



INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christ our Cornerstone

*With countless
gifts of love...*



The Window

November 2010

IEWS FROM INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Vol. 63, Issue 11

Now Thank We All Our God With Heart and Hands and Voices

We thank God for all the many blessings we have received.

We are grateful for the leadership of this church – for those who have faithfully served and for those who are now beginning their season of leadership.

We are grateful for the many members who work together with these leaders and staff in Community Ministries, Congregational Care, Worship and Music, Christian Education, Stewardship and The IPC Foundation.

Together we express our faith in Jesus Christ in worship, in study, and in our generous and concrete acts of compassionate service in our own church, our community and around the world.

***Thanks be to God with our hearts,
our hands and our voices!***

Prayer from Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps *Turning Our Creeds Into Deeds*

Jesus, let me make love my aim; help me to focus not simply upon doctrine, but upon the purpose of all Christian doctrine: faith, hope and love; the greatest being love. Though my life may seem quite ordinary, assist me to live it extraordinarily well: as one who loves as Christ first loved us. If perfection is at all obtainable, Lord, I believe it is in perfect love which empowers one even to foolish, wholehearted abandonment of self for the good of others: the turning of the creeds I profess into deeds that exhibit your sovereign love and mercy. This is my bold prayer, the doctrine upon which I will build my day: to make love my aim. **AMEN**



*Photos by Paul Romjue
& Virginia Jones*



Turning Our Creeds into Deeds



The Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps

"All our many blessings come from our loving God."

With Thanksgiving, Present Your Requests to God

During the Thanksgiving season we often sing the great Thanksgiving Hymn *"Now Thank We All Our God."*

**Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.**

Martin Rinkart, a German pastor, originally penned these words as a table grace for his children in the year 1636. What is notable, however, is that in 1636 Martin Rinkart was pastor of a large parish that was not only ravaged by the death and destruction of the Thirty Years War, but also from the economic disaster that accompanied this war.

I have read that in the year 1636 Martin Rinkart performed more than 5,000 funerals due to war and disease. Yet, he sat down to write, and to teach his children through prayer, that all our many blessings come from our loving God. God is deserving of all our thanks even in the darkest days of life.

It could easily be said that we also live in a day of great anxiety, with the reality of war, the continued threat of terrorism, economic woes, and evidence of social and political tension on the eve of mid-term national elections. To all who have concerns this day, to all who have worries or anxiety I would recommend the prayer of Martin Rinkart. Indeed, if we want less anxiety, a great place to start is by praying more. God desires to give his countless gifts of love and peace even in a world that faces death and darkness.

To pretend that any one person has all the answers to the problems we face today is to flirt with fantasy or foolishness. As a people, as a nation, and as a world, we must turn to God in prayer to find a better way, and then seek with hearts and hands and voices to share the wondrous things of God: the good news of the gospel, salvation in Christ, the true path to peace.

Even in the threat of dark days, let us rejoice and give thanks that God so loved the world that he sent his son Jesus — not to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Let us rejoice in this good news and share it with those who despair.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7)



German Pastor Martin Rinkart wrote these words in 1636 as a table grace for his children. Even in the darkest days, he wanted them to know blessings come from our loving God.

LIVING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS...

SUGGESTED FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

November 7
Canned Fruits/
Vegetables

November 14
Soups & Soup Mixes

November 21
Crackers/Muffin Mixes

November 21
Canned Meats

November 28
Cereal & Dry or Canned Milk

First Light Women's Shelter
Items for November
Arts & Crafts Supplies



THANK YOU to everyone who has already turned in their pledge cards for the Annual Stewardship Appeal and Capital Campaign! We are off to a very strong start. If you have not already returned your pledge commitment form, please try to do so on or before **Celebration Sunday, November 7**. Additional pledge cards are available in the pew racks and throughout the church. Thanks be to God who has *"Blessed us in order for us to be a Blessing to others."* With thanks, **The Stewardship Committee and Capital Campaign Committee**

Upcoming Events at IPC

Tradition

with a twist!

