



Refurbishment

August 2011
Vol. 64, Issue 8

VIEWES FROM INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Returning to worship in the sanctuary

The long wait is over. Thanks be to God!

On Sunday, August 21, 2011, we will once again worship in the IPC Sanctuary, *barring any last minute complications.* While the congregation stayed together



worshipping in the Great Hall and overflowing into the Parlor on Sundays, the sanctuary was undergoing significant refurbishment – only some of which will be obvious to regular churchgoers.

God's Word will reverberate off a new wood ceiling, which replaces the original, deteriorated fibrous ceiling. In the ceiling are new lighting systems to illuminate the pulpit, the chancel, and the mosaics.

Although the chandeliers are the same, they have been re-wired and the lighting system enhanced for easier Bible, bulletin, and hymnbook reading by the congregation and for a more beautiful



illumination of the sanctuary.

The damaged plaster has been repaired, and the paintings in the children's chapel have been cleaned and restored. The floors have been refinished and the pews polished to a soft patina.

The organ has been removed and the space where the pipes and façade once were will remain vacant until later in the fall when the Dobson Pipe Organ Builders bring in the Joseph W. Schreiber Memorial Organ.

Until the new organ is installed and voiced, we'll move the temporary organ from the Great Hall and use it in worship in the sanctuary.

The Choir Loft has been rebuilt to accommodate the new organ console (which will sit lower in the loft than before), and when the choir returns to the choir loft, they will be seated on new curved risers.

We are so blessed as a church to have had the beautiful Great Hall for worship while we've been out of the sanctuary. Many members were pleasantly surprised at how worshipful the Great Hall space became as we heard God's Word read and proclaimed there; as we offered prayers and the sacraments; welcomed visitors and new members to our church fellowship; heard and sang glorious music; and as we sat closer than we used to beside friends old and new in chairs that felt as hard as rocks. The closeness made our fellowship contagious. We are emotionally and spiritually closer as a congregation for the temporary "change in scenery." We have trusted in God's goodness, and we have not been disappointed.



sanctuary photos by Paul Romjue

Continued on page four



The Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps

"In (Christ) the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord."

LIVING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS...

SUGGESTED FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

- August 7
Breakfast Bars
- August 14
Oatmeal/Grits
- August 21
Macaroni & Cheese
- August 28
Rice & Beans

First Light Women's Shelter Items for August

- Canned or Powdered Drinks/Snacks

Graciously receive our thanks for this house of worship

In the year 324, the emperor Constantine had a basilica built over the tomb where St. Peter was buried following his crucifixion in 64 A.D. Even then, St. Peter's basilica was a favored destination of religious pilgrims. St. Peter's today stands above the original basilica and is technically known as the New St. Peter's Basilica. I think this is interesting considering that its construction began in 1506 and took 120 years to complete. St. Peter's remained the largest Christian Church in the world until 1989 when another church's square footage surpassed it. But it is hardly size that makes St. Peter's special.

Consider for example the time it took to build the "New Basilica." If the average span of a worker's career was 20 to 30 years, then it took between four and six generations to begin and finish the building of St. Peter's that we know today. There were, for various and sundry reasons, over 35 architects that oversaw this project, including Michelangelo who designed the high dome. He died, however, before it was completed.

My point is simple. The vast majority of workers, laborers, craftsmen, architects and clergy that made the creation of St. Peter's their vocation never saw its completion. They built upon others' labors and trusted that when they were gone, others would follow who would build upon theirs. **We are fortunate that our sanctuary refurbishment project has taken only eight months thanks to the dedication and skills of the many contractors and laborers who have worked on our beloved sanctuary.** We ask God to graciously receive our thanks for this newly restored house of worship.

Our good fortune reminds me of Paul's letter to the church in Corinth: *"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

(I Corinthians 3:10-11)

A question that I believe we must ask ourselves from time to time is, am I being faithful to the vision of the Kingdom of which Jesus Christ is the foundation and cornerstone? How easy it is to forget in our labors, our careers and our passions that we are building upon that which others provided us, and those who follow us cannot build upon anything other than what we have left for them.

