



SHARING OUR FAITH

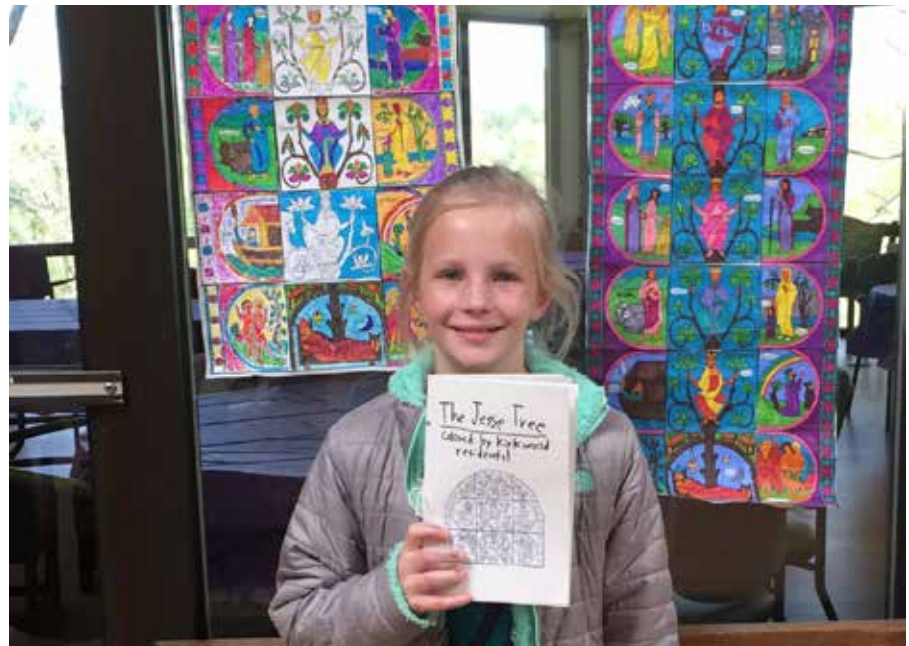
BY SPENCER COBBS, CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD STUDENT

As faithful followers of Jesus, we are all called to be in relationship with God and love our neighbors as ourselves. Passing these beliefs down to our children and grandchildren is one of the most important jobs we have as a faith community. Let us not forget that our children have much to teach us as well.

The Bible stories about some of God's faithful followers who prepared the way for Jesus' entry into the world captivated 11-year-old Spencer Cobbs. She decided to share this Catechesis of the Good Shepherd lesson with the residents of Kirkwood by the River. Spencer shows us what it looks like to deepen our faith then carry this message to others.

Learning about the Jesse Tree and teaching others about it has helped me understand that Jesus was not the first person on Earth. There were thousands of years from when humans first walked the Earth and when the Great King was born.

It all started in the Level 3 atrium at IPC. Two of the catechists, Sarah Warburton and Kay Roller, introduced



SPENCER COBBS WITH HER JESSE TREE, THE KIRKWOOD BY THE RIVER TREE AND JESSE TREE BOOKLET

our group to the Jesse Tree. They printed pictures of people from the Bible who came before Jesus with stories about each person. Each picture represented a person or place Jesse

visits.

Everyone helped color and cut out the pictures. We glued the pictures on a big piece of paper. The first tile depicts

CONTINUED ON PG 3

FEATURING

Members return to Zambia to dance with the Spirit **PG 4**

FEATURING

Mexican pastor inspires IPC's own minister **PG 5**

LEARN

Ways to connect and keep up with latest events **PG 6**

MEET

IPC's security guard plus first Scholar in Residence **PG 7**

UPCOMING events

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

JULY

- 4 Wed** Independence Day. Offices Closed ❖
- 8 Sun** Second Sunday Supper, 6 pm ❖
- 8-14 Sun-Sa** Montreat Youth Conference, Away ❖
- 12-15 Thu-Sun** Young Adult Retreat, Away ❖

