



INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*Christ our Cornerstone*



*The Window*



40th Annual

Religious Arts Festival

January 30 - February 4, 2011

IEWS FROM INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2011  
Vol. 64, Issue 2

## 40th Annual IPC Religious Arts Festival

The 2011 Religious Arts Festival will experience the beauty and wonders of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Vienna in preparation for the upcoming IPC Choir Performance Tour.



Highlights of the week include:

**Sunday, January 30, 6:30 p.m.**

**A Viennese Coffee Concert Great Hall**

A beautiful evening of pastries and desserts listening to the music of Beethoven and Mozart that would have been heard in the cities of Prague and Vienna where they were first performed.

**Monday, January 31, 7:00 p.m. Lecture, Room 305**

Dr. Gregory Jeane will lecture and show slides on the history of Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia.

**Tuesday, February 1 5:30-7:30 p.m. A Gala**

**Evening at the Birmingham Museum** will feature a tasting of art, food and drink of the Austrian and Bohemian Regions. *Cost is \$25. Reservation deadline: Friday, January 28.*



**Thursday, February 3 5:30 p.m. Great Hall**

**The Traditional Festival Banquet**

will honor the Czech Republic with the culinary offerings of Kim Martin and a presentation by Bill and Catherine Cabaniss. Mr. Cabaniss is a former

Ambassador to the Czech Republic. Mrs. Cabaniss is an accomplished artist. *Cost is \$20. Registration deadline is Sunday, January 30.*

**Friday, February 4, 7:00 p.m. Great Hall**  
**Early Music Concert**

**"A Song of Ascents"**

The Festival will end with a stunning concert of music –

**old and new**

**– by the Dutch vocal ensemble**

**Quink**, performing for their second time at IPC.



In addition to these nightly events, the Art Gallery on the 2nd floor will exhibit the **photography of churches and landscapes by IPC members Virginia Jones, Caryl Privett, and Paul Romjue.**

The Fine Arts Committee offers these programs as a gift to the community and encourages you to invite your friends. There are no reserved seats, and advanced reservations are required only for the Museum of Art Gala and the Festival Banquet.

For further information, please visit the church website ([www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org)) or contact the IPC music office at 205-933-3700.



*photo by Caryl Privett*



The Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps

*Let us find ways to serve Jesus Christ in our daily vocations.*

## Serving God in Our Daily Vocation

We had a family tradition of eating breakfast at the beach while visiting my parents in Bradenton, Florida. Near the patio restaurant that was one of our favorite spots was a souvenir gift shop that attracted my eye, probably due to the wind chimes and air socks and gadgets that flew in the gentle breeze outside the shop's entrance.

Once as I browsed up and down the cluttered aisles, I found a beautiful hand-carved sea turtle. But this was no ordinary carving — it was carved from Ironwood and so well done that the carver had etched his name onto the belly of the turtle. Whoever had created this wonderful piece of art had been proud enough of his work to sign his name.

There is a story of a righteous man of great faith and devotion who was often sought out by great leaders despite his humble vocation as a shoe cobbler. When asked what devotion meant to him he would respond: **"I have no secret. But I'll tell you what I do. I make shoes, and every shoe I make, I make for Jesus Christ."** What a wonderful principle to live and work by — offering up to Jesus Christ even the most common tasks of our everyday lives. When we do, however, we will discover an amazing transformation as God lifts our ordinary tasks and blesses them to become our greatest fulfillment in life.



Have you wondered recently if your efforts of service and labor go unnoticed? Let me assure you of the one who watches — who knows of our efforts, our struggles, our victories and our losses. Jesus Christ is well aware of the sacrifice you make to glorify his name. Every service we provide, every item we produce, we should take such care as to joyfully sign our name. No matter what our vocation, every one of us through our daily efforts can help to create a community and world where Jesus Christ is shared and glorified.