Are we then joyfully and with patience and foresight accepting our role in building what is eternal – what in our earthly existence we can never fully comprehend except with eyes of faith and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit? Whether you are an architect or carpenter, nursery volunteer or teacher, pastor or parishoner, you have a very important role in the building of a holy temple wherein the people of God can worship and live in the Spirit. Let us therefore come together, take up our tasks, prepare for the next generation and look forward with joy to the glory of God's everlasting church.

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you, too, are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

(Ephesians 2:19-22)



photo by Paul Romjue

Upcoming Events at IPC

August 13 Youth Canoe Trip - Living River Camp
August 21 Back in Sanctuary! Choir resumes singing
August 21-27 IPC week First Light Women's Shelter
August 23 4th Quarter Lunch Bunch
August 25 Partners Dinner at Lauren & Conrad's
August 28 Living River Wrap Up. Sunday School
Hour presentation and Picnic at IPC
September 7 - Nov. 16 Wednesday night Fall classes
September 7 All Youth Choirs begin rehearsal
September 8 IPC Presbyterian Women Kick Off Event
September 11 Congregational Meeting: Election of
Church Officers
September 11 Teacher Commissioning in worship
September 11 - November 27 Fall Term Classes
September 11,18,25, Oct. 2 Grace Groups Registration
September 11 Evening Prayer
September 20 4th Quarter Morning Coffee/History
discussion by historian Jim Phillips
September 20 Joint Officers Stewardship Dinner
September 29 4th Quarter Bus Tour of Bham with
historian Jim Phillips & lunch at John's Restaurant
October 2 Choir Dedication Sunday
October 3 STAIR begins
October 9 - Nov. 19 Fall Grace Groups
October 13 - 4th Quarter Fall trip to Mentone
October 16 IPC Fall Festival at Fresh Air Farm
October 30 All Saints' Evensong
November 6, 13, 20 November Organ Series
December 4 IPC Choir Christmas Concert
December 18 Evening Prayer

LEARNING
ADULT FALL TERM CLASSES 2011
September 11 - November 27
"Wednesday Night" begins September 7
 IPC Sunday fall term classes begin September 11 and end November 27, with teacher commissioning also taking place on September 11. Wednesday night classes begin September 7 and continue until November 16. More details in the Christian Education brochure available in September.

Dr. Sharps to lead a Sunday School class this Fall

We're in the midst of summer right now, but fall will be here before we know it, and with fall will come new Sunday School offerings. Of special note will be a course led by Dr. Conrad Sharps! Entitled "*Life Applications*," the discussion course will focus on one or more lectionary passages with an occasional discussion and analysis of current news items. The emphasis will be on applying God's Word to our lives. The course will meet in the Chapel, and everyone is welcome!

Paul Romjue, Director Christian Education

Pastoral Care Needs: Summer 2011

For June, July and August 2011, the Rev. Lucy Turner, who is responsible for our Congregational Care & Counseling, is on sabbatical leave. Please remember her in your prayers during this time of renewal.

For your Congregational Care needs this summer:

Monday-Friday Contact Jeannine Usher (933-3694 or jusher@ipc-usa.org), Executive Assistant in Congregational Care & Counseling.

After hours and weekend emergencies:

You may contact any of our other ministers on their cell phone numbers:

Conrad Sharps: 205-914-1584
 Susan Clayton: 205-908-6547
 Bobbie Epting: 205-533-1904

IPC Week at First Light August 21-27

The meal schedule for the First Light Women's Shelter is set for August. If you are unable to accept the date assigned to your group, please arrange a swap for that date and notify Betsy Middlebrooks (933-3731 or bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org) to let her know the change. Remember to plan for 60 meals and to serve at 6:30 p.m. Don't forget that many of the guests at First Light have dietary restrictions, including diabetes, high blood pressure, etc. Planning meals that are healthy and nutritious is beneficial to all of us! If you are able to volunteer to spend the night during this week, please contact Susan Clayton at 933-3709 or at sclayton@ipc-usa.org. *Thanks so much for your help and dedication!*

