



INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Christ our Cornerstone

Come, thou long-  
expected Jesus



*The Window*

December 2010

IEWS FROM INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Vol. 63, Issue 12

## Searching for the Christ Child

**T**his image was taken by Paul Romjue in the sanctuary as he looked through the cross on the baptismal font toward the Nativity windows in the Children's Chapel. The wise men depicted in the window have searched for and found the Christ child. However, as Rev. Bobbie Epting said after reading the following article by Daniel Whittington, *"We couldn't go looking for the Christ child in a manger and miss the Christ child in our midst..."*



*IPC employee Daniel Whittington, Assistant Director of Maintenance at the Children's Fresh Air Farm, volunteered to go to Africa for a month to build shallow wells through Marion Medical Mission (MMM). He was familiar with the project because of IPC's high level of support through the IPC Foundation, the IPC Youth and their families and others who have contributed to this life-saving project of putting in wells in villages that currently have no access to clean water. Daniel's team built 1,207 wells. Here in his own words is what he found.*

### What Was I Looking For?

I am not sure what I was looking for. Maybe it was an Adventure. Or an escape from the hectic life we all get caught up in. Maybe it was a way to have the best stories to tell at parties. Or just for the "we missed you" and praises of my return. Maybe it was an extreme diet plan, because that sure worked. Or maybe, just maybe I was looking

for myself. Maybe I was looking for my Faith... Or, perhaps, my God. In any case, I went to Africa looking for it.

My journey began over a free lunch at Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. I am one to never turn down a free lunch. As you all know, "There is no such thing as a Free lunch."

Yea, I forgot about that part. Somewhere between my Club Sandwich and my pickle I had apparently volunteered to go on this Mission trip. Must have been one fine pickle. So, I spent the next two months trying to get out of it. But I guess God had other plans. Because 10 months later I am standing in Malawi Africa. Nice.

So my plan is to treat it as any other job. Do it quickly, correctly and get home. Again with the "my plan" stuff. You think I would wise up to that...

So, for the first week I ran my way through the Villages-- hardly noticing the land or the people. I wanted to get it done and get out of Africa. Every night I would lie down exhausted and I would pray that God would make the days go even faster. I was angry and frustrated. I asked God why am I even here? I am getting nothing out of this experience except a sun burn. The next day, at Village number 3, God answered.

After two more Villages went by in a slight blur, with the people all gathered around the same as always, I shook the hands and smiled the smile. I said all the right words at the right time. Nothing new. It was only 9 am and I was already frustrated and annoyed, complaining under my breath about the heat and bugs. "Oh great, the women are lining up to sing again." I will have to smile and clap along some more. But I will finish my paper work first .....

**wait. What are they singing? I ...I know this one!** My whole body shook. I was frozen where I stood. Mesmerized by this moment. God had spoken to me.

*Continued on page 4*



*Daniel Whittington,  
IPC employee*

## *Learning the Real Meaning of Christmas*



*The Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps*

***"If we have Christ, we have all we need."***

I remember years ago when he asked me to come see him one day after church. I had only been in ministry about a year and had not really gotten to know this "saint" or his brothers. All three were bachelors in their seventies and eighties. Only one came to church, and he was rather shy — even backward some would say.

The brothers all still lived on and worked the small farm on which they grew up and were by the standards of the area what was known as "dirt poor."

They lived like Spartans. They had so little and conversed even less. You can imagine my curiosity about the request to come and visit them.

When I arrived, I noticed in the bare kitchen something very much out of place — several packages that contained brand-new household appliances along with toys and a bright doll nearly two feet tall still wrapped from the store.

These items were their response to my plea to the congregation to help settle into the area a refugee family from Southeast Asia. As my eyes slowly scanned all the many items I was amazed because there was at least several hundred dollars worth of gifts on the table and floor.

In my youthful ignorance I asked, "Why such a generous response?" The only brother that generally spoke said, "Well, we have been saving to go on a fishing trip for a few years now — but it just didn't seem right. They have so little and we have so much."

I managed to hold my composure until I was driving home alone in my car. (They didn't even own a car.) It was mid-December, and all I could think of was how much I had learned that day of the true meaning of Christmas.

