



INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*Christ our Cornerstone*



# *the WINDOW*

VIEWS FROM INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH April 2010 Vol. 63, Issue 4

## *Christ is Risen!*

### *An Easter Prayer*

Glorious Risen Lord, you are acquainted with the darkness, for you have been there. Yet, even now you would enter the darkness and gloom of the tombs, real or imagined, that separate us from you with a light that needs no other source but you. Jesus, with the mercy that only one who has been there can grant, illumine, we pray, the tombs into which we have fallen or in which we cower. May the gentle and embracing dawn of your resurrection stir us from our slumber and reveal the light of a new day when all of creation will be renewed by your Word.

Amen.

*Dr. Conrad C. Sharps, Pastor*

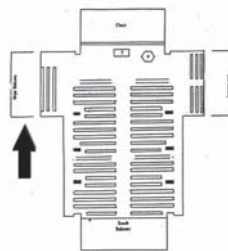


### **The Resurrection (Easter) Window**

"Three women have come to the tomb at daybreak. Luke names them: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary, the mother of James (Luke 24:10). They have come to anoint the body of Jesus and have brought with them a basin and jars of precious spices. An angel in dazzling white sits at the entrance to the tomb and announces, *'He is not here, for He is risen, as He said'* (Matthew 28:6).

The tomb is in a garden; note the flowers and especially the Easter lilies, now erect and tall, whereas in the Gethsemane window they were bowed down...(Note also) the butterfly, one of the most meaningful symbols of the resurrection and eternal life."

Carol Lukens Hall, *The Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows of The Independent Presbyterian Church*



*Photos by Paul Romjue*

## **Holy Week at IPC**

**Thursday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.**

**Maunder Thursday *Evening Service and Holy Communion* • IPC Choir**

**Friday, April 2, 12:00 noon**

**Good Friday *A Penitential Service***

**Sunday, April 4, 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.**

**Festival Easter Services *The Resurrection of our Lord***

*"The Easter and Ascension windows in the West Transept balcony -- an area of glorious victory."*

*Carol Lukens Hall*



The Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps

# The Empty Tomb:

## The Very Basis of Our Hope

The sixth and seventh grade youth of the church were very near completion of their Confirmation Class. This was a course of study that attempted to better prepare the young people for making a mature profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and assume fuller participation in the ministry of the church. We asked all our confirmands to prepare in their own words, a statement of their faith.

This process was brought close to home for my family that year as my son spent hours writing and refining what he believes about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, human sin and the Bible. Although this statement took time and great effort to prepare, it was a heartwarming and rewarding experience to listen to, to discuss and to share the most essential elements of our faith with my son.

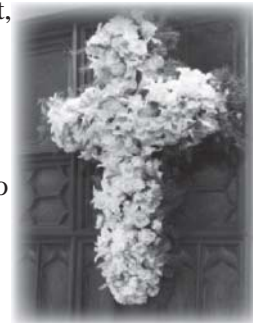
It is good for all disciples to wrestle with, refine and seek to express the essentials of our faith in Jesus Christ. One of the most common beliefs of the Christian faith is the resurrection of Jesus Christ which we celebrate this coming Easter Sunday. We believe that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

This is, in my opinion, the most important doctrine of the Christian faith because everything else that we believe as Christians depends upon it. Paul spoke to this when he wrote to the church in Corinth. "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith...If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men." (1 Corinthians 15:14, 19)

The resurrection tells us, and we affirm it in what we profess and how we seek to live, that God's love and redemption are more powerful than sin and death.

God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Our faith as disciples truly begins with this affirmation. For Christians the resurrection is the one and only event in all of history that can give meaning and purpose to all the rest. In order to understand life in all its joy and sadness, pain and pleasure, we must view it through the perspective of the resurrection. The empty tomb is the very basis of our hope.

What do you face this Easter Sunday? Is your journey difficult or full of joy? No matter what your answer, please write into your statement of faith, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! His defeat over sin and the grave is what makes our redemption possible. He lives, and because he does, we have hope for life abundant and eternal. Even though you may have made your profession of faith years ago — consider reaffirming it today. Yes, express your faith in Jesus Christ, shout out in praise. Christ lives, and because he does, we can too!



*"God's love and redemption are more powerful than sin and death."*

### LIVING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS...

#### SUGGESTED FOOD

##### PANTRY ITEMS

April 4

Canned Fruits/  
Vegetables

April 11

Pasta/Pasta Sauces

April 18

Corn Bread Mixes

April 25

Peanut Butter & Jelly

#### First Light Women's Shelter

Items for April

Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

**Spring Term Adult Church School Classes March 28 - May 30.** In addition to the eight community classes offered, the following two topic classes are being taught.

**THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS** meeting in room 306 is a survey of the Essenes and the Qumran community and their relationship to Biblical literature in light of both Jewish and Christian beliefs. Visiting local scholars and IPC member Dick Darden will discuss the political process of translating the scrolls. This class is being presented as part of preparation for the April 16-18 visit by Dr. James Charlesworth, Princeton Theological Seminary and Dead Sea Scrolls expert, as the *Focus on Faith* speaker.

**THE THEOLOGY OF PAUL** reviews Paul in his historical context and apocalyptic mindset, including a review of his thoughts on justification and righteousness, the Gospel and the law, sin and salvation, and inclusion of gentiles in his ministry and message. Taught by Matt Hunter, Larry Krannich, and visiting scholars; facilitated by Laura Woodruff. The class meets in room 301.

Join Us For Summer Learning and Fun !

## BibleTimes Market Place (BTMP)

"Stories of Jesus"

June 21 - June 25

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

At the Children's Fresh Air Farm

Registration:

Member priority Feb 22 – April 20, 2010

Open registration April 21 – May 20, 2010

## Preschool Vacation Bible School

"Baobab Blast"

God's Great Get-Together!

Completed classes for 3 year - 5k

June 21-25, 2010

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

At Independent Presbyterian Church

Registration:

Member priority Feb 22 – April 20, 2010

Open registration- April 21 – May 20, 2010



**Don't Forget!**

**May 4, noon**

**Reservations are due**

**by Monday, April 26**

to the church receptionist  
for the May 4

## Presbyterian Women Spring Luncheon

The luncheon is at noon in the Great Hall with **guest speaker Margaret McSweeney, author of *Pearl Girls***, which includes a chapter by our own Melanie Talbot Montgomery. Tickets are \$10.00; your check is your reservation. To reserve a table, you must submit the eight names of the occupants when you make your reservations.

**Childcare is available;** please make nursery plans when you reserve your spot at the luncheon.

## DEPARTMENTS

*The Window* is a monthly publication of Independent Presbyterian Church 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205-1408. The *Window* is published for church members and friends. Please send comments to **Mary Ann Morrow, editor, c/o IPC.**

### Worship

The Rev Dr. Conrad Sharps, *Pastor*,  
933-1830

### Music & Fine Arts

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland,  
*Director, Music and Fine Arts*  
933-3701

### Education

Paul Romjue, *Director*,  
*Christian Education*  
933-3732

Cindy Coulter, *Director*,  
*Children's Ministries*  
933-3708

David Seamon, *Director, Youth Ministries*  
933-3708

### Congregational Care & Counseling

The Rev. Ms. Lucy Turner,  
*Associate Pastor; Director*,  
*Congregational Care* 933-3706

The Rev. Dr. Richard E. Pyburn  
The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Wade  
*Counseling Associates*  
Dr. Pyburn: 933-3698  
Dr. Wade: 933-3695

**New Member Coordinator**  
Nancy Skinner, 933-3703

### Community Ministries

The Rev. Ms. Susan Clayton, *Associate Pastor; Director, Community Ministries*,  
933-3709  
Dale Head, *Assistant Director, Community Ministries*, 933-3726

### Finance

James Wooten, *Executive Director*,  
*IPC Foundation & Director, Finance*,  
933-3705

### Stewardship & Development

The Rev. Ms. Bobbie Epting, *Associate Pastor; Director, Stewardship & Development*  
933-3729

### IPC Day School

Jason Turner, *Director, Day School*,  
933-3687

### Administration

Libby Kidd, *Director*,  
*Operations & Administration*  
933-3704

### President of Congregation

Rupert Bodden, Jr.  
942-8676

### Vice-President of the Congregation

William W. Horton  
419-5139

Photographs by Paul Romjue  
Mason Fischer Photography  
& Virginia Jones



**Join the Wednesday morning Bible study**

**with Margaret Northen**, which meets weekly

10:30-11:45 in room 308. This in-depth study entitled

***Paul in the 21st Century—Reading I Corinthians*** begins

April 14 and is led by retired minister and former member of  
IPC Margaret Northen. Contact Betsy Middlebrooks at

933-3731 or [bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org](mailto:bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org) for more details.

## Sign Up Now!

The IPC Partners Group  
is Sponsoring  
a Night of Barons Baseball !



**Friday, April 23 at 6:00 p.m. is  
IPC Night at the Barons Game**

**Tickets: \$17 for adults and \$11 for children age 2-10.**

**Price covers: dinner, a moonwalk & a personal visit with Barons mascot.**

Covered seating on the Robin Ventura Patio plus optional stadium seating!

