



# TPC Architects, Inc.

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TPC Architects, Inc.  
Newsletter

## Scripture of the Month

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

(Luke 2: 10-11)

## Useful Links

[Worship Facilities Magazine](#)

[Faith and Form Website](#)

## *CELEBRATION!*

For centuries church congregations have planned, designed and constructed environments to worship God. Throughout the world we find incredible undertakings like St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and Russian Orthodox Cathedrals in the former Soviet Union. Art and architecture were powerfully and brilliantly woven together, fueled by a passion to worship God and glorify Him through this work. Michelangelo had an incredible creative gift from God as an artist, sculptor, and designer. His frescoes in the Sistine Chapel in Rome are magnificent!

What about today? What can an architect or designer do to create a worship environment that invokes praise and celebration by God's people? Many years ago I was in small shop just before Christmas and saw a nativity scene that I think captured the essence of "architectural celebration". Its simplicity captivated me. It was a piece of white paperboard cut out in the classic profile of a stable "floor plan", but without walls or roof. Placed on this board were six nativity figures: Joseph, Mary, the infant Jesus, and the three kings. There was no architecture to get in the way. And yet no one mistook the meaning, and the focus was inescapably on the Savior!

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How can we not celebrate the Savior in such simplicity? Those three kings did not need a special environment; they honored the Savior in a place which arguably could have interfered with their worship. This is a good reference point for designers today!

Is there a place for elaborate worship space design? Of course! God spared no detail in His construction documents for His temple (see 2 Chronicles 3). He loves to be recognized, worshiped and praised! However, we must be careful to guard against injecting design elements that are more for our glory than His.

Whatever path you are taking as you plan your church's worship environment, we encourage you to start at the manger. Keep it simple. Weigh your decisions by "who gets the glory?"

As we celebrate Christmas this year, wherever we are, let us strengthen our resolve to celebrate the Savior!

*Merry Christmas!*



I encourage you to contact me personally with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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