August 21-27, 2011

Sunday, August 21— Anna and Whit Whitfield, Judy Bourrand, & others
Monday, August 22— IPC Hunger Work Group
Tuesday, August 23— IPC Topic Church School Class
Wednesday, August 24— IPC Staff
Thursday, August 25— IPC Community Ministries Committee
Friday, August 26— IPC Seekers Class
Saturday, August 27— IPC Forest Park Grace Group (Mary Wills LeCroy)

DEPARTMENTS

Worship

The Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps,
Pastor, Head of Staff
 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

Aly Butts, *Director Youth Ministries*
 933-3734

Nate Sell, *Assistant 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

William W. Horton 419-5139

Vice-President of the Congregation

Lyda White 870-4333

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Photographs by Paul Romjue
 Mason Fischer Photography **3**
 & Virginia Jones Photography

LIVING IN THE SPIRIT AND...

Returning to Worship in the Sanctuary....Continued from page one

We thank God for the safety and talents of the people who have toiled in the sanctuary and throughout the church. We thank God for the donors and contributors who made their gifts to the glory of God and in honor or in memory of loved ones and as a benefit to the generations to follow.

A special *order of rededication* will be offered during worship on August 21.

Following both worship services that day, all are invited to visit the area behind the chancel to see the stunning work that was done in the acolyte room, sacristy, and flower room. Following the 11 o'clock worship service, a reception will be held in the parlor.



Behind the chancel...

As part of the sanctuary project, three areas not normally visited by everyone in the congregation have also undergone important refurbishment. Our wonderful IPC Guild that arranges beautiful flowers from God's good earth for worship now have a more efficiently organized "flower room" with a less-noisy and more reliable refrigeration cooler than the old one.

The sacristy where communion is prepared and where the church's special linens are stored has been outfitted with new lighting and improved storage, and the "original" floors have been refinished. Interestingly, these are the oldest floors in the church. The current sanctuary hardwood floors were installed after the 1992 fire, and the hardwood floors now in the choir loft are "brand new."

The Acolyte Room had to be remodeled because part of their space was needed for additional ductwork



and mechanical and electrical access. Through the love and generosity of the George M. Taylor III family, the room will be dedicated in memory of Clinton W. Taylor. As Clinton showed through his life and through his distinguished service as an acolyte, "*Christ is the Light that truly illuminates our pathway.*"

To reinforce this message, the American College of the Building Arts in Charleston, S.C., following a design by Andrew Hicks of ArchitectureWorks, carved handsome doors for the acolyte cabinet with the words of John 8:12 "*I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but he will have the light of life.*" It is so.

Summer Learning Program at The Children's Fresh Air Farm

By the time you receive this copy of the *Window*, our Summer Learning Program will have come to an end.

What a wonderful summer we've had! Here are some of the highlights:

IPC has provided these children with experiences they would not otherwise enjoy. In addition to the academics in the mornings, we have enjoyed our swimming lessons, the McWane Center programs, a creative writing program by a group called DISCO, UAB's *Too Good For Drugs*, Art with Laura and Bill Squires, reading and poetry with Virginia Jones and Lydia

Cheney, archery with Lily Posey and Britt Williams, Chapel with Jan Posey and the staff, our CFAF gardens, and lots of time to play outside. Like last summer, our IPC youth have been here every day helping out! I can't get over what wonderful children you have raised.

We toured Vulcan with docents that taught us about Birmingham's founding and early settlers. We enjoyed the gorgeous panoramic view from the top of Vulcan and a picnic on the grounds. Then we loaded back on the buses and went to Railroad Park. The kids had so much fun playing, but the highlight was a visit from the Birmingham City Police. We met a mounted police officer and his horse, Pistol, as well as a smart car officer, a segway officer, and a bicycle officer. The police officers



Thanks to all the police officers who arranged to meet with the children at Railroad Park.



explained everything about each of their unique vehicles, and the children were truly enthralled with all the different bells and whistles. We also had an amazing day at Living River! You can read about our day in an article on the next page.