IPC will be throwing out the first pitch of the game and will be featured on the scoreboard ... as well as having a Shout-out during the game!

Contact Jeannine Usher (933-3694 or [jusher@ipc-usa.org](mailto:jusher@ipc-usa.org)) to place your reservation.

*Living in  
Service to Others*



## Sunday, April 18

Don't forget the **April 18 CROP Walk**, sponsored by Church World Service, which begins at 1:45 p.m. in Caldwell Park. Greater Birmingham Ministries will receive 25% of funds raised

with the remaining funds going to CWS projects to aid disaster relief in this country and around the world. Contact **Betsy Middlebrooks** at 933-3731 or at [bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org](mailto:bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org) for more information.

## IPC HABITAT HOUSE TO BE DEDICATED AT 5:00 p.m.

### ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

IPC members and friends are finishing the final details on our Habitat for Humanity house for 2010. The house build was begun on Saturday, February 20, the Saturday following Ash Wednesday, which marked the beginning of Lent. The dedication of the completed home will be Good Friday, April 2, 2010. This build is taking place during Habitat Birmingham's *Building on Faith Initiative*, in which a number of churches are building houses at the same time around the city.

All are invited to the home dedication at 5:00 p.m. Directions to the house are on the home page of the IPC website.



*Photo by  
IPC member  
Virginia Jones*

## REMINDER:

*IPC hosts a week of meals and overnights for the women and children at First Light Shelter. The following groups are responsible for meals in April:*



### April 18-24, 2010

**Sunday, April 18—No dinner for IPC**

**Monday, April 19—IPC Guild**

**Tuesday, April 20—Community Ministries Committee**

**Wednesday, April 21—No dinner for IPC**

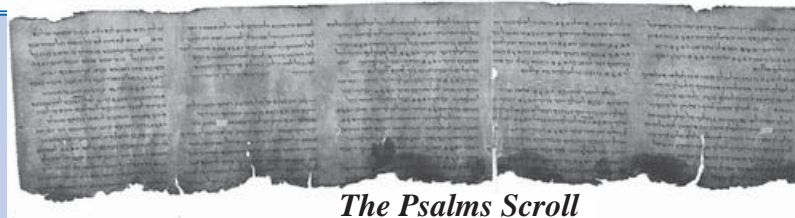
**Thursday, April 22—IPC Circle V**

**Friday, April 23—IPC Women at the Well**

**Saturday, April 24—IPC Advanced Class**

Please contact Betsy Middlebrooks at 933-3731 or at [bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org](mailto:bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org) if there are questions about the meals. If you are able to volunteer to stay overnight (sometime during the week of April 18-24), please contact Susan Clayton at 933-3709 or at [sclayton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sclayton@ipc-usa.org).

*Thanks so much for your help and dedication!*



*The Psalms Scroll*

## THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

**T**he Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of about 900 documents, including texts from the Hebrew Bible, discovered between 1947 and 1956 in 11 caves in and around the ruins of the ancient settlement of Khirbet Qumran on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea in Israel.

The texts are of great religious and historical significance, as they include the oldest known surviving copies of Biblical and extra-biblical documents and preserve evidence of great diversity in late Second Temple Judaism. They are written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, mostly on parchment, but with some written on papyrus. These manuscripts generally date between 150 BC to 70 AD.



# THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

**Dr. James H. Charlesworth**

*Professor of New Testament Language and Literature,  
Dept. of Biblical Studies, Princeton Theological Seminary*



**Weekend of  
April 16-18**

The 2010 Focus on Faith program is set for April 16-18 with **Dr. James H. Charlesworth**, the George L. Collord Professor of New Testament Language and Literature at the Department of Biblical Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. *We will be sharing Dr. Charlesworth during the weekend with our friends at Temple Emanu-El. You are invited to all the events during the weekend-- both at IPC and Temple Emanu-El.*

Dr. Charlesworth, an expert on the Dead Sea Scrolls and an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, is the author of more than 65 books and 400 articles or reviews on both the Dead Sea Scrolls and on Christian and Jewish origins, as well as Josephus, the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old and New Testaments, and the Gospel of John. Dr. Charlesworth is director of Princeton Seminary's Dead Sea Scrolls Project. He has excavated at Nazareth, Migdal, Qumran, Jerusalem, and elsewhere.

Dr. Charlesworth is also world-renowned as an expert on the interconnection between Judaism and early Christianity.