**May each of us who believes in Jesus Christ, find ways to serve him in our daily vocation — for this truly is the essence of a devoted life.**

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)*



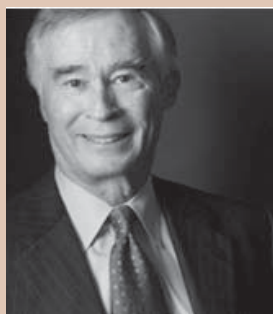
LIVING IN SERVICE  
TO OTHERS...  
SUGGESTED FOOD  
PANTRY ITEMS

*February 6*  
Crackers/Muffin Mixes  
*February 13*  
Breakfast Bars  
*February 20*  
Oatmeal/Grits  
*February 27*  
Macaroni & Cheese  
*First Light Women's Shelter Items*  
*for February*  
Women's Sweaters



### Lenten 2011 Grace Groups Begin Soon!

IPC's Lenten 2011 Grace Groups will meet **February 27 – April 16** and will study selected books from Psalms. Registration will take place three Sundays in February – February 6, 13 and 20. If you're interested in being a Grace Groups leader or participant ... or just want to learn more, please contact Cindy Shaw (933-3696 or [cshaw@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org)). We hope you will prayerfully consider making a Grace Group part of your Spring!



### Sunday, March 13 9:30 Room 305-307 "The Resurrection: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt"

**Warren Lightfoot** will present *"The Resurrection: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt"* at 9:30 in room 305-307 on Sunday, March 13, which is the interim Sunday between winter term and spring term. Mr. Lightfoot, a long-time member of IPC, is well-known as a great teacher who always is extremely well prepared. The presentation includes many great works of art and is open to all adults and youth.

# Upcoming Events at IPC

**January 30-February 4** *IPC Religious Arts Festival*  
**February 11-13** *Trip to Louisville Seminary*  
**February 12** *Partners Marriage Workshop at IPC*  
**February 13** *Mercedes Marathon; no a.m. services  
only one church service at 4 p.m.*  
**February 27** *Congregational Annual Meeting* →  
**February 27-April 16** *Lenten Grace Groups*  
**March 2** *Winter term Wednesday night ends*  
**March 6** *Winter term church school ends*  
**March 6** *Service of Lights (Youth Choirs) 4 p.m.*  
**March 9** *Ash Wednesday services Noon & 6:30 p.m.*  
**March 13** *Daylight Savings Time begins*  
**March 13** *Warren Lightfoot Lenten presentation*  
**March 27** *STAIR Recognition*  
**April 10** *Youth Sunday*  
**April 17** *Palm Sunday*  
**April 24** *IPC Easter Sunday Service at the  
Alabama Theatre at 10:00 a.m.*  
**May 5 & 6** *4th Quarter trip to Monroeville/ Gee's Bend*  
**May 28-June 11** *Tentative dates for Africa Mission Trip*  
**June 5-11** *Senior High Youth Montreat*  
**June 13-17** *Vacation Bible School*  
**June 13-17** *BibleTimes Marketplace*  
**July 20-24** *Montreat Middle School Conference*  
**July 15-24** *Mexico Mission Trip*

## CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, February 27, 2011

The annual meeting of the Independent Presbyterian Church is hereby called for **Sunday, February 27, 2011**, to be convened with the opening prayer at the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Great Hall. The business meeting will begin immediately following the worship service.

### The purposes of the meeting are:

- 1) To receive 2010 financial reports;
  - 2) To receive the report of the IPC Foundation;
  - 3) To review salaries of the ordained clergy
  - 4) To conduct any other business which may properly come before the congregation.
- To receive the 2010 report of the President of the congregation.

By order of the session,  
Jeanne Monk, Clerk  
Conrad Sharps, Moderator

## 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

William W. Horton 419-5139

### Vice-President of the Congregation

Lyda White 870-4333

*The Window* is a monthly publication of Independent Presbyterian Church 3100 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35205-1408. Phone: 205-933-1830

*The Window* is published for church members and friends. Please send comments to **Mary Ann Morrow, editor,** c/o IPC.

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

## CALLING ALL IPC COUPLES: IPC MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

### FEBRUARY 12, 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. \$50/couple (including Childcare).**

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, visit the IPC website: [www.ipc-usa.org/marriageworkshop](http://www.ipc-usa.org/marriageworkshop) or contact Cindy Shaw (933-3696 or [cshaw@ipc-usa.org](mailto:cshaw@ipc-usa.org)).

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, Feb. 7**

## Parents' Night Out February 4

Our next Parents' Night Out is Friday, Feb. 4, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$8.00/child, and you can register online, fill out a form & return it to Congregational Care or contact Jeannine Usher (933-3694 or [jusher@ipc-usa.org](mailto:jusher@ipc-usa.org)) Deadline for registering is Friday Noon, day of the event!