This Christmas as we share our plenty with family and friends, we need to remember the sacrifice that God has made for each and every one of us on the cross. And in light of that, give God thanks in every aspect of our lives.

If we have Christ — we have all we need! We just need to explore ways to share him with others, not only today, but every day.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16,17)*



### LIVING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS...

#### SUGGESTED FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

- December 5*  
Flour/Sugar/Corn Meal
  - December 12*  
Juices
  - December 19*  
Oatmeal/Grits
  - December 26*  
Breakfst Bars
- First Light Women's Shelter Items for December*
- Women's Hats, Socks, Gloves & Scarves

### Honor someone special this Christmas with a gift to



## THE GIVING TREE

Make a donation to one of the following charities in honor of friends or loved ones:

- Bread for the World
- Children's Fresh Air Farm
- First Light
- Habitat for Humanity
- Heifer Project
- IPC Food Pantry
- Mwandu School Scholarship Program
- STAIR

See the website for pictures of the special cards for each charity and all the details. Also download a form to complete all your information.

[www.ipc-usa.org/givingtree](http://www.ipc-usa.org/givingtree)

### Times and Locations

- November 28, December 5, 12, 19**  
*Before/After Worship in the Parlor*
- November 28**  
*Advent Workshop in the Great Hall*
- November 30**  
*Parlor before and after*
- Presbyterian Women Christmas Brunch**  
**December 1, 8, 15, 22**  
*Parlor from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.*

# Upcoming Events at IPC



## Sunday, December 5 IPC Choir Christmas Concert 5:00 p.m.

Sanctuary. The IPC Choir and orchestra. *Gloria* by Francis Poulenc, *Magnificat* by Heinrich Schutz, and Christmas anthems.

## Honoring Loved Ones During Advent Flower Deadline is December 5

Except on Communion Sundays, every week we see an arrangement of flowers or greenery on the communion table. As you see in the bulletin each week, these flowers not only glorify God with their natural beauty, they also serve as memorials to loved ones, as given by an individual or family. During Advent many people may be so honored, because of the array of flowers and greenery that decorate our sanctuary, chapel, parlor, and even the outside of the church beginning the week of Holiday Houses, December 11 and 12.

If you would like to join other church members in honoring or remembering loved ones this Advent season, please make your *contribution payable to IPC and marked Advent Season Flowers*. When you send or bring your check to the church, please include the name(s) of the person(s) honored and note whether it is a memorial or honoraria. **The names will be included in the bulletin for Sunday, December 12. Deadline is December 5 for Advent memorials/honoraria.** Call Nancy Skinner (933-1830) for more information.

## IPC 4th Quarter to Enjoy Lunch & a Holiday Musical

IPC's 4th Quarter group will celebrate Christmas together with lunch and a trip to the theatre on **Sunday, Dec. 19**. First, our group will gather at church after the 11:00 service, then enjoy a special **lunch at the Veranda on Highland Restaurant**. After lunch, we'll attend ***Scrooge the Musical* at the Virginia Samford Theatre** beginning at 2:30 p.m.



You may either sign up for just lunch or both lunch and the musical. Cost: \$20.00 for lunch only and \$35.00 for

lunch & play. For reservations, call Jeannine Usher at 933-3694, but remember, space is limited, so don't miss out on this exciting holiday outing!

## In the Midst of the Holidays.... Don't Forget December Lunch Bunch!

The 4th Quarter's Lunch Bunch group will meet at **Dodiyo's Restaurant** for our "between-Christmas-and-New Year's" gathering. Please join us on **Tuesday, December 28**, at 12:00 Noon. To sign up for the December Lunch Bunch, just call Jeannine Usher at 933-3694.

## Birmingham Men's Club

The Birmingham Men's Club will celebrate Christmas with our **annual Ladies Day and Christmas Program** on **Monday, Dec. 20**, beginning at **10:30 a.m.** Wives are invited, and the **Junior League Chorus**, always a favorite, will entertain the group. **Cost of lunch is \$8.00/person, but reservations are required, and we must have your payment in advance to place your reservation. Contact Jeannine Usher at 933-3694.**

**IPC Bridge:** David Higgins will again teach "**Continuing Bridge Lessons**" 12-13 sessions on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. starting January 24, 2011.