- **Friday, April 16 5:30 p.m. Temple Emanu-El**  
**2100 Highland Avenue** (*across from South Highlands*)

Dr. Charlesworth will speak during the worship service at Temple Emanu-El. His topic is *Hillel and Jesus, A Glimpse into the Lives and Times of Two Great Men*. IPC members are invited by our friends at Temple Emanu-El for worship during which Dr. Charlesworth will be speaking.



- **Saturday, April 17 5:30 p.m. at IPC in Room 305-307.**

Dr. Charlesworth will be lecturing at 5:30 p.m. at IPC in Room 305-307.

- **Sunday Morning, April 18 at IPC 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.**

Dr. Charlesworth will be preaching at IPC at both the 8:45 and 11:00 Services.

- **Sunday Afternoon, April 18, IPC 5:00 p.m. Great Hall**

Dr. Charlesworth will be lecturing at 5:00 p.m. at IPC in the Great Hall.

*All events are free and are open to the public. Nursery available for events at IPC.*

**I**ndependent Presbyterian and Temple Emanu-El share a long history together. IPC was founded in 1915 when members of South Highlands withdrew to form a new church. During the first seven years, under the leadership of Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, this new congregation worshipped in a Jewish synagogue, *Temple Emanu-El*. Later, when our church was completed, the dear friends from Temple Emanu-El presented IPC members with the exquisite silver candleabra that are in our Parlor. • The IPC Children's Fresh Air Farm was established with a major contribution by Robert Meyer, a member of Temple Emanu-El. • During our fire in 1992, when IPC burned, one of the first people to come to our aid was the Rabbi from Temple Emanu-El who graciously invited us to return "home" and worship in their Temple until our Sanctuary was restored. We returned to Temple Emanu-El the next Sunday, Palm Sunday, for our worship services and continued for Easter services and each Sunday for more than six months. We are pleased to be able to share this scholar and engaging speaker with Temple Emanu-El and others in our community.

# Library Notes

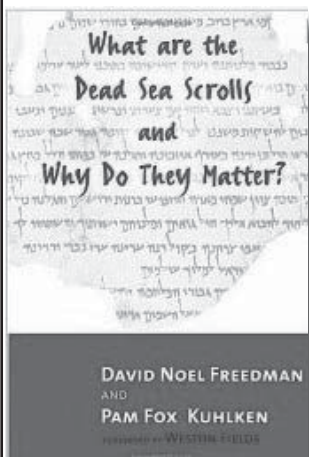


In *Leaving Church: a memoir of faith*, Barbara Brown Taylor describes the journey to her decision to leave parish ministry in order to discover what exactly God has called her to do. In the introduction to her follow-up book, *An Altar in the World*, she says "What is saving my life now is becoming more fully human, trusting that there is no way to God apart from real life in the real world" and later "In a world where faith is often construed as a way of thinking, bodily practices remind the willing that faith is a way of life."

*The Sacred Meal* is Nora Gallagher's offering of her insights on the Christian practice of communion. This practice of the church cannot be done alone, but is a coming together of the members of the body of Christ, the sharing of a sacred meal.

In *Sundays in America* Suzanne Strempek Shea recounts her pilgrimage to visit a different church every Sunday for a year. She visited more than thirty states and participated in the broad spectrum of contemporary Protestant Christianity practiced in this country.

*Paul: a very short introduction*, by E.P. Sanders, is an overview to this very important figure in the development of Christian theology.



In *What Are the Dead Sea Scrolls and Why Do They Matter?*, David Noel Freedman and Pam Fox Kuhlken provide a brief introduction to these ancient texts.

*You Are Special*, written by Max Lucado and illustrated by Sergio Martinez, presents a delightful tale for children to help them understand that no matter who they

are and what others think of them, each is a cherished child of God.

*The Library Committee*

## Living in Community

### 4th Quarter Sponsors Two Day Trips This Spring All Adult IPC Members and Guests are invited !

#### • "Wedding at Sand Mountain" Matinee Performance — Sunday, April 11

Virginia Samford Theatre beginning at 2:30 p.m.

We'll meet at the church at 2:00 and travel together to the theatre. Tickets: \$20.00 each.

#### • Lady Diana Spencer Exhibit + Lunch in Atlanta — Thursday, May 13

8:00 a.m. - Approx. 6:00 p.m. — Atlanta

Cost: \$25.00 plus the cost of your lunch

Transportation: Church Bus & Van

Exhibit includes Diana's wedding gown and tiara, plus ball gowns, jewelry and famous photos of her in many of her noted outfits.

We hope you'll join us for one or both of these awesome adventures, and remember, all adult IPC members and their guests are invited!

Reservations: call **Jeannine Usher at 933-3694**.

