



# Summer Learning

May 2011

Vol. 64, Issue 5

VIEWES FROM INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Children's Fresh Air Farm

# Summer Learning Program to Double in Size This Summer

**2011 CFAF Appeal Goal: \$50,000**

*Dear Church Family:*

Since its founding in 1923, the Children's Fresh Air Farm (CFAF) has greatly improved the lives of thousands of needy children. IPC is continuing this tradition of service by using the Farm for a summer learning program. This new ministry is an extension of IPC's desire to continue the loving relationships built with our STAIR children. Serving as the light of Christ in the lives of our closest neighbors has held many blessings for our congregation.

IPC's 2010 Summer Learning Program was an outstanding success. In addition to the spiritual, academic, enrichment, and physical education benefits, the camp provided a safe environment for children from disadvantaged neighborhoods, offered free childcare to low-income families, and served two nourishing meals and a snack to children of poverty. Test results show that our students made three months of progress in math and one month of progress in reading, compared to the typical two to three month summer learning loss for low-income students.

**This year will hold some significant changes, and your donations to the May CFAF Appeal will go a long way towards defraying the extra expenses.**

- We will double the number of children served in 2011. We have invited last year's campers to return, as well as a new group of STAIR students.
- We will add an extra week of camp, extending the camp term to six weeks.

- We will help the families with school supplies and uniforms. Because many other area agencies provide Christmas for needy families but do not support the educational process, we will help with school supplies and uniforms rather than at Christmas.

Our 2011 CFAF Appeal will be dedicated during worship services on May 8, which is Mother's Day. This is so very appropriate because so much of what children learn about navigating this world depends on their parents. If you, like me, have much to celebrate in having a wonderful mother and father, *please consider helping those less fortunate.* In so doing, we can truly serve those children whose parents may not be able to provide a future of hope and promise.

## Thank you!

I have been very touched by the generous and loving way that this congregation has embraced the summer learning program at the Farm. Your love for these children, and your devotion to Christ, shines through clearly. It is a great joy to share this mission with each of you.

Love in Christ,  
*Gini*  
Gini Williams  
Children's  
Fresh Air Farm  
Director  
Independent  
Presbyterian Church



## We truly need one another



The Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps

*If one is in need, all respond... for all are truly bound together in Christ.*



*LIVING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS...*

**SUGGESTED FOOD PANTRY ITEMS**

**May 1**

Non-food Items

**May 8**

Soups or Soup Mixes

**May 15**

Breakfast Bars

**May 22**

Peanut Butter & Jelly

**May 29**

Rice & Beans

*First Light Women's Shelter Items for May*

Laundry Detergent/Clorox/Comet

*“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”*  
**Philippians 2:1–2**

Several years ago I participated in an extended tour around St. Augustine, Florida. Our tour guide asked the bus driver to make a special stop in order to show our group a very curious natural phenomenon. About ten feet above the ground, a palm tree was growing right out of the side of what I believe was an old oak tree. We were, as you might guess, amused by the sight of two very different species of plants, living and yet somehow interdependent.

What a great illustration from nature for the community of faith. People who confess Christ as Lord recognize a unique inter-dependence. We need Jesus completely, but we also need one another.

It takes something beyond ourselves, however, to bind us as a living and dynamic community of faith. Only the Spirit of the living God unites us in such a way as to provide the faith that enables us to share life in abundance.



*IPC members worked together to make the meaningful palm crosses we were given on Palm Sunday.*

*photos by Virginia Jones*

**The Spirit provides everything we need for ministry and joy in life. The Spirit helps us to see that we truly need one another: some to lead, some to teach, some to administer and govern, some to dream, some to guard and protect, some to serve, and even some to preach.**

Every Christian has a call to minister in some manner. Christ does not call us to be volunteers who can come and go at our own will, but disciples who respond faithfully to the call to be part of his body, the church. No individual disciple can make it alone. We must share Jesus Christ and his word. If we are rooted in Christ, the needs of the community become clear to us. They also become a priority. If one is in need, all respond. If one basks in joy, all rejoice, for all are truly bound together in Christ.