## Annette Carter New Nursery Coordinator

We welcome IPC employee Annette Carter as the new nursery coordinator.

Beginning **December 1**, Annette will be in

place on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings to greet parents and children in the IPC nursery.



## 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, Interim 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**  
Rupert Boddin, Jr. 942-8676

**Vice-President of the  
Congregation**  
William W. Horton 419-5139

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

*What Was I Looking For? by Daniel Whittington*  
*Continued from page 1*

God had spoken to me...  
Through these people, in a  
language I could not understand.  
But, here, I knew every word  
coming from their voices.

*Then sings my soul,  
my Savior God, to Thee;  
How great Thou art,  
how great Thou art!*



*Villagers singing and  
praising God for their new  
well with clean water.*

I remember becoming aware  
of the moment with tears streaming down  
my face. In this Village, literally in the  
back yard of Nowhere, God had found me.

I was not looking for Him. I did not give  
myself the chance to look. In my selfishness I had ignored Him. And  
these...His...people. From that point on, my eyes were open.  
**I did not see God until I heard God.** When I saw Him, I realized He  
is everywhere! I couldn't get enough. I looked and listened for God  
everywhere. I saw him every day. I saw Him in every woman's smile.  
In every Head man's eyes. I heard him all the time. Every morning  
bird's song. Every Head Man's prayer. Every song sung. Every  
Child's Laugh. I was told that God lives in Africa. Maybe so, but I am  
here to tell you that God lives mostly inside of us. If you ever have  
doubts, just listen. He shows Himself to you best through the laughter  
of Children. That is the sound I take with me forever. No matter the  
language, Children all laugh the same. God is there. I even heard  
Him at the end of the trip in the other Volunteer' stories. I heard him  
very clearly at our last gathered supper. In the life changing stories. In  
the Heart felt Thank yous. In a Beautiful Poem that said all the things  
I couldn't. God is there.

So, what was I looking for? I still am not sure. But I know what I  
found. Or more accurately, what found me. I have found a new respect  
for this Country and all the Blessings that God gives us daily. I have  
found that I can never look at water the same way again. I have found  
that when I lie down at night, I still see the smiles. And hear the songs.  
I hope that doesn't go away. I have found new friends. Both overseas  
and here at home in the US. I desperately hope that doesn't go away.  
Did I find my adventure? Yes. My escape? Yes. My Stories? Yes. I got  
my "miss yous" and "welcome backs" but the "praise" left me feeling  
uncomfortable. . . . How about finding myself? Or my Faith? I must  
confess, I did not find either of them. I was not really looking for  
them though. In my blindness I could not see that I was lost nor could  
I see that my Faith was missing. **It took God whispering in my  
ear, through His wonderful people, and that wonderful old song  
to open my eyes. I wasn't looking at all for what I found. I was  
shown what I needed to find. I was shown that 7,000 miles away  
from everything and everyone I love, I am still not alone.**

*"Uchidami Kwa Chiuta"* Glory to God. God is there.

My only advice to you all is to simply, **Stop, Look, and Listen.**

Open your eyes. Open your ears. Open your hearts.

Because, God is here.

*Tawonga Chomene, Thank you very much,*

**Daniel Whittington** (IPC employee/Children's Fresh Air Farm)

**Marion Medical Mission Shallow Wells Team 2**

## Gini Williams Named Director of The Children's Fresh Air Farm

**A**s all of you know, we were incredibly blessed  
to find a member of IPC with the experience,  
passion and deep faith necessary to serve as  
the Director of the 2010 Summer Learning Program  
at the Children's Fresh Air Farm. Gini Williams felt a sense of call  
to this new ministry of IPC and CFAF and directed the Summer  
Learning Program with grace,  
energy, creativity, faithfulness  
and an amazing degree of love  
for the children we serve. What  
a wonderful gift she has been as  
we begin this new vision of summer  
programming at the Children's Fresh Air Farm (CFAF).