**Reminder: Printed copies of *The Update* are now available at the church. You may pick up a copy on Sunday mornings or during the week!**

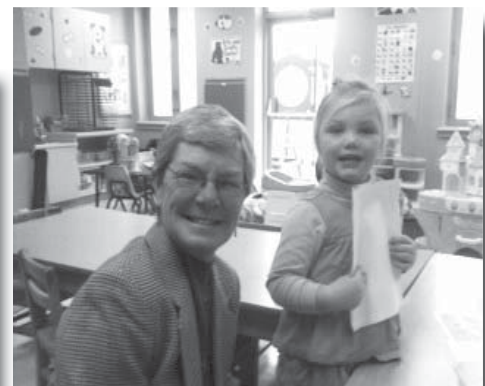
**Sign up to receive the emailed version of the Update: *The E-Update***  
[www.ipc-usa.org/IPCemail](http://www.ipc-usa.org/IPCemail)

# Children's Ministries

Please pray about where you might be called to go

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CALL TO SERVE February 27 & March 6

February is the month in which both the elementary and preschool subcommittees extend the call to serve in Children's Ministries. Please take the time to stop by one of the tables that will be in the parlor and on the ground floor near the stairwell on February 27 and March 6 to pick up one of our volunteer sheets that lists the opportunities to serve. We also ask that you pray about where you might be called to dedicate some of your time, talents and energy. If you have any questions, please call Cindy Coulter at 933-3730.



## SUNDAYS

### • Sunday School (Weekly) – Sundays from 9:15 to 10:45 am.

Serve on a team of teachers with 2-3 others. Training, curriculum, ideas and supplies for activities provided. Preparation and planning is necessary.

- \_\_\_ Preschool Teacher
- \_\_\_ Kingdom Kids Teacher  
(Kindergarten – Second Grade)
- \_\_\_ Storyteller
- \_\_\_ Older Elementary Teacher (Grades 3-6)
- \_\_\_ Greeter

### • Preschool Worship Care (Once a month) – Sundays from 10:45 am to 12:15 pm

Two adults care for children during Worship Services with youth helpers. Training and activities provided. No preparation or planning necessary.

### • Preschool Coordinator (Once a month) – Sundays from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm.

Greet visiting families; answer questions about the preschool programs; coordinate and assist classroom volunteers. Training provided. No preparation or planning necessary.

### • Music – Sundays (Preschool Sunday School and Children's Chapel)

# Call to Serve

some of your time and talents for our children.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

- **ROC/K (Reaching our Community Through Kids) (Wednesdays) – 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.**

Serve on a team of teachers with 2-3 others in our mid-week program for K-6 grades focused on mission, fellowship, and bible study. Training and curriculum are provided.

\_\_\_\_\_ Classroom Leader  
\_\_\_\_\_ Choir Helper



## SUMMER

- **Vacation Bible School – June 13 - 17, 2011**  
Participate in our weeklong summer program for preschool children. Training provided.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Teacher  
\_\_\_\_\_ Art Room
- **BibleTimes Marketplace – June 13 - 17, 2011 at Children’s Fresh Air Farm**  
Participate in our weeklong summer program for elementary children. Training provided.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Parent  
\_\_\_\_\_ Marketplace Helper (crafts)



## IPC 4th Quarter Group:

We're going on an overnight trip in May ...  
but we're taking reservations now!

**WHEN: Thursday, May 5 & Friday, May 6**

**WHAT:** The trip will include attending a performance of "To Kill a Mockingbird" in Monroeville, a hotel stay, an elegant lunch, shopping & touring in a noted historic area, and a visit to Gee's Bend to see the beautiful quilts.

**COST :** \$150.00 (includes all costs except 2 meals)

### **DEADLINE TO REGISTER: Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011**

Space for this unique two-day outing is very limited, so please contact Cindy Shaw (cshaw@ipc-usa.org or 933-3696) or Jeannine Usher (jusher@ipc-usa.org or 933-3694) soon to reserve your spot!

## **Birmingham Men's Club Now on Tuesdays**

Due to church renovations over the next few months, the Birmingham Men's Club has moved its monthly luncheon meetings to Tuesdays **now through May**. **The February meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 22**, and will feature **Gene Hallman, President & CEO of the Bruno Event Team (Alabama-based sports marketing & event management company) as keynote speaker**. The event begins in the Parlor at 10:30 a.m., then moves into the Great Hall for lunch and the speech. Cost of the lunch is just \$8.00, but advance reservations are required. Please contact Jeannine Usher at 933-3694 if you'd like to attend or to learn more information.

