



INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christ our Cornerstone



In our music God is glorified...

November 2011
Vol. 64, Issue 11

VIEWS FROM INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Give Thanks for Music to Glorify God

TRADITION, TRADITION, TRADITION!!

Independent Presbyterian 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 47th year, and we are moving to different venues in Birmingham due to the ongoing installation of the new Dobson organ at IPC. These incredible recitals will occur each Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Hopefully you have received a flyer in the mail detailing the background of these performers, and you can check the church website to read more.

November 6 – Isabelle Demers, Quebec, Canada

This recital will be at **St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands Episcopal Church**, 1910 12th Avenue South, Birmingham.

November 13 – Christopher Houlihan, New York

This recital will be at **Reid Chapel, Samford University**, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Homewood.

November 20 – Jeremy Filsell, Washington, DC

This recital will be at **The Episcopal Church of the Ascension**, 1912 Canyon Road, Vestavia Hills.

Living in the Spirit

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 8th Annual **Christ the King Hymn Festival** will take place on Sunday, November 20 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 4 at 4:00 p.m. The IPC Choir and orchestra will perform **MAGNIFICATS** by Johann Sebastian Bach, Franz Schubert, and Charles V. Stanford.

Blessing of the Pipes of the New Organ

We sang and prayed the pipes of the new Joseph W. Schreiber Memorial Organ into the sanctuary on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. in a joyful celebration.

The procession of the first pipes from the Dobson Pipe Organ Builders' truck into our sanctuary was led by the Crucifer, Andrew Hicks.



photo by Paul Romjue

Living in the Spirit:

Blessing the Pipes of the new organ:

Holy God of all creation, of all that is good and beautiful and worthy; bless these pipes and pedals, these swells and stops; these trumpets and trombones; these wind chests and woodwinds; the console and casings; all of this glorious artistry; may it be dedicated to your glory and honor and praise this day and for all the days to come; may the life of this new organ and may all of our lives be dedicated to your praise and glory.



The Rev. Dr. Conrad Sharps

"May your walk be long, soulful and full of praise and thanks to God."



Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him — and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." (Luke 17:11-17)

There was a day (believe it or not) that I ran cross-country. Once I completed college, I became a dedicated jogger. I loved to run. Even in the heat of the summer it felt great to get out and hit the road. It was a good time to think and a good time to work out frustrations of life and ministry. Nowadays I'm a dedicated walker. Generally, I walk a mile or more every day as time permits. It also is a great time for personal reflection.

There are many different kinds of walks people undertake. I'm almost certain that this coming Thanksgiving, after the customary feast with my family, we will rise from the table, put on our walking shoes and enjoy what I hope will be a walk in the cool November afternoon. This kind of annual walk is great for catching up: sharing stories, joys and struggles as well as preparing for dessert when we finish our walk.

There is also what my wife Lauren has labeled as my "hospital walk": the fast-paced, stretch-your-legs, take-the-stairs kind of walk when you have many folks you want to visit. It is an all-business kind of walk constantly calculating distance, traffic and detour possibilities to make the most efficient use of time.

There is one kind of walk, however, that is quite rare in life. It is a walk that is often long, soulful and inquiring as one seeks insight and inspiration into the issues of life and faith that matter most. I have personally found these kinds of walks are best when done in places of quiet refuge — perhaps surrounded by nature (more spiritual than physical in nature).

I wonder what entered the mind of leper number ten (the Samaritan leper) as he walked away from Jesus. As he walked and his body was healed before his eyes, what made him stop, turn around and run back to Jesus? Why did he, a foreigner, a man many in the crowd would think impure as a Samaritan, desire to return to thank Jesus and praise him for the healing he provided? What were his thoughts as he journeyed back to Jesus?

A Walk Full of Thanks, Full of Praise for Jesus

It had to be a walk full of inspiration, full of thanks, full of praise for Jesus. I say this because the scripture tells us he threw himself at Jesus' feet. This, above all other possibilities, is the kind of walk I wish for you this Thanksgiving and this Stewardship Season. There are, I am certain, at least nine other destinations for which we could set our sights. (Many different directions we could go in the celebration of this holiday and in the decisions we are making concerning our commitment for the year ahead.) **But is it not to the feet of Jesus to which we should head?**

Our world at war, our culture under attack through corporate greed, pornography, declining morals; our families wounded by divorce, substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and so many other destructive vices, should remind us there is only one who can truly heal us and make us clean. It is to God we must return if we are to find healing, fulfillment and peace.