Don't forget to make your reservations for the Presbyterian Women Christmas Brunch-- **no later than November 19.**

The brunch is Tuesday, November 30, at 11:00 in the Great Hall with a music program presented by the Junior League Chorus. Childcare is provided. Please make checks payable to IPC in the amount of \$10.00.



THANKSGIVING TURKEY DRIVE

The 29th annual "Thanksgiving Turkey Drive" has begun. The Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority is sponsoring this drive to provide Thanksgiving dinners for persons with mental disabilities and their families living in our community. The plan is to serve 300 families with meals of a turkey, canned vegetables, potatoes, stuffing mix, rolls and cranberry sauce. If you would like to contribute, please make your checks payable to **"IPC SOCIAL SERVICES" and mark them for "JBS MHA Turkey Drive."** If you have any questions, please contact Dale Head in Community Ministries. On behalf of the recipients of the turkey dinners, a heartfelt thanks for your generosity of spirit.

Honoring Loved Ones During Advent Season

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

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

HARVEST FOR HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

Saturday, October 16, was World Food Day, the day we began our annual food drive. Grocery bags listing suggested food items have been distributed at the church. Please take one home, fill it up, and return it to the church by **November 21, Harvest for Hunger Sunday**, when the food collected will be dedicated. The food will be used in our IPC Food Pantry to feed people in need. Thank you so much for your great willingness to help others.



"Come you who are blessed by my father...for I was hungry and you gave me food." Matthew 24:35

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

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

November Lunch Bunch Group

IPC's 4th Quarter Lunch Bunch gang will meet at **Daniel George Restaurant**, located in Mountain Brook, to try out their delicious fare **Tuesday, November 16, at 12:00 Noon. NOTE: This is the THIRD TUESDAY this month (due to Thanksgiving the following week).** We hope you'll join us! Please call Jeannine Usher 933-3694 for reservations.

Civil War Historian Speaker at Men's Club in November

Dr. Harry Reeder, Senior Pastor at Briarwood Presbyterian Church and Civil War Historian, will share his fascinating knowledge of the Civil War at the next Birmingham Men's Club luncheon meeting on Monday, November 22, at 10:30 a.m. Cost of the luncheon is only \$8.00, but reservations must be made in advance. Contact Jeannine Usher at 933-3694.



From the Music Suite

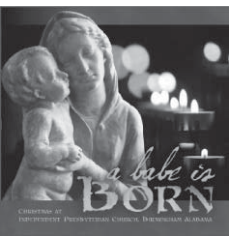
**TRADITION,
TRADITION,TRADITION!!**
IPC continues lasting traditions that are the

hallmark of our Music and Fine Arts programs. While the fall is shaping up to be a full month of activities in every department of the church, be sure to mark your calendars for these wonderful music events that occur each and every year at our church.

The *November Organ Recital Series* is in its 46th year, and this is the last for the Aeolian-Skinner organ! These incredible recitals will occur each Sunday at 4:00 p.m. You have received a flyer in the mail detailing the background of these performers, and you can check the church website to read more. The recital on November 14 will honor both the 85 years of service of the organ and the tenth anniversary of Jeff McLelland as Director of Music and Fine Arts. Centered around Psalm 94, Dr. McLelland will play the titanic *Sonata on the 94th Psalm* by Julius Reubke, and two works have been commissioned for the occasion: the hymn *God of Judgement, We Implore You* by Thomas Troeger of Yale University, and the anthem *The Lord is Our Refuge* by British composer Grayston Ives

November 7 – Ludger Lohmann, Stuttgart, Germany
November 14 – Jeff McLelland and the IPC Choir
November 21 – Alan Morrison, Philadelphia, PA

The IPC Choir will be offering *fruit for sale* once again for the Christmas season. Delivery will be December 11 & 12. Order forms will be mailed to the congregation and are available to be picked up in the music office. Orders may be made with an IPC Choir member, through the church website, or by calling the music office at 933-3700.