*Gini Williams*

At the Session meeting in October, the Session voted  
to continue the CFAF Summer Learning Program as the  
ongoing summer program for disadvantaged children.  
In the summer of 2011, we will double in size,  
reaching out to 80 children from Whatley and Gibson  
Elementary Schools. We will invite the children who  
participated in last year's Summer Learning Program  
to return in 2011 and will invite this year's STAIR  
class at IPC to take part in the program as well. Our  
current plan is to increase the program again in 2012,  
so that we will reach 120 children served, adding one  
grade level for each of the next two years. In 2011, we  
will serve 40 rising third graders and 40 rising fourth  
graders. In 2012, the  
children will be rising  
3rd, 4th and 5th graders  
from Whatley and  
Gibson Elementary  
Schools, who have  
also been a part of our  
STAIR program.



At that October  
meeting, the Session  
also joyfully approved  
the recommendation of the Children's Fresh Air Farm  
and Personnel Committees to hire Gini Williams as our  
permanent Director of the Children's Fresh Air Farm.  
Gini begins as the permanent Director of CFAF's year-  
round ministry and the Summer Learning Program on  
January 1st. What a blessing for our program and for  
the children and families we serve, as well as for this  
church family.

**Gini says:** "It is a joy and an honor to have been  
named as the Director of The Children's Fresh Air  
Farm, and I am excited about working along with each  
of you in this ministry. Through the summer learning  
program, as well as the ongoing relationship we will  
have with these children

*Continued next page*

## Gini Williams, Continued

through other CFAF ministries, we are responding to a serious need in the lives of disadvantaged children. IPC is becoming the Body of Christ in the lives of these children in a manner that is not only loving and generous, but also life changing as we come together to serve, and to love these wonderful children.

"In addition to the summer learning program, we will invite the children back to the CFAF throughout the year, provide the shoe ministry, Christmas boxes, maintain a relationship of support with their teachers, and keep in touch with the needs of their families.

"There is a deep divide between our world and that of the children we serve. We, as God's people, have an awesome opportunity to bridge this chasm, and we have the abiding surety that we do not work alone, but are sustained and guided by the God who has called us to this task. Many thanks for the love and support you have shown for this mission."

Please join me in welcoming Gini to this position on a permanent basis, and in giving thanks to God for this amazing gift to IPC and CFAF! ---Susan Clayton

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN "Farewells"

With your enthusiastic cooperation and significant financial support, IPC will be able to say a fond farewell to our lovingly well-used Aeolian Skinner organ at the end of December.

In January, the construction project begins in the sanctuary, and we will get to bid farewell to damaged plaster and a deteriorating ceiling.

The capital campaign is "faring well" as you continue to send in your generous gifts and commitments.

**MANY THANKS! But... we are still looking forward to bidding adieu and a final "farewell" to the gap between what the project is expected to cost and how much money has been pledged to refurbish the sanctuary and install the new Joseph W. Schreiber Memorial Organ.**

With joy and thanksgiving, if you have not already sent in a pledge to the Capital Campaign, we ask you to prayerfully consider helping to close the gap by sending in your pledge today. Then the nostalgic sounds of our "farewells" will become exuberant exclamations of appreciation and shouts of "WELL DONE - well done, indeed!"

**Thank you, again.**

**The Capital Campaign Committee**



Repairing peeling plaster in the sanctuary will be one of the projects in the sanctuary construction project in 2011.

## NEW ASSISTANT YOUTH DIRECTOR NATE SELL

Welcome Nathan Sell, our new Assistant Director of Youth Ministries at IPC! Pictured here with Aly Butts, Interim Director of Youth Ministries, Nate was officially hired just as *The Window* was going to press.

Look for an article about him next month. Nate, a 2010 graduate of The University of the South at Sewanee, will be working full-time with interim youth director Aly Butts, members of the IPC youth group, and their parents. We're glad to have you with us, Nate!



*Nate Sell and Aly Butts*

Nate has said that as he reflected on his own youth group experience he "*realized that my youth group was the first example of true Christian community in my life. That group was there for me when I needed to see God's love most. We bonded over the events that were planned, but the significance did not lie in those events. It was in the community that developed from them, and the common foundation it created in the lives of my friends and myself that remain to this day.*"

Nate is located in room 216 and can be reached at 933-3708 or at [nsell@ipc-usa.org](mailto:nsell@ipc-usa.org).

## STEWARDSHIP Pledge Options

**BTW (by the way)**-- a number of "electronic" options are available for those of you who are still finalizing your pledge plan for your 2011 stewardship commitment or for those of you wishing to make a payment on your pledge for 2010.