It is to Jesus Christ I wish to return this season and at his feet lay my praise, my thanks and my life. Only he can give my journey purpose; only he deserves my thanks. He alone is my destination.

May your walk this Thanksgiving season be long, soulful and full of praise and thanks to God for the great gift of faith in Jesus Christ.

LIVING IN SERVICE TO OTHERS...

SUGGESTED FOOD

PANTRY ITEMS

November 6

Canned Fruits/
Vegetables

November 13

Soups & Soup Mixes
November 20

Crackers/Muffin Mixes
November 27

Canned Meats

First Light Women's Shelter Items
for November

Arts & Crafts Supplies

Upcoming Events at IPC

November 6, 13, 20 November Organ Series
(to be held at local churches while our new organ is being installed)

November 6 Isabelle Demers performs at *St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands Episcopal*

November 13 Christopher Houlihan performs at *Reid Chapel, Samford University*

November 20 Jeremy Filsell performs at *The Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Vestavia Hills*

November 11 Senior High Retreat at CFAF

November 12 All Youth Retreat at CFAF

November 16 Wednesday Night Classes End

November 19 Fall Grace Groups End

November 27 End of Fall Term Sunday Classes

November 27 Advent Workshop & Worship

December 4 Fifth Grade Pageant

December 4 IPC Choir Christmas Concert

December 6 Presbyterian Women Holiday Luncheon

December 10 & 11 Holiday House Tour

December 18 Christmas Reading Dolores Hydock

December 18 Evening Prayer

December 22 Westminster Choir Christmas Tour

December 24 Nativity Service, noon

December 24 Service of Nine lessons and Carols, 4 pm and 6 pm Sanctuary

December 25 Worship but no church school classes

January 7 Introduction to Centering Prayer

Sally Speaker

Please welcome Sally Speaker, the new Administrative Assistant for Youth and Children's Ministries. No stranger to IPC, Sally was a member here while her husband, Cary, was one of our associate pastors. You will also see her on Sundays singing with the IPC choir. She works Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Sally comes with a wealth of experience, and we are happy that she is part of the IPC staff. You can reach her at extension 3724 or at sspeaker@ipc-usa.org.



Campbell Dunbar



Campbell Dunbar has joined the IPC staff as a youth intern. Currently a senior at UAB, Campbell grew up at IPC and was very active in the youth program here. She is leading a small group of seventh grade girls and will

continue to work primarily with the younger girls in the youth group. Campbell will not have regular office hours, but please welcome her on Sunday mornings or evenings or on Wednesday nights during youth church school, youth group, or small group time.

The IPC Day School Did you know?



Day School parents, teachers and students enjoyed visiting the Day School for Open House. The Day School has an enrollment of 227 children for the 2011-2012 school year.

The Day School offers a variety of healthy snacks during each month including, bananas, apples, carrots, celery, fresh ham and cheese, whole grain chips, oranges, grapes, cheese sticks, milk and other items. We also encourage water for choice of drink.



THANKSGIVING TURKEY DRIVE

The 30th 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.

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

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

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

Photographs by Paul Romjue
 Mason Fischer Photography
 & Virginia Jones Photography



Holiday House 2011

Holiday House 2011... A Special Invitation to Supporters of our IPC Holiday House Tour

Dear IPC Members and Friends,

The Holiday House Committee is thrilled about the upcoming tour on Saturday, December 10, from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 11, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

We want this to be a great year for our tour and ticket sales! Robert Hill is kindly sponsoring the wonderful Homeowners party at his **Robert Hill Antiques** on **November 17**. (see invitation on right). We are inviting all interested church members to come to this festive party to meet and say thanks to the homeowners. The party is free, but we want to ask everyone who comes to help us "jump-start" our success by buying at least two tickets for the Holiday House tour. Tickets are \$20/each. We also will be offering a package discount. Buy ten tickets and get two tickets free. The tickets make great friend, neighborhood or office gifts. Please join in helping us with this important fundraiser for the missions of the church.

Also, advance tickets will be available at the church reception desk and on the church website www.ipc-usa.org. We also want to hear from any of you that would like to help by selling tickets at your place of business. 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, 3100 Highland Avenue
- Betsy Brown, 2647 Montevallo Road
- Doug Davis, 2644 Montevallo Road
- Katherine and Bryson Edmonds, 3142 Old Leeds Lane
- Rebecca and Ben Fulmer, 3172 Overhill Road
- Jennifer and Kevin Wagoner, 1033 32nd Street South
- Bonus with your ticket purchase: During Holiday House weekend only, tour the Inspiration House, 3162 Overton Cove (with your IPC Holiday House ticket)

We still need many volunteers, both hostesses and parking personnel to help with this year's tour. Please contact Beth Adams at 871-9570 or Betsy Middlebrooks at 933-3731 to sign up.