## **Lunch Bunch Tuesday, February 15**

The 4th Quarter's Lunch Bunch will gather at Dodiyo's Restaurant in Homewood on Tuesday, February 15 at 12:00 Noon....Call Jeannine Usher (933-3694) for reservations!

## **LIBRARY NOTES**

*God at 2000* is a collection of essays and presentations made in response to the question: "From your lifetime of study, reflection, and experience, what have you learned about God that seems important to you?" The responders include such scholars and writers as Karen Armstrong, Marcus Borg, Joan Chittister, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Ron Chernow's *Washington: A Life* is the most recent biography of our first president. Described as having "a breadth and depth matched by no other one-volume life of Washington," this book follows Washington from his boyhood through his presidency, revealing a passionate man of fiery opinions, and examining the relationships with his mother, his wife Martha, and the foremost figures of the age. Another biography of Washington is *His Excellency: George Washington* by Joseph J. Ellis, who also wrote *American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson*.

*Going Home to Glory* was written by David Eisenhower with Julie Nixon Eisenhower. It is a memoir of David's experiences with his grandfather, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, after his presidency and until his death.

*Remarkable Creatures*, by Tracy Chevalier, is described as "an inspiring novel of how one woman's gift transcends class and social prejudice to lead to some of the most important discoveries of the nineteenth century" and "a revealing portrait of the intricate and resilient nature of female friendship." Other novels in our collection by Chevalier are *Girl With a Pearl Earring* and *The Lady and the Unicorn*.

*Dewey: There's a Cat in the Library*, by Vicki Myron and Bret Witter, is based on Myron's true story of a shivering, dirty, tiny kitten found in the book drop of an Iowa library on the coldest night of the year and how he became the library cat. Delightful illustrations by Steve James bring this story to life for all ages.

*The Library Committee*

## **In February What's Cooking?**



## **IPC Wednesday Night Dinners**

### **SALAD BAR AND DESSERT FOR EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER**

**FEBRUARY 2**  
CHICKEN PARMESAN  
W/PASTA  
GRILLED  
VEGETABLES  
GARLIC CHEESE  
BREAD  
**children:**  
CHICKEN SANDWICH  
CURLY FRIES

**FEBRUARY 9**  
BEEF POT ROAST  
W/MUSHROOM  
SAUCE  
MASHED POTATOES  
FRIED OKRA  
**children:**  
PIZZA  
CORN ON THE COBB

**FEBRUARY 16**  
FAJITAS AND TACOS  
REFRIED BEANS  
RICE  
**children:**  
SAME AS ADULTS

**FEBRUARY 26**  
SMOKED  
CHICKEN BREAST  
BAKED POTATO  
BAR B QUE BEANS  
STEAMED BROCCOLI  
**children:**  
CHICKEN FINGERS  
MAC AND CHEESE

*Kim Martin,  
Director, Food Service  
IPC*

## 2010-2011 BEESON GRANTS

Each year the IPC Foundation conducts a grants cycle to distribute the earnings of the Beeson Fund. The 2010-11 cycle began last June, when we began receiving applications. In all, we received 108 applications (21 from new applicants) asking \$2.6 Million. Applications were reviewed, and site visits and conference calls were conducted, over the summer and fall, culminating in the November board meeting of the Foundation, in which 76 grants were approved for \$1.38 Million. The grants will be distributed in early February.

This was a challenging year: overall quality of this year's requests was high, and the Beeson Fund has not fully recovered from the recession. In the end, we were able to fund 52% of the amount requested. The grantsmaking team consisted of:

Rucker Agee	Marsha Harbin
Lydia Cheney	Penney Hartline
Susan Clayton	Ann Hillhouse
Foster Cook	Betsy Holloway
Carolyn Crawford	Beff King
Bobbie Epting	Larry Krannich
Mike Fleenor	Robert Pless (Chair)
Catherine Gregory	Jim Wooten

The following charts summarize how and where the grants will be used.