In one of our daily Chapel times, Jan Posey taught about the Ten Commandments. As she reviewed parts of Moses's life, it was very rewarding to hear the children answer her questions. They have learned so much! We are planting the seeds of faith in little lives, as well as helping with academics and enrichment.

Also, the Farm's success stories keep rolling in. A few weeks ago, a former camper had his wedding here at the Farm. He wanted to have one of the most important moments of his life here, on these grounds. Later, we had a former camper help teach swimming lessons. He is a Sophomore at UAB, studying to be a nurse. He said that he has a wonderful mother, but lived in a really rough neighborhood. The Farm helped him to get away from the bad influences and taught him lessons he didn't get anywhere else, by exposing him to different kinds of people. This ministry meant the world to him, and he said it made him want to give back, and to make a difference in the lives of others.

The days really have flown by, even though we have had so many of our afternoon plans thwarted by the weather this year. But we still have had such wonderful experiences. Thank you for your love, your prayers, and your support of this program.

Love in Christ, *Gini*

4 Gini Williams Children's Fresh Air Farm Director IPC

LIVING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS

Living River and Summer Learning Program Collaborate

Living River, our Presbytery's planned camp and conference center on the Cahaba River hosted the children of **IPC's Children's Fresh Air Farm Summer Learning Program** for a day of environmental education Friday, July 15, 2011. The educational curriculum has been developed and is directed by Matthew Miller, Environmental Education Director for Living River. Miller holds a master's in environmental science and has nearly 25 years of leadership experience in environmental education and conservation.



Miller led the workshop with help from Camp McDowell staff and Fresh Air Farm executive director Gini Williams for about 30 4th graders enrolled in IPC's

Summer Learning

*Courtesy of the Birmingham News/
Beverly S. Taylor*

The children were divided into groups that rotated through three different one-hour-long classes -- **Woods Walk, Fossil Hunt, and Stream Exploration**. The workshop was held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Living River is located in Bibb and Shelby Counties near Montevallo, Ala. and, because of its unique location, fronts four miles of the river. The river itself – the longest free-flowing stream in the state – preserves a remarkable and fragile biodiversity, including an incredible variety of freshwater mussels, turtles, snails and crayfish, as well as more fish species per mile than any other river in North America.

Even though the physical structures have not yet been built at Living River, it is exciting that this special place is being used for opportunities such as this!

Visits to Living River can be coordinated by any of the members of the IPC Living River Task Force.

Contact Teresa Pulliam (ttpulliam@msn.com) or Margaret Brunstad (mhbrunstad@gmail.com) for more details! See the related article (right) that describes high school students of Janet Ort who were studying the environment on a field trip to Living River.

Environmental Study at Living River

by Janet Ort, IPC elder, choir member, Teacher at Hoover HS (both advanced Env. Sciences (AP/IB) and regular); also coordinates environmental research. This article is about her high school students

"Flow 'til I be, but breath of Spirit flowing in me."

from "Spirit of God" by the Medical Mission Sisters ©1964)

He is almost seven feet tall, an accomplished athlete, a leader. He has avoided getting into the Cahaba River for 3 months. Ostensibly, the chest waders do not fit; but he is simply deathly afraid of the moving water. Looking way up, I ask him to trust me to not embarrass him. He nods. We climb down steps carved into the bank of the river, following the other students laughing as they enter the water. It looks like he was stabilizing me. We climb over a fallen tree, through a knee deep pool (on him), and into six inch deep water. The water rushes around his feet: the source of his fear that he will be washed away. I sit down in the water looking for aquatic organisms; also to stay close. He stares at his feet and tentatively takes a step. Not falling, he takes another and smiles at me, saying "I am ok!"



