



FOCUS ON FAITH FORMATION

BY REV. LUCY TURNER, EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE PASTOR AND ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Since November, I have had the joy of serving as the Acting Director of Christian Education. I have known and worked alongside the CE staff for many years now. However, my respect for them has grown immensely as we have shared the work of educating and nurturing the men, women, youth and children of IPC. Your CE staff includes David Seamon, Emily Frandsen, Susan Dukes, Cindy Coulter, Stacy Pulliam, Kay Roller and Lea Anne Hardy.

At the end of 2018, the consulting firm, Ministry Architects, completed its work with the Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministry areas. We wanted to share how our work with Ministry Architects is enriching our ministry.

CINDY COULTER

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

We have improved our counting of "Lost Sheep" and of the faithful, as well as improved communications through our family email. We are continuing to prioritize the most important thing – faith development.



FIRST RECENT YOUTH GLOBAL MISSION TEAM HELPING TO FINISH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO.

We start as early as two-years-old with faith forming curriculum that is developmentally age appropriate. Early faith formation takes advantage of the openness of the child to embrace the

concepts. We provide a Catechesis program for our three-year-olds through sixth grade students. This program provides developmentally

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FEATURING

Why more students returned to CFAF this summer **PG 4**

FEATURING

Ways to be a good steward of God's Creation **PG 6**

LEARN

How music, missions are shaping our faith **PG 5**

MISSION

How IPC is tilling a "model" garden **PG 7**

UPCOMING events

See complete calendar online
including details and updates:
ipc-usa.org > [connect](#) > [calendar](#)

JULY

- 3 Wed** No Wednesday Chapel ❖
- 4 Thu** 4th of July. Offices closed ❖
- 7- 13 Sun- Sa** Youth Montreat Retreat ❖
- 10 Wed** Electronics Recycling Event
- 14 Sun** Second Sunday ❖
- 30- 1 Tue- Thu** Art & Music Camp (K- 6) ❖

AUGUST

- 9- 11 Fri- Sun** 2019 Montreat Women's Conference ❖
- 11 Sun** Second Sunday ❖
Youth Fall Kick Off ❖
- 18 Sun** Fall Christian Ed Kick Off ❖❖
- 19 Mon** Youth Grant Team Begins ❖❖
- 22 Thu** IPC Day School Teacher Meet & Greet ❖❖
- 25 Sun** Congregation Meeting & Election of Officers, 12 pm
Evensong, 4 pm, Sanctuary ❖
- 26 Mon** First Day of School for IPC Day School ❖❖

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Mon** Labor Day. Offices Closed. ❖
- 4 Wed** Wednesday Classes/Dinner ❖
Rehearsal start for Fall Music Event (K-6) ❖❖
- 8 Sun** Second Sunday ❖
- 12- 22 Thu- Sun** Scotland Trip ❖
- 21 Sa** Fourth Grade Bible Retreat ❖❖
- 22 Sun** Fourth Grade Bible Presentation ❖

- ❖ Major Events
- ❖ Learning/Education
- ❖ Children/Youth
- ❖ Service Opportunity
- ❖ Adults/Seniors
- ❖ Music Ministry

CONSIDER THIS

Growing Spiritually



The Greek word “pistis” can easily be found in the New Testament. It’s often translated into “faith,” but the word can also mean “trust” and “belief.” We build our relationship with God through all three of those things and our faith formation never ends. It happens in worship, in church classes, in small groups, in the home, in Bible studies, on the mission field... everywhere. Faith formation is not bound by age or geography. Here at IPC, we are continually seeking new ways for you to grow spiritually and to encourage others to do the same.

Our Christian Education department is led by the Rev. Lucy Turner, the acting interim director. She and her staff are continuing to put recommendations from Ministry Architects consultants in place to strengthen our Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries. You can read more about how they are increasing engagement and faith formation opportunities at IPC in the cover story of this *Window*. Our new 5 pm worship music coordinator, Beth Middleton, also explains how she’s using music as part of faith formation for children and adults on page 5.

As part of our faith formation and our relationship with God, we are called to be disciples. We are sharing the Gospel through our work at the Children’s Fresh Air Farm, our service as part of global mission teams and our outreach in our own community. Learn how our Summer Learning Program at the Farm is fulfilling the spiritual and educational needs of more students on page 4. Read more about our first global youth mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico on page 5. We also have exciting news to share about our upcoming community garden in Rushton Park on page 7.

No matter where you are on your faith formation journey, we want to be there to help you along the way.

