



*Pathways to Growth and Service
at
Independent Presbyterian Church*

Living in Christ

Our Discipleship Priorities:

Living in the Spirit

Living in Community

Living in Service to Others

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Pathways to Spiritual Growth & Service at IPC

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INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christ our Cornerstone

A Message from Dr. Conrad Sharps
Living as Disciples of Christ



You are holding in your hands the fruit of the labor of IPC members and staff who have worked and prayed together to begin fulfilling the strategic planning priorities of our church. I want to thank the Strategic Planning Task Force for their vision and the Congregational Care Committee and others for this effort to bring the vision alive.

The Strategic Planning Process has in many ways renewed a spirit of servant leadership at IPC. And the Congregational Care and Communications Committees have filled this *Pathways* book with hundreds of ways to **use your God-given gifts to serve as a disciple of Christ through IPC**. Our priorities include *Living in the Spirit*, *Living in Community*, and *Living in Service to Others*.

**To be a disciple of Jesus Christ
is to be in the truest sense
a person dedicated to God.**

In what ways do you feel called to be a disciple and *Live in Christ* through the ministry and mission of IPC?
There are Hundreds of Discipleship Opportunities. Here are just a few...

Living in the Spirit:

- Integrate prayer into your daily life
- Pray in the chapel with other members on Tuesday mornings
- Participate in small group Christian study on Sunday mornings or during the week
- Sign up for Grace Groups for Bible Study and

- fellowship in members' homes
- Teach children in Sunday School

Living in Community:

- Share your faith journey as part of our church life
- Be a mentor in the lives of our youth
- Participate in fellowship groups at church and in members' homes
- Travel with the 4th Quarter group or dine with the *Dinners for Eight* groups
- Participate in one of the many committees in the life of the church

Living in Service to Others:

- Serve in any of the outreach programs to empower individuals and families to prosper
- Work with the Summer Learning Program or STAIR
- Serve a meal at First Light, help build a Habitat House, or serve on a mission team to Africa, the Ukraine, or Mexico
- Participate in our neighborhood focus priority
- Work with the Hunger Work Group. Experience the true meaning of "...as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

You are Invited...

I would like to ask you to carefully review the many opportunities for discipleship through our church. ***Prayerfully consider*** where your gifts and interests are and where you can take the steps to more fully experience the deep joy of Living in Christ.

Jesus called his first followers Disciples. The term is biblical, strong, and sacred. Discipleship is the action believers take -- following Christ -- worshipping God -- growing in faith -- sharing generously -- and serving Christ in the world. The IPC Strategic Plan "Living in Christ" is a clear call to joyful discipleship at IPC. Please join us!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Living in the Spirit Living in Community

Christian Education
Paul Romjue, Director
205.933.3732

Independent Presbyterian Church (IPC) has education programs for adults, young adults, youth and children. Please join us in study and fellowship on Sundays and throughout the week.

In our educational ministry we share our understanding of the biblical narrative and look for ways to participate in God's story through prayer, service to others, and spiritual growth.

ADULTS

Sunday Church School

Church School is held every Sunday from 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. Members and visitors are welcome to attend any class. *For information about any of the following groups, contact Betsy Middlebrooks at the church, 933-3731 or bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org.*

Topic Church School Classes

Topic classes focus on religious studies and spiritual growth. The topics change each term, and usually are based on a particular book or theological approach. Topic classes attract a mix of age groups and backgrounds and encourage interaction and discussion.

Community Classes

Community classes are set up in a more traditional framework, with each class organized around a loosely defined age group. Community classes often study particular books of the Bible, although contemporary materials are utilized as well.

Eight community classes are active at this time:

1) *Highlanders*

Single and married adults in the 20-30 age range attend the Highlanders class. In addition to the Sunday class, the group seeks to increase fellowship and friendships with one another through post-Sunday lunches and social events.

2) *Faith Builders*

Adults in their 30s and 40s may want to attend the Faith Builders class. This class studies an eclectic mix of faith-based educational topics.

3) *The Way*

This class is composed of married adults with children, and focuses almost exclusively on Bible studies.

4) *Discoverers*

This class also focuses primarily on Bible studies, and offers a mix of topics from year to year. The Discoverers consist primarily of married or single adults with older children.

5) *Wonder Years*

Adults with grown children tend to enjoy the Wonder Years class. This class studies a wide variety of topics, often focusing on historical and theological issues.

6) *Advanced Class*

The class with the most "seniority" at IPC is the Advanced class. This class, aimed at older adults, offers Bible studies as well as topics of interest to its members.

7) *Women's Class*

This group is open to women of all ages. The class studies materials that are of particular interest to women.

8) *Seekers*

This is a newly formed group open to parents whose oldest child is not yet in first grade.

Adult Weekday Study Groups

IPC offers many opportunities for prayer and study in small groups. Through a variety of ministries, we seek a stronger connection to Christ and to the church. We invite everyone to find enriching spiritual fellowship in a week-day group.

Study Groups

For information about any of the following groups, contact Betsy Middlebrooks at the church, 933-3731 or bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org.

Bible Study with Margaret Northen meets weekly at IPC at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. This group focuses on biblical interpretation and meaning.

Bible Study with Susan Clayton meets weekly at IPC at 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays. This group meets for lunch and discussion of biblical themes.

Bible Study with Lucy Turner meets at IPC at noon on Mondays and studies biblical themes.

Bill Shanks Friday Morning Bible Study meets weekly at IPC. Breakfast is served at 6:30, and the class begins at 7:00. This group is led by Robert Posey and is taught by various members.

Women at the Well is a Bible Study group for women of all ages. Their ministry is to provide thought-provoking study and lively discussion in a friendly environment that will encourage members in their faith and their fellowship with one another. They meet on Wednesdays at noon at a member's home and welcome everyone. This group is led by Lauren Sharps.

Book Review Group meets at IPC on the first Monday of each month from October through May. This group reviews a wide variety of books each year. The meetings are open to anyone who enjoys reading and sharing ideas about books. This group is led by Ginni Robertson, Susan Barrett, and Sara McVay.

Circles are monthly study groups sponsored by the Presbyterian Women. Circles meet from September through May for fellowship and Bible study.

Circles I and V meet on the third Monday of each month. Circle I convenes at noon at IPC and is led by Carol Hall and Bet Kesmodel. Circle V is coordinated by Susan Barrett and meets at the homes of members at 10:00 a.m.

Circle III meets at Kirkwood by the River on the third Wednesday of each month. Carol Hall and Bet Kesmodel organize the curriculum for this group.

Questers is a group that meets for weekly in-depth Bible study at noon on Tuesdays. Women of all ages are invited to attend and bring lunch. These groups meet at IPC. Susan Haskell serves as class facilitator.

Tapestries are small groups of women who are interested in exploring relationships and continuing their spiritual growth. These groups are divided loosely according to ages and interests, and they all meet at IPC.

Tapestries I under the leadership of Margaret Cross and Kay Roller meets at 9:30 on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Nursery care is provided.

Tapestries II meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at 11:30 with Susan Clayton and Betsy Middlebrooks.

Embrace Young Women's Bible Study group is a unique opportunity to meet with other young women at IPC. They meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in Room 303.

Their aim is to:

- encourage regular study of God's word
- consider practical application questions
- promote a deeper understanding of the Bible
- provide fellowship and help establish a special friendship group

The class is led by Lauren Sharps.

Wednesday Night Classes COLLEGE STUDENTS

Adult classes are offered on Wednesday nights from September through April. The topics for Wednesday night classes change each term, and include theology, history, psychology, archeology, sociology, literature, arts and sciences. Bible studies are available as well.

Dinner is served on Wednesday Nights in the Great Hall.

To become involved in any Christian Education class or study group, please contact Betsy Middlebrooks at 933.3731 or at bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org.



IPC Day School

Please contact IPC Day School Director Jason Turner at 930-8166 or at jasoncoyturner@aol.com to discuss volunteer opportunities at the Day School. Also see page 26.

YOUNG ADULTS

IPC Highlanders (Young Professionals)

Highlanders: Single and married adults ages 22-30 attend the Highlanders class.

This group has two goals:

- Increase our fellowship and friendships with one another through lunches after Sunday Services, social events, and Sunday School classes
- Maintain a group with continuity that will offer a community for the just-graduated IPC college student.

This group includes all young adults, including college students, singles, professionals, and couples in the 20-30 age range. We want this group to be one that fosters Christian relationships while we continue to enrich our relationships with God and each other.

If you would like more information/suggestions on this ministry of Independent Presbyterian Church, please contact Lochrane Smith, 871-0094.

College Connections is a ministry to the college students of our congregation. Knowing how challenging the first years away from home can be, we were formed to keep the communication lines open and contacts from the church continuing. Our mission statement says it all: ***To encourage the college students from Independent Presbyterian Church to continue in their journey of faith in Jesus Christ wherever they may be and to maintain a connection to their church home until God calls them to another.***

We instituted the "IPC Saint" program in the 08-09 school year asking "disciples" from IPC to become an IPC saint to an assigned college student for the school year and commit to regularly communicate with their student via cards, packages and focus on communication and encouragement. We would love to have you join us as a "Saint" for the upcoming school year. For more information, ***contact Lauren Sharps at ipccollegeconnections@gmail.com or Linda Askins at lea512@aol.com.***

Discipleship Opportunities in Christian Education

- Serve on Christian Education Committee
- Teach Adult Church School
- Teach Youth
- Teach Children
- Participate in Wednesday Night Programs
- Participate in Weekday Events
- Become an "IPC Saint" for an IPC college student

YOUTH

Youth Ministries

Aly Butts, Director 205.933.3734

Nate Sell, Assistant Director 205.933.3708

Who We Are

Youth ministry at Independent Presbyterian Church is about building relationships, meeting youth where they are, and most of all, growing together as we grow in our relationships with God. We are an open group of 7th-12th graders with more than 10 schools represented. We welcome any and all. We invite you to join in the life and ministry of the youth at IPC. Feel free to contact Aly Butts at 933-3734 or abutts@ipc-usa.org or Nate Sell at 933-3708 or nsell@ipc-usa.org

How We Live

Sunday Mornings

Church School meets Sunday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. (7th & 8th graders in Room 101; 9th & 10 graders in Room 105; 11th & 12th graders in Room 104)

Sunday Nights

Youth Group meets on Sunday evening from 5:30- 7:00 p.m. in Room 105.