Pre-authorized debit or credit card arrangements can be made with the church or through your personal banking service.

Our accountant, Beth Grauel, will be happy to help you make a payment or set up a payment schedule most convenient for you. She can be reached on her direct line at the church at 933.3718. Also, for individual one-time payments, you can go online to [www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org) and click "online-giving" on the front page to reach our secure paypal transaction site.

Also, *BTW*, a way to make a "technical" act a spiritual practice is to say a prayer before you hit "send." Thanks be to God! "*click*"

*The Stewardship Committee*





## 61st Annual Holiday House Tour 2010

*Tickets on sale now!*

**Saturday, December 11  
11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 12  
1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.**

IPC Te Deum Choir sings in the Great Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Christmas Tea will be served in the Great Hall during tour hours. Tickets cost \$20 each; advance tickets are available at the church reception desk and on the church website ([www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org)) PAY ON-LINE. Tickets also may be purchased at the homes and at the church during the hours of the tour.

### *Featured homes include:*

- IPC Sanctuary and Parlor
- Mr. and Mrs. Barry E. Evans, 3000 Dundee Circle
- Mr. and Mrs. David Alan Ball, 33 Ridge Drive
- Guest house of Mr. and Mrs. M. Miller Gorrie, 54 Country Club Boulevard
- Mr. and Mrs. James O. Walker, 59 Matthews Road
- Mr. and Mrs. William M. Hiden, 50 Randolph Road

*The tour benefits the Children's Fresh Air Farm, First Light Shelter, and other missions sponsored by the Presbyterian Women.*

## Advent Season at IPC



**Sunday, December 5  
Advent Celebration**  
10:00 a.m. Great Hall.  
5th grade Christmas Pageant; Caroling Preschoolers; Birthday Party for Jesus; All Ages Welcome.

**Sunday, December 5 IPC Choir Christmas Concert**  
5:00 p.m. Sanctuary. The IPC Choir and orchestra. *Gloria* by Francis Poulenc, *Magnificat* by Heinrich Schutz, and Christmas anthems

**Saturday & Sunday, December 11, 12  
61st Annual Holiday House Tour**  
Christmas Tea in Church Parlor both days, with Concert Saturday by Te Deum Choir 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 12  
Summer Learning Program Presentation**  
Room 306 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, December 19 Special Christmas Presentation  
by Storyteller Dolores Hydock "A Christmas Memory,"**  
Great Hall 10:00 a.m.

**Thursday, December 23 Westminster Choir  
Christmas Tour** including 11:00 a.m. chapel service at Kirkwood by the River

**Friday, December 24 Nativity Service** Noon  
IPC Te Deum Choir and IPC Junior Choir will sing.

**Friday, December 24 Annual Festival of Nine Lessons  
and Carols** at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. with IPC Choir and Westminster Choir, candlelighting and homily.

# LOOKING AHEAD...

## DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION JANUARY 4 - 7, 2011

The Day School will hold Registration for Fall 2011 January 4th through 11th. Registration forms and information are available on our website ([www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org)). Please print and complete forms and return to the Day School with your registration fees no later than Friday, January 11, 2011. Registration for APPLE Day Camp 2011, our summer program, will be held March 1st through 4th, with forms also available on our website.

Dates for APPLE Day Camp Sessions are as follows:

Session I – May 16 – May 26

Session II – June 20 – June 30

Session III – July 11 – July 21

Session IV – August 22 – September 1

## The 40th Annual

## Religious Arts Festival

The Beauty and Wonders of the  
Czech Republic,  
Slovakia and Vienna

January 30 – February 4, 2011

## CALLING ALL IPC COUPLES: IPC MARRIAGE WORKSHOP IN FEBRUARY 2011

Hey IPC couples! Whether you're newlyweds, celebrating a long-time anniversary or somewhere in the middle, mark your calendars now! **IPC's Partners Group is sponsoring a Marriage Workshop on Saturday, February 12, 2011, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the church.** The keynote speakers for the event are Thomas and Beth Daniel, co-pastors of Kairos Church in Atlanta. Both are M.Div. graduates of Columbia Theological Seminary and have served PC-USA churches since 2003. Thomas preaches at conferences nationwide and Beth has led many retreats and taught at Columbia Seminary.