Check out **IPC Holiday House Tour** on Facebook for a great preview!

Beth Adams, IPC Holiday House Chairman



PLEASE JOIN

The 2nd Annual

HOLIDAY HOUSE COMMITTEE
OF INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

for a reception honoring our
PAST AND PRESENT HOMEOWNERS
who support our Presbyterian Women's Missions
CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FARM
and other designated community recipients
Thursday, November 17, 2011
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Robert Hill Antiques
3029 3rd Avenue South

RSVP
Beth Adams
871-9570 or dsadams301@aol.com

Featuring Homeowners

Ms. Betsy Brown Mr. Doug Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Bryson Edmonds Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Fulmer
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Wagoner

Cathy Johnson, Birmingham Home and Garden Inspiration House

IPC Presbyterian Women Holiday Brunch Tuesday, December 6 11:00 am

Please join us for the Presbyterian Women Holiday Brunch on **Tuesday, December 6, at 11:00 in the Great Hall**. Robert Hill, owner of Robert Hill Antiques, will present a program of



"Holiday House Trends and Decorating"
and **IPC Day School children will perform special holiday songs.**

The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley will offer for sale before and after the brunch handmade necklaces from the Necklace Project to support education of young women in Congo. **Deadline for reservations** of \$10.00 each for the brunch and for childcare (no charge) during the event is **Wednesday, November 30**. Reservations can be made by calling the church receptionist at 933-1830 or by visiting the church website www.ipc-usa.org. Seating is limited, so make your reservations as soon as possible!

Living in Community

Christmas Gift Ideas from the Choir

- The IPC Choir will be offering **fruit** for sale once again for the Christmas season. Delivery will be December 10 & 11. Order forms will be mailed to the congregation and are available throughout the church. 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 currently has **2 CDs** available for purchase: A Christmas CD, *A Babe is Born*, was recorded in the sanctuary in 2010 and includes many of the carols and organ pieces sung and played over the past ten years as part of the annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. (\$20.00 each; \$3.00 shipping). A second CD, *The Lord is My Light*, was recorded in 2007 and includes favorite anthems sung by the choir. (\$15.00 each; \$3.00 shipping)

- NEW OPPORTUNITY THIS YEAR!** In celebration of the upcoming centennial celebration of IPC in 2015, the choir is selling **roundels** of the stained glass found throughout the church. There will be 5 different roundels-- *all hand painted, one released each year until 2015*. The inaugural piece is of the Nativity Window in the sanctuary. These treasures cost \$45.00 each; additional \$5.00 shipping charge per item. CDs and roundels are available for purchase at www.ipc-usa.org or from the music office at the church. Questions? Call the Music Office at 205-933-3700, or e-mail bfillmer@ipc-usa.org



Hand painted, full color Roundel

Come to our 42nd Annual Advent Workshop Sunday, November 27

The **Advent Workshop** has been an IPC tradition for 42 years. The first Sunday of Advent we come together and make fun Christmas crafts to celebrate the season. In the past, the preschool-age children have made reindeer food, angel necklaces and ornaments. The elementary-age children can build their own creche and make a Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds and wisemen to go in it. They also have other Christmas crafts that are designed for elementary-age children. Both ages can plant paperwhite bulbs or decorate cookies to eat in the Great Hall after their spaghetti dinner. *Come enjoy this fellowship event for all ages!*

Workshop 4:30 - 6:30 P.M.

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

If you pre-ordered an Advent Wreath kit you can pick it up in Room 108.

We look forward to seeing you on November 27!

Got Soup? The Youth are selling soup this Fall.

- What:** 1 quart containers of delicious homemade soup
- How much:** \$15 per quart
- When:** Order now through Nov. 10. Pick up week of Nov. 13 at IPC.
- Why:** Because **IPC moms are world-renowned soup chefs**, because soup tastes great, keeps well, and makes for a fantastic gift. Proceeds go to youth mission projects and conferences.
- Pick up an order form at the front desk, with Sally Speaker, or online at www.ipcyouth.org

In November What's Cooking?