### Grants by Category

Mission Support	51.6%
Scholarship Aid	3.6%
Medical Services to Needy	3.1%
General Education	18.6%
General Charitable	22.7%
Misc Organizations	0.4%
Total	100%

### Geographic Dispersion of 2010-11 Grants

Birmingham	62%
US (Outside Birmingham)	12%
Africa	11%
Europe	3%
Central & South America	7%
International (Other)	5%
Total	100%

Specifics will be available in the 2010 Annual Report of the Foundation, or may be obtained by calling Jim Wooten on 933-3705.

*Jim Wooten*  
Executive Director of the IPC Foundation

## Charitable Giving and the New Tax Act

As many of you know, Congress passed legislation in late December 2010 to extend the tax rates in effect in 2010 for two more years. This means the favorable tax treatment of capital gains and dividends will continue as well as lower income tax rates. While the value of the deduction for making charitable contributions will remain the same, we hope the continuation of these favorable tax rates will enable you to have more funds for not only your personal needs, but also for your charitable giving.

The IRA "charitable rollover" for those age 70 ½ was also extended by Congress through the end of 2011. Persons in this situation can give directly from an IRA to a charity and receive the full benefit of the contribution while also having the contribution credited against their required minimum distribution for the year.

The new law also includes a \$5.0 million estate and gift tax exemption and, with a portability feature between spouses, provides for a \$10.0 million exemption for a married couple. This two year provision (unless extended) will eliminate estate taxes for most people. We hope that potential donors will realize that with this increased exemption amount even more assets will now pass to children than ever before. With increased amounts going to heirs, we hope you will also consider including IPC and other charities in your estate plan.

If you would like assistance with the arrangements of gifts to IPC and the IPC Foundation, please contact Jim Wooten or Rev. Bobbie Epting at the church at 933.1830. To determine the tax consequences of this legislation relative to your personal circumstances, please contact your professional advisors.

*Bill Shanks*

For the IPC Foundation Development Committee

## Montreat in May – Save the Date!

IPC is co-sponsoring a conference at Montreat May 23-25, 2011 entitled "Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity." Open to everyone, and co-sponsored by the well regarded Lake Institute on Faith and Giving and other major PCUSA churches, the conference will surely be informative and will give members of IPC an opportunity to travel, learn, and enjoy together God's beautiful creation. Contact Rev. Bobbie Epting at [bepting@ipc-usa.org](mailto:bepting@ipc-usa.org) for additional details.



Independent Presbyterian Church  
3100 Highland Avenue  
Birmingham, AL 35205  
www.ipc-usa.org

the *W*INDOW

WINDOW (USPS255-220)  
Published Monthly  
Office of Publication  
Independent Presbyterian Church  
3100 Highland Avenue South  
Birmingham, AL 35205-1408  
Periodical Postage Paid at  
Birmingham, Alabama  
POSTMASTER: Send address  
change to the WINDOW,  
3100 Highland Avenue  
Birmingham, AL 35205-1408

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## IPC Stewardship: A Culture of Generosity

**B**y the time this issue of *The WINDOW* arrives in your mailbox, the Session of IPC will have passed a healthy, balanced budget for the year based on your incredibly generous gifts and pledges to the church for operations in 2011. The budget projects slightly decreased receipts compared with last year, down about \$22,000 (-.6%) but will include important growth in some areas – like expanding the Summer Learning Program at the Children’s Fresh Air Farm from 40 to 80 children.

As the budget income projections were set, we still had not heard from everyone. Remember it’s never too late to pray or to respond to your understanding of God’s blessedness in your life by making an annual financial commitment to the church anytime during the year.

**Felix Yarboro**, retired IPC Director of Community Ministries, husband, father, grandfather, organist, teacher, learner, faithful follower of Christ, pledger and “poet” sent me the following inspired prayer he crafted as he was reflecting on the church’s stewardship and development activities.

*We have no more money to give  
Unless we dream of new ways to do so.  
We have no more time to give  
Unless we use our collective talents better.  
We have no more life to surrender to Thee  
Unless we remember deeper that you gave  
Your all to us.  
Awaken us to new horizons, we pray.*

**AMEN**

Thank you, Felix. Your eloquent words remind us of God’s sacrifice and of our own opportunity to share, generously, our talents and resources in service to Christ particularly here at, and through, IPC. Thanks, too, to you, the members of IPC, for your generosity in sharing your financial gifts for the work of the church this year.

**Rev. Bobbie Epting**  
*Associate Pastor for Stewardship and Development*