This conference is open to all married IPC couples and will offer valuable insights about various stages of married life. For more information about the IPC Marriage Workshop, contact Cindy Shaw (933-3696 or [cshaw@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org)).

Join the *Focus on Faith* Committee **February 11-13, 2011, on a trip to Louisville**

**Theological Seminary.** More details will be available soon from trip coordinator Dick Darden and CE Director Paul Romjue.



## TRIP TO ISRAEL

Save the date for a trip to Israel with Dr. Conrad Sharps and Dr. James Charlesworth set for January 2-12, 2012. More details will follow!

## LIBRARY NOTES

Advent is a time for waiting - for the birth of the Christ child as well as for the second coming of Christ. In *The Meaning Is in the Waiting*, Paula Gooder offers reflections for each day of Advent to help make our waiting more meaningful. Two other books of daily devotions are *Expecting the Unexpected*, by Blair Gilmer Meeks, and *Child of the Light: Walking through Advent & Christmas*, by Beth A. Richardson. Both incorporate familiar hymns, scripture readings, and prayers into the daily meditations.

*A Medieval Christmas* uses words taken from William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament and is illustrated with miniatures selected from the *Books of Hours* found in The British Library. Tyndale was the first to translate the Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek into English in the 1530s. The illustrations are the work of the greatest European painters of the Middle Ages, intricate in detail and rich colors, representing the popular ideal of the medieval illuminated book.

*Christmas in My Heart* is a collection of short stories in two volumes compiled and edited by Joe Wheeler. Some are familiar stories by well-known authors, most are not, but all will make you remember what Christmas is all about and fill you with joy.

The text of *The Christmas Story* is from the Gospel of Luke in the King James Bible. James Bernardin's illustrations bring this familiar story alive for all of us. *Unwrapping the Christmas Creche*, by Lisa Flinn and Barbara Younger, follows the thoughts of members of one family as they participate in this annual ritual.

*A Gift for the Christ Child: a Christmas Folktale*, based on a South American story, has been retold by Linda Schlafer and illustrated by Anne Wilson. It offers a message about the importance of giving, even in hard times. *Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree*, written and illustrated by Robert Barry, tell the delightful story of a Christmas tree that keeps on giving.

*The Library Committee*



**Independent Presbyterian Church**  
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*the* **WINDOW**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## 2010 IPC Confirmation Class

Sunday, November 21, our 2010 Confirmation Class was recognized at the 11:00 worship service. They were confirmed into full membership at a luncheon in their honor the previous Sunday. As part of their Confirmation Class, they prepared, in their own words, a statement of their faith. Our response as a congregation was to read this statement with them in worship.

### **Confirmand**

Henry Abbott  
 Brandon Bartels  
 Mary Stewart Beasley  
 Olivia Burton  
 Lex Compton  
 John Cooper  
 Jack Grantham  
 Mary Martha Grizzle  
 Wheeler Jones  
 Catherine Kinney  
 Elizabeth Letzer  
 Lucy Neal  
 Carlee Petro  
 Sarah Riley  
 Arthur Smith  
 Lottice Taylor  
 Ellie Thomson  
 Tess Walker  
 Allan White  
 Will Zadick

### **Covenant Partner**

John Marbury  
 Jeff Grantham  
 Cindy Coulter  
 Aly Butts  
 Elizabeth Compton  
 Frank Sutherland  
 Barry DeLozier  
 Barbara Lanier  
 Kennon Walthall  
 Gini Williams  
 Anne Cowin  
 Sarah Duggan  
 Mary Beasley  
 Kate Simpson  
 Paul Crockard  
 Rev. Susan Clayton  
 Lisa Burton  
 Sharon Marbury  
 John Burton  
 Nancy Miller

**We believe in God, the Creator, Protector and Father, who is All-Powerful and All-Knowing. In many ways God is a Mystery, but our understanding of Him grows and our faith deepens as we live in relationship with Him through worship, study, prayer and service. In His Wisdom, He guides and inspires our faith, and His love for us is never-ending...**

*A portion of their Statement of Faith*



*photo by Paul Romjue*