AUGUST

- 1-3 Wed-F** K- Grade 6 Art & Music Camp ❖
- 5 Sun** Guest preacher Dr. James Tebbe of Forman Christian College, 8:45/11 am worship and Lunch & Learn, 12 pm, GH 1 ❖♦
- 12 Sun** Second Sunday Supper, 6 pm ❖
- 14 Tue** Deacon Roundtable, 5:30 pm ❖♦
- 16 Thu** Presbytery Meeting, Away ❖
- 19 Sun** CE Fall Kick Off, 10 am ❖❖❖❖
Congregational Meeting, 12 pm ❖
- 26 Sun** Evensong, 4 pm ❖♦

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Sun** IPC member Linda Nelson leads talk on IPC Founding Pastor Dr. Henry M. Edmonds ❖♦
- 3 Mon** Labor Day. Offices Closed ❖
- 4 Tue** CE Weekday Classes start ❖
- 5 Wed** Townhall Meeting/Wednesday Night Dinner ❖
- 7-8 F-Sa** Church Officer Training ❖
- 9 Sun** Second Sunday Supper, 6 pm
- 12 Wed** Wednesday Night Classes start ❖
- 15 Sat** Centering Prayer Workshop, 9am ❖♦
- 16 Sun** SHINE starts ❖♦
- 28-29 F-Sa** Fourth Grade Bible Retreat ❖
- 30 Sun** Fourth Grade Bible Presentation ❖
Choir Recognition ❖
Evensong, 4 pm ❖♦

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

CONSIDER THIS

Allowing Your Spirit to Dance



Stop and listen closely. Do you hear God's call? Many of you are already listening and responding to God's call to love our neighbor. It doesn't take age or sage wisdom to hear His call, just an openness and willingness to be guided to where you are needed.

In the pages of this *Window*, you will find several stories about members who are *Joining God in the World, Welcoming Our Neighbors*. Our mission statement asks us to be faithful servants, not simply by filling the pews on Sundays to listen to His Word and

attending Sunday school. Each one of these individuals featured in this issue has felt inspired, called to take what they've learned inside the walls of IPC into the world to help spread and live the Gospel. Students, like 11-year-old Spencer Cobbs, can become teachers. Mission team members, like Barry DeLozier and Rev. Brian Lays, can travel across the world to serve and end up also receiving the Gospel and being inspired.

A longtime friend to IPC in Zambia told the mission team, "When I saw you, my spirit danced." Be inspired by the journeys taken by these members and other work being done through ministries, like the IPC Foundation. Find a way to allow your spirit to dance. It can be as simple as coming to the Christian Education Fall Kick Off on August 19, joining a class, strengthening your relationship with God and just listening.

Speaking of dancing, my sermon title for July 15 is "Dancing in Holy Places."

All the Best,

Bill

William J. Carl III
Senior Pastor



IPC MEMBER BARRY DELOZIER IN ZAMBIA, WRITES ABOUT ANSWERING THE CALL TO RETURN TO ZAMBIA TO SERVE

Jesse, sleeping in his bed. Growing out of his bed is a tree, which weaves in and out of the other pictures with its branches, leaves, and twigs. At the top of the mural sits Jesus with seven doves and seven words—knowledge, counsel, piety, wisdom, understanding, awe, and strength. It was cool how all the pictures fit together to create a big, vibrant stained-glass window mural made by the entire class.

Now, how does this stained-glass window mural go along with the lineage of Jesus? You can put the pictures' captions in order to make a booklet describing how Jesse, King David's father, has a dream sent to him by the Lord. During this dream, Jesse visits some of his ancestors; and starting with Adam and Eve, his dream progresses all the way to Jesus, who tells him that God will take care of all his problems. These seven words at the top of the mural are what helped Jesse not to worry as much.

At my mom's suggestion, I shared this story with residents at Kirkwood by the River. As we read from the Jesse Tree story, each resident colored a square of the mural with markers. One of the people who enjoyed it most was my grandmother, Rita Spencer. She has been living at Kirkwood for about eight months, and she is very happy there.

