

VIEWS FROM INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH July 2010 Vol. 63, Issue 7

## *Plans for new Schreiber organ and worship services*

### *What connects ...*

next Easter, the new Joseph W. Schreiber Memorial Organ, the Alabama Theatre, and the fall joint Stewardship and Capital Campaign?

***YOU do!***

**Y**ou will become a part of a multiyear project that has been developing for close to a decade. Following years of study by the Organ Task Force, and after thorough analysis and review of recommendations from House and Properties, Worship, Music and Fine Arts, Finance, and Stewardship, the Session wisely and prayerfully voted to sign a contract with the prestigious Dobson Pipe Organ Builders of Iowa to build the Schreiber Organ and to include “speaking pipes” in the organ façade. IPC has been generously blessed with significant gifts for the new organ from the Barbara and Winfield Baird Family and from Mrs. Elizabeth O’Neal White Shannon for the White/Shannon Families. Their gracious gifts honor Christ, the worship and ministries of IPC, as well as the memory of Mr. Schreiber who served IPC for 34 years. But to prepare the sanctuary to receive the new organ, extensive work is needed. **After Christmas Eve worship 2010, we will close the sanctuary for repairs and begin worshipping in the Great Hall at three services on Sundays.** (More details of the worship schedule will be announced at a later date.)

**Which brings us to Easter, 2011.** IPC will be celebrating the resurrection of Christ at one morning worship service at The Alabama Theatre for Easter 2011. Imagine! All IPC members worshipping together! **Alleluia! Plan to be there.**

**What else can you do? Pray.** Pray about how you can faithfully participate in this once-in-a-century effort in the life of the church that will extend the worship and mission of IPC for generations.

The Session has also voted to approve a \$1.8 million capital campaign in conjunction with the fall stewardship appeal to complete the funding for the overall project. Each family and member of the congregation will be asked to pray and respond generously with a pledge for annual support as well as a multi-year capital pledge.

As our weekly bulletin reminds us, *“The Service of Worship begins with the music of the organ. Through its power and brilliance may you feel the majesty and glory of God, and in its quietness, His peace.”*

To 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 where we gather to hear God’s Word read and proclaimed and from where we are sent as God’s disciples.



Photo by Paul Romjue



The Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps

# Our Spiritual Journey

I cherish many experiences and memories from the times I have been blessed to spend in the Caribbean. One such experience was a brief encounter that provided an opportunity to learn something about life and faith.

It was Wednesday, and we had disembarked to explore St. Thomas. While Lauren hunted for the perfect treasures in the market, I found myself investigating a nearby bookstore. As I perused the stacks of books and magazines, a member of the clergy, wearing a clerical collar, came into the store carrying a Bible, what appeared to be a hymnal, and several copies of bulletins.

I immediately recognized the look on this pastor's face and personally identified with the spring in his step. **He was in a hurry!** Probably late. I wouldn't have even spoken to him, except that as he scurried to find a particular person (*later discovered to be his church organist*), he was told that she was upstairs and would be down as soon as possible. As he waited, I introduced myself and asked about the bulletins. They were for the Wednesday Noon Lenten Service, and he was there to deliver one to his church organist. I couldn't help but glance at my watch: 11:45. The lateness of the hour explained the spring in his step.

Being an obviously delightful and welcoming pastor, he invited me to the service, and then, observing me glancing at my watch, added with a smile, "We might not start until 12:15 or so."

Perhaps it was his gracious invitation or his gentle, playful smile, but this pastor communicated something of the love of God to me in this brief encounter. Haven't we all been there — running late, behind schedule, scurrying about looking for the very person we can't find? We don't generally use that time to entertain inquisitive strangers. This man, however, not only took the time, but he invited me to the Lord's house for a time of prayer and worship.

I don't know about you, but my life becomes so hectic that sometimes I forget I am on a journey -- **a spiritual journey**. IPC is also on a spiritual journey that will take us for a season to the Great Hall for worship. After Christmas worship 2010, we will move to the Great Hall for worship while our sanctuary undergoes renovation and our new organ is installed. It might take all of us some time to get used to worshipping in the Great Hall, but all the familiar elements of our worship services will be there. The services will have the same reverence, the same order and the same beautiful music with the choir and an organ. And like the pastor in a foreign land who communicated to me the love of God, we will be able to communicate the love of God in our new surroundings-- *It's all the Lord's house*. In fact, we have worshiped in the Great Hall before for various reasons. Although change is often difficult, this time is necessary for the renovation work and installation of the new organ. Also as part of this spiritual journey, our 2011 Easter service will be held in the historic Alabama Theatre with all of our congregation worshipping together in one glorious service!