See monthly youth calendar on IPC website for details.

Wednesday Nights

Youth gather for dinner in the Great Hall from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. Reservations are required and dinner is \$8.00. Following dinner, the Westminster Choir rehearses from 5:30-6:30 in the music suite. Recreation and fellowship in the youth wing is from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., followed by Fellowship and Service in Room 105.

Groups

Acolytes

Acolytes lead our church in worship. They bring the light of God into the sanctuary and also, at the end of the service, out into the world. They initiate the weekly offering and lead the congregation's children to the nursery and to Children's Chapel. Acolytes are present at almost every major religious event in a member of the congregation's life, including baptisms and weddings. Their role is a very important one to Independent Presbyterian Church, and their dignity, reverence, and precision, in all that they do in



our services, glorifies God. The Acolyte program is open to all youth who have completed the 8th grade. Morgan Murphy trains the new acolytes. IPC Guild Members Martha Grizzle and Jan Posey coordinate the acolyte program. *For information, contact Martha Grizzle, 870-1278 or Jan Posey, 969-3787.*

Basketball Teams

We have junior high and senior high basketball teams that play in the Southside Church League Basketball League. Our junior high coach is Allen Arnold and our senior high coach is Frank Lassiter.



Contact Nate Sell 933-3708 with any questions.

Westminster Choir

The Independent Presbyterian Church Westminster Choir is composed of girls and boys in Grades 7-12. This choir rehearses weekly on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Singing opportunities include worship services, the Christmas Retirement Home Tour, the Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service, and the Good Friday Service.

Contact Dr. Jeff McLelland, 933-3701, with any questions.

Discipleship Opportunities with Youth

- Youth Subcommittee
- Teach Church School
- Chaperone
- Drive Van
- Provide Food
- Plan Events
- Retreats
- Service



Youth Subcommittee

The youth subcommittee is composed of parents and youth who come together once a month to discuss and plan all aspects of youth ministry at IPC. The group consists of eight adults and six youth. The youth are elected by their peers and serve two-year terms. This group serves as a support team for all the youth activities.

CHILDREN

Children's Ministries
Cindy Coulter, Director
205.933.3730
Mary Beasley and Kay
Roller 205.933.3690

A loving and nurturing environment is provided for children and their families to learn and grow in their faith and to become active participants in the church community.



Sunday morning programs include:

NURSERY

On Sunday mornings, experienced nursery staff is available in Room G22 to provide childcare to infants and toddlers during all worship services and Sunday School.

PRESCHOOL

One Sunday School class is provided for each age level on the ground floor, and each class is staffed with a team of teachers. Children are assigned to a classroom based on age as of September 1 and are promoted at the beginning of each summer term rather than on birthdays. This allows the children to build friendships and community with the children with whom they will go through school. We use the *Bible Quest* curriculum for the two-year-old class, and the *We Believe* curriculum for the three-and four-year old classes.

WORSHIP CARE

Worship care is provided to children prior to Sunday school in room G22/G23 during the 8:45 worship service. Children remain in their Sunday school classrooms for Worship Care during the 11:00 worship service for further supervision, Bible lessons, and crafts. Children (K-2nd) who attend either worship service with their parents may leave for Worship Care by following the Acolyte out of the sanctuary during the second hymn. An adult will escort them to their appropriate class.

ELEMENTARY

Kingdom Kids is a large group/small group format that allows kindergarten through third-grade children to grow in their knowledge of God, build relationships with their teachers, and develop community with their friends. The

curriculum used is *Kid Connection* by Faith Alive Resources.

FOURTH GRADE Room 112

The fourth grade Sunday school curriculum, *I Know My Bible*, starts at the beginning of the Bible and follows through to the end, highlighting scripture stories in the Old and New Testaments. The children learn throughout the year how to find scriptures and how to use their Bibles. The fourth graders attend a Bible retreat in the fall to learn how to use their Bibles and then receive a gift Bible from the congregation at a special service in the fall.



FIFTH GRADE

Room 108

SIXTH GRADE

Room 107

The fifth and sixth grade Sunday School curriculum, *Walk with Me*, is designed to grow faith, to encourage the children to live out their faith, and to build community through caring and having fun together.

Wednesday Night Programs include:

R.O.C./K. (Reaching Our Community through Kids)

is a Wednesday night program for preschool and elementary children to learn and to practice living in the community of God. **Wednesday Nights 6:00-7:15 p.m.** Note: Dinner is separate from R.O.C./K. Call Nancy Skinner at 933-1830 for reservations.

The program focuses on the cornerstone initiatives of IPC: *Living in the Spirit, Living in Community, Living in Service to Others.*

Summer Programs:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Preschool children, who have completed classes for 3k through 5k, are invited to a week of Bible learning fun at the church in **Vacation Bible School**. The children worship daily in our Chapel, come to know God's love for them, express creativity through art, play games to reinforce the daily themes, enjoy snacks, learn fun songs, and have a "meet and greet" for friends and family.





BIBLETIMES MARKETPLACE

BibleTimes Marketplace (BTMP) is Independent Presbyterian Church's Vacation Bible School for campers who have completed grades 1-5 and for tribal assistants who have completed grades 6-12. Campers who attend all five years will complete our rotation which includes "Jacob's Story," "The Adventures of David," "Stories of Jesus," "Journey with Paul," and "Moses."

The day begins in our outdoor chapel or the "Synagogue" as we call it during BTMP, with worship and singing. During "tent time" campers meet with their "tribe" (Tribes of Israel) of 8-9 children of varying ages and tribal parent to talk about Bible stories related to that year's theme. Throughout the day, the theme continues with crafts in the "marketplace," drama, singing, and recreation.

BTMP participants enjoy our Children's Fresh Air Farm (CFAF) located in Bluff Park, about 20 minutes from IPC. CFAF has an outdoor chapel, swimming pool,

Discipleship Opportunities with Children

- Sunday School Teacher
- Coordinator - Sundays
- Music: Sunday School/Children's Chapel
- Storytelling
- Worship Care
- BibleTimes Marketplace BTMP (*Summer*)
- Vacation Bible School VBS (*Summer*)
- Children's Chapel (*during school year*)
- Wednesday Night **ROC/K (Reaching Our Community through Kids)**

indoor dining hall, a wonderful playground, pavilion,

and semi-open air gymnasium. Parents are invited to come Thursday afternoon to see what the campers have been doing and learning all week.



LUKENS LIBRARY

The John N. Lukens Library provides a well-balanced collection of books and other materials for members of the congregation who seek growth in their Christian faith and spiritual lives.

Located beside the elevator on the same level as the Great Hall, the library is open and available for use whenever the church is open. The collection has approximately 4,500 books for all ages in a variety of subjects.

The Lukens Library is an extension of the IPC Education Department with resources for:

- Church School teachers and students
- Parents seeking material to enhance their children's faith
- Spiritual guidance by some of the great writers and scholars of the Christian faith
- Self-education in the Faith and in-depth education on matters that can only be touched upon in church classes and programs because of time limitations

Discipleship Opportunities in the Lukens Library

- Serve as a volunteer librarian
- The other librarians will train you

COMMUNICATION: IPC EUPDATE

IPC produces a weekly email newsletter. Besides news and events, there is also an important spiritual component with a prayer by Dr. Sharps and a detailed way to prepare for the upcoming Sunday service. This is an excellent way to prepare yourself to experience the worship service on a deeper level. It is also a wonderful teaching tool to discuss with your children prior to the services. The *EUpdate* is emailed to members or anyone who requests being added to the list. We encourage members to forward these messages to share events and spiritual inspiration from IPC. **To be added to the list**, go to www.ipc-usa.org/IPCemail, or email Marsha Harbin at mharbin@ipc-usa.org.

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Living in Service to Others

Community Ministries
The Reverend Susan Clayton, Director
205.933.3709

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Community Ministries at Independent Presbyterian Church is that part of the church's ministry in which we seek to reach out beyond our own walls to serve people in need in our own community and around the world.

In all our ministries, we seek to live out the call of Jesus Christ: *"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."* (Matthew 25:35-36, 40).

We seek to follow this command of Jesus by offering our congregation the opportunity to express their faith in Jesus Christ in concrete acts of compassionate service and mission both locally and globally. We invite you to join us in these mission opportunities.

There are a number of opportunities for mission in our local community through the Community Ministries Department at IPC. Here are a few of the highlights:

Children's Fresh Air Farm (CFAF): Located in the Bluff Park neighborhood of Birmingham, IPC's Children's Fresh Air Farm (the Farm) has been in operation since 1923. This beautiful facility covers 36



acres and has class and meeting space, a dining hall, a chapel, a gym, a swimming pool, gardens, pavilions, playgrounds, and an archery hut and zip line.

Summer Learning Program

In the summer of 2010, IPC began a program at the CFAF to address the summer learning loss needs of students from the Gibson and Whatley Elementary Schools. These schools were chosen because of the relationship already built through IPC's after-school tutoring program STAIR (Start The Adventure In Reading).



The primary objective of this summer learning program is to provide a holistic growth experience, offering academics, enrichment, physical education, and spiritual development. The Summer Learning Program has strong literacy and math academic components and includes a six-week, five-day-per-week program with rigorous instruction in reading and math led by professional teachers in the mornings, enrichment programs and physical activity in the afternoons, with field trips and special programs on Fridays, and religious and spiritual instruction. The camp is free of charge to the campers. **To find out more about the Summer Learning Program or the Farm or to volunteer, please contact Gini Williams CFAF Director at 822-0150**

(gwilliams@ipc-usa.org) or Dale Head, Assistant Director of Community Ministries at 933-3726 (dhead@ipc-usa.org)



Discipleship Opportunities **Children's Fresh Air Farm:**

- Volunteer with the ***Summer Learning Program***.
- Teach the children at the Farm a skill you have in music, art, drama, photography, dance
- Go to the Farm and read to the children
- Stay in touch with a Summer Learning Program family during the school year
- Help with the CFAF garden each spring and summer
- Help clean up at the Farm each spring before Summer Learning Program begins

First Light Shelter for Homeless Women and Children

This shelter on the corner of 4th Avenue North and 23rd Street downtown was started by First Presbyterian Church



of Birmingham. The shelter operated in the basement of First Presbyterian from 1984 until 2000, when it was moved to its current location after a building was purchased and renovated to accommodate the expanded program. IPC provides dinner and overnight volunteers at First Light each night for about six weeks of

the year. The weeks for which we are responsible are scattered throughout the year. Currently, there are two primary ways you can be involved at First Light:

1.) Volunteer to help prepare and serve dinner at First Light one night during our weeks of service:

We plan for 70 guests at First Light each night. The dinner preparation can take place at home and food can be delivered to First Light for serving that night, or dinner can be prepared in the commercial kitchen at First Light. We usually need about four to five people to actually serve the dinner. Servers arrive about 5:30 p.m. and dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. Servers are usually on their way home by 7:30 p.m. at the latest. Couples and children are welcome to help serve.