I look up at the fall colors against a bright blue sky, surrounded by the power and consistency of the flowing water. I watch students of all abilities work, play, and learn together. How can there be another place I am supposed to be or a calling that is more holy (except for singing)?



She struggles to "learn" the most rudimentary skills. She yells with fear when the pathway we walk on increases from flat to 10% grade. Speaking quietly is not in her vocabulary. Fish and "bugs" in the water are too scary to even talk about. I am taking her canoeing on the Cahaba River. We divide the students with the most potential for panic between the adults as canoe partners. In the time it takes to round a bend in the meandering Cahaba, she is paddling, not shaking. As we seine for fish, she pushes to the front saying "I want to feel that fish!" By the end of lunch she is a grinning Queen of the Cahaba.

Hands on/feet in the water, minds engaged, and behavior changed are the academic trinity of environmental education. What better way to see the manifestations of the eternal Holy Trinity than feeding all ages of souls with the flowing waters of the Living River? *Meet me there.*

LIVING IN COMMUNITY



Christ is our center.
Faith is our focus.

GRACE GROUPS REGISTRATION BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER

The always-hectic Fall will be here soon! To help you with your planning, here's some information about Fall Grace Groups. We do hope that you'll be able to join a Grace Group and take part in this wonderful opportunity to learn, grow and get to know other church members.

Registration: Sunday, Sept. 11, 18, 25 & Oct. 2 – Parlor

Fall Session: October 9 – November 19

Study: *The Beatitudes*

Cindy Shaw is currently looking for new Grace Group leaders. Please contact Cindy (933-3696 or cshaw@ipc-usa.org) if you have an interest in serving as a Grace Group leader or if you have any questions about our Fall Grace Groups.

Edward Miller Has Now Retired from Directing Drama at BibleTimes Marketplace Meredith Murphy McLemore Takes on the Role

In Children's Ministries we have a few long-held traditions. Advent Workshop, the fifth grade Christmas Pageant, and one tradition that has gone on for over 20 years! What is this wonderful, long-held tradition? It is BibleTimes MarketPlace (BTMP)!

A big part of that tradition has been IPC member **Edward Miller** as he has written and produced the dramas for each story (Jacob, Moses, David, Jesus, and Paul) for the past 15 years! The dramas add so much to the Bible lessons the children are studying, and the youth perform them daily for the campers. You really have not lived until you see the Red Sea part (actually sprinklers go off) and Moses walks through on dry ground, or smoke bombs go off in the market place as one of the Jesus stories unfolds. Under Edward's direction, our youth learn lines, wear costumes, and bring a Bible story to life for the children. During the day you will



Our thanks to Edward Miller (left) for his many years as drama director at BTMP

hear the children talking about the drama they just saw and sometimes acting it out themselves, which shows how Edward has taken many children on an adventure through the Bible in his tenure as the drama director.

Edward has also made sure this magnificent drama tradition will continue. As Edward handed over the directing position to **Meredith Murphy McLemore** this year, he made sure she had all the scripts, props, and special costumes he has so lovingly put together. We so appreciate

Edward's dedicated years of service in BibleTimes MarketPlace and look forward to many years with Meredith to carry on the traditions of the past 15 years! **Welcome, Meredith! Thank you for your willingness to carry on this great tradition.**

Even though Edward will not be directing the BibleTimes Market Place drama, he continues to share his gifts and talents with Children's Ministries as he works on the Christmas Pageant with our fifth grade class each year. We are grateful for Edward's contributions to the long-held traditions of Children's Ministries!



Cindy Coulter, Director, Children's Ministries



IPC member Meredith Murphy McLemore, the new drama director at BTMP

IPC's **Partners & Lauren & Conrad Sharps** invite you to...

Partners Dinner

Thursday, August 25

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

at The Capri on Caldwell Condominiums

on the Plaza Level

1300 27th Place South

Come join us on the 25th....and enjoy good company and

the beautiful view at The Capri!