### 4th Quarter: April 2010 Lunch Bunch

The 4th Quarter's Lunch Bunch group will enjoy great food at *Dyron's Restaurant* in Crestline Village of Mountain Brook on **Tuesday, April 27**.

If you'd like to join us, please call Jeannine Usher at 933-3694 to place your reservation.

## Birmingham Men's Club:

The Birmingham Men's Club will hold their monthly luncheon meeting on **Monday, April 26**, beginning at 10:30 a.m. **Wayne Flint**, Auburn University Professor and Historian of Note, will serve as our speaker in April. Call Jeannine Usher at 933-3694 to learn more information or to place your reservation.

## PLANNING AHEAD...

One of the most peaceful locations around the church is the bench beside the waterfall urn in the new **Columbarium**. The sounds of water, the beauty of God's creation, the proximity to loved ones and to the places where we worship Christ all contribute to a Peace that "passes all understanding."

We can help our loved ones grieve more peacefully at our passing, and even celebrate our sure and certain hope of



resurrection to eternal life, if we have already shared our final plans with them. Plans that include your choice of resting place. Consider sharing those important choices and plans with your family this Eastertide as we rejoice in Christ's victory over death.

If you would like to secure a place in one of the Columbaria, there are double niches and single niches available in the new Columbarium and a limited number of single niches available in the Cloister Columbarium. Please contact Marsha Marbin at 933.3715 to discuss location availability and pricing details.



## FUNERAL USHERS NEEDED

Do you like to help someone in a time of need, but sometimes wonder what you have to offer?

Would you believe it if you were told that ushering at funeral and memorial services can be a most rewarding experience for you as well as a tangible way for you to offer your support to those who grieve? We need to expand our list of volunteers...*men and women*...for this important ministry at IPC. Since we only have one or two days' notice before a service is held, we understand that some volunteers will not be available when we need them. This makes it even more important to have a large pool of volunteers from which to draw. Please contact Jeannine Usher in Congregational Care at 933-3694 to add your name to the list. If you have questions, please call Lucy Turner at 933-3706.

## PREPARING FOR APRIL 15...2011

### WAYS TO GIVE TO THE IPC FOUNDATION

The IPC Foundation supports many different missions

of the Church – local, national and global. Our existing funds *IPC Member Bill Shanks, Chair, IPC Foundation Development Committee* provide support for numerous causes including relief from world hunger, local literacy initiatives, mission trips and support of our Church's fine arts. If you would like to support one of these missions, you can add to one of the existing funds administered by the Foundation.



There are a variety of ways to give. You may simply give cash or you can gift securities or property. Your donation is tax deductible, and if you give appreciated property, you realize the additional advantage of avoiding a capital gains tax. If you would like to make a gift to the Foundation in the future while realizing a current tax deduction, you can give through a charitable remainder trust, pooled income fund or gift annuity, or by giving a remainder interest in your residence.

Alternatively, you can simply make a bequest in your Will to the Foundation or make the Foundation a beneficiary of your IRA, retirement plan or life insurance policy. The Foundation stands ready to assist you in considering the form of gift that best fits your objectives and financial situation. Let us know if we can assist you with your planning.

*For the IPC Foundation Development Committee,*

*Bill Shanks, Chair*

*Committee Members: Cathy Delozier, Susan Haskell, Don James. Staff: Jim Wooten, Bobbie Epting and Marsha Harbin. You can contact any member of the church staff by calling 933.1830.*

## In April What's Cooking?



### IPC Wednesday Night Dinners

**April 7**

Steak (Sirloin)  
Baked Potato  
Steamed Veggies  
Rolls/Salad Bar  
Dessert

**Children:**

Cheese Burger/Fries  
Dessert

**April 14**

Barbecue Chicken  
Baked Beans  
Corn on the Cob  
Rolls/Salad Bar  
Dessert

**Children:**

Chicken Fingers  
Mac & Cheese  
Dessert

**April 21**

Grilled Maple  
Chipotle Porkchops  
Smoked Gouda Grits  
Steamed Broccoli  
Sweet Potato Biscuits  
Salad Bar/Dessert

**Children:**

Hot Dogs  
Curly Fries  
Dessert

**April 28**

Fried Chicken  
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy  
Steamed Green Beans  
Salad Bar/Rolls  
Dessert

**Children:**

Chicken Sandwich  
Potato Chips  
Dessert



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*the* **WINDOW**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# IPC CHOIR SPRING CONCERT

## Sunday, May 2, 2010, 4:00 p.m.

*IPC CHOIR SPRING CONCERT* featuring Masses by Jean Langlais, Maurice Durufle, Benjamin Britten, and William Albright.  
Directed by Jeff McLelland  
and accompanied  
by organist  
Nathan Laube.