May we as members of the IPC community of faith explore ways to not only share the love of God made known in Jesus Christ with fellow believers, but also to creatively explore ways to share the gospel with an ever growing concern for others both near and far. **A wonderful example of this is the Children’s Fresh Air Farm and our Summer Learning Program, which will double in size this coming summer.** This was a dream, a new vision of IPC members for the Farm. Last summer the new program became a reality through the hard work and devotion of members, staff and other volunteers.

As Gini Williams, the Farm Director said in her front page article, *“I have been very touched by the generous and loving way that this congregation has embraced the summer learning program at the Farm. Your love for these children, and your devotion to Christ, shines through clearly.”*

Yes, the Holy Spirit of God gives us the resources and talents we need—whatever the task. God’s Spirit also binds us together in one body and empowers us to his glory.

# Upcoming Events at IPC

- May 1** Resume worship services at 8:45 & 11:00 with church school at 10:00 a.m.
- May 5** Cinco de Mayo Dinner -- Great Hall
- May 5 & 6** 4th Quarter trip to Monroeville/ Gee's Bend
- May 12** 4th Quarter Day at the Lake
- May 15 & 16** Focus on Faith with Dr. Tony Campolo
- May 23-25** Montreat Conference on Generosity
- May 29** Spring term church school ends
- 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
- June 25-July 6** Choir Performance Tour in Europe
- July 20-24** Montreat Middle School Conference
- July 15-24** IPC Mexico Mission Trip

## IPC Choir Bon Voyage Concert

**June 19**

**4:00 p.m.**

### Great Hall

The choir will perform music they will sing on the IPC Choir Performance Tour this summer in Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, and Austria.

## The meal schedule for IPC WEEK at First Light Women's Shelter is set for May.

Please check for your dates and alert group members as soon as possible! If you are unable to accept the date assigned to your group, please arrange a swap for that date and notify Betsy Middlebrooks (933-3731 or bmiddlebrooks@ipc-usa.org) to let her know the change. **Remember to plan for 60 meals and to serve at 6:30 p.m.** Don't forget that many of the guests at First Light have dietary restrictions, including diabetes, high blood pressure, etc. Planning meals that are healthy and nutritious is beneficial to all of us! If you can volunteer this week to spend the night, please contact Susan Clayton (933-3709 or sclayton@ipc-usa.org) to let her know.

*Thanks so much for your help and dedication!*



## IPC Week: May 8-14, 2011

- Sunday, May 8** — Youth/Youth Subcommittee
- Monday, May 9** — Choir
- Tuesday, May 10** — New Members Group
- Wednesday, May 11** — Deacons
- Thursday, May 12** — Faith Builders Class
- Friday, May 13** — The Way
- Saturday, May 14** — Wonder Years Class

## DEPARTMENTS

### Worship

The Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps,  
Pastor, Head of Staff  
933-1830

### Music & Fine Arts

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

### Education

Paul Romjue, Director,  
Christian Education 933-3732

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

Aly Butts, Director Youth Ministries  
933-3734

Nate Sell, Assistant Director  
Youth Ministries 933-3708

### Congregational Care & Counseling

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

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

**New Member Coordinator**  
Nancy Skinner, 933-3703

### Community Ministries

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

### Finance

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

### Stewardship & Development

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

### IPC Day School

Jason Turner, Director, Day School,  
933-3687

### Administration

Libby Kidd, Director,  
Operations & Administration  
933-3704

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

**Vice-President of the  
Congregation**  
Lyda White 870-4333

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comments to **Mary Ann Morrow,**  
editor, c/o IPC.

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Mason Fischer Photography 3  
& Virginia Jones Photography

# CINCO DE MAYO!

## Cinco de Mayo Dinner: Great Hall Thursday, May 5 5:30 – 7 pm

Fundraiser Sponsored by IPC Youth for  
summer conferences & mission project.

Call Nancy Skinner 933-1830 for reservations.

### Cake Auction !!

### Delicious Mexican Dinner!!

# SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM *Fun days*

*Dear Church Family,*

I cannot thank you enough for the fabulous job you did in making the February Fun Day fantastic. Everything worked together to give the kids the best **Mardi Gras-Lent-Easter program** anyone could imagine. This day was not only a wonderful and enriching experience for the campers, it also gave STAIR tutors and other IPC members who have spent time with these children one more opportunity to build on the relationship of love and trust that has already begun.