Let us relish the opportunities this time will offer us. Let us travel together on this spiritual journey-- this once-in-a-century opportunity in the life of the church that will enable us to extend the worship and mission of IPC for generations.

Let us take the time together to examine our spiritual path, to seek what is good and true and holy, and the rest and peace and holy presence of God we all seek may surprise us--wherever we worship together.

**"IPC is on a spiritual journey that will take us for a season to the Great Hall for worship."**

## LIVING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS...

### SUGGESTED FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

July 4

Canned Fruits/  
Vegetables

July 11

Soups or Soup Mixes

July 18

Crackers/Muffin Mixes

July 25

Cereal & Dry  
or Canned Milk

First Light Women's Shelter

Items for July  
Arts & Crafts Supplies

**"This is what the LORD says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.'"**

*Jeremiah 6:16*

# Living in Service to Others BELL Summer Learning Program at Children's Fresh Air Farm (CFAF) June 28 - July 30

## Thank you for the books!

Thank you for your extremely generous response to our book drive. The books and donations have poured in! If you have not bought a book but still wish to participate, you may send a check payable to IPC and marked "for BELL Books." If there are special, beloved books that you would like to donate, you are welcome to do so, but I will go ahead and order the remaining books on the wish list so that they will be available to our scholars on June 28.

## Can you have breakfast with the children?

We have two opportunities for the congregation to have breakfast at IPC in the Great Hall with the BELL scholars. They will be at 8:15 a.m. on Friday, July 9 and on Friday, July 23. Please make reservations through Nancy Skinner at the receptionist's desk. We will pass the basket to cover the cost of the meal.

Our academic staff is in place, and they are a wonderful and energetic group of teachers. These four certified teachers will provide the classroom portion of the summer learning program. They complement each other and this church's mission in a special way.

Our schedule is almost complete, and here are some of the many activities we have planned:

- Science enrichment provided at the CFAF by the McWane Center + a field trip to McWane and an IMAX movie
- "Seed to Plate" program and a field trip provided by the Jones Valley Urban Farm
- "Too Good for Drugs" provided by UAB
- Field trips to the Birmingham-Southern Ecoscape and museum,
- Bible Study with Carter Cooper, Fran Fendley, Carolyn Nowlin, and Jan Posey
- Chapel with Susan Clayton
- Singing, drama, games, and a Field Day

provided by our IPC Youth

- Introduction to Spanish culture and language
- Tennis lessons with Terry Hamilton
- Swimming lessons
- Clay Creations with Laura and Bill Squires
- Library cards and visits to the Avondale Library

- A visit from Zoo animals, a special program with singer Roger Day, using the zipline, games, music, and crafts
- A visit to the Birmingham Museum of Art

As you can see, IPC is providing a dynamic and enriching summer program for our BELL scholars. God is blessing your gifts of time, talent, and treasure, and using them to make this summer so very special for some of our neediest neighbors.

Gini Williams  
2010 BELL  
Summer  
Learning  
Program  
Director, Independent Presbyterian Church



**Teaching Team:** Nicole Ritchie, (left), Abby Echols, Tim McKenzie, and Ashley James. From **Director Gini Williams** (right): "Let me introduce to you our 2010 Summer Learning Team: Nicole Ritchie, (left), Abby Echols, Tim McKenzie, and Ashley James. Each of our teachers has a degree in education, with "certified" and "highly qualified" status. They have completed their BELL training and have begun organizing their classroom spaces at the Farm. Each member brings unique talents to the team, making them a faithful witness to the manner in which individuals complement each other to become the body of Christ in our world."

