married ... Until You Hear This Talk" in October in the Dunham Theater. A second presentation entitled "Pleasure: Why Do Christians Feel So Bad About Feeling Good" was made in the Belin Chapel that evening to students, Guild members and other community members. Students expressed enthusiastic appreciation for messages derived from these sessions and left with greater confidence in identifying a life-lasting marriage partner through character identification and spiritual orientation.

This was the third in a series of lectures presented by The Guild Institute in Christian Family Studies, including the inaugural lecture by Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse in March 2010 and later in the year by Dr. Voddie Baucham, pastor at Grace Family Baptist Church in Spring, Texas.



*Speaker Gary Thomas*



*President Anne Roper, Co-chair Kandy Brüttain, Gary Thomas and Dr. Robert Sloan*

### IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Bradshaw  
 Wiliminor Carl  
 Mary Love Olsen  
 Bettie Thurmond  
 Leah Tucker  
 Katherine Wells  
 Linda Aldridge Wells

## FACULTY/STAFF CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

December 9 was a very special day at the President's home on the Houston Baptist University campus. Dr. Sloan and his wife, Sue, welcomed faculty members and campus staff into their beautifully holiday decorated home and honored them with a special Christmas luncheon.



The large dining room table was laden with traditional Christmas foods. Janet McGuire, Terry Newkirk and their committee provided three beautiful tables filled with delightful desserts.

Thanks to Janet McGuire, Terry Newkirk and their outstanding committee, three beautiful tables were filled with delightful desserts. A decadent chocolate cake with a "secret ingredient," a scrumptious coconut cake made by our President, Anne Roper, a chocolate chip pie and a "very berry" pie are just a few examples of the many tasty treats that were baked by Guild members and enjoyed by all.

Although the weather was a little chilly, some ventured out to eat on the terrace. It was "one big happy family" all over the Sloan's home. A most blessed time was experienced by all who attended.



*(Top) Dr. Will Rutherford and Dr. John Yarrington*



*Guild member Cindy Jacobson visits with Dr. Rhonda Furr*

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



This year's Christmas Luncheon was a huge success and well attended by more than 350 Guild members and their guests, who enjoyed music, food, and inspiration for the Christmas season.

Attendees were entertained by HBU alumni, Ryan Beasley, Lucy Girgawy, Jeremiah Joseph and Mon'Sher Spenser, one of our Guild members. The music pierced our souls and prepared our hearts for the message from President Robert Sloan, Jr. and Debbie Taylor Williams. Debbie, of Hill Country Ministries, led us through the Christmas journey of Mary and Joseph. She encouraged us with the reminder that we too are favored, filled with the spirit and blessed as believers in Christ through our journeys with the Lord. Dr. Sloan graciously took us through the Biblical prophecy of the coming of the Christ Child.

Guild President Anne Roper presented Dr. Sloan with a \$25,000 gift towards The Guild Institute for Christian Family Studies Endowment. Everyone enjoyed their lunch that was so lovingly prepared and served by the Hilton staff under the ceiling of stars that reminded us of the birth of Christ.

After lunch Rachele Leung, recipient of the Guild Presidents' Endowed Scholarship, expressed her gratitude to The Guild for our contribution to her pursuit of a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction specializing in technology. Rachele looks forward to a completed degree in July 2012.

The annual luncheon was an elegant affair enjoyed by all who attended. Many thanks to Co-chairs Angie Angel and Jane Caldwell and their committee for their efforts in making the luncheon a success.



*Dr. Robert and Sue Sloan with scholarship recipient, Rachele Leung*



*President Anne Roper, co-chairs Jane Caldwell and Angie Angel, Dr. Robert Sloan, speaker Debbie Taylor Williams and Vice-President, Debra Perich*



*Jan Rule and Pat Ingram welcome guests at registration*



*Sharon Saunders, Allene Lucas and Lesleigh Saunders*



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



As we begin the third decade of the Silver Tea we thank Grace Gandy for her inspiration in establishing the Tea in 1992. The generosity of those who attended began a new tradition and The Guild's annual Silver Tea was begun.

In 1994 The Guild chose to use the donations from the Tea to establish the graduate scholarship program. Although this program meant so much to chosen scholars by providing knowledge and methods to improve their professional skills, it also gave The Guild members new focus and purpose and extended their influence beyond the HBU campus into the Houston community.

Over the years The Guild has contributed over \$1.3 million to HBU for graduate scholarships. Because the members of The Guild took such ownership of this philanthropic endeavor, the majority of this amount was provided by individual contributions of Guild members.

This year Allene Lucas and I feel blessed to be honorees of the 2012 Silver Tea which will take place on April 12 at the home of Sheryl and Doug Bech. Ruth Alford and

her committee are working diligently to provide an elegant Silver Tea. They appreciate your support in making the Tea a very successful event.

As you prayerfully consider your contribution to the Silver Tea, please remember God's promise in 2 Corinthians 9:11-12, "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

In Luke 6:38 we read "For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over, whatever measure you use to give large or small will be used to measure what is given back to you."

Let's continue to give and make a difference in the lives of our graduate scholars.

Linda Higginbotham