2.) Overnight Volunteers: Each night that IPC is responsible for volunteers at First Light, we need two overnight hosts to spend the night at First Light and provide hospitality. This volunteer opportunity is easy and rewarding. You simply provide hospitality to the women and children on the 2nd floor emergency shelter at First Light and also hand out toiletries, laundry detergent, linens, and other supplies. There is training available for overnight volunteers, and we always pair a new overnight volunteer with those who have stayed before. Overnight volunteers arrive at First Light at about 7:00 p.m. and lights are turned out at 9:30 p.m. The overnight volunteers sleep in a separate volunteer room with two bunk beds and its own bathroom with a shower. Volunteers turn lights on at 6:00 a.m. and can leave as soon as the women are awakened.

Discipleship Opportunities at First Light Women's Shelter

- **Volunteer to help prepare and serve dinner at First Light one night during our weeks of service.**
- **Overnight Volunteers:** Each night that IPC is responsible for volunteers at First Light we need two overnight hosts to spend the night at First Light and provide hospitality. This volunteer opportunity is easy and rewarding. You simply provide hospitality to the women and children.

To learn more about First Light or to volunteer, please contact Rev. Susan Clayton, Director of Community Ministries, at 933-3709 or sclayton@ipc-usa.org

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham

Each year, IPC builds one house with our local Habitat for Humanity organization. We usually build the house during the Habitat “Building on Faith” initiative that takes



place each year during the Lenten season. There are two primary needs for volunteers during the Habitat build:

1.) Construction Volunteers: you do not have to be skilled to volunteer with construction on a Habitat house! You just have to have a willing spirit! We have teams working on the Habitat house each Thursday and Saturday during our build. We work alongside a Habitat site supervisor. Hours are generally 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Any portion of the day volunteers can give for construction is very helpful. You can bring your own tools, or use those provided by Habitat.

2.) Lunch Volunteers: We need people who are willing to provide lunch for the construction volunteers each Saturday during our build. The lunch is normally planned to serve about 25 people and consists of simple food: sandwich makings (bread, lunch meat, tomatoes, cheese, condiments), chips, fruit, drinks, ice and dessert. Lunch volunteers usually also provide the paper products for eating and drinking. This can be done by a family, a couple, a small group of IPC friends or even an individual and is greatly appreciated by the construction workers!

hope you will become a part of this journey.

To learn more about the IPC Habitat house builds or to volunteer, please contact Rev. Susan Clayton, Director of

For more information about STAIR, or to volunteer to tutor or to be a substitute tutor or to provide snacks for

Discipleship Opportunities at Habitat for Humanity

- **Construction Volunteers:** You do not have to be skilled to volunteer! You just have to have a willing spirit!
- **Lunch Volunteers:** We need people who are willing to provide lunch for the construction volunteers each Saturday.

Discipleship Opportunities at S.T.A.I.R.

- Tutor a child in reading so he or she can catch up to grade level.
- Shop for items for Christmas stockings.
- Be a substitute when the regular tutor has to miss a day.
- Serve snacks to children who ate school lunch at 10:30.
- Help with family dinners, the Christmas party, graduation.
- Greet a busload of excited children and help them get ready for snacks.
- Get hugs from seven-year-olds.

Community Ministries at 933-3709 or sclayton@ipc-usa.org

The S.T.A.I.R. Program (Start the Adventure in Reading)

STAIR is a non-profit organization and a ministry of IPC. Our mission is to improve the reading skills and self-esteem of second graders. At IPC we tutor students from Gibson Elementary on Mondays and Wednesdays and students from Whatley School on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A bus brings the children to IPC directly from school at about 3:00, they have a snack, and tutoring begins around 3:30. The dismissal “bell” rings at 4:40, and the children get on the bus at 4:45 to go back to school, where they are picked up by their families.

In addition to IPC, there is the opportunity to volunteer at one of our other sites -- Avondale United Methodist Church (Avondale Elementary) or 45th Street Baptist Church (Barrett Elementary).

Second graders are our focus because it is crucial that they improve their reading skills. Educators tell us that students who do not read at grade level by 3rd grade are most likely to fall behind academically, beginning a negative cycle that follows them throughout school--and

maybe throughout life. Every volunteer job is important and contributes to the goal. Be a tutor, serve snacks, greet the children at the bus, help at special events—volunteer jobs come in all shapes and sizes.

Join us at STAIR and prepare to lose your heart to the seven- and eight-year-olds who need your attention so badly. We really

the children, please contact the IPC STAIR coordinator, Evelyn Puckett at 933-3684 or 757-6614 or stair@ipc-usa.org

IPC Social Services

The Community Ministries Department makes appointments each day to assist people in need in our local community with financial assistance with their utilities, prescription medications and other needs. In addition, we have a Food Pantry at IPC from which we provide two bags of non-perishable food items from our Pantry shelves as well as food vouchers to FoodSource at the Christian Service Mission, where clients can receive two boxes of food: one frozen and one fresh. You can contribute to this ministry by providing financial contributions to the IPC Social Service Fund and by purchasing non-perishable food items when you do your own grocery shopping. Bring those items with you when you come to church to keep our Food Pantry shelves well-stocked.

For more information about how you can help out in our Social Services ministries, please contact Dale Head, Assistant Director of Community Ministries at 933-3726 or dhead@ipc-usa.org

Hunger Work Group at IPC

This group of very committed IPC members come together once a month to plan for ways we can help the IPC community work to alleviate hunger and poverty in our own community and around the world. We follow the Presbyterian Hunger Program’s five initiatives in our



own work: Direct Assistance (Food Pantry/food vouchers), Public Policy Advocacy, Development Assistance, Education and Interpretation, and Lifestyle Integrity. The Hunger Work Group sponsors the Food Pantry at IPC, including the annual Harvest for Hunger Food Drive; the Giving Tree Program, an alternative Christmas gift



program each year during Advent; the annual Offering of Letters Program for Bread for the World and occasional classes on issues related to hunger and poverty. This is a real working group of committed people, and we always welcome new members! The Hunger Work Group meets the second Monday of every month at 5:30PM in Room 217, except December and July.

For more information about the Hunger Work Group, please contact Elaine Van Cleave, the chair of this group, at elainevc@aol.com

Neighborhood Focus in Avondale

This new local mission emphasis arises out of the Strategic Planning Initiatives for Living in Service to Others and is still in the planning phases. It promises to be a very exciting service opportunity for our members who would like to work with children and youth from the Avondale community in after-school and summer programs in Music and Arts. IPC will collaborate with other churches, non-profits, residents of Avondale and other interested individuals doing good work to empower the Avondale community. There is also likely to be an emphasis on Affordable Housing and Advocacy. You will be hearing more as the plans for this new initiative for our congregation take shape.

For more information about the Avondale Neighborhood Focus, please contact Rev. Susan Clayton at 933-3709 or sclayton@ipc-usa.org

GLOBAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

IPC has four long-standing relationships with mission partners overseas, and we generally take a mission team



each year to each of these countries. If you have an interest in one of these foreign mission trips,

we would love to have you participate! The countries we visit include:

Mexico: IPC travels to partner with Constructores Para Cristo in building a house with and for a Mexican family in need in Piedras Negras, on the border of Mexico and the U.S. We generally take a team of about 20 youth and adults for nine days including travel time.

Honduras: We have been partnering in medical mission to Honduras for more than 20 years under the direction of The Rev. Daniel and Ruth Castro, Honduran missionaries supported by the IPC Foundation and working through CURE International, doing pediatric orthopedic and plastic surgery as well as other needed medical interventions. Both medical and non-medical volunteers are welcomed.



Africa: We have a long-term relationship with the United Church of Zambia mission at Mwandi, Zambia and take about 10 people each year, both medical and non-medical folks, to participate in this mission trip lasting two weeks. The mission is extensive, with a hospital, school, church, orphan center, HIV/AIDS program, agriculture project, etc. People of all ages and all skill levels are welcomed.



Ukraine: This is our newest mission partnership, now about six years old. We take a group of approximately 10 people each year to participate in a Vacation Bible School with children of need in Vinnitsa, Ukraine, partnering with The Church of the Risen Christ in that community. This trip usually lasts approximately 10-12 days.

To find out more about these mission trips and discuss your possible interest in being a part of a mission team, please contact Rev. Susan Clayton at 933-3709 or sclayton@ipc-usa.org

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & COUNSELING

*Living in the Spirit Living in Community
Living in Service to Others*

Congregational Care and Counseling
The Reverend Lucy E. Turner, Director
205.933.3706

The work of the Congregational Care and Counseling ministry is the pursuit of knowledge: knowledge of self, knowledge of others and knowledge of God. The pursuit is not for sake of knowledge alone, but for the building of relationships, the growing of faith and the creation of a joyful, loving community at IPC.

Knowledge of self may grow through the Counseling Ministry at IPC. In addition to the care offered by the pastors, two licensed therapists provide counseling with individuals, couples, families or small groups. Medical and psychiatric consultation is available as needed. As a part of the ministry of IPC, no one needing counseling is turned away due to an inability to pay.

Through a variety of ministries IPC seeks to build up the body of Christ.