## DEPARTMENTS

### Worship

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

### Music & Fine Arts

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

### Education

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

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

Janna Pennington, *Assistant Director*  
*Youth Ministries* 933-3734

### Congregational Care & Counseling

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

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

### New Member Coordinator

Nancy Skinner, 933-3703

### Community Ministries

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

### Finance

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

### Stewardship & Development

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

### IPC Day School

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

### Administration

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

### President of Congregation

Rupert Bodden, Jr. 942-8676

### Vice-President of the Congregation

William W. Horton 419-5139

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

# LIVING IN...

## IPC Knitting Ministry

### IPC'S Knitting Ministry Offers Support for Members in Need

The Knitting Ministry of IPC began less than two years ago, but in that time has already given more than **100** prayer shawls to the ill, grieving or homebound! The shawls are knitted and prayed over by volunteers who gather together here at the church once a week....and some who knit at home as well. Anyone who would like to participate in this worthwhile ministry is invited to join the group, and if you don't know how to knit, just ask, because they'll be happy to teach you!

All shawls are blessed before they are given to IPC members in need. The prayer shawls are boxed up with a copy of the shawl prayer and delivered by our knitters and clergy. Last year, the group added IPC girls who had just graduated from high school to the list of recipients. They're working now on shawls for this year's graduates and have plans to present the shawls to the girls before they begin college in the Fall.

So many members who have received IPC prayer shawls have expressed their thanks for how much the shawls mean to them as they struggle with a difficult or challenging period in their life. Here are a few excerpts from our recipients detailing just how special they think the shawls are:

- *I feel so fortunate to have tangible proof of the prayers and love of your group, representing IPC. It is true that when wrapped in the shawl, you can feel your prayers and God's closeness.*
- *I have enjoyed reading the Prayer Shawl Prayer and it gave me such a sense of peace. This shawl will always remind me that the hands of Christian women made this for me.*
- *As I start out college, it is comforting to know I have such a wonderful church...thinking of me back at home.*
- *To say that I was overwhelmed by the lovely afghan is putting it mildly...I must admit that I didn't know about the knitting ministry. What a wonderful idea for Christian fellowship. Your kindness will always be remembered.*

The Knitting Ministry meets on Thursdays in room 304 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. BYOY (Bring Your Own Yarn), size 11 or 13 needles and your lunch. Experienced knitters are always on hand to teach and assist beginning knitters. Pat Byrne and Mary Tom Stubbs, two of the group's founders, said, "We always welcome those who want to join our group as we knit for others." They added, "As with most service projects, we

have found that we receive more blessings from knitting and delivering the shawls than we could have ever imagined."

If you're interested in joining in this ministry of comfort and encouragement, please contact

Mary Tom Stubbs at 956-4208.



*A Shawl Prayer*  
*May the one*  
*who receives this shawl*  
*be cradled in hope,*  
*kept in joy,*  
*blessed with peace and*  
*wrapped in love.*  
*Presented with love by the*  
*Knitting Ministry of*  
*Independent Presbyterian Church*

Photographs by Cindy Shaw

# SERVICE TO OTHERS

## Mission Team

PLEASE  
PRAY FOR  
THE IPC  
MEXICO  
MISSION  
TEAM



**July 16-25,  
2010**

Going to Piedras Negras, Mexico  
With Constructores Para Cristo

**Team Leaders:** Murray and Diane Beck

**Participants:**

Murray and Diane Beck

William Ruff

Barry, Cathy, David and Joe Delozier

Lisa and Leah Burton

Melanie, Will and Taylor Widman

Brian and Lorraine Tell

Matt Anderson

## Food Pantry

### JUST A REMINDER ....

The IPC Food Pantry receives many requests during a normal week. During the summer, however, there are many more requests because many children who receive meals during the school year as part of a school breakfast and lunch program go hungry each summer when school is not in session.



Staples needed include items such as pasta and sauces; peanut butter and jelly; macaroni and cheese; cold or hot cereals and milk not requiring refrigeration; canned vegetables, fruits and meats; and other non-perishable foods. Items should be basic and should be family-size portions, not restaurant-size containers.

***Remember, hunger doesn't take a summer vacation!***

## Women's Shelter



*IPC Youth serving dinner at First Light*

**T**he meal schedule for the First Light Women's Shelter is set for July. Please check for your dates and alert group members as soon as possible! If for some reason 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](mailto:bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org)) to let her know the change. Remember to plan for 60 meals and to serve at 6:30 p.m.