I put the pictures colored by the residents together to make a stained-glass mural. For about a month, the two murals, mine and the Kirkwood residents', were displayed in the lobby. Several of the residents told me they loved the story and enjoyed coloring, just like they did when they were a child, like me. Teaching at Kirkwood helped me realize how much it can mean to someone to smile, wave, or have a simple conversation. It can make them happier than you might think.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION KICK OFF AUGUST 20

We invite you to deepen your faith on Sunday mornings this fall. IPC is once again kicking off the fall term on Sunday, August 19 from 10-10:50 am. Adults will enjoy a progressive breakfast and time for fellowship with class leaders and other members in the third floor classrooms. Children and youth will gather on the first floor for games and fun activities.

Learn more at: ipc-usa.org > learn

welcome TO IPC



Jean Burnett
New Member



Maggie Claunch
New Member



Sarah Peek
New Member



Halle Hill
Scholar in Residence
Read more on PG 7

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



"THAT WAS SO FUN FOR ME, I HAVEN'T COLORED LIKE THAT SINCE I WAS A CHILD! IT BROUGHT BACK WONDERFUL MEMORIES," SAYS IPC MEMBER AND KIRKWOOD BY THE RIVER RESIDENT MARY ANN MCCOLLUM (PICTURED LEFT) OF THE JESSE TREE PROJECT.

A WISH CALLED MWANDI

BY BARRY DELOZIER, IPC MEMBER AND MEMBER OF 2018 MWANDI MISSION TEAM

As the crow flies, it's 8,116 miles from Birmingham to Mwandi Mission in the western province of Zambia. Unfortunately, you can't take such a direct route; the IPC 2018 Mwandi Mission Team's journey covered 12,000 miles and took several days to complete. Why would anyone travel so far by planes, trains, boats and buses when there are worthy missionary opportunities blocks from our church? The people of Mwandi.

For a quarter of a century, members of IPC have made this pilgrimage. Congregants, like Peggy and Michael Balliet, Greg Jeane, Phil Collins, Felix Yarboro, and Rev. Susan Clayton have assisted Mwandi Mission and the United Church of Zambia in establishing a regional hospital, water filtration systems, schools, an orphan and vulnerable children's center, and a home for the elderly. Everywhere you look in the village of ten-thousand, you see evidence of IPC's efforts. More meaningful than any structure or program, you see people who love our church without ever laying eyes on our stained-glass windows. They love us dearly, because they love God first, and they see God's love in our faces, too.

The first time I made this trek with the 2015 IPC Team, my crystalizing moment came in a Bible study. A crippled minister who moves about in sand in a wheelchair told our group, "The work you do here is wonderful, and we appreciate it. But the fact you come so far to be with us is enough. We know you come because you have God's love in your heart." Gulp.

For the 2018 Team, there were many special moments. On our last day, we stopped to say our goodbyes at Kandiana, the elderly orphan's home where we'd painted exteriors of four buildings. Before gathering for a photograph, the oldest resident, a blind man, went into his room and put on a coat and tie and came back proudly



MISSION TEAM STOPPED TO SAY GOODBYE TO RESIDENTS OF KANDIANA WHERE THEY PAINTED FOUR BUILDINGS. ONE MAN PUT ON HIS SUIT AND GOT HIS BIBLE FOR THE PICTURE.



BARRY DELOZIER REFINISHING OUTSIDE OF KANDIANA BUILDING

carrying his Bible. That evening, the church choir came to sing their farewells.

One longtime friend told Susan, "We are so happy and our spirits are joyful when you come to be with us. We know we are not forgotten. Please, you must always come to us. You are our family. When I saw you today, my spirit danced."



RIDING IN MAKORO, A TRADITIONAL ZAMBIAN DUGOUT CANOE USED DAILY ON A TRIBUTARY OF THE ZAMBEZI RIVER

"God, send me anywhere, only go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. And sever any tie in my heart except the tie that binds my heart to Yours."