***Get Connected...
With Grace Groups!***

Would you like to get more connected at IPC? There are so many opportunities for you to become involved here at church, but Grace Groups offer a great way for you to get to know other members and study the scriptures. Grace Groups are formed twice a year: during Lent and in the Fall. Participants enjoy the atmosphere -- small group meetings in members' homes, studying a book of the Bible and enjoying the fellowship of church friends. Many have said they've established friendships that have continued long beyond the 6-week Grace Groups sessions.

We'll help you find a group that meets in your area at a time convenient for you. Don't miss the awesome experience of a Grace Group.

Here's what our members had to say about their participation in IPC Grace Groups:

*I got to know members I didn't know and learned a lot!
I loved having the chance to study a specific passage of the Bible with friends old and new.
I met 20 new people!
I loved the small group intimacy and sense of church community.*

What could be better than making new friends and growing in your faith together? That's what Grace Groups are all about!

***"From His fullness we have all received
grace upon grace."*** John 1:16

***For more information about Grace Groups, contact
Cindy Shaw (933-3696 or cshaw@ipc-usa.org).***

SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP

Formation is as important as ***information*** in the life of the disciple. In other words, the experience of God is the perfect complement to the knowledge of God. Through retreats, classes, special services, small groups and devotional literature, this small work group helps IPC members develop practices that enhance spiritual growth and encourage the practice of the presence of God in our daily lives. Many of these practices are classic spiritual disciplines that are found in ancient and modern contemplative traditions. For more information about the work of this group, please ***contact Lucy Turner at 933-3706 or ltturner@ipc-usa.org***.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

Centering Prayer is a method of prayer that focuses on the deepening of our relationship with the living Christ through interior silence. It facilitates a movement from more active modes of prayer into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer is meant to enrich and complement other forms of prayer, not to exclude or replace them. An IPC group meets weekly in the Congregational Care Department. ***Contact Kathy***

14 Thomson (587-1175) for more details.

THE 4TH QUARTER

The goal of the 4th Quarter ministry at IPC is simple: to build relationships with one another through fellowship, fun and travel. If you are 65 or older, you will fit the profile of our participants and their guests. We have regular activities that include day trips to interesting places and outings to local theaters. We hope you will join us for these times of fun and fellowship. Please call with any questions you might have about the events or your ability to participate. **For more information, please contact Cindy Shaw at 933-3696.**



IPC BRIDGE GROUP

The IPC Bridge Group plays "just for fun." All players are invited to drop in and play anytime! Everyone is usually at a different stage of learning. Bridge is on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning at 1:00. The group ends around 3:00 or 3:30. From time to time, there will be an instructor to answer questions and provide new instruction or strategies. We have been very fortunate to have bridge masters lead the group in the past. Players are IPC members as well as friends of members. You need not be a member to play. A beginners class is often available, depending on the level of interest. Please don't hesitate to join this group no matter what your skill level!



For information, contact Honey Jones at 967-0835.

PARTNERS

The Partners committee promotes strong family relationships and supports parents as their families grow. The program provides opportunities for IPC parents to develop friendships among themselves as well as among their children. IPC's Partners include husbands and wives whose combined ages do not exceed 99 years. This program involves activities for this particular age group as well as congregational events such as:

- Fall Festival
- Kirkwood Ice Cream Social
- Marriage Retreat
- IPC Night at the Barons
- Parent's Night Out
- Social Gatherings

For information, contact Cindy Shaw at 933-3696.

ROVERS

Rovers is a covered dish supper club that meets once a quarter in members' homes. The group's members are generally age 65+ but all are welcome – couples or singles. **Contact Jeannine Usher (933.3694) or jusher@ipc-usa.org if you would like to be added to the mailing list .**

SHEPHERD MINISTRY

The Shepherd Ministry is here to provide the loving shelter of each other we know as the church. The Shepherd Ministry teams have taken to heart "the shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God."

Following are the various Shepherd Ministry Teams:

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

This Shepherd team provides a frozen food gift to members convalescing from a hospital stay or to those who have suffered a death in the immediate family.

Love Thy Neighbor Plus extends the amount of the food gifts to those who may be temporarily homebound without family support, and to members who may be stressed with care of a loved one. In these circumstances, five frozen entrees are offered. Our team members choose to cook or to deliver these gifts, which are not based on a physical need, but serve as a token of our care and concern. All of the cooking and delivering is on a flexible schedule.

Team Leaders: Beth Hillhouse 967-7045

Susan Rains 322-4490

IPC KNITTING MINISTRY

The Knitting Ministry is a ministry of care and compassion for members and friends of IPC who are ill, grieving or homebound. The knitters are volunteers who gather weekly at the church or work from home to make prayer shawls and lap robes. This ministry of comfort and encouragement is open to all members of the church who want to use their talents to knit and pray for the person who will receive the gift. Who the recipient is may not be known at the time the shawl or lap robe is made, but the prayers of the knitter will accompany it wherever it goes. **The gift represents the love of the church and the presence of God.**

The group meets on Thursdays in Room 304 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring your yarn, size 11 or 13 needles and lunch. Bring a friend. Experienced knitters will be on hand every week to teach and assist beginning knitters.

Contact Jeannine Usher at 933-3694 for information.

Team Leaders: Patricia Byrne Mary Tom Stubbs

879-3642

956-4208

CELEBRATIONS

We often think shepherds are only there when life's challenges occur. The Celebration Shepherd Team rejoices in the successes of our church members by sending a card or making a phone call when joyous events occur. Examples include: weddings, births, scholarships, Eagle Scouts, community recognition, and workplace promotions. Like all families we share in our members' joys as well as sorrows. If you would like to participate in this ministry by sending IPC's greetings to our church members, please call Anne Hauck, and she can get you started. **Team Leaders: Anne Hauck 991-8603 Helen Yarboro 933-7999**

HOSPITAL VISITATION

While our clergy visit members when they are hospitalized, there is something gratifying about also having a visit from fellow members when you are in the hospital. This shepherd team supplements the visits made by our clergy and often visit on the weekend when the clergy need a day of rest or cannot be at the hospital.

Team Leader: Betsy Faucette 967-3288

HOMEBOUND OUTREACH

There are members of our church family who are unable to participate in church services and activities because they are confined to their homes or have limitations for one reason or another. This shepherd team calls and/or visits these church members monthly—just to remind them that they are remembered and cared for by IPC. Sometimes it is just a brief call to check in, and at other times deep friendships develop between the homebound and the shepherd. Care and attention is given to those at home and in nursing/assisted living facilities. No special training is necessary—just a desire to brighten the often lonely life of a fellow member. **Team Leaders:**

Elaine Swoger 967-2266 Don Hankins 879-8460

HOME COMMUNION

This ministry delivers communion to our members who are unable to attend services on the first Sundays of the month. Members who are homebound, in the hospital or in a nursing facility are often gratified to have church members bring the sacraments to them. While each team of two shepherds must have one ordained elder to deliver communion, there is a need for anyone with a heart to serve in this ministry—whether or not you are an elder. The elder serving communion does not have to be a Session member. All you have to be is an ordained elder in good standing. If you know of someone who would like to receive communion at home, or if you want to learn more about being a shepherd on this team, please call Laurie Haworth. **Team Leader: Laurie Haworth 870-5502**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The intercessory prayer team meets each Tuesday at 11:15 a.m. in the Chapel to pray for our members, their families, and their friends who find themselves in special circumstances. When prayers are complete, the shepherds send cards to those concerned—just letting them know that they have been uplifted in special prayer. We welcome those who can join us when schedules permit along with those who come regularly. Feel free to come to pray in silence, if you choose, as such prayers are integral to our time together. If you want to place your name or the name of a loved one on the prayer list, please call Jeannine Usher in the Congregational Care office. **Team Leaders: Ann Clark 823-0469 Susan Barrett 933-5153**

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

This Shepherd team represents our church membership to fellow members who experience a loss of a loved one. Our team will provide many forms of comfort to ensure our members of our constant love and abiding faith. In so doing we carry a cup of blessing for others and ourselves. We look forward to serving you and welcome the gifts of others who wish to join this ministry.

Team Leader: Susan Barrett 933-5153

JUST CHECKING IN

Once a church member has had a special circumstance and been ministered to by another shepherd team—perhaps Hospitalization, Love thy Neighbor, or Prayer Group—life pretty much returns to normal. This team of Shepherds steps in at that point to follow up with the member once in a while—just to be sure they are still OK and remind them that the church is there for them. Also, as we age it never hurts to have someone checking in, especially when no other family members live in town.

Team Leader: Edith Quarles 879-4818

TRANSITIONS

Life is full of expected and unexpected transitions. Sometimes they are happy ones—marriage, birth, retirement. Sometimes they are sad ones—caring for elderly parents, a sick child, divorce, job loss. This team of shepherds is there to hold the hands of our members as they face the changes in their lives. This team does not take the place of pastoral counseling, but serves simply as a listening ear and a shoulder to lean on. **Team Leader: Felix Yarboro 933-7999**

FUNERAL USHERS

The funeral ushers provide a valuable service to the church and the family. This ministry of hospitality is important because of the number of non-members who attend funeral services at IPC. The church maintains a list of funeral ushers to draw from. **To be on the list, contact Jeannine Usher at 933-3694 or jusher@ipc-usa.org.**

MUSIC & FINE ARTS

Living in the Spirit

Living in Community

Music and Fine Arts

Dr. Jeff McLelland,
Choirmaster and Organist
205.933.3701

Music and the Fine Arts have played an important role in the history of IPC, both in feeding the souls of the members of the church in worship, as well as reaching out to the needs of the Birmingham community through concerts and special events.

CHOIRS

Independent Presbyterian Church Choir



Although not by definition a professional group, the Independent Presbyterian Church Choir strives to maintain professional attitudes and high musical standards. The choir sings weekly for worship throughout the year, except in July, as well as in special services and concerts. Their repertoire consists of over 700 anthems and 50 major choral works. Since 1977, the IPC Choir has toured regularly in Europe and is well represented on recordings, with 12 releases since 1965, most recently in 2006. Since the first Christmas Concert in 1964, the IPC Choir has presented over 200 concerts and special services.