All the Best,

Bill

William J. Carl III, *Senior Pastor*



COMMUNITY GARDEN CO-CHAIR TORI MCDONALD PRESENTING TO THE HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION. LEARN HOW THIS GARDEN WILL SHAPE BIRMINGHAM'S FUTURE ON PG 7. PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS WHITE

appropriate works that allow the children to engage in learning that will continue as they grow spiritually. When we allow our children to ponder what is in the lesson without telling them, they begin to grasp and express more profound concepts and ask amazingly deep questions.

We also set milestones that encourage our children to recognize their growth, including the fourth grade Bible retreat, a story Bible for two-year-olds, God's Gifts worship for third through sixth graders, and the fifth grade Christmas pageant.

SUSAN DUKES

YOUTH MINISTRIES

If you've been around Ministry Architects, you've probably heard the dance floor metaphor. The dance floor is the set of systems where our ministry takes place. Without healthy systems, we can create the most engaging programs but dancers (youth leaders) will be carried off the floor broken and disappointed. Ministry Architects outlined building a system through architecture and atmosphere. The architecture will be the longstanding design of the ministry. Even as youth directors and programs change, these behind-the-scenes processes will stay the same. The atmosphere is the shine on the dance floor. The floor can be structurally sound, but hit a rough patch and our dancer is more than likely to fall. Atmosphere either encourages or prevents smooth turns. It speaks to the interpersonal relationships on our team and within our church.

The IPC dance floor continues to strengthen as our volunteer list grows. Our Sunday school classes and Sunday night small groups are run solely by volunteers. Longtime volunteer Gail Pless has returned to teach a small group on Wednesdays, and our boys and girls basketball teams are coached by young adults. We have grown so much thanks to our volunteers. We now have three youth elders, three youth deacons, a youth subcommittee, and a robust youth grant team. Youth ministry continues to build the dance floor with its wonderful volunteers as we prepare for our next dancer.

JOIN US THIS FALL

Whether you would like to join the youth on the dance floor, get involved with Catechesis or join a class or group, we have a place for you to continue your faith formation journey. Join us Sunday, August 18 at 10 am for our Fall Christian Education Term Kick Off.

welcome TO IPC



Jayne Randolph
New Member



Klayton and Elise Barrows
New Members



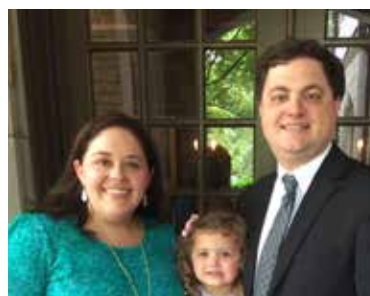
Justin and Katie Carroll
New Members



Caroline and Alex Curenton
New Members



Gates, Sidney and Ken Johnson
New Members



Ashley, Christine and Michael Lyerly
New Members



Ellen and Jay Robert
New Members



Ed and Gina Rowe
New Members

The Window is a quarterly publication of Independent Presbyterian Church, 3100 Highland Avenue South. The Window is published for church members and friends.

A PIVOTAL TIME FILLED WITH LOVE

BY CATHERINE GOUDREAU, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FARM

The excitement of a summer filled with learning, music, art, swimming, nutrition, gardening, and field trips often ends with a few tears. The Summer Learning Program graduation is a tearful event. By then, students have grown academically by several months and spiritually. Typically, the fifth graders are leaving the Farm for the last time... until now.

After many conversations with parents and students (and lots of pleading), we expanded the Summer Learning Program to serve rising 6th grade for the first time and the response was overwhelming. Most surprising and fun of all, both of last year's fifth grade teachers wanted to move up and stay with their class so that they could experience summer at the Farm together again. This is what the expansion means to returning teacher Kaitlin McPeake and her students:

"The Summer Learning Program provides more than just a summer of learning for our students. It provides a safe, loving, caring place for each student to grow in their faith, friendships, and confidence, as well as their academics. These rising 6th graders are at a very pivotal point in their lives. This is the time that many question who they are, what they believe, and begin to decide who they will become. Thanks to the expansion of the Summer Learning Program these amazing students will now get to spend this pivotal time in an environment filled with God's love.

I am so thankful to be given the opportunity to love, laugh and learn with these students again this summer. Last summer, these amazing kids changed my life. I watched as they grew in their confidence, strength, faith and academics. Their silly jokes, determination to succeed, love for



THE SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM'S FIRST SIXTH GRADE CLASS CREATING BUSINESS PROPOSALS.