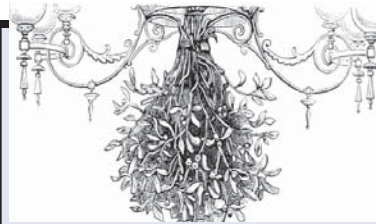


The IPC Choir made their first recording in 1965. *The new Christmas CD is here!* The new IPC Choir recording *A Babe is Born* was recorded last June and contains favorites from the Lessons and Carols Services of the past ten years. Selections include *O Come All Ye*

Faithful, E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come, In the Bleak Midwinter, and Still, Still, Still. Call the music office, check the website, or see any choir member to purchase yours today!

The 7th Annual *Christ the King Hymn Festival* will take place on Sunday, November 21 at the 8:45 & 11:00 service. We will celebrate the last Sunday of the Church Year and take a tour through the life of Christ with the reading of scriptures and the singing of hymns. This will be a wonderfully festive service that you do not want to miss. *Come make a joyful noise unto the Lord!*

The *Annual IPC Choir Christmas Concert* will be held on **Sunday, December 5 at 5:00 p.m.** Featured works will be *Gloria* by Francois Poulenc and *Magnificat* by Heinrich Schütz, along with anthems and carols of the Christmas season accompanied by instrumentalists from the Alabama Symphony.



61st Annual Holiday House Tour 2010

Tickets on sale now!

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

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

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

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

Featured homes include:

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

If you would like to volunteer to help with this year's tour, please contact Amy Morse, 870-3728, Beth Adams, 871-9570, or Betsy Middlebrooks, 933-3731.

Living in the Spirit

A GREAT START!

The annual IPC Stewardship Appeal and Sanctuary Capital Campaign is off to a great start!

As of the publication date for the November issue of the *WINDOW*, almost 200 families and individuals have already made pledges to the stewardship campaign, and a significant proportion have also made generous gifts to the Capital Campaign. THANKS TO EACH OF YOU!

Of those who have returned their stewardship pledge cards, more increased their annual pledge over their previous years' giving than pledged the same as in the prior year. A few who pledged had to decrease their giving this year, but the net change was still in the positive direction. God is good!

The goal this year is that EVERY MEMBER of IPC will make a prayerful commitment to both the annual operating budget of the church – *their Stewardship pledge* – and a personally significant gift to the Capital Campaign. Our membership commitment is that we will participate in the life of the church by giving of our time, our talents and a portion of our material gifts. If we each give a portion, a full measure will result!

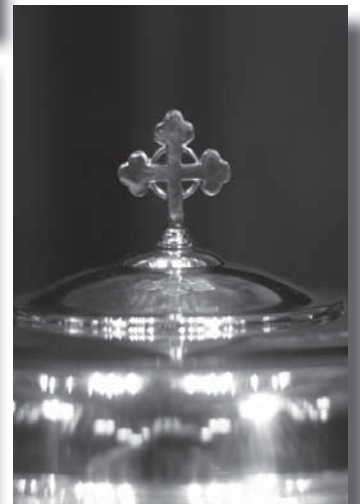
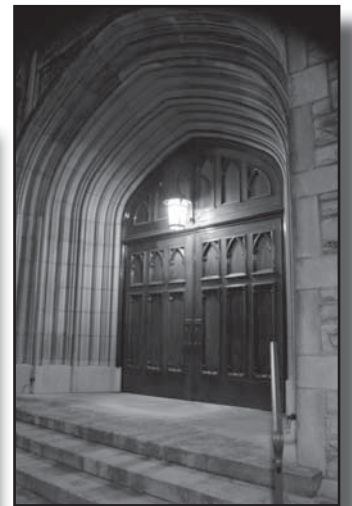
Mindful that all that we are and all that we have belongs to God, we acknowledge God's bountiful blessings in our lives by returning a portion of God's generosity back to the church to further Christ's work. God is at work at IPC, and God's work is supported by your faithful pledges. Thank you, again.

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? Psalm 116:12
**The IPC Stewardship Committee and
The IPC Capital Campaign Committee**

Over a period of six weeks, the Sunday bulletins at church will include a picture postcard (in color), as a gift to members and visitors alike, and as a reminder of this special stewardship season and how important your response this year truly is to IPC's worship and mission for years to come. The photographs were taken by our IPC member Virginia Jones and used in the Stewardship brochure.