The IPC Choir meets Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Singing in the IPC Choir offers the singer wonderful opportunities:

- To supply musical leadership in the worship services. The IPC Choir is responsible for leading the congregation in worship of Almighty God in the form of hymn singing and responses, and for preparing all appropriate choral responses and two anthems.
- To provide opportunity for musical expression through

developing musical skills, e.g., sight-reading, choral tone, and intonation. The development of such skills contributes toward a greater appreciation of the musical heritage of sacred choral music.

- To give members of the congregation an opportunity to meet together and enjoy social interaction with one another. The IPC Choir has always enjoyed fellowship experienced through sharing a common effort of making music together, but also with some GREAT parties.
- To experience scripture in a deeper way. Singing scripture implants the words on both the mind and soul in a deeper and more meaningful way than just reading or hearing it. St. Augustine said *“He who sings, prays twice.”*
- To provide opportunities for individuals to give of themselves through the sharing of their musical talent. This exercise in Christian stewardship is an individual contribution, which produces a combined result that exhibits a musical stature far beyond the sum of its individual parts.

Have you ever thought of singing in the choir? Now is a great time to start! Please call Jeff McLelland at 933-3701 to set up an audition time.

YOUTH CHOIRS

IPC has three Youth Choirs that rehearse on Wednesdays, September through April.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR (Grades 7-12)

The Independent Presbyterian Church Westminster Choir is composed of girls and boys in Grades 7-12. This choir rehearses weekly on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Singing opportunities include worship services, the Christmas Retirement Home Tour, the Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service, and the Good Friday Service.

Contact Dr. Jeff McLelland, 933-3701.



Wii SING!

TE DEUM CHOIR (Grades 3-6)

"Mind, Body, Spirit, and Voice"

"It takes the whole person to sing and rejoice!"
-Helen Kemp

Te Deum's (Teh Deh-oom) focus is on Christian education, music education, singing skills, liturgy, worship, responsibility, and ENJOYMENT!

This choir is a rehearsal-based choir. It is the older choir in the children's choir program. Children in grades 3-6 who are beginners are welcomed. **Te Deum consists of a committed group of children that meet every Wednesday afternoon from 5:00 - 5:45 pm**, before R.O.C./K and dinner begin. We sing on the average once a month as well as for special holiday/festival services.

How do you join the Te Deum Choir?

More information is available on-line at www.ipc-usa.org. **If you have any questions please call or e-mail Beth Middleton. beth_middleton@charter.net or 991-6064.** She will do everything possible to help you be a part of this exceptional group.

THE JUNIOR CHOIR (Grades K-3)

"Discover, Explore, and Develop"

Junior choir is a training choir. Children will learn basic musical and worship skills that will assist them to enter more advanced rehearsal-based choirs in church and the community. During our time together we will play musical games, do hands-on activities, and engage in vocal exercises to "discover, explore, and develop" their voice. Anthems or songs will also be rehearsed each week for worship or presentation.

The Junior Choir meets 30 minutes every week at 6:45 p.m. We sing for special holiday services: Noon Nativity, Epiphany Processional, and Palm Sunday, as well as a Wednesday Night dinner from time to time.

What do YOU get out of it?

- Being a part of a new family of friends.
- Developing relationships with others as you prepare to lead worship.
- Learning musical skills that enable you to worship God in a creative way.
- Pride in doing a job very, very well.

How do you join Junior Choir?

More information is available on-line at www.ipc-usa.org. We rehearse Wednesday afternoons at 6:45-7:15 pm starting in September. **If you have any questions please call or e-mail Beth Middleton, beth_middleton@charter.net or 991-6064.** She will do everything possible to help you be a part of this exceptional group.

MUSIC & FINE ARTS

The **November Organ Recital Series** is sponsored by the Music Committee. It began in 1965 and is one of the longest running organ series in the country. Virtually every major organist in the world has played our Aeolian Skinner organ, and the series has continued to attract people to IPC from the Birmingham community and beyond.

The **Religious Arts Festival** is a faith enriching program sponsored by the Fine Arts Committee to glorify God through the rich spectrum of the arts. For over 30 years, guest speakers and artists with expertise in drama, music, dance, architecture, sculpture, literature, and art have been brought to the city for an annual week-long program.

Both of these Series are funded by pledges and offerings in the operating budget of the church, as well as endowment funds. They are presented to the community as a gift from our church and have been highly successful in attracting a diverse following.

Volunteer opportunities in the Music and Fine Arts

Department abound in the areas of ushering, receptions, dinners, parties, committees and chaperones. **If you have an interest in the activities of Music and Fine Arts, don't hesitate to call Jeff McLelland (933-3701).**



Discipleship Opportunities in Music and Fine Arts

- Fine Arts Committee / Music Committee
- Singing in a Choir
- Religious Arts Festival
- Choir Parent (*Musical experience not required!*)
- Usher at events
- Host parties to honor performers
- Chaperone children's choir events

WORSHIP

*Living in the Spirit
Living in Community
Living in Service to Others*

Worship

**The Reverend Dr. Conrad C. Sharps,
Pastor, Head of Staff
205.933.3711**

Independent Presbyterian Church (IPC) is a community of believers in Jesus Christ who are blessed by God's grace and guided by the Holy Spirit. We proclaim God's love through worship, music, education, congregational care, and service. IPC is dedicated to excellence in worship and music and the arts to the glory of God.

Worship services at Independent Presbyterian Church follow the Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

Gathering Around the Word
Proclaiming the Word
Responding to the Word
The Sealing of the Word: Sacraments
Bearing and Following the Word Into the World



Throughout all our worship services,
Soli Deo Gloria
To God alone be the glory!

Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament

Scripture--the Word written, **preaching**--the Word proclaimed, and **the Sacraments**--the Word enacted and sealed, bear testimony to Jesus Christ, the living Word. Through Scripture, proclamation, and Sacraments, God in Christ is present by the Holy Spirit acting to transform, empower, and sustain human lives. In Christian worship the people of God

- hear the Word proclaimed
- receive the Word enacted in Sacrament
- discover the Word in the world, and
- are sent to follow the Word into the world.

Sunday worship services at Independent Presbyterian Church are held at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. throughout the year. Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month. Other special worship services are held throughout the liturgical year.

A Chapel Service with Communion is held each Wednesday at noon.

Bearing the Word into the World

Throughout the week, Dr. Sharps continues to "bear the Word into the world" through his prayers in the weekly IPC ***EUpdate***. He also produces a Pastor's Blog: www.LivingInTheSpiritToday.blogspot.com with stories, prayers and inspirational reflections. Statistics on the blog show that it is being read in countries throughout the world. We pray it will be an inspiration to all who read it.



CONNECTIONS

Living in Community Living in Service to Others

IPC FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE GROUPS

Living in Community--

"...I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
John 10:10b

IPC offers a variety of fellowship opportunities throughout the church. We hope that you will explore these opportunities and find groups that interest you and your family.

YOUTH

Boy Scouts of America Troop 28

Troop 28 is celebrating its 85th year of sponsorship by Independent Presbyterian Church, making it one of the oldest Boy Scout Troops in Alabama. In 2009, the scouts were all provided with 85-year patches in recognition of this milestone. The troop meets at the church each week. Eight of the nine seniors of 2009 attained the rank of Eagle Scout and set a new collective standard for the Troop with more than 1,600 miles hiking and 683 nights camping.

For information, contact Allen Sydnor, jas@hfsllp.com; 251-1193 or 879-1036

YOUNG ADULTS

College Connections

For college-age students in town or out-of-town. College Connections is a ministry to the college students of our congregation. For more information, *contact Lauren Sharps at ipccollegeconnections@gmail.com or Linda Askins at lea512@aol.com.*

IPC Highlanders

This group is aimed at young professionals. Open to all young adults, including college students, singles, professionals, and couples ages 22-30. Activities include: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School (meets in Room 303), Sunday brunches, cookouts, service opportunities, and baseball games. For more information/suggestions, *please contact Lochrane Smith, 871-0094.*

ADULTS

Partners

The Partners committee promotes strong family relationships and supports parents as their families grow. The program provides opportunities for IPC parents to develop friendships among themselves as well as among their children. IPC's Partners include husbands and wives whose combined ages do not exceed 99 years. This program involves activities for this particular age group as well as congregational events such as:

- Fall Festival
- Kirkwood Ice Cream Social
- Marriage Retreat
- IPC Night at the Barons
- Parent's Night Out
- Supper Clubs
- Social Gatherings

For information, contact Cindy Shaw at 933.3696.

Dinners for Eight

Dinners for Eight is an IPC fellowship group for singles and married couples. This group is sponsored by the Discoverers' class. The program is designed for dinners in members' homes four times yearly with the host couple setting the date and assigning dishes for the remaining group members. Folks can register as a couple, as a single, or as a substitute.

People register in late summer (before September 1), and groups are formed for the year. Registration forms are available at the church website www.ipc-usa.org/dinnersforeight. You can sign up on-line or print a copy, fill it out, and give it to **Betsy Middlebrooks**, Christian Education Department. If you have any questions, *please contact Fairy Sutherland at 541-3714 or email her at fsuther@bellsouth.net*

Knitting Ministry

This is a fellowship group and a ministry together. It is open to anyone who wishes to knit/crochet a shawl (or learn) while in prayer for the recipient of the shawl. The Knitting Ministry is a ministry of care and compassion for members and friends of IPC who are ill, grieving or homebound. The knitters are volunteers who gather weekly at the church or work from home to make prayer shawls

and lap robes. This ministry of comfort and encouragement is open to all members of the church who want to use their talents to knit and pray for the person who will receive the gift. Who the recipient is may not be known at the time the shawl or lap robe is made, but the prayers of the knitter will accompany it wherever it goes. **The gift represents the love of the church and the presence of God.**

The group meets on Thursdays in Room 304 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring your yarn, size 11 or 13 needles and lunch. Bring a friend. Experienced knitters will be on hand every week to teach and assist beginning knitters.

Contact Jeannine Usher at 933-3694 for more information. Team Leaders: Patricia Byrne (879-3642) and Mary Tom Stubbs (956-4208)



OLDER ADULTS

The 4th Quarter

The older adult ministry of IPC is called The 4th Quarter. Some are fans of the famous football coach Bear Bryant who always claimed "The 4th quarter is ours!" Hence the name of this group who believe the 4th Quarter of life is theirs for fun and fellowship. The goal of the 4th Quarter ministry at IPC is simple: to build relationships with one another through fellowship, fun and travel. If you are 65 or older, you will fit the profile of our participants and their guests. We have regular activities that include day trips to interesting places and outings to local theaters. We hope you will join us for these times of fun and fellowship. Please call with any questions you might have about the events or your ability to participate.