~David Livingstone

FINDING MY KIND OF PASTOR IN MEXICO

BY REV. BRIAN LAYS, ASSOCIATE PASTOR AND DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

Pastor Sebastián is my kind of pastor. Stout and strong, with a perpetual smile on his face, he greets us on Sunday morning as we arrive at his Presbyterian church, tucked away in the tiny village of Ruíz Cortines, Chiapas, Mexico. The congregation is one of seven he pastors throughout the nearby villages, some of which have buildings, others of which meet under the shade of a tree.

Sebastián speaks Spanish and the local Mayan dialect, Chol. He maintains big dreams about the roles his churches can play in their communities as medicine dispensaries, safe havens for children, and places of Christian spiritual transformation. His energy is contagious as he introduces us to various church members. The service would be long, loud, and passionate. Brunch would follow, complete with live music- the perfect start to our week in Mexico.

In the coming days, we would work with Sebastián at this church and another, painting and shoveling gravel into the foundation of a new building. Members of Sebastián's congregations would take a day off from their work in the fields to labor alongside us. Walls of communication would break down as music, laughter, and elbow grease erased our differences and bound us together in God's love.



REV. BRIAN LAYS WITH PASTOR SEBASTIAN OUTSIDE THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICE IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO

But the week wouldn't be all heavy lifting. Chiapas is a lush, mountainous region full of rivers, and each day after work, we would swim in a pool beneath waterfalls. Our hosts, Salvador and Irma de la Torre, served us delightful,

delicious meals for breakfast and dinner each night. We would take in just as many calories as we burned with our feet to the pool!

BOUND BY MUSIC, LAUGHTER, AND ELBOW GREASE



Painting a new building alongside members from the Ruiz Cortines church



Working on the foundation for the new building

GRANT SPOTLIGHT

Alabama Possible

Thanks to the support of the IPC Foundation, thousands of area high school graduates will have the financial resources to continue their education. Alabama Possible's Blueprints College Success Initiative and Cash for College campaign works with area 11th- and 12th-grade students to make a college plan and apply for college and financial aid. Here are some highlights from this year:

- 361 high school students worked with 133 college-student near-peer mentors to plan for, pursue, and pay for postsecondary education;
- 726 Birmingham City Schools students finished their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- 304 Alabama high schools built a college-going culture by prioritizing their students' FAFSA completion
- 28,000 Alabama students completed their FAFSA and can leverage \$63 million in Pell Grants
- 221 volunteers donated 4,223 hours
- Alabama has the 5th highest increase in FAFSA completions in the country according to the National College Access Network



PHOTO: ALABAMA POSSIBLE



BIBLETIMES MARKETPLACE CAMPERS MAKING BREAD

GET PLUGGED IN

How to Find Out about Latest Events

IPC staff are planning for another year filled with classes, special events and volunteer opportunities to help you continue growing spiritually and continue finding new ways to carry out Christ's ministry. Here's how to keep up with the latest IPC news:

EMAILS

- Subscribe to our weekly Congregational, Youth and/or Family eUpdates
- Sign up to be notified about regular IPC Food Pantry needs and Children's Fresh Air Farm volunteer opportunities
- Join the obituary email list to be notified about memorial services

WEBSITE

- Find us online at ipc-usa.org
- View the calendar at ipc-usa.org/presencehost.net/connect/ Daily calendar with all the classes can be found by clicking "List of Classes, Programs, Worship Services, Meetings" at the top of the "Connect" page.
- Sign up for multiple events at ipc-usa.org/connect/links
- Find a class under "Learn" at ipc-usa.org/learn/

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/ipcbirmingham
- Follow us on Instagram at ipcbirmingham

MAILINGS

- Check your mailbox for the monthly calendar, *The Update*



DID YOU KNOW MR. FRED OFTEN BRINGS A CHESS SET TO HELP TEACH THE DAY SCHOOL CHILDREN HOW TO PLAY? PHOTO: VIRGINIA JONES

MEET MR. FRED

The Man Who Keeps Watch Over IPC

BY BILL MCKELVEY, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & ADMISTRATION

We know him