Nineteen children were picked up in IPC vehicles by Becky and Daniel Whittington, and Annette Carter and Culissa Sanders. They were brought to the Children's Fresh Air Farm (CFAF), and fed an early Shrove pancake breakfast prepared by Marsha Harbin and Deby Wright, with more help from Annette and Culissa. We then had Hershey bar math and multiplication bingo, and the bingo prizes were the Mardi Gras beads you all donated.



## Mardi Gras and Lent

Shirley and Don Hankins, as well as Janet Stange joined us as we learned about Mardi Gras and Lent, and then made personal Mardi Gras floats. Once again, we were able to use all those shoe boxes you have been donating. We chose Barack Obama as our float theme, and that gave us the chance to learn

some about Hawaii. Our floats were fabulous! We made individual King Cakes, and enjoyed a hot lunch of chicken and rice, and glazed carrots and broccoli. Betsy Middlebrooks came to help with the day, and made a huge batch of delicious gumbo so that the children could taste some great Mardi Gras food. That also gave us a chance to learn some fun facts about gumbo and Mobile's diverse culture. Each child iced an individual King Cake that he or she had made earlier in the day and decorated them in Mardi Gras colors complete with a baby to hide in each cake and to take home. Again the kitchen was handled by Marsha, Deby, Culissa, and Annette. Our own IPC

youth, including Catherine and Charlotte Kinney, Leah Burton, Kalli Calvin, Sarah Riley and friend Mimi Fullan were on hand to help. Burch and James Barger came to enjoy the fun and serve as extra helpers.

## Sports and Cheerleading

After lunch, Charlie Simpson and the Indian Springs Varsity Basketball team led our campers in basketball drills. We had a cheer clinic with junior high cheerleaders, and then relay races.



Then we moved on to the best part – **Easter**. Nancy Skinner and Jean Shanks dutifully boiled dozens of eggs, and we dyed Easter eggs which the children took home in the Easter baskets we gave them. Liza Butts put together a wonderful watercolor project and her sister, Madelyn, came along to help. Our extremely hearty snacks and our Easter Bunny cake were furnished by Lisa Burton, with help from her Sunday School class, including Jennifer Anderson, Charlotte and Alexandra Preston, Amy McCain, and Kathy Thomson.

## The Stories of Holy Week

For our last educational activity, we read all of the stories of Holy Week. We gave the children empty plastic Easter eggs, and as they heard the stories, they filled their eggs with different symbols of the story. We used a piece of palm to represent Palm Sunday, a twisted pretzel to represent the bread of the Last Supper and Jesus praying in the garden, a nickel to represent the silver Judas received for the betrayal, and a rock to represent the rock which was rolled away from the tomb. We left our last egg empty, to represent the empty tomb.



*Continued next page*

## Summer Learning Program Fun Day

...Continued



As you can see, we fit an awful lot into our Fun Days, but there is so much I want to share with the children. We all know that poverty results in a lack of opportunity and underperforming schools. We know that these children not only don't have the fun extras of life, they often don't have the basics. But it is particularly sad to me to see that poverty also means a loss of traditional childhood. Not only have most of our campers never had swimming lessons or been to any kind of camp or Bible school, they have never dyed Easter Eggs, or worked with clay, or painted. They showed no recognition of the story of Palm Sunday and very little of Easter. What a tremendous void we have the opportunity to fill in their little lives.

It has for me, and I think for the children, been the start of the best Lenten season ever.

With gratitude and love,

**Gini**

Gini Williams

Children's Fresh Air Farm Director  
Independent Presbyterian Church

## Retreat Ministry at IPC

The Spiritual Formation Group (SFG) of IPC would like to invite church members to join them at the **2011 Henri Nouwen retreat at St. Mary's in Sewanee, TN, September 23-25, 2011.**