For more information, please contact Cindy Shaw at 933-3696.

IPC Bridge Groups

The IPC Bridge Group plays "just for fun." All players are invited to drop in and play anytime! Everyone is usually at a different stage of learning.

Bridge is on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning at 1:00. The group ends around 3:00 or 3:30.

From time to time, there will be an instructor to answer questions and provide new instruction or strategies. We have been very fortunate to have bridge masters lead the group in the past. Players are IPC members as well as friends of members. You need not be a member to play.

A beginners class is often available, depending on the level of interest. Please don't hesitate to join this group no matter what your skill level! **For more information, please contact Honey Jones at 967.0835**

Rovers

Rovers is a covered dish supper club that meets once a quarter in members' homes. The group's members are generally age 65+ but all are welcome – couples or singles. **Contact Jeannine Usher at the church (933-3694 or jusher@ipc-usa.org)** if you would like to be added to the mailing list .

Birmingham Men's Club

This organization of men from all sections of greater Birmingham, meet each fourth Monday at 10:30 a.m. where the members socialize with friends and make new ones. At 11:00 a delightful meal is served in the Great Hall. The Group is unique because they are retired men from differing social and economic backgrounds who are drawn together for fellowship and the inspiration of a challenging speaker. Plan on joining us!

For information, contact: Dick Womack, 967-2121.

CONNECTIONS

IPC produces the following publications:

- *The Window*, monthly newsletter mailed to members' homes
- *The Update*, weekly church update. Printed copies available at the church.
- The *EUpdate*, emailed weekly newsletter.
- *Adult Christian Education Brochure*, published quarterly; available on the website and at the church.
- The Pastor's Blog:
www.LivingInTheSpiritToday.blogspot.com

IPC Website: www.ipc-usa.org

The IPC website is www.ipc-usa.org . You will find up-to-date information on events, programs, and ministries, as well as details on all aspects of the church. You can register for events at the church and connect with the Youth on Facebook and text messaging. Through our site you can also access the Presbyterian denomination for information, lectionary readings, prayers and devotionals.

For information, contact Mary Ann Morrow 933-3717. Visit the site often! Why not make it your home page?

SPECIAL ANNUAL EVENTS

*Living in the Spirit Living in Community
Living in Service to Others*

HOLIDAY HOUSES



Our IPC Holiday House Tour, Birmingham's oldest home tour, celebrates its 60th year in 2009. The tour has become a holiday tradition for many in this community and surrounding ones. Tours of some of the area's most beautifully decorated homes are featured. This event takes place the first part of December.

The tour benefits the IPC

Children's Fresh Air Farm and other missions sponsored by the Presbyterian Women, including among others, First Light, Center for Homeless Women and Children. The tour always features Independent Presbyterian Church with its special holiday decorations and its rich history.

Hundreds of volunteers are needed to serve as hostesses in the featured homes, as well as at the Christmas Tea at the church. Others are needed to help with publicity and traffic control at the homes.

To volunteer with Holiday Houses, contact Betsy Middlebrooks, 933-3731 or bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

This organization of IPC sponsors the Holiday House Tour. Presbyterian Women is a group composed of every woman who is a member of Independent Presbyterian Church and is represented by a member of each of the women's groups at the church. The main events sponsored by the group are the yearly holiday luncheon and the annual spring luncheon. The coordinating committee meets twice a year with one additional budget planning meeting, at which time the moderator and co-moderator help distribute funds raised by the Holiday House Tour and the annual Birthday Offering.

FOCUS ON FAITH

Focus on Faith provides annual events of education and inspiration for the membership of Independent Presbyterian Church and people in the community.

Recent speakers include Fred Craddock,

Craig Barnes, Will Willimon, and Claudio Carvalheas. Future speakers include Tony Campolo. The committee also sponsors educational trips to theological seminaries.

BARBARA NOOJIN



Barbara Noojin Walthall
BIBLE STUDY SERIES

WALTHALL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

This lecture series is made possible by a fund established by the Walthall family in memory of Barbara Walthall. Christine Yoder, Barbara Rossing, Kathleen O'Connor, Cynthia Rigby, and Carol Newsom have been featured in the past. Amy-Jill Levine will be the speaker in March 2010.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

An Advent Workshop is held the first Sunday evening of the advent season. This annual event is an opportunity for members of all ages to come enjoy dinner together and create memories making crafts for the advent season. This long-held tradition in the life of the church truly signals the beginning of the advent season.

FALL FESTIVAL

The IPC Fall Festival is an event for the entire congregation sponsored by the Partners Committee. The Fall Festival is held at the Children's Fresh Air Farm and is a relaxed time for all ages to enjoy each other and the beautiful fall colors. A Fall Dinner of homemade chili, hotdogs, cornbread, dessert & beverage is served along with hot apple cider and hot chocolate! There is a Blue Grass Band, a Petting Zoo for the kids, a camp fire with marshmallow roasting and more! The Children's Fresh Air Farm is the perfect setting to celebrate the Fall season! All are invited!

CHURCH PICNIC & STREET PARTY

A church-wide picnic and fun for all ages is usually held in April outside the church after the 11:00 Sunday service.



RELIGIOUS ARTS FESTIVAL

The *Religious Arts Festival* is a faith enriching program sponsored by the Fine Arts Committee of Independent



Presbyterian Church to glorify God through the rich spectrum of the arts. For more than 30 years, guest speakers and artists with expertise in drama, music, dance, architecture, sculpture, literature, and art have been brought to the city for an annual week-long program usually held during the first week of February.

NOVEMBER ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

The *November Organ Recital Series* is sponsored by the Music Committee. It began in 1965 and is one of the longest running

organ series in the country. Virtually every major organist in the world has played our Aeolian Skinner organ, and this organ series has continued to attract people to IPC from the Birmingham community and beyond. Concerts are held every



Sunday afternoon in November in the Sanctuary. All programs are offered as a gift to the community and are open to the public.

ALL SAINTS' EVENSONG

The annual All Saints' Service takes the form of Choral Evensong sung by the IPC Choir. The service features choral music and the traditional "Litany of the Saints" that recalls the names of our saints (IPC members) who have died in the past year.



The Evensong Service is sometimes scheduled at other times of the year at IPC. Below is a description of the service.

Sacred Space. The religious communities, beginning in the Middle Ages, observed special periods of communal, or common prayer. Evensong is the name given to the Vespers service

when the majority of the service is sung by a choir to musical settings, drawing from diverse choral traditions.

Throughout the centuries, the Service of Evensong has created sacred space in which listening and sharing can occur. It has been about quieting the static in our lives whereby we can hear the deeper rhythms of life in ourselves and each other. It is a service sung at the onset of evening to mark the close of day with gratitude, and to compose the mind and renew the spirit for the coming week. It is a service of reflection, of allowing oneself to hear God through the readings, psalms, and canticles, which are the core of the service.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The IPC Choir performs a Christmas Concert in Advent every year on Sunday afternoon in the Sanctuary. These performances are part of our tradition at IPC and have become a very special part of the Advent season for our members and for the community.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve services are held at noon (especially important for children), and the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols at 4:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m. These afternoon/evening services tell the story of Christmas through scripture, hymns and anthems sung by the IPC Choir. They also include a special candlelight portion when the church is illuminated solely by the light of the candles held by worshippers.

IPC CHOIR GOLF TOURNAMENT

In October, the IPC Choir sponsors a fundraising golf tournament at the nearby Highland Golf Course. The choir is very grateful for the support you have given during the past years. Proceeds of the tournament enable the choir to share the IPC music mission throughout the world. So every October, call your friends, get your clubs ready and come on out to have a great time!



STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

Living in the Spirit Living in Service to Others

Stewardship & Development
Rev. Bobbie Epting, Director
Stewardship & Development
205.933.3729

Understanding our life as disciples of Christ begins “In the beginning” (Genesis 1:1). Our creator God – from whom ALL blessings flow -- made us in God’s image, and all of us are God’s beloved children. God has lovingly given each of us, individually, distinctive gifts and talents, and God gives these gifts to us generously and in abundance.

Our life work is to discern our particular gifts and talents and to develop and share them in service to God as followers of Christ.

The Holy Spirit is our guide to hearing and answering God’s call to service.

In prayer we seek guidance to respond to God’s generosity in joyful thanks by giving generously, ourselves, of our time, of our talents, and of our material resources.

We rejoice knowing that all that we are, and all that we have, belongs to God. We trust God to work fruitfully through us.

Who has ever given to God that God should repay him? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever, Amen (Romans 11:35-36)



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Give of your TIME and TALENTS

- Prayerfully reflect on the opportunities offered in the ***IPC Pathways*** brochure.
- Contact several program coordinators to discuss your special gifts and the specific needs of the church.
- Discover a meaningful “fit” and get involved!
- Enjoy the added blessings of *Living in Unity* by *Living in the Spirit*, *Living in Community* and *Living in Service to Others*.

Share your MATERIAL RESOURCES

Faithful IPC members have accepted God’s call to “support the work of the church through the giving of money, time and talent.” (Book of Order G-5.0102d)

- In addition to making an annual STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE -- a commitment of proportional giving that supports the life and work of the church -- members also:
- respond to periodic requests in support of particular church mission opportunities during the year (e.g., Souper Bowl, OneGreat Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy Offering, and CFAF Christmas Boxes).
- The IPC FOUNDATION is a ministry of the church, and members are asked to consider making significant major and planned gifts to the permanent funds (see the IPC FOUNDATION Annual Report for a detailed listing of existing funds and for ways to create new funds in accordance with donor’s wishes.)

The work replacing the slate roof on the sanctuary, repointing the stone work around the stained glass windows and adding new exterior lighting was made possible through generous gifts from church members.

IPC FOUNDATION

*Living in the Spirit
Living in Service to Others*

IPC Foundation

Jim Wooten, Executive Director

205.933.3705

Have YOU ever wanted to...