IPC Wednesday Night Dinners

**SALAD BAR, ROLLS,
CORN BREAD, &
DESSERT FOR EVERY
WEDNESDAY NIGHT
DINNER**

NOVEMBER 2
SOUP & SANDWICH
BAKED POTATO BAR
Children:
CHICKEN NOODLE
SOUP
GRILLED CHEESE

NOVEMBER 9
LASAGNA
BREAD STICKS
Children:
SPAGHETTI
BREADSTICKS
CORN ON THE COBB

NOVEMBER 16
THANKSGIVING
DINNER
Children:
TURKEY SLICES
MAC & CHEESE
GREEN BEANS
Kim Martin,
Director,
IPC Food Service
Living in Community



*Thank you for
supporting our
youth program!*

First Light Women's Shelter

The meal schedule for the First Light Women's Shelter is set for the the last week in November. 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) to let her know the change. Remember to plan for sixty 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 are able to volunteer to spend the night during this week, please contact Susan Clayton at 933-3709 or at sclayton@ipc-usa.org.

Thanks so much for your help and dedication!

November 27-December 3, 2011

Sunday, November 27— IPC Guild

Monday, November 28—The Way Sunday School Class

Tuesday, November 29— Circle V

Wednesday, November 30—not a night for IPC to serve dinner

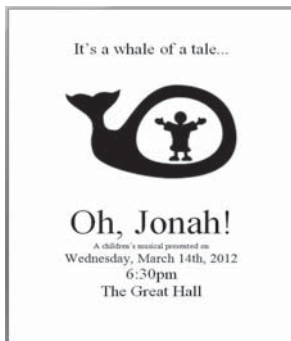
Thursday, December 1—Women at the Well

Friday, December 2—Bible Study with Susan Clayton

GLOVES FOR FIRST LIGHT WOMEN

The 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. Our R.O.C./K children will wrap the gloves we have collected on November 16 and present them to the First Light Women December 7. We will also sing Christmas carols at First Light. Last year we collected more than 200 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!

Living in Service to Others



Oh, Jonah! Children's Musical at IPC
Registration to be a part
of the musical:
Wednesday, November 9 - 16, 2011

It's a whale of a Tale!
Children's Musical Oh, Jonah!
March 14, 2012

Registration to be a part of the musical Wednesday, November 9 - 16, 2011 Rehearsals: January 11 - March 7, 2012

All children grades K- 6 interested in being in the cast and crew of Oh, Jonah! are encouraged to participate. Be a part of the large choir, have a speaking role, help with the stage crew or create scenery and costumes! There is something for everyone! Rehearsals will be Wednesday nights in place of the regular R.O.C./K program and Children's Choirs, January 11- March 7, in G20 from 6-7:15pm. The performance will be held in the Great Hall on March 14 at 6:30pm.

Parent Helpers will be needed to work with the children and help with costumes and scenery. Registration for the children's musical will be held Wednesday, November 9 & 16 during dinner. (Registration forms will be available on the church website as well!) No previous choir or musical experience is required.

All children will receive a rehearsal CD, musical score and performance T-shirt. A \$10 fee is requested for these materials.

Questions? beth_middleton@charter.net or marykay@ipc-usa.org

LIBRARY NOTES

The Hidden Power of the Gospels is Alexander J. Shaia's exploration of the gospels – why do we have these four when many were written and why do we examine them in the Sunday cycle which we use? He suggests that these books were written to ask different questions and that these questions “constitute the steps needed to reach psychological and spiritual maturity.”

Where God Was Born is Bruce Feiler's third book concerning his travels through the Middle East in search of the common roots of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The others are *Walking the Bible: a journey by land through the five books of Moses* and *Abraham: a journey to the heart of three faiths*.

One Nation Under God, written by James P. Moore, Jr., offers an unusual approach to the history of the United States. Moore traces the development of this country - and the role of prayer in that development - from the founding fathers to the present, through all faiths and denominations found throughout our nation, and through the influence of diverse individuals both well known and unknown.

In *Unbroken* Laura Hillenbrand presents to us the story of Louis Zamperini, American Olympian and airman in World War II. She recounts his plane crash in the Pacific, his subsequent capture and imprisonment by the Japanese, his experiences there, and his ultimate liberation and return to the United States.

I Can Make a Difference is a collection of stories, poems, quotations, and even a well known song, compiled from a variety of cultures by Marian Wright Edelman and illustrated by Barry Moser. These speak to all children and show how individual acts can have an effect on one's own life and the lives of those around us.