*You may be asking:*



- **What is a spiritual retreat?** A retreat is simply a definite time set aside from your normal activities for the purpose of reconnecting with God or connecting with God on a deeper level.
- **How long does a retreat last?** A retreat may last a few hours, a day, several days or up to a week. In some faith traditions people might even make a 30-day retreat, believe it or not!
- **Must I go away to make a retreat?** A retreat may take place in a room in your home. However, the best place for a retreat is a place where you are not distracted by everyday business and unfinished tasks. A retreat center is ideal because it is designed to provide the sacred space for prayer, study and worship that facilitate our connection with God. All your basic needs such as food and shelter are provided so you can be free to rest and relax in God's presence.
- **What will I do?** Rueben Job writes, "Remember it is God who meets you and who provides for you. Have confidence that God's provision is adequate for your need. It is natural to wonder, what will I do? Have no fear. Countless numbers of persons have discovered that God is able to provide more than enough to sustain them (on a retreat)."
- **Who is Henri Nouwen?** Henri Nouwen was a Dutch priest who was one of the "first in our time to consciously develop a 'theology of the heart' and to lay this down as a template for both clergy and lay persons. Henri had an unusual capacity to write about the life of Jesus and the love of God in ways that have inspired countless people to trust God more fully. He showed, and continues to show, a generation of (Christians) how **one's gifts are to be placed at the service of those whom God places in our path.**" His many books are widely read throughout the world.

*Learn more...*

**To learn about the trip to St. Mary's retreat center in Sewanee and about retreats in general please come to a short meeting May 15 in Room 218 immediately following one of the worship services. Members of the SFG and Lucy will be there to share more details and answer any questions you might have.**

Registration forms will be available at the meeting or you may print a registration form at [www.stmaryssewanee.org](http://www.stmaryssewanee.org). Participants will register directly with St. Mary's and not through IPC. Transportation will be coordinated by the SFG. Once you have registered through St. Mary's, ask Jeannine Usher, Executive Assistant in Congregational Care, to put you on the car pool list. You may contact her at 933-3694 or [jusher@ipc-usa.org](mailto:jusher@ipc-usa.org).

## Birmingham Men's Club

### Tuesday May 24: Ladies Day & Final Spring Program

The May meeting of the Birmingham Men's Club will include a long-time favorite speaker! Wives are invited and famed storyteller Dolores Hydock will be on hand to entertain the group. Make plans now to join us for this enjoyable gathering on **Tuesday, May 24**, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Advance reservations and payment are required for this special meeting, and you may contact Jeannine Usher for more information about placing your reservations (933-3694).



### 4th Quarter Group:

#### *A Day at the Lake in May!*

IPC's 4th Quarter group will enjoy a day at the Monks' Lake Martin Getaway:

**Thursday, May 12**

**9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Ann & Richard Monk's**

**Lake Martin Home**

**Day Includes: Lunch & Boat Rides**

**Cost: \$35.00 (Price includes  
lunch & church transportation)**

We hope you'll join us for a fun-filled day in the sun with your IPC friends....enjoying great fellowship, delicious food and boat rides! **Space is limited, so make your reservations now by contacting Jeannine Usher (933-3694 or jusher@ipc-usa.org).**



### 4th Quarter Lunch Bunch

**Tuesday, May 17, 11:30**

**Olexa's Cafe**

**Mountain Brook Village**

Experience a charming ambiance in a European café setting when the 4th Quarter Lunch Bunch visits Olexa's Café on **Tuesday, May 17**. We'll meet at Olexa's, located in Mountain Brook Village, at

**11:30 a.m.**, and we do hope you'll join us this month!

All you need to do to place your reservation is to call Jeannine Usher at the church at 933-3694.



## LIBRARY NOTES

Tony Campolo is the speaker for the IPC *Focus on Faith* to be held May 15-16 and is the author of many books. Three that are in the IPC John N. Lukens Library are *Speaking My Mind*, *Stories That Feed Your Soul*, and *Which Jesus?: Choosing Between Love and Power*.

Oxford historian Diarmaid MacCulloch's *Christianity: The First three Thousand Years* has been described as follows: "The great strength of the book is that it covers...huge areas of Christian history which are dealt with cursorily in traditional accounts of the subject and are unfamiliar to most English-speaking readers." It is a follow-up to his previously published *The Reformation: a History*, a "vast survey of the evolution and conflicts of western Christianity during the 16th and 17th centuries."

*The Bible As It Was*, by James L. Kugel, describes the way the Bible was understood by various ancient peoples. Using many sources, "he presents the manner in which the Bible was understood at the time of the interpreters; he also traces the origins of many of the explanations that have remained standard over the millennia."

Carolyn Maull McKinstry, with Denise George, has written *While the World Watched*. Mrs. McKinstry, a survivor of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, tells of her coming of age during the civil rights movement.