- participate in an international mission trip?
- help select a worthwhile project to support locally, nationally or internationally?
- fund a project that for whatever reason, you cannot personally participate in, but want to see happen nonetheless?

If so, then please

- Identify yourself to either the Executive Director of the Foundation, Jim Wooten; the IPC Director of Stewardship and Development, Bobbie Epting; a member of the Board of Directors of the IPC Foundation; or Rev. Susan Clayton, Director of Community Ministries.
- *Call IPC at 933-1830 and ask to speak to Susan, Bobbie or Jim or e-mail one of them at sclayton@ipc-usa.org, bepting@ipc-usa.org, or jwooten@ipc-usa.org.*

For more than 35 years, the IPC Foundation has supplemented IPC's congregational support for mission serving groups and individuals in need or supporting those who provide direct services to others. Annually, the foundation supports and sends participants on mission trips to Mwandu, Zambia; Ukraine; and Mexico. Most trips are suitable for both youth and adults.

Over the summer, during the IPC Foundation Beeson Fund grantmaking cycle, committee and board members review grant applications and make site visits. Contributions to any of the 27 existing open funds are accepted throughout the year, and new endowed funds can

be established with a minimum contribution of \$25,000. The IPC Foundation Annual Report provides a detailed overview of the Foundation and the history of major gifts to IPC along with inspiring stories focusing on the transformative impact of grants from the Beeson funds to projects locally and globally.

To illustrate the power of endowments: for every dollar IPC received into the Beeson Fund, \$1.12 has already been spent and \$1.71 remains to generate income for future mission support.



Betty Drennen and Dorothy on the porch of Simba House at the Mwandu Hospital Mission.

Betty helped Dorothy start an African print tote bag sewing project which raises money for HIV+ mothers to buy infant formula for their babies.

IPC DAY SCHOOL

Living in Community Living in the Spirit

IPC Day School

Jason C. Turner, Director

205.930.8166

The Independent Presbyterian Church Day School is a ministry to children and to their families in our church and in our community. Believing that children are a gift of God, we provide a quality early childhood education within a Christian environment. We strive to provide a comprehensive curriculum, nurturing the whole child through varied learning experiences and settings.

Since its beginning in 1965, the Independent Presbyterian Church Day School has fulfilled the vision of the church to provide a positive preschool experience for children of church members and the community at large. The Day School is designed for children age six months through Five-Year-Old Kindergarten. We have an approximate enrollment of 235 children and 35 staff.

Hours of operation: Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For information about the Day School, visit the IPC website: www.ipc-usa.org or call Jason Turner, 930-8166.



KIRKWOOD BY THE RIVER

*Living in Community Living in the Spirit
Living in Service to Others*

Located on 120 beautiful wooded acres Kirkwood by the River is a not-for-profit retirement community sponsored by Independent Presbyterian Church. **For more information, go to www.kirkwoodbytheriver.com**

Kirkwood is open to all people regardless of church affiliation. An applicant or spouse must be at least 62 to move into Kirkwood.

The full continuum of care includes 72 Independent Living units, 44 Assisted Living Units and a 61 bed Skilled Nursing facility. Located on a quiet and scenic campus, Kirkwood is just minutes away from medical facilities, shopping centers and cultural and social events.

There are many volunteer opportunities and activities at Kirkwood by the River.

1. Members of the Kirkwood Board largely come from Independent Presbyterian Church. The Board meets monthly and oversees the work of Kirkwood. **Dr. Bill Dismukes** is the Chair of the Board and **Bill Patterson** is the Vice-Chair.
2. Each month, Independent Presbyterian Church provides Elders to serve the Lord's Supper at the Thursday Morning Worship Service. Call **Hendrika Snow** (251-3733) or **Verna Lyons** (328-3215) if you are an elder and would like to serve in this way.
3. Each month, volunteers from IPC host a birthday party for the Kirkwood family to help celebrate the birthdays of Kirkwood residents that month. If you would like to become a part of this group call **Katie Dunn** (879-3956) who oversees this ministry.
4. Twice a week, volunteers from IPC run **Kirkwares Shoppe**, for an hour and a half each time, providing sundries and supplies for our residents. If you would like to serve as a Kirkwares volunteer, call **Joan Hollingsworth** (879-2245) who heads up this ministry.
5. **Barbara Lanier** is the Deacon assigned to Kirkwood, visiting with the residents and bringing flowers and plants to share. Call her (298-1886) to assist in this ministry.
6. Several IPC members have assisted with our Kirkwood Library in the past. To assist in this way, call Kirkwood resident and IPC member **Doris Burton** (956-0974).
7. Every month **Carol Hall and Bet Kesmodel** conduct a

Bible Study at Kirkwood for its residents.

8. **Valerie Pankey** assists with interior decorating at Kirkwood.

9. Several times each year, the **IPC Youth Group** makes home-made cards or visits with residents of Kirkwood.

10. The **Westminster Youth Choir** presents an annual Christmas Concert at Kirkwood, and the **Day School Choir** and the **TeDeum Choir** also come and perform each year.

11. The Junior League Chorus, made up of many IPC members, performs annually at Kirkwood.

12. IPC member and storyteller, **Dolores Hydock**, comes to Kirkwood monthly and presents a variety of readings and storytelling programs.

13. Each week the flowers from the IPC Worship Service are shared with Kirkwood.

14. Twice each Sunday a video of the IPC Worship Service is shown on the Kirkwood in-house TV Channel.

In addition to all the above, many other members of Independent Presbyterian Church come to Kirkwood often to visit or deliver flowers or spend time with our residents.

To serve at Kirkwood in any way, please call any of the persons listed above or **Robbie Sevier** at 956-3500 or the Kirkwood Chaplain, **Rev. Richard B. Hanna** or the Kirkwood Program Director, **Janet Perry**, both at 956-2184.

Discipleship Opportunities at Kirkwood by the River:

- Help host a monthly birthday party for the Kirkwood residents
- Staff the **Kirkwares Shoppe**
- Volunteer in the Kirkwood Library
- Take flowers or plants to share with the residents
- Visit with the residents and share your gifts of music or storytelling
- Ordained Elders: Assist in serving Holy Communion at the Thursday Morning Worship Service at Kirkwood

OTHER CHURCH SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

*Living in Community Living in the Spirit
Living in Service to Others*

***Are you a gardener?
Would you like to help tend
the gardens at IPC?***

***IPC's Children's Garden:
An Outdoor Sanctuary***

***"I love to think of nature as an unlimited
broadcasting station through which God speaks to
us every hour, if we will only tune in."***

-- George Washington Carver

Have you strolled through the Children's Garden lately? It's the garden tucked alongside the covered walkway on the 31st Street entrance to the church. It's an inviting spot filled with lush flowers and plants.

It's a sanctuary where we see God's gifts of color and extraordinary detail.

Jason Turner, Director of the IPC Day School, along with the Facilities Staff, works hard in the Children's Garden planting new summer flowers and plants. They also tend the gardens in the front courtyard and in the columbarium.

If you are a gardener and would like to join Jason and the others in tending our church gardens, please call Libby Kidd (933-3704).



***How does your
garden grow?***

With...

***Hydrangeas
White impatiens
Gardenias
Hostas
Ferns
Japanese Maple Trees
and
Lenten Roses***



Joining Independent Presbyterian Church

- **Profession of Faith and Baptism** – This category is for people who have never been baptized.
- **Confirmation of Baptismal Vows** – This category is for people who have been baptized but never joined a church.
- **Reaffirmation of Faith** – This category is for people who have been baptized and confirmed in a church or denomination that does not transfer letters of membership.

Three examples: Roman Catholic, Baptist, and Episcopal.

• **Transfer of Letter** – This category is for people who have been baptized and are currently a member of a denomination that transfer letters. These churches are referred to as Corresponding Churches.

The Methodist Church, Church of Christ, and some other Presbyterian denominations are examples. The pastor's office has a list of Corresponding Churches.



QUESTIONS ASKED UPON PROFESSION OR REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Do you trust in him?

I do.

Do you intend to be his disciple, to obey his word and to show his love?

I do.

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, giving of yourself in every way, and will you seek the fellowship of the church wherever you may be?

I will.