The Library Committee

**4th Quarter
Lunch Bunch**
Tuesday, November 29,
12:00 Noon

Brio Tuscan Grille
Brookwood village

The 4th Quarter Lunch Bunch has another fun outing planned! On Tuesday, November 29, the group will meet at 12:00 Noon at Brio Tuscan Grille in Brookwood Village to enjoy lunch and fellowship together. Please note that due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we will meet on the fifth Tuesday for the month of November! For reservations, call Jeannine Usher at 933-3694.

Living in Community

**Birmingham
Men's Club**

WELCOMES JIM CARNAS AS SPEAKER

The Birmingham Men's Club is delighted to welcome Jim Carnas, former Jefferson County Commissioner and State Representative and possible future Alabama legislator, as keynote speaker at their November luncheon meeting, Monday, November 21, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor. The speech and luncheon: Great Hall at 11:00 a.m. Reservations/questions: call Jeannine Usher at 933-3694.

ADVENT WREATHS

One of the most meaningful ways you and your family can celebrate the Advent season is by creating an **Advent Wreath**. Each Sunday of Advent you can light a candle in anticipation of Jesus' birth. We will have Advent Wreaths for sale for the congregation, and each kit includes:

- Greenery
- Oasis Wreath Form
- 4 purple candles & candle holders
- 1 white candle
- Advent booklet which gives Scripture readings and a brief explanation of why we light each candle



The cost for each **Advent Wreath kit** is \$15.00, and we will have them ready for pick up at the church by **Tuesday, November 22**. They will also be available for pick up during the **Advent Workshop on Sunday, November 27 from 4:30-6:30**.

We need all orders by Thursday, November 18 and must have a minimum order of 15 wreaths to be able to offer this to the congregation.

Please email Mary Beasley and Kay Roller marykay@ipc-usa.org and let us know if you are interested in purchasing a wreath for your family.



**Parents' Night Out (PNO):
Friday, November 4
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

IPC's next Parents' Night Out, where we have experienced caregivers and fun activities for the kids, will be held on Friday, November 4, and the hours are: 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Cost is \$7.00 per child, and PNO is available for kids up to age 10. Register on the IPC website (www.ipc-usa.org/ParentsNightOut), fill out a card & put it in the PNO box near the reception desk or contact Jeannine Usher to make your reservation. Deadline to register is Friday, November 4, at 12:00 Noon.

Living in Community

Our annual HARVEST FOR HUNGER FOOD DRIVE began Sunday, October 16 ~ World Food Day. Grocery bags with lists of suggested food items are available at the church.

**Sunday, November 20
Harvest for Hunger
Sunday**

Please take a bag home, fill it up, and return it to the church by November 20, **HARVEST FOR HUNGER Sunday**, when our collected food will be dedicated at both services. This 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 34:35**



The Spiritual Formation Group will present **An Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop** to offer a unique Christian experience at IPC as the new year begins. Diana Tsasche of Contemplative Outreach, Birmingham will serve as Leader for the special day-long event.

**Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop
Saturday, January 7, 2012**

9:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Fee: \$25.00 (includes box lunch)

Centering Prayer facilitates a movement from more active modes of prayer into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer is meant to enrich and complement other forms of prayer, not to exclude or replace them. Centering Prayer is at the same time a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. It is Trinitarian in its source, Christ-centered in its focus, and ecclesial in its effects; that is, it builds communities of faith and bonds members together in charity.

We hope you will prayerfully consider participating in this event. For more information about workshop content, contact Lucy Turner. To register, you may contact Jeannine Usher in Congregational Care (933-3694 or jusher@ipc-usa.org).

Living in the Spirit



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

the WINDOW

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Giving Thanks, Showing Thanks...

Stewardship **GIVING THANKS, Showing Thanks**

Thank you to everyone who has already turned in an annual stewardship pledge card or made known your intentions for support of the church in 2012. **THANK YOU! There are so many programs that function simply because of you and your financial contributions – programs for all ages in Community Ministries, Congregational Care, Music and Fine Arts, Christian Education and more!**

Your gifts completely sustain the operations of the church and support IPC's dedicated and committed staff. As part of the body of Christ, we work together in unity seeking to respond to God's love and faithfulness by serving both God and neighbor.

If you have not made a pledge yet, please prayerfully consider making one now in thanks and in service to God. Pledge cards are available throughout the church or you can call Ms. Marsha Harbin at 933.3175 for assistance.

THANKS be to God and thanks also to you.

Rev. Bobbie Epting, Associate Pastor Stewardship and Development



Living in the Spirit