*Words of Gold* is a collection of over fifty of the best-loved passages from the Bible, selected by Lois Rock from *The Authorized Version*, *the New Revised Standard Version*, or the *Good News Bible*. Sarah Young's bright, colorful illustrations help to make this a wonderful introduction to some of the world's most treasured writings.

*The Library Committee*

# IPC FOCUS ON FAITH PRESENTS DR. TONY CAMPOLO MAY 15 & 16, 2011

**D**r. Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Eastern University and Associate Pastor at Mount Carmel Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, **preaches on Sunday, May 15, at both worship services and speaks on Monday, May 16, at 10:00 in the Great Hall.** Dr. Campolo, one of the “Great Preachers in America” is part of the Independent Presbyterian Church’s Focus on Faith series.

Sunday’s sermon, entitled **“When Love Trumps Power,”** is based on Philippians 2:1-11. His Monday talk is **“Good News during Troubled Times”** and is based on Matthew 13:24-30. All presentations are free and are open to the public, although there is a charge for lunch following the Monday event.

Dr. Conrad Sharps first suggested asking Dr. Campolo to speak as part of this series almost three years ago, at which time contact was made with Dr. Campolo to secure a date for his appearance. Due to the high demand for Dr. Campolo’s presence, it was almost two years ago when IPC was able to book these dates with Dr. Campolo.

An adult church school class is being presented this term to help prepare the congregation for Dr. Campolo’s visit. Linda Nelson, one of the class facilitators, says, "Dr. Campolo is an energized mix of somewhat conservative theology and passionate commitment to social justice, not unlike Birmingham's early hero Brother Bryan. He is straightforward and challenging, and he should provide our members with inspiration and conversation well into the future."

Jean Shanks, another of the church school facilitators says, “We have included in our Sunday school study books by Dr. Campolo such as *Red Letter Christians*, *Stories that Feed Your Soul*, and *Choose Love Not Power*. A review of *Red Letter Christians* resulted in a stimulating conversation about the relationship between religion and politics. We are looking forward to hearing Tony Campolo’s thoughts in person.”

Dr. Campolo is the founder and president of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education. He has worked to create, nurture and support programs for “at-risk” children in cities across North America and has helped establish schools and universities in several developing countries.

Plan now to attend this two-day event at IPC.  
*All members of the community are invited.*



Dr. Tony Campolo



## The IPC Foundation: More than Beeson Grants

**W**ith thanks for the generosity of the members of the congregation and others, the IPC Foundation has 29 funds that support IPC and IPC-related missions and ministries. Benefactors have made contributions establishing such funds as **Focus on Faith** that sponsors outside speakers like Dr. Tony Campolo (May 15 -16) and the **Garnet McAdams Deramus Congregational Care Fund** which enhances programming throughout the year for older members of the congregation.

Is it time for you to consider becoming an IPC Foundation benefactor in the great tradition of benefactors who have made both annual gifts and estate gifts to the foundation? New named funds can be created with a minimum of \$25,000. We would be pleased to hear how you feel called to financially support existing ministries or create new resources for emerging ones. Please contact Rev. Bobbie Epting or IPC Foundation Executive Director Jim Wooten at the church at 933.1830.

*“Still other seed  
fell on good soil,  
where it produced  
a crop – a  
hundred, sixty or  
thirty times what  
was sown.”*

*Matthew 13:8*

THANK YOU!



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*the* WINDOW

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*"But I say unto you":  
Reading Scripture through Scripture  
June 12-August 28  
Room 305-307*

*Dr. Joe Scrivner, a member of the faculty at Samford University's Department of Religion, will lead this class during the church school hour. Always a popular instructor, Dr. Scrivner's other IPC courses have included, "Old Testament Wisdom Literature," "The Jesus of History and the Christ of Faith," and "How to Read the Bible." He began his relationship with IPC seven years ago and has presented these and other class series during the summer terms.*

**J**oin Dr. Joe Scrivner June 12-August 28 in room 305-307 at 10:00 a.m. for a *summer adult church school class* entitled *"But I Say unto You": Reading Scripture through Scripture*. This class will explore how biblical texts have been interpreted and reinterpreted during the formative eras of Judaism and Christianity. This includes examples from the Old Testament, extrabiblical Jewish texts such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, the gospel, and Paul's letters. The class will address questions about the history of biblical interpretation and what it means to engage in faithful, Christian reading of Scripture now.