This postcard (left) is of a sibling of one of our STAIR students (Start The Adventure In Reading) photographed by Virginia Jones at the spring STAIR graduation party in the IPC cloister area. The little girl's name is "America."



In November What's Cooking?



IPC Wednesday Night Dinners

November 3

Fajitas and Tacos
Refried Beans
Spanish Rice
Salad Bar/Dessert

Children:

Tacos
Refried Beans
Rice
Dessert

November 10

Asian Night
Salad Bar/Dessert

Children:

Hot Dogs
Chips
Dessert

November 17

Thanksgiving Dinner
Salad Bar/Dessert

Children:

Sliced Turkey
Green Beans
Mac & Cheese
Dessert

LIBRARY NOTES

How to Read the Bible: a guide to scripture, then and now was written by James L. Kugel. He says "this book will focus not only on what the text says but on the larger question ofhow it is to be read." Kugel examines the understandings of ancient interpreters and of modern scholars and offers a new way of thinking about the Bible.

Out of the Garden: women writers on the Bible, edited by Christina Buchmann and Celina Spiegel, is a collection of essays by both Christian and Jewish women. Their approach is as contemporary women interpreting a story, figure, or theme and in doing so they show us that the Bible is a source to return to again and again.

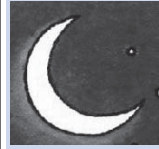
In *Peter, Paul, & Mary Magdalene*, Bart D. Ehrman examines these three followers of Jesus through the writings of the New Testament and through the legends which have followed them, separating fact from fiction for us.

In this month of Veterans Day we might turn to *The Greatest Generation* as Tom Brokaw tells the stories of individual men and women who were a part of World War II. They were, he says, united by a common purpose, common values, and responsibility for oneself. In *The Greatest Generation Speaks*, Brokaw continues these stories using letters and reflections he received after publishing the first book.

The First Thanksgiving, written by Jean Craighead George and illustrated with oil paintings by Thomas Locker, tells the history of this favorite American holiday.

God in Between, written by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and illustrated by Sally Sweetland, helps children and adults to understand that God is within us and our relationships with others. *The Library Committee*

IPC Children



November Parents' Night Out Friday, November 5

The Partners' Committee will sponsor our monthly Parents' Night Out on Friday, November 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Parents, if you need a break from your busy Fall schedules, take advantage of IPC's PNO....your kids will love it! Cost is just \$7.00/child and reservations are due Thursday, Nov. 4. To make your reservation, sign up on the IPC website (www.ipc-usa.org), fill out a card in the box near the reception desk, or contact Jeannine Usher (933-3694 or jusher@ipc-usa.org).

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 13-17, 2011

Vacation Bible School and Bible Times Market Place

Gloves for First Light Women

*Please help the IPC children
with their project for First Light.*

IPC's elementary-aged children have made paper gloves that you will see on a "glove tree" in the stairwell, and there will be paper gloves in the Adult Sunday School rooms. **Please take a**

paper glove and replace it with a pair of mittens for the Women at First Light Women's Shelter. Our R.O.C./K children will wrap the gloves we have collected on

November 17 and present them to the First Light Women on December 1. We will also sing Christmas carols at First Light.

Last year we collected over 250 pairs of gloves for homeless women and children, and we appreciate your generous donations! We hope you will continue to help with this worthy cause! Thank you!



We should change RSVP to LUK -- "Let Us Know"!

Please help us out by letting us know if you're coming to an event that needs a reply—especially an event involving food service. We always want to be prepared for you and have enough food, but we also want to be good stewards of our resources. For example, we don't want to be short by 20 meals nor have 20 meals left over. We certainly understand last minute emergencies, but otherwise, please help out by letting us know! (LUK!!) *Thanks to everyone!*

2010 IPC CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our IPC ninth-graders are in the midst of a ten week course, *Elemental Faith*, as they seek confirmation, a part of the larger baptismal process of growing disciples. This is a 10-week course that covers the major tenets of our faith including the Trinity, Atonement, Christian life and being Presbyterian. Each confirmand has selected a "covenant partner" to shepherd them through the process, and parents are involved in helping the classes go smoothly.

