

The Papal Press

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All the Sweetest News from Sugar Land



Issue 2

featuring Steve, Shannon, Tommy & Christopher Pontiff

December 2008

We hope you enjoyed the first edition of our Christmas newsletter last year. We sure enjoyed putting it together. So...on we go with the update for 2008!!

Christopher's First Year

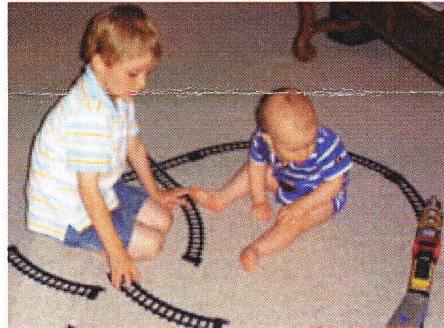
As any baby would, Christopher had a very busy year growing and developing into the toddler he is today. From sleeping through the night, rolling over, starting solid food, crawling, getting a few teeth, pulling up and cruising, and now walking, he's been doing great "baby work" all year. As of his 15-month checkup in November, he was 34 1/4 inches long and weighed 28lbs. 13oz. Needless to say, he is a big boy and in the 90+ percentiles for both height and weight. We think he may end up being bigger than his big brother!

In August, we celebrated Christopher's first birthday with a small family party at a local restaurant – complete with balloons ("ba-boo" as Christopher likes to say), party hats, cake, and lots of presents. He liked the chocolate cake and LOVED the balloons, but wasn't too thrilled with the whole party hat thing.



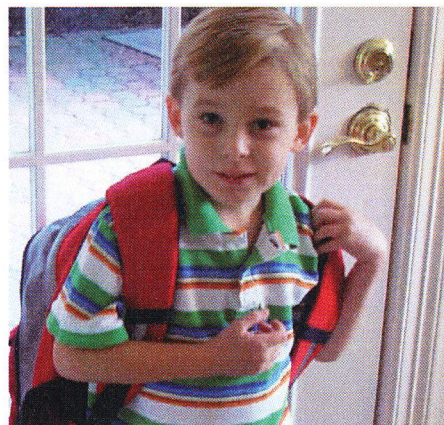
Tommy's Year in Review

Tommy started 2008 at Towne Creek Preschool, playing winter basketball and then spring tee ball on Saturdays on his YMCA teams, and enjoying his status as a new big brother.



Tommy turned 5 on April 23rd and we hosted a Saturday morning party for him at Bill Austin's Gymnastics here in Sugar Land. The kids got to run and tumble and work off some energy, while the parents got to eat and socialize – what a perfect afternoon!

Tommy started Kindergarten at Commonwealth Elementary in August and said goodbye to his pre-school friends at Towne Creek. He's enjoying "big boy school" a lot so far, making new friends, and showing everyone just how smart he is. He's been reading for a few months now, is good at math, and is a very energetic little boy, as always!



The Busy Parents

Shannon started sweating at the gym on a regular basis in January, trying to lose the "baby weight." She managed to lose over 40 pounds and is getting into great shape. Now the hard part: keeping it off! Steve gets to the gym as he can, but his work schedule keeps him busy and traveling more than he would like.

In March, Steve turned The Big 5-0 and although he didn't have to suffer very much ribbing on the day, he gets quite a bit on a daily basis to make up for it!

Not helpful to our diet and exercise regime was a wonderful Alaskan cruise we took (without the kids!) in August. However, we did actually manage to try out the shipboard gym in between tours and meals! Our Princess ship was gorgeous, the food was great, and the scenery was awesome. More importantly, we got some much-needed R&R.

In September, Hurricane Ike hit the Gulf Coast region and we were blessed that we only sustained minor damage on the garage and back fence when a neighbor's tree fell into our yard. We were without power for over a week but our wonderful next-door neighbors let us borrow their generator so we could run the fridge and a fan in the baby's room. A generator is definitely on our list to prepare for next year's hurricane season. Goodbye and good riddance to Hurricane Ike!!

In Closing...

We hope all of you, our dear friends and family had a great 2008, as we did. We'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed 2009!



Steve and Shannon Pontiff
4914 Rutherford Ct.
Sugar Land, TEXAS 77479-3819