**Please remember 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 [sclayton@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sclayton@ipc-usa.org).

***Thanks so much for your help and dedication!***

### IPC Volunteers at First Light July 11-17, 2010

Sunday, July 11—Faucette Family Edwards/Kinney/Preston

Monday, July 12—Hunger Work Group

Tuesday, July 13—Topic Church School Class

Wednesday, July 14—IPC Staff

Thursday, July 15—Community Ministries Committee

Friday, July 16—Tammy Johnson and friends

Saturday, July 17—Kathryn and Steven Burns and friends

### Food Pantry Baskets

Baskets placed around the church are available to receive these food items, which also can be taken to Community Ministries.

When grocery shopping, please consider adding a few items to the basket each week or to fill a grocery bag or two each month to help the Food Pantry keep up with the demand. ***Thanks for your great part in this IPC mission.***

*Janna Pennington*  
*Assistant Director of Youth*  
*Ministries*



*Janna Pennington*

**J**anna Pennington, IPC's new full-time assistant director of youth, is pleased "to continue to live out what I perceive as my 'calling': *to love and guide young people as they face difficult*

*challenges and seek to make sense of the complicated world around them.*" Janna is a graduate of Furman University and holds a Master of Education in Professional Counseling from the University of Georgia.

She most recently served as Service-Learning Coordinator of the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement at Georgia Southern University. Janna, who first learned of this job opening from her former college classmate Allison Seamon, notes:

*"I am enthusiastic about working with youth at IPC because of the church's strong commitment to community outreach and service. In my previous job, I enjoyed teaching students about needs in our local community and helping them to understand what they can do to help meet those needs. Serving others is an important way that I live out my faith, and as Assistant Director of Youth Ministries, I will strive to instill a Jesus-like commitment to service in the young people with whom I work."*

In addition to her work and educational experiences, Janna also studied abroad in Norway, southern Africa, and spent a summer living and working in L'abri Fellowship in England. She and her husband Buck have moved to Birmingham in order for Buck to attend dental school at UAB.



**Next...** The next IPC Youth adventure will be a **whitewater rafting trip July 11** on the Ocoee River in Tennessee.

*It's not too late to sign up!*

Contact Adam Sutherland

613-8339 or Anna Stinnett 933-3724.

**Do you know our next youth director??**

**W**e are searching for a new **Director of Youth Ministries**, and we need your help in finding the right person for IPC!

The search committee is asking members of the congregation to think about people they might recommend for the position.

Members of the committee are placing ads, contacting colleges and universities and making inquiries in other churches, but word of mouth is often



the best way of locating the best candidates. An example can illustrate: **During our last search we worked with a national organization which sent out thousands of notices all over the country, and we received lots of resumes from people interested in the position. The person we hired, however, was recommended to us by a church member who learned that David Seamon was interested in a job in Birmingham.**

The job description is posted on our website [www.ipc-usa.org/youthdirector](http://www.ipc-usa.org/youthdirector). Please give the link to anyone you think may be interested.

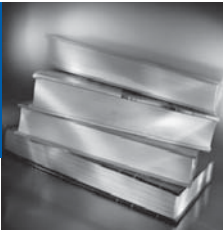
Contact **Kennon Walthall** at [kwalthall@revds.com](mailto:kwalthall@revds.com) or **Paul Romjue** at [promjue@ipc-usa.org](mailto:promjue@ipc-usa.org) with any suggestions or questions.

**IPC Family Album**

**R**ecently, we've heard so many "good news" items about members of our church family: graduations, new job positions, scholarships, honors, etc. We wanted to find a way to share these wonderful milestones with our entire IPC family, so we're developing a page on the website called, "The IPC Family Album." Please send us your news, and we'll post it to share with others. Send your news to Mary Ann Morrow, [mmorrow@ipc-usa.org](mailto:mmorrow@ipc-usa.org), 933-3717, or leave a note at the receptionist's desk.

**Living in Community**

## Library Notes



*The Bible Guide*, by Andrew Knowles, is a detailed guide to every book of the Bible. Its purpose is to explore and explain "the history, stories, culture, and message of the world's most influential book."