Each student will be received by the Session as a new member of IPC on November 14, and will be recognized as a new member at the 11:00 a.m. worship service on November 21.

Members of this 2010 Confirmation Class are:

Henry Abbott, Brandon Bartels, Mary Stewart Beasley, Olivia Burton, Lex Compton, John Cooper, Jack Grantham, Mary Martha Grizzle, Mae Jones, Wheeler Jones, Catherine Kinney, Elizabeth Letzer, Lucy Neal, Carlee Petro, Sarah Riley, Arthur Smith, Lottice Taylor, Ellie Thomson, Tess Walker, Allan White and Will Zadick. **Teachers** are: John Burton, Aly Butts, Rev. Susan Clayton, George Taylor and Rev. Lucy Turner.



IPC members at Living River Vespers in October

Living River to provide a unique Environmental Educational Experience

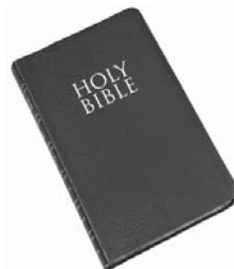
Plan to attend a special program at IPC on Sunday, November 21 at 10 a.m. to hear environmental experts present the unique environmental features at Living River. Learn about Living River's partnership with the Camp McDowell Environmental Program and how outreach will impact thousands of Alabama's school children once the camp is built.

Camp McDowell is a summer camp, conference and retreat center that has been operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama since 1948. The McDowell Environmental Center has been in operation for over 17 years and is recognized as a national leader in residential environmental education. Through the Camp McDowell partnership, the Living River project is gaining expertise and guidance on facility needs and design, staffing, programs and other aspects of developing an effective environmental education program. This ongoing collaboration will continue even after construction as McDowell will oversee the Living River Environmental Center (LREC) start-up operation at the new camp. To stay informed, we invite you to sign up for Living River's E-news at livingriver.org.

IPC member Margaret Brunstad

Fourth Grade Study - *Exploring the Bible*

The IPC fourth grade Sunday school class spends the year studying the old and new testaments of the Bible. This is also the year that special emphasis is placed on bible skills.



The fourth graders participated in a **Bible retreat** on Sunday, October 24. They learned about the Bible, practiced looking up passages, learned how to use a Bible dictionary and concordance, and played games geared toward sharing what they have learned.

Fourth Grade Bible Presentation

November 14, 11:00 worship service

As a part of the emphasis on bible skills, **the fourth graders will receive gift Bibles from the congregation on Sunday, November 14 during 11:00 worship.**

All fourth grade students are encouraged to come to room 112 at 10:00 a.m. on November 14 to rehearse for the presentation.

IPC Day School "Miss Brenda" to Retire



"Miss Brenda" Prater has touched the lives of so many children and their families during her three decades of teaching with the IPC Day School. It is with mixed emotions that we inform you that "Miss" Brenda has announced her retirement at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. Brenda is such an important part of the Day School staff, and we will miss her very much. We applaud her years of dedication as she moves forward into the next chapter of her life. Please join us in celebrating this school year as "Miss Brenda's year."

Also, please welcome **Betsy Belser** who has joined the Day School staff as a Two-Year-Old assistant. Miss Brenda will serve as Betsy's mentor in her preparation as a full-time teacher for the 2011-2012 school year.

Please take every opportunity to share your love with Miss Brenda and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.



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the **WINDOW**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Come to our 41st Annual
ADVENT WORKSHOP
FOR ALL AGES!**

Sunday, November 28

Worship Service – 4:00 (Sanctuary)

Workshop 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Ground Floor, First Floor
and the Great Hall**

Ground Floor– Preschool

First Floor– Elementary and Youth

G20 & Great Hall– all ages

Spaghetti Supper

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Great Hall

Reservations needed by November 23.

(Call Nancy Skinner at 933-1830 for dinner reservations.)

The Giving Tree will be in the Great Hall and is a great way to honor a friend, teacher, or relative!

We look forward to seeing you Sunday, November 28!