The Church and its Members

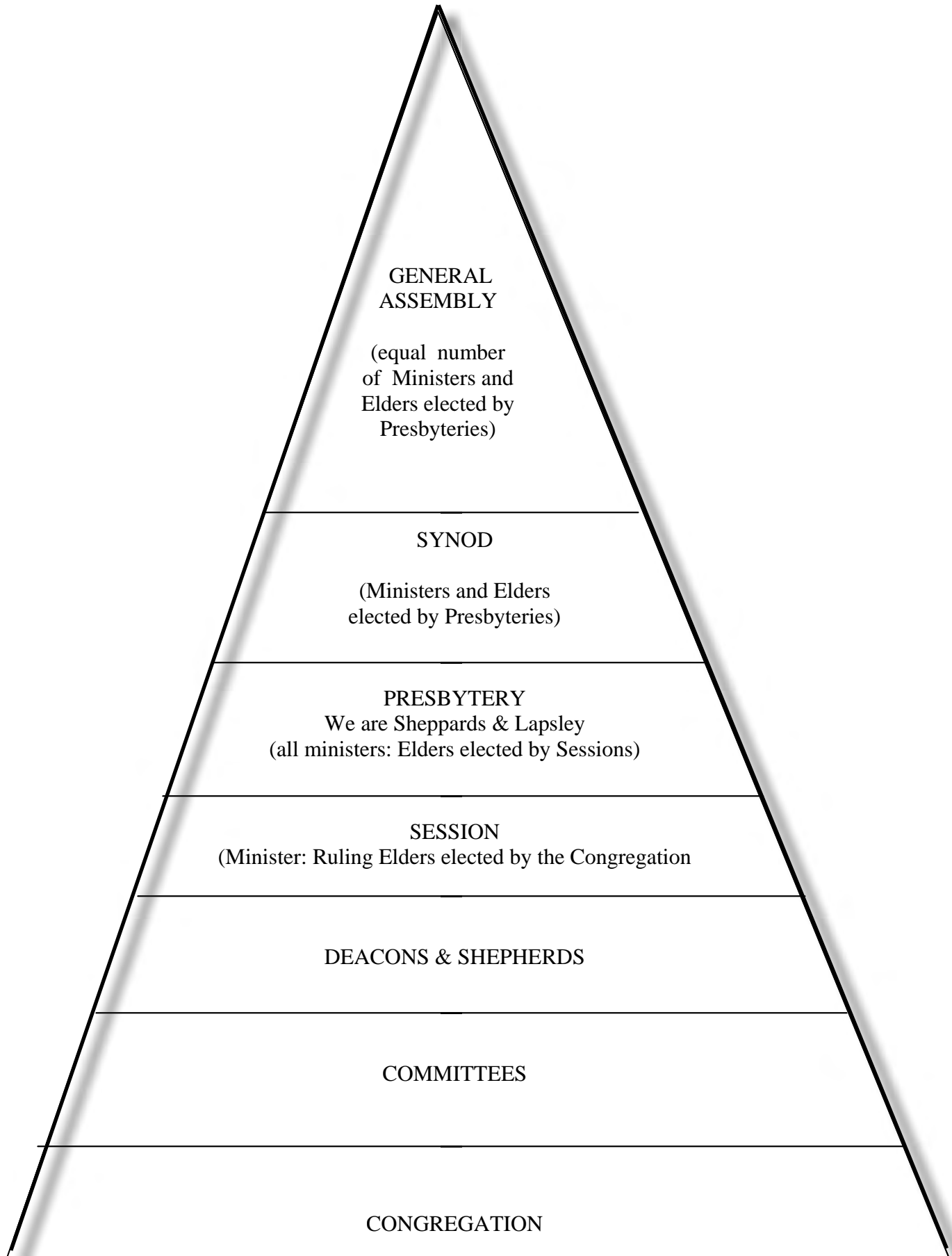
The Meaning of Membership G-5.0100

The incarnation of God in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ gives to the church not only its mission but also its understanding of membership. One becomes an active member of the church through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and acceptance of his Lordship in all of life. Baptism and a public profession of faith in Jesus as Lord are the visible signs of entrance into the active membership of the church.

A faithful member accepts Christ's call to be involved responsibly in the ministry of his Church. Such involvement includes:

1. Proclaiming the good news
2. Taking part in the common life and worship of a particular church
3. Praying and studying Scripture and the faith of the Christian Church
4. Supporting the work of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents
5. Participating in the governing responsibilities of the church
6. Demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church
7. Responding to God's activity in the world through service to others
8. Living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life
9. Working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment

POLITY



Living in Christ

Strategic Priorities for Independent Presbyterian Church



INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christ our Cornerstone

Cornerstone Initiatives

Living in the Spirit

Living in Community

Living in Service to Others

Living in Christ: The Cornerstone Initiatives



So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

Ephesians 2:19-21 (ESV)

The image of a cornerstone is used throughout the Old Testament to illustrate God's promised redemption of humanity. Jesus identifies himself as the fulfillment of those prophecies, and the apostles Peter and Paul carry the image forward reminding the Church of her foundation. With this metaphor in mind, the strategic planning committee established a set of initiatives that are necessary to undergird the more specific priorities of **Living in the Spirit, Living in Community, and Living in Service to Others.**

The four Cornerstone Initiatives are:

1. Create a **database** that will contain information to:
 - Foster participation in community ministries and support by IPC membership (*Living in Service to Others*)
 - Connect members to opportunities for service (*Living in Community, Living in Service to Others*)
 - Expand Grace Groups (*Living in the Spirit*)
 - Increase congregational engagement and participation in committees (*Living in the Spirit*)
 - Promote discipleship (*Living in Community*)
2. Utilize and enhance **website** to ensure it serves as an efficient source of information about opportunities for service, events, needs and advocacy.
3. Create Task Force to **assess current use of IPC space.**
4. **Explore Committee Structure** where of strategic significance.



Living in the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; . . . If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 & 25

The Living in the Spirit Initiatives

1. **Respond to need of members for a spiritual community (home) by:**
 - Adding an intentional spiritual dimension to everything we do -encouraging prayer and other forms of spirituality in all gatherings, committee meetings, and work groups
 - Prepare members to cope with long-term illness, divorce, grief, living alone and similar life and spiritual challenges as well as to acquire life skills such as marriage dynamics, child rearing, listening encouragement, sharing faith.

2. **Increase participation in small group Christian study and building community by:**
 - Expanding Grace Group offerings to include adult, youth, family
 - Making Grace Groups an ongoing element of Congregational Care
 - Creating new circles, prayer and bible study groups, book groups, and Christian study groups

3. **Build members' understanding of classical Christian spiritual disciplines through church programming**

4. **Encourage integration of prayer into members' daily lives through:**
 - Adding Christian education instruction on forms of prayer, how to pray
 - Offering prayer retreats and pilgrimages
 - Encouraging daily prayer time

5. **Heighten Christian connection, communication, and spiritual discipline by:**
 - Coordinating Christian education themes in all classes;
 - Developing devotional sources that support those themes;
 - Including sharing of faith journey as part of ongoing church life.

Living in Community



For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given us
Romans 12:4-6a.

Living in Community Initiatives

1. **Expand participation of members and visitors, especially youth, in non-worship activities such as living in service and recreational activities, as well as in worship.**
2. **Make the church a more welcoming place to members and visitors by creating a community environment:**
 - Encouraging greeting and welcoming atmosphere at the member, Deacon, Elder, and staff levels for all worship and other services;
 - Use church officers as official greeters, expanding number of greeter locations;
 - Need process for moving people who are visitors to fully active Members, but the process should be one without requirements or barriers
3. **Expand discipleship efforts to increase individual members participation in the ministries and outreach of the church.**

Living in Service to Others



But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. . . . Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." Luke 10

Living in Service to Others Initiatives

- 1. Formalize outreach to one or more neighborhoods (probably Avondale, Woodlawn, and East Lake) to improve lives and empower individuals and families to prosper**
- 2. Increase participation in advocacy for those in need by:**
 - Educating congregation as to why we engage in advocacy and by promoting congregation's understanding of systemic issues.
 - Deepening relationships with existing advocacy organizations to improve lives and empower individuals and families to improve lives.
- 3. Develop program of educational and inspirational experiences for youth and adults on living in service to others**
- 4. Increase capacity to provide food, clothing, medicine, utility assistance or other direct intervention for those in greatest need in our community**



IPC DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Please check all areas of interest

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10*

Christian Education:

- Christian Education Committee
- Adult Church School
- Wednesday Nights
- Teach Youth
- Teach Children
- Weekday Events

Youth:

- Youth Subcommittee
- Teach Church School
- Chaperone
- Drive Van(25-70; clear MVR)
- Provide Food
- Plan Events
- Retreats
- Service Projects

Children:

- Sunday School Teacher
- Coordinator - Sundays
- Music Sunday School/Chapel
- Storytelling
- Worship Care
- Bibletimes Marketplace
- Vacation Bible School
- Children's Chapel
- ROC/K – Wednesday Nights
- IPC Day School
- Preschool Subcommittee
- Elementary Subcommittee
- Chaperone Events

Community Ministries:

- Community Ministries Committee
- First Light Volunteer
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hunger Work Group

- IPC Food Pantry
- Mission Trips
- Children's Fresh Air Farm
- Boy Scout Troop #28
- Advocacy Group
- Medical/Dental Volunteer
- Kirkwood by the River
- S.T.A.I.R. Tutoring

Congregational Care:

- Congregational Care Committee
- Love Thy Neighbor (meals)
- Funeral Usher
- Older Adult Ministries
- Shepherd Ministry
- Grace Groups
- 4th Quarter
- Knitting Ministry
- Letter/Card Writing Ministry
- Hospital Visitation
- Home Visitation
- Home Communion
- Intercessory Prayer Groups
- Bereavement
- Phoning

Intergenerational:

- Advent Workshop
- Street Party (Spring)
- Fall Festival
- Host Church Fellowship Events in Your Home

Worship/ Music/The Arts:

- Worship Committee
- Fine Arts Committee
- Music Committee
- Choir
- Religious Arts Festival
- Choir Parent (no musical skills required)

Hospitality:

- Holiday House Tour
- Hospitality at the Church
- Greeting Visitors
- Sunday Greeter Church School
- Mentor New Members
- Special Occasion Hospitality
- Church Dinners Servers
- Birmingham Men's Club
- Luncheon Servers
- Prepare Food for Receptions
- Serve at Receptions

Administration/Financial/ Stewardship/Communications:

- Stewardship Committee
- Legal
- Financial
- General Business Skills
- Organizational Skills
- Historian/Detail person
- Librarians
- Real Estate/Property
- Drivers (25-70; clear MVR)
- Gardeners (church grounds)
- General Volunteering
- Communications Committee
- Public Relations
- Marketing
- Photography
- Writing/Editing
- Publications
- Graphics
- Computer Skills
- Audio/Visual Skills

*Please put your name
and other information
on the reverse side of
this form.*

Your Name:

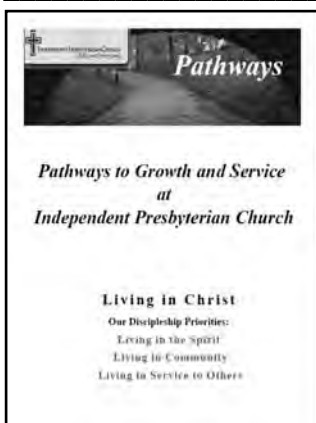
Address:

Phone Number:

Alternate Phone Number:

E-Mail Address:

Please list any other talents, training, or expertise which you believe could be helpful for discipleship opportunities:



Find the details of these and other opportunities in this IPC *Pathways* booklet also available at the church or on our website:

www.ipc-usa.org/discipleship

***Please complete this form on-line or
Complete both sides of this form and
return it to Nancy Skinner at the church***

**Independent Presbyterian Church
3100 Highland Avenue
Birmingham, AL 35205
Phone: 933-1830, Fax: 933-1836**

Thank you for prayerfully considering where your gifts and interests are and for sharing them with others.



"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith."

Galatians 6:9-10



INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christ our Cornerstone



*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."*

1 Peter 4:10

Independent Presbyterian Church

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