**We especially hope our new IPC members will take part in this annual event!*

RSVP: Catherine White, 470-2006, or Cindy Shaw, 933-3696

LIVING IN COMMUNITY

4th Quarter Lunch Bunch

Join us & beat the heat!

Tuesday, August 23

12:00 noon

**Cafe de Paris, located
a few blocks from IPC
on 7th Avenue South**

Please call Jeannine Usher (933-3694) to place your reservation, then just meet us at Cafe de Paris on the 23rd!

4th Quarter Returns to Mentone in October!

The 4th Quarter group will return to Mentone this Fall, on Thursday, October 13, for a fun-filled day trip, which will include another delicious lunch, a tour around to take in the Fall leaves....and a chance to relax and visit with your IPC friends. Cindy Shaw has all the details about this now-annual event.



Last year's 4th Quarter group enjoying fellowship in Mentone, Alabama, for an autumn lunch at the mountain homes of Libby Kidd and Nancy Skinner

4th Quarter: Two-part September Event!

IPC's 4th Quarter group will have the opportunity to participate in a two-part event in September! First, noted Birmingham Historian Jim Phillips will share his knowledge of our special city in a Morning Coffee in the Great Hall. Jim will also bring his portable museum of Birmingham artifacts to IPC.

Morning Coffee:

Tuesday, Sept. 20 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon in Great Hall

Cost: \$6.00 (includes refreshments & speaker fee)

As a follow-up to the historical presentation, Jim will lead a Bus Tour around Birmingham on Thursday, September 29, then the group will enjoy lunch together at John's Restaurant.

Bus Tour & Lunch:

Thursday, Sept. 29 Begins at 10:00 a.m.

Cost: \$10.00 + the cost of lunch,
but *tickets are limited for this event.*

IMPORTANT NOTE: Reservations *must* be made separately for each of these events, as space is much more limited for the Bus Tour on September 29. To learn more, you may contact Cindy Shaw (933-3696) or Jeannine Usher (933-3694).

Partners' Fall Festival:

Save the Date!

The Partner's Committee is proud and excited to announce plans for this year's Fall Festival. The Festival will be held on Sunday, October 16, at the Children's Fresh Air Farm. Events will include live music, dinner, games for the kids, a bonfire and more. More details and registration forms will be available soon!



IPC Choir Performance Tour The IPC Choir recently returned from a performance tour in Prague, Bratislava, and Vienna. Dr. Jeff McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts, also performed organ recitals and continued on with performances in Germany. Members and friends of the church accompanied the choir on this ambitious tour. We strongly felt their absence and kept them close in our prayers. But we also rejoiced with them in this faith journey in which they shared the love of God through their music.

Notes from the journey... (from Amy McLelland's posting on Facebook) written by Jeff McLelland about the IPC choir concert at **Franciscan Church in Bratislava:**

"I woke up early today still charged up from last night. The concert went extremely well. The church was packed, there was a line in the street waiting to get in, people stood in the aisles and back, sat on the floor, even behind us up around the altar! We sang two encores, and they wanted more. They did this rhythmic clap as we walked off. It was wild..."



The choir sang for the annual Music Festival at the Valtice Castle. Here Jeff McLelland conducts the IPC Choir in the Valtice Castle Chapel.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

S.T.A.I.R. (Start The Adventure In Reading)

ARE YOU LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
...and have some fun at the same time?

Consider volunteering for STAIR.

Tutors donate two hours, one day a week between October and May.

Substitute tutors fill in when called by tutors who are going to have to miss a day.

Snack servers get to serve hearty and healthy snacks, prepared by our fabulous kitchen staff.

Special events volunteers help with parties.

According to research funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, *“Those who don’t read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma than proficient readers.”*

Last year, the average rate of reading improvement for STAIR IPC students was 93%.

Where else but IPC can you contribute to raising the literacy rate while having so much fun?

If you are interested in being part of the solution, please contact **Evelyn Puckett**, stair@ipc-usa.org or **205-531-5565**.