In *Of Earth And Sky: Spiritual Lessons from Nature*, Thomas Becknell has compiled selections from more than eighty of the world's finest writers. He offers a vision of living with an awareness of the interconnectedness of all life.

*The Nature of America* contains the photographs of more than 30 nature photographers to show the beautiful and wide range of ecological diversity in the North American continent. David Middleton's text provides brief natural history and highlights of the areas. With text by Doug Phillips and photographs by Robert P. Falls Sr., *Discovering Alabama Wetlands* provides a stunning portrait of our state's natural diversity.

*Stories from Where We Live: the Gulf Coast*, edited by Sara St. Antoine, contains stories by well-known and new writers all designed to connect readers to the great variety of nature in this region and highlight the many adventures to be experienced.

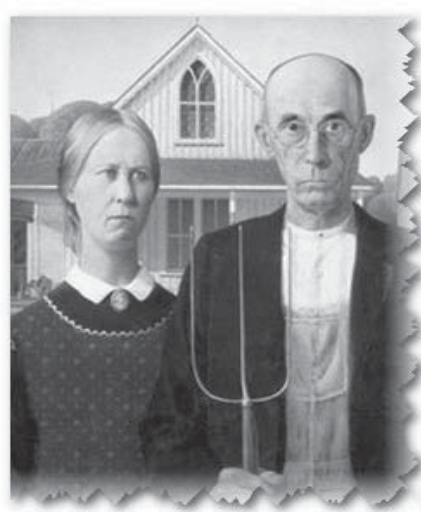
Introduce young children to our animal world with these three books written by Cathryn Sill and beautifully and accurately illustrated by John Sill: *About Birds*, *About Mammals*, and *About Reptiles*.

*The Keeper's Son*, a novel by Homer Hickam, is set in the Outer Banks of North Carolina before and during World War II. Its story is told through the lives of Coast Guard officer Josh Thurlow, an area native, and German U-boat commander Otto von Krebs as they intersect in the Atlantic waters off the North Carolina coast. Hickam is also the author of two memoirs, *Rocket Boys* and *Sky of Stone*.

*The Rhyme Bible* contains all the familiar Bible stories rewritten in simple verse by L.J. Sattgast and delightfully illustrated by Toni Goffe.

*The Library Committee*

Visit IPC's Lukens Library on the right as you go up the stairs to the 3rd floor classrooms. You'll find wonderful treasures to read and explore!



## Making Marriage Last a Lifetime

*"Making Marriage Last a Lifetime"* is a course for engaged and newlywed couples. It is being held in members'

*Don't let this happen to you!*

homes on Wednesday evenings this summer. For this twelve-week study, Lisa and John Burton, Anne and Jim Bussian, and Carrie and Hardwick Walthall have opened their homes and their hearts to young couples beginning their life journeys together. Anna James, chair of the Adult Education Subcommittee, says "This class is a priority for our church. We want to be able to offer it to young couples every summer as part of our curriculum. We are so grateful to our members who are sharing their homes and their evenings with these young people." Contact Lisa Burton at 879-0522 or Carrie Walthall at 879-0971 for more information.

## 4th Quarter Lunch Bunch



July Outing:

**Zea Rotisserie Grill!**

**Tuesday, July 27, Noon**

The 4th Quarter Lunch Bunch celebrates summertime with a trip to the Zea Rotisserie Grill, located in **Brookwood Village Mall**. The group will eat lunch at Zea on Tuesday, July 27, at 12:00 Noon. Everyone who has been to this restaurant raves about it, so we hope you'll join us! Just call Jeannine Usher (933-3694) to place your reservation, then meet us at the restaurant at Noon on the 27th!



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*the* WINDOW

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE IPC CHOIR will be taking a well-deserved vacation after the Sunday service June 20. They will return to Sunday services on August 22.

In June, they recorded a **Christmas CD**, which will be released in the fall.

It promises to be a wonderful addition to your music collection. Watch for forthcoming announcements for a specific release date. The new IPC Choir Christmas CD will be available in the fall.



*Mark your calendars and join us for the*  
**IPC Choir Annual Golf Tournament.**

**Sunday, September 26, 2010**

Highlands Golf Course

\$150 per player

\$100 Hole sponsor and \$25 Cart sponsor opportunities!

*Look for our brochure in your mailbox!*