STUDENTS WORKING UPSTAIRS IN A NEW CLASSROOM CREATED FOR THEM.



RETURNING TEACHER LORI CORRIGAN REVIEWING THE DAY'S TO-DO LIST.

the Lord, and caring hearts are the reason I have been counting down the days to the start of the Summer Learning Program.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for these rising 6th graders to spend this summer surrounded by love and comfort as they learn and grow through this chapter of their life."

Thank you all for your continued support as we grow our staff and property to serve more students. This summer we are welcoming 120 students through our gates and into the thin place we call, "The Farm." We are blessed indeed!



PAINTING DEPICTS JESUS, JAMES MORGAN, OTHER CHILDREN IN HEAVEN

IN MEMORY

Dream of Heaven Inspires Painting

BY CAITIE MORGAN, JAMES' MOTHER

As you go down the stairs to the Day School, you might have noticed a new piece of art. The piece is in honor of our son, James, who died unexpectedly on his first birthday, November 5, 2017. He was very happy, active and loved playing with his big sister, Caroline. In lieu of flowers, we asked friends and family to consider making a donation to the IPC Day School, which James had just started attending. He loved his time there, and the staff loved on him so well.

We wanted something that would make adults and children happy while also remembering James. We decided to take a portion of the donation and commission a painting of Heaven from Georgia-based artist Elaine Burge. Included in the piece is Jesus and James with other children, mimicking a dream my husband had shortly after James' passing.

Our hope is that this painting can bring everyone who sees it joy and peace as we remember Who and Where we are living for and also spark some conversations about Heaven with our little friends at the Day School.

BRIEFS

Enhancing Worship, Faith Formation through Music

Beth Middleton is excited to be serving in a full-time music position at IPC. After 19 years in a part-time capacity, Beth looks forward to coordinating music for The Table 5 pm worship and expanding children's and youth music.

"I feel blessed to continually see how music can enhance worship in all areas of church life," she says. "Working in a full-time capacity will help better coordinate with other ministries areas to make our children's faith formation as rich as possible."

As Music Coordinator for The Table, Beth will work with the Rev. David Seamon to plan music that will be meaningful and approachable to all who join in. Beth also will continue working with the children and youth music as "Miss Beth!" Look for more information about a new fall children's music event in eUpdates.

Mission Trips

When asked what they did this summer, eight youth will be able to say, "I helped build church classrooms in Mexico as part of the first recent IPC youth global mission team."

This year, the youth and three adults continued work on churches started by other IPC mission teams in Chiapas, Mexico thanks to your generous donations. Eleven IPC members also travelled to Rwanda to witness how churches and ministries in Kigali are working for peace and development.

When the summer ends, travel won't stop for IPC members. In September, a group will travel to Scotland to learn about their Presbyterian heritage.

SAVE THE dates

- October 12- 13** Walthall Lecturer the Rev. Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson, President of Auburn Seminary
- November** Organ Recital Series
- November 21** Presbyterian Women Holiday Luncheon
- December 1** Advent Workshop
- December 14- 15** 70th Annual Holiday House Tour

CONNECTING

New Church App

Prepare for a new digital experience at IPC. On July 15, the church will launch ShelbyNEXT. It's a church management software system that will run our finances, membership directory, calendar, registrations and groups.

You will be able to access this new system on our website through "Connect" or by downloading the "ShelbyNEXT Membership" app from the Apple or Google Play Stores.

You will be able to:

- Make financial contributions
- Update your membership directory information and post a picture.
- If you are using the app on a mobile device, you'll be able to call someone through the directory.
- Find a group or class to join. You'll also receive emails directly from those class leaders.
- Mark attendance or help manage the group if you are a leader.

This new tool will also enable our staff to better plan and coordinate worship, classes and other events.

New photos will be uploaded into the membership directory. Please submit individual pictures for each member of your family to members@ipc-usa.org.

Look for information in upcoming eUpdates.



SCREENSHOT OF SHELBYNEXT APP



ARCHITECTURE WORKS RENDERING OF HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN COMING MAY 2020

ECO-CARE OPPORTUNITIES

Protecting God's Creation

IPC has received the PCUSA's Earth Care Congregation designation for a third year due to on-going education and action taken to being good stewards of this planet. Here are a few of the accomplishments:

Church building & grounds

- Saved \$164,796 in electricity ('12- '18) | \$101,628 in natural gas ('14-'18)
- Eliminated use of bottled water, straws, and plastic stirrers
- Installed signs requesting lights be turned off in rooms
- Used eco-palms on Palm Sunday and compostable communion cups

Education & worship

- Presented series on Water and the Spirit and a class on Water in Scripture
- Regularly acknowledged our stewardship of God's creation
- Providing "eco-tips" to members through the eUpdate

Children's Fresh Air Farm

- Began program to replace invasive plants with native plants
- Created a teaching garden for Summer Learning Program campers
- Providing reusable water bottles for campers, lessons on food waste, and a Cahaba River Society trip to learn about clean water

Community Involvement

- Part of an upcoming community garden plan for Rushton Park
- Planning a farmers' market in the IPC parking lot on Wednesdays

TILLING A MODEL COMMUNITY GARDEN

BY REV. DAVID SEAMON, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The story begins with a garden with no one to till it, so God forms a mud creature out of the dust and breathes life into it.

This mud creature is called “Adam,” the Hebrew word for human. The word is also related to “adamah,” which means ground. The adam, therefore, is a being fashioned from the ground and made in connection to the earth to till the ground and tend the garden.

The Highland Park Community Garden grew out of the belief that we and the earth are already equipped with everything to provide abundant healthy food for all people.

Grounded in our faith and rooted in these realities, IPC is working with Birmingham Parks and Recreation, the Highland Park Neighborhood Association and local neighbors in the community to launch the Highland Park Community Garden, the first community garden in a City of Birmingham park.

Finally, after three years, we signed the project license agreement with the city. As temporary overseers of the land, we intend to:

- Give freely of our labor to provide a space for our neighbors to grow food for everyone who wants or needs it.
- Extend our practice of welcome and hospitality by creating public green space that is open to the community.
- Be in relationship with our neighbors in Highland Park, and identify and develop partnership opportunities to make growing and eating fresh food a possibility for everyone.

We don't actually expect to grow enough zucchini this summer to feed all of the 209,880 people living in Birmingham. But we believe that if we work to create a culture of generosity, and ground our action in the idea that the more we give away, the more we have, profound change can begin to take place.



DAVID AND FELLOW COMMUNITY GARDEN CO-CHAIR TORI MCDONALD WITH THE SIGNED PROJECT LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH BIRMINGHAM CITY PARKS AND RECREATION.

The concept of the Highland Park Community Garden may become a template for future developments within the City of Birmingham. It has also spawned the creation of a farmers' market in the church parking lot as part of a Highland Park Food Initiative. We're still in the beginning stages. But we believe that we are all, every one of us, beloved, and are worthy of health, of the holy tiredness that follows work done together and the fullness that settles after sharing a meal. We are telling a story that begins with God's breath over the deep, and continues in an ongoing, outpouring process of creation in which we, and every creature, plant and drop of water on the earth, are continually taking part.

This summer, we continue the effort. With the launch of the Highland Park Community Garden looming in March 2020, we aim to raise the

remaining funds to complete the construction of the garden by the end of the year.

GET INVOLVED



We are building the garden together. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, email us at highlandparkgardens@gmail.com.



INDEPENDENT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

3100 Highland Avenue
Birmingham, AL 35205

WINDOW (USPS255-220)
Published Quarterly
Office of Publication
Independent Presbyterian Church
3100 Highland Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35205-1408
Periodical Postage Paid at
Birmingham, Alabama
POSTMASTER: Send address
change to the WINDOW,
3100 Highland Avenue
Birmingham, AL 35205-1408

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

EVENSONG

SUNDAYS AT 4 PM
SANCTUARY

WELCOME
THE VOICE OF GOD
INTO YOUR HEART

Schedule

August 25, 2019
September 29, 2019
October 27, 2019**
March 1, 2020
May 3, 2020

Details

Take a moment to rest and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit.

At IPC, Evensong services begin at 4 pm once a month and feature a selected group of singers from the IPC Choir called the IPC Camerata. Each approximately 40- minute service has a difference theme, often drawing from the liturgical calendar. **The October event will be a vespers service featuring all of the IPC choirs. An organ recital follows. All are free and open to the public. Childcare is available.

Upcoming Music & Fine Arts events for 2019- 2020 will include the November Organ Recital Series, Christmas Concert on December 8, Organ recital with Dr. Jeff McLelland on January 26, Religious Arts Festival February 2- 9, and a May 24 performance from the alumni choir.

Details at ipc-usa.org > worship > music-fine-arts