



INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*Christ our Cornerstone*

# Sacred Spaces

## The Window

VIEW FROM INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 2011  
Vol. 64, Issue 1

## Plans for Worship in Great Hall Beginning Sunday, January 2

**T**o God be the Glory in all our music, worship and mission. IPC's identity is bound within the glorious worship of Christ in our sanctuary. We will be "relocating" that same reverence and glorious worship to another sacred space in God's house for 2011.

At the end of 2010, we will close the sanctuary for major repairs and for the old organ to be removed and the new organ to be installed. Beginning January 2, 2011, we begin worshipping in the Great Hall at three services on Sundays. We hope to be back in the Sanctuary before Advent.

### Here are some details for worship in the Great Hall:

- **There will be three services each Sunday morning in the Great Hall: 8:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.; and 11:00 a.m.**
- The services will be identical to the services we now have in the Sanctuary.
- As in our usual Sunday services, we will be led in worship by the IPC choir accompanied by Jeff McLelland on an organ in the Great Hall.
- The congregation will be facing east (toward the large window) in the Great Hall. There will be a shade over the window to block the glare, but we will still see the stained glass cross and the outdoor view through the surrounding clear glass.
- Communion will be served on the first Sunday of every month. At the 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. services, we will receive communion by intinction. This is one of several traditional ways of participating in the sacrament. It simply involves receiving a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. We already receive communion by intinction at the noon Chapel Service every Wednesday, during the annual Maundy Thursday evening service, and for other special services. The congregation will go to the front row by row and approach the chancel area where a minister and an elder will have the bread and the cup for

you. After taking communion, you may return to your seat by the side aisles. **At the 11:00 a.m. service, Elders will serve communion by passing the bread and cup as we do now.**

- Church School for all ages will be held from 9:30–10:30 a.m.
- Children's Chapel will be at 11:00 a.m. (*Beginning 1/9*)
- Between services, there will be an extended time for fellowship in the Parlor.
- A sound system has been set up in the Parlor for those who prefer to sit there during the worship services.
- Elevators located near the receptionist's desk will take people to the Great Hall. Worshippers entering from this direction will be entering from the rear and will not disturb the service.

If you have any questions, call the church 933-1830.

*"I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1  
photo by Paul Romjue*

### With Gifts From God: Stewardship

**W**ith thanks to God and to the blessedly generous congregation of IPC, the sojourn to the Great Hall for worship will be temporary while the capital campaign work in the sanctuary is completed and the new organ is installed.

With gratitude to all who completed their membership commitment of responsible Christian stewardship of money, time, and talent, there will once again be sufficient resources to support IPC's annual budget for mission and ministry. The challenge in the new year is to involve and engage ALL members of the IPC community in the spiritually rewarding life of the church, its work for Christ in the world, and its financial support.

*The Stewardship Committee  
and the Capital Campaign Committee*



The Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps

## Time of Transition & Spiritual Growth

The need for renovation and/or refurbishment in any home can bring with it not only moments of stress and frustration, but also provide great opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

Several years ago now after several years of discussion concerning the need for new carpet and a fresh coat of paint for our home, the Sharps family took the big leap. We looked at what seemed to me to be thousands of samples, swatches and styles -- and finally made decisions concerning carpet and paint. I have concluded that people who sell carpet and paint not only have to be proficient at sales but also need a good course in marital counseling.

Probably the best part of this minor renovation was that all I had to do in preparation was move as much of our furniture, dishes, books and electronics as I could into the one room that was not to be carpeted or painted. "Piece of cake," as they say. But as we emptied the closets, the counters, the bureaus, the dining room cabinets, and the bookshelves, I thought to myself, "Where did all this stuff come from?" The only consolation I had was that the bathroom tub had to stay put, and I could take a hot bath when we finished.

It was, however, the strangest feeling when we completed our tasks, as we stood back and looked at a nearly bare home. The Spartan look was refreshing. This new look was different, but I liked it. I prayed the new style would look even more appealing once the work was completed.

Isn't it great how a new perspective can reenergize our lives? Sometimes what begins as an undesired chore can take on great significance because it allows us to look at life from a new or at least a different perspective. New perspectives offer opportunities for personal and sometimes even spiritual growth.



photo by Paul Romjue

As we begin a period of necessary sanctuary refurbishment and also prepare for the installation of the Joseph W. Schreiber memorial organ, we have a great opportunity to pause and consider all the many ways God has blessed us as a church family. Yes, our perspective will be changed (perhaps even challenged) as we worship for several months in our Great Hall. But I submit to you, and ask you to pray, that this time of transition (even exile from our sanctuary) will serve as a time of spiritual growth that will reenergize our spiritual perspective and renew our vision of both worship and service -- be it in the Great Hall or the magnificent Sanctuary to which we will return sooner than we think.

**Pause with me, and give God thanks!** Our exodus will not be 40 years, but only several months -- months that with God's help we will grow together as a people who look forward to a renewed and reenergized tradition of what takes place and emanates from our life together in worship and service, "**For when two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.**" declares our Lord, Jesus Christ.



*Pray  
that this  
transition  
will be a  
time of  
spiritual  
growth  
for us all.*

### LIVING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS...

#### SUGGESTED FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

January 2

Dry, Canned Milk

January 9

Pasta & Pasta Sauce

January 16

Canned Fruits

January 23

Soup/Soup Mixes

January 30

Grits/Oatmeal

First Light Women's Shelter Items

for December

Hairbrushes/Combs

# Upcoming Events at IPC

**January 3** IPC closed  
**January 4-7** Day School Registration for 2011-2012 school year  
**January 5** Epiphany Procession 6:30 p.m.  
**January 9** Winter term church school begins  
**January 10** STAIR second semester begins  
**January 12** Winter term Wednesday night begins  
**January 14-16** Youth Choir Trip to Nashville  
**January 17** IPC closed  
**January 23** Highlanders Social  
**January 30** Foundation Sunday  
**January 30-February 4** IPC Religious Arts Festival  
**February 11-13** Trip to Louisville Seminary  
**February 12** Partners Marriage Seminar  
**February 13** Mercedes Marathon; church service 4 p.m.  
**February 27** Congregational 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  
**July 15-24** Mexico Mission Trip

## Meal schedule for First Light January.

Please check for your dates and alert group members as soon as possible! If you are unable to accept the date for your group, please swap and notify Betsy Middlebrooks (933-3731 or bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org). Plan for 60 meals and serve at 6:30 p.m. Remember that many guests at First Light have dietary restrictions, including diabetes, high blood pressure, etc. Planning healthy meals is beneficial to all of us! And if you can volunteer this week to spend the night at First Light, please contact Susan Clayton at 933-3709 or at sclayton@ipc-usa.org. Thanks so much for your help and dedication!

### January 9-15, 2011

**Sunday, Jan. 9**—Youth/Youth Subcomm.  
**Monday, Jan. 10**—Preschool and Elementary Subcommittees  
**Tuesday, Jan. 11**—Tapestries I & II  
**Wednesday, Jan. 12**—IPC Staff  
**Thursday, Jan. 13**—Hunger Work Group  
**Friday, Jan. 14**—Advanced/Seekers Classes  
**Saturday, Jan. 15**—Women at the Well

## 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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*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 & Virginia Jones Photography** 3

## 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).

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

## The IPC Angel Fund

The IPC Angel Fund provides benevolent care for the needy at IPC -- for members, for staff, and for their immediate family when there is an urgent crisis. Rev. Lucy Turner and another member of the clergy staff determine the amount of support extended. Names of recipients are held in pastoral confidence.

Examples in which this fund helped out in 2010 include helping to keep a family in their home, keeping the utilities on for another family, keeping a family car from being repossessed, putting food on another's dinner table, and covering the cost of needed prescription medicines.

The fund was almost depleted last year, and contributions now would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to help IPC help others in the IPC Family, please send a check to the church, made out to **IPC** and marked for the **Angel Fund**. Your financial support sends the clear message of God's abiding love and faithfulness.

**THANK YOU.**

# Meet Nate Sell, IPC's New Assistant Youth Director

Nate was interviewed recently by Paul Romjue.

## When did you first feel that you were called to ministry?

For a long time ministry had been a vague idea in the back of my mind which I might explore “sometime down the road.” My father was an ordained Presbyterian minister and my mother is now the director of admissions for a Presbyterian seminary, so to be honest, I thought I would skip the allegations that I was going into the family business and do something a little easier, like write the next great American novel. This changed for me, however, when I received a scholarship with the Fund for Theological Education in the summer before my junior year in college. I went to the conference on excellence in ministry mostly to collect a check to help pay for my college education (a little iffy, I know) and somehow in the midst of that conference a spark was lit. I thought, “These are the questions that are important to me. This is what matters. This is what I am passionate about.” I went from being uncertain about where the church was going to being excited about participating in what the Church can be. I feel called to youth ministry in particular for two reasons. The first is that I had some incredible youth ministers when I was growing up. They showed me God’s love and guided me on my spiritual journey in a remarkable way. I want to do the same thing for others. The second might seem obvious, but the youth are the future of the Church. It is important that youth are fostered spiritually and led to spiritual maturity not simply to keep the pews filled, but because the Church serves as Christ’s hands, and there is much work to be done.

## What are your first impressions of Birmingham and of IPC?

I must admit that I was initially a bit apprehensive about Birmingham. Being in the outdoors is where I feel most alive, and I was worried that I would not be able to get my fill in Alabama. However, the more I looked around, I realized I could get to good outdoor opportunities. I also really like the city of Birmingham. I like that it is composed of multiple smaller communities and does not feel like a really big city, while simultaneously providing great food and entertainment. I am still a bit scared of the summer here, though. I grew up in the cold, and 100 degrees is a lot more intimidating to me than 10 degrees. Thank God for air-conditioning!

In terms of my first impressions of IPC, I can honestly say that I have felt at home from the minute I walked in the door. I love the building and style of worship- both are absolutely beautiful. More importantly, the people are amazing.

Everyone has been incredibly kind and welcoming. I am very thankful for how people at IPC have treated me-- they have even helped me outfit my apartment!



Nate Sell, right, with IPC Youth Cammie Coulter

## What dreams and ideas do you have for the youth program?

I think that the focus of the youth program should be the same as the focus of IPC’s stated priorities, those being, **“Living in the spirit, living in community, and living in service to others.”** I believe that these priorities encompass how we are meant to live, and I do not think that someone can be truly well without all three of these components.

I am reminded of Timothy 4:12, when Paul writes, *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”* As Paul suggests, the youth have much to contribute to each other, to the larger congregation, and indeed the world. My dream is that we would live out these words.

Three of my favorite questions are **“Who am I, what are my gifts, and what is my place in the world?”** I think that these questions help us find what we are supposed to do with our lives. One of my dreams would be that we, as a youth group, could ask these questions of ourselves and of each other. If we all asked these questions, I think that the results would be truly amazing. It is already clear to me that the youth of IPC have incredible potential... their energy and intelligence is easy to spot. If that potential is channeled for living out God’s mission, I can barely fathom what astonishing things will happen.

To read the full interview with Nate, go to our website

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

Nate is a great writer, and you'll enjoy reading his answers to such questions as *“Your resume reached us when you were hiking the Appalachian Trail. Tell us how that happened.”* Read about his 2,200 mile long walk and what he found out along the way...

## WINTER TERM AT IPC

- Winter Term Church School for adults, youth, and children 9:30-10:30 a.m. January 9-March 6, 2011
- Winter Term Wednesday night activities for adults and children January 12-March 2, 2011
- Worship service in the Great Hall beginning January 2 at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.
- Children's Chapel begins January 9 at 11:00 a.m.
- No Sunday morning classes or worship on February 13, 2011, due to Mercedes Marathon; worship service at 4:00 p.m.

For more details concerning adult classes, please see the *Winter Term Adult CE brochure (on-line & in the mail)*

## Theological Issues and Trends

Are you interested in some of the latest issues and trends in churches today? Would you like to learn more about some important theological developments? If so, please plan to attend a **winter term Sunday morning class** which will address these topics.

The seven-week course includes developments in worship in mainline churches; an introduction to the emergent church; a discussion of recent scholarship on Calvin, Barth, and others; and theology and race in Western Christianity. Drayton Nabers' new book *The Hidden Keys to Happiness* will also be featured. In addition to Drayton Nabers, speakers include Samford University professors Joe Scrivner, David Bains, John Knapp and Ken Roxburgh. This class is the only topic church school class scheduled for the winter term. It, along with all other adult classes will meet from 9:30 to 10:30 Sunday mornings.

## Trip to Louisville Presbyterian Seminary

The Focus on Faith Committee is sponsoring another seminary trip, this one to Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in Louisville, KY. The dates are February 11 -13, 2011. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear and have discussions with some of the leading minds in theological education today. Featured speakers are the new president of the Seminary, Michael Jinkins, "*The Psalms: Word of God, Words of Prayer*"; Dianne Reistroffer, Professor of Ministry, "*Biblical Perspectives on Faith and Money*"; Marty Soards, Professor of New Testament Studies, "*Jewish/Christian Background of Galatians*;" and Clifton Kirkpatrick, Visiting Professor of Ecumenical Studies and Global Ministries, "*The Future of the Christian Movement Worldwide*."

The group will travel to Louisville on the church bus. Plans are to leave the church Friday morning, visit the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and check in Laws Lodge on the seminary campus. Saturday will be spent in sessions with the speakers. Sunday the 13th is the day of the Mercedes Marathon, so the group will be back in time to attend worship at 4:00 that afternoon.

Call Betsy Middlebrooks (933-3731) or Paul Romjue (933-3732).

## Comments about the Fall Wednesday Night Class

## Big Questions in Science and Religion

"Attending the class was thought-provoking and eye-opening. Hearing the professors talk so passionately about the pursuit of truth through science and their own faith has strengthened and clarified my own feelings about the complementary nature of these two disciplines. Having this opportunity was a great privilege." Elaine Huckleberry, class member

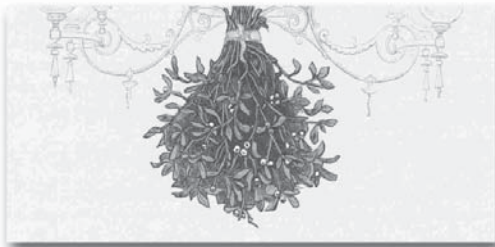
IPC member **Bud Keller**, Department of Biology and Environmental Science; **Wilton Bunch**, Department of Philosophy; **Steve Donaldson**, Department of Math & Computer Science; and **Tom Woolley**, Brock School of Business, all Senior Fellows of the Samford University Center for Science and Religion, presented a ten-week course entitled "Big Questions in Science and Religion" this fall term 2010. The course was designed to examine scientific and religious contributions to big questions of meaning and value, such as *what is the relationship between science and religion, where did the universe come from, where did we come from, and do we have free will.*

Other topics covered in these discussions included *is the world random or deterministic, what is the soul and the nature of consciousness, what will it mean to be human in the future, what will it mean to be an ethical human in the future, do miracles occur, how does God intervene, and does God exist and how can we be sure.*

"This series of lectures, was challenging, intelligent and illuminating – especially for anyone reflecting on current discussions of atheism and agnosticism. Every lecture was well-researched meticulously argued and beautifully presented," said **Jeff Johnson**, a member of the class.

Class member **Ruth Bean** noted, "*If I had not been born into this congregation, I would have joined IPC after attending this class! The intellectual stimulation became a weekly highlight for Sandy and me. We've truly missed the sessions now that the term is over, and hope similar classes will become part of IPC's regular Wednesday night curriculum.*"

## 2010 Holiday House Tour



The 61st Annual Holiday House Tour to support the Children's Fresh Air Farm, First Light Shelter, and other community missions helped by the IPC Presbyterian Women was most successfully chaired by Amy Morse and Beth Adams.

Sincere appreciation goes to all the dedicated and hard-working persons who headed the Holiday House Committees, including Gina and Rusty Boyd, Penney Hartline, Susan Gilpin, Kay Grisham, Judy Feagin, Betsy Canterbury, Betty Schreiber, Babbie Shelton, Nancy Long, Paige Albright, Lynn Huddle, Betsy Faucette, Susan Edwards, Cyndy Cantley, Babs Simpson, Kate Simpson, Nancy Riley, Barbara Lanier, Martha Grizzle, Evelyn Puckett, Betsy Middlebrooks, Melanie Talbot Montgomery, Barb Fillmer, Elaine Swoger, Andrew Hicks, Melissa Brisendine, Cindy Keller, Paul Romjue, Nancy Skinner, Beth Grauel, Libby Kidd, Mary Ann Morrow, IPC Guild, and Robert Hill.

Many special thanks go to Kim Martin, Andre' Asberry, and our entire housekeeping and food service staff for all their hard work during the week preceding the tour and during the tour weekend itself.

Most of all we are grateful to those who opened their lovely homes—**Brownie and Barry Evans, Frances and Miller Gorrie, Pat and Billy Hiden, Libby Lassiter and David Ball, and Ellen and Jim Walker.**

## Marvin Whiting



**Dr. Marvin  
Whiting**

With the death of Marvin Yeomans Whiting, our church has lost a dear friend. The retired director of the Archives Department of the Birmingham Public Library, Dr. Whiting was known as an authority on "everything Birmingham," and his services to the community have been invaluable.

Marvin was also a good friend of IPC. He was very knowledgeable about the history of our church, especially the period of the Edmonds years. He was the author of *An Enduring Ministry: A Biography of Henry Morris Edmonds, 1878 – 1960*. He also wrote the highly respected history of IPC, *The Bearing Day is not Gone*, the seventy-fifth anniversary history of the church. Our congregation will miss him. In fact, he was working on an updated version of *The Bearing Day* at the time of his death. The completion of the book was very important to him, so knowing that, and recognizing the importance of the work, two of our members, **Cathy Adams** and **Linda Nelson**, have volunteered to complete the task he had begun. The publication of the book will be a wonderful gift to us and a fitting memorial to Marvin.

**Marvin Yeomans Whiting**  
**March 31, 1934 – November 26, 2010**

## IPC Day School

### Kay Shackelford Announces Her Retirement

"Miss Kay" Shackelford, who is so well known and loved by all Day School teachers, parents and students, both past and present, has announced her retirement from the Day School at the end of this school year. We are very sad to see Kay leave us, but we know she is ready to move on to the next exciting part of her life. Kay has been a dedicated part of the Day School staff for 22 years and has worked with five Day School Directors. It is hard for us to imagine a day without her here among us. Please join us in thanking Kay for sharing her life, love and laughter with all of us. We love you "Miss Kay," and we will miss you so very much.



### Day School Serves Healthy Snacks and Gears Up For APPLE & Fall Registration

The Day School is proud to report great success in serving healthy snacks to the students. Nancy Riley, our Day School Assistant, orders, prepares and serves a variety of healthy snacks to our pre-school students each week. January snacks will include red and green grapes, bananas, cheese sticks, celery and carrots, oranges, sliced ham, cheese and crackers, apples and Harvest chips. Teachers and children alike are enjoying and even requesting these healthy choices. Many thanks to Miss Nancy for planning so many tasty and healthy treats for the Day School children.

**Registration for Fall 2011** is being held now through January 7. APPLE Registration is being accepted now through the first week of March. Registration forms are available online ([www.ipc-usa.org/DaySchool](http://www.ipc-usa.org/DaySchool))



# IPC Foundation Sunday

January 30, 2011, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Rooms 305-307

Don't miss the IPC Foundation's annual presentation highlighting the work funded by the Foundation locally and internationally. We will host two grant recipients.

Founded by Presbyterian missionaries in 1864, **Forman Christian College in Pakistan** was widely regarded as the best college on the Indian subcontinent until it was nationalized in 1972. After that, academic standards declined, the campus fell into disrepair, and Christians were systematically excluded from the student body and faculty. The College was denationalized in 2003 due to the efforts of many highly placed alumni, including Pakistani President Musharraf. Forman, now affiliated with the PC (U.S.A.), is rebuilding the campus and the faculty as a showcase for cooperation between Muslims and Christians. The IPC Foundation has provided scholarship aid and faculty support. **Jim Tebbe, President-designate, and Cheryl Burke, Dean of Students, will be our speakers.**

Designed to inspire a life-long love of learning, **McWane Science Center** is best-known for its state-of-the-art museum opened in 1998. Lesser known is its new Science Education Partnership, through which it strengthens the teaching of science in local schools. The Foundation funded a pilot of this program at Restoration Academy, and an expansion of the program to Cornerstone School. **Tim Ritchie, President and CEO, will be our speaker.**

There will be a display in the Parlor providing an overview of this year's Beeson Grant recipients.

## Mission Trips

As the New Year begins, please prayerfully consider joining one of the mission teams from IPC traveling to bring the love and hope of Christ to people living in places of need around the world. In 2011, we will be traveling to Mexico, Africa, and possibly Honduras, though that trip is not yet certain.



The **Mexico** trip will take place from **July 15-24, 2011** inclusive of travel. This trip is often a mix of youth and adults and is led each year by the very experienced and able team of **Murray and Diane Beck**. The team will travel by bus and van from Birmingham to Piedras Negras, Mexico, just over the border, to build a house with and for a Mexican family through the organization **Constructores Para Cristo**. The construction begins on Monday and the house is completed and dedicated on Friday. We recommend that at least one parent of each youth who wants to participate on the mission team accompany their son or daughter on this trip. It helps with the balance of youth and adults, and is a wonderful experience for parents and youth to have together.

The **Africa** mission trip dates are not finalized yet, but we are trying to secure dates in early June. This trip usually takes a full two weeks, inclusive of travel time. The team will travel from Birmingham to Mwandia, Zambia, to do mission work around the Mwandia Mission. IPC has had a relationship with this mission for over twenty years. We encourage IPC members who work in the medical field to go on this trip and work in the Mwandia Mission Hospital. Non-medical folks are welcome as well to work in the Orphan Center, School, Church, and also doing maintenance projects around the mission compound.

**If you would be interested in being a part of either of these mission teams, please call The Rev. Susan Clayton at 933-3709 or email her at [sclayton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sclayton@ipc-usa.org)**

## LIBRARY NOTES

*First and Second Samuel*, by Walter Brueggemann, is one of the INTERPRETATION series of Bible commentary. *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*, by F. F. Bruce, is part of The New International Commentary on the New Testament.

*The Christian Century* and *Christianity Today* are two of the periodicals which can be found in the Lukens Library. Both contain articles dealing with present day issues facing us as Christians, book and media reviews, and theology and bible study.

*In Landscape of Transformations*, Michael W. Fazio presents a history of Birmingham using its industrial growth, commercial architecture, and planned subdivision development as well as the events and personalities that have shaped the city.

*Extraordinary, Ordinary People*, written by former Secretary of State and Birmingham native Condoleezza Rice, is subtitled *A Memoir of Family*. In relating her life experiences, she emphasizes the influence of her father John, a minister and educator, on her love of sports and politics, and her mother Angelena, a teacher, on her interest in music and the arts. Both insisted on the importance of education and hard work for success in life.

Fannie Flagg's newest novel, *I Still Dream About You*, is described as "a comic mystery romp through the streets of Birmingham, Alabama, past, present, and future."

*Of Thee I Sing: a Letter to My Daughters* is President Barak Obama's tribute to thirteen Americans and their ideals which shaped our nation. He emphasizes that these traits can be found in all American children and will serve to unite us in years to come.

*The Library Committee*



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the *WINDOW*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**The 40th annual  
RELIGIOUS ARTS FESTIVAL  
The Beauty and Wonders of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Vienna  
January 30 – February 4, 2011**

• **Sunday, January 30, 7:00 p.m.**

*A Viennese Coffee Concert*

Featuring a piano trio (Amy McLelland, Daniel Szasz, and Wei Liu) performing Beethoven. Vocal arias from Mozart's operas sung by choir soloists. Coffee and pastries will be served.

• **Monday, January 31, 7:00 p.m.**

*Lecture on the beauty and wonders of Slovakia – Dr. Greg Jeane*

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

*at the Birmingham Museum of Art*

to include a scavenger hunt for works by Austrian and Bohemian artists, and a tasting of the food, wine and pilsners of the region.

• **Thursday, February 3, 5:30 p.m.**

*Religious Arts Festival Banquet*

Culinary Art: Food of the Czech Republic

Program: Bill and Catherine Cabaniss,

Former US Ambassador to the Czech Republic

• **Friday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.**

*Early Music Concert by the Vocal Ensemble Quink*

**Art Exhibit for the Week**

**A Photography Exhibition by Virginia Jones, Caryl Privett, and Paul Romjue**

The community is cordially invited to participate in all events during the Festival.

*All of the events are free, with the exception of the February 1 Art Tasting and the February 3 Banquet, which require advance reservations. For further information about the Festival, please call the music office at the church,*

*205-933-3700, or visit our website at [www.ipc-usa.org](http://www.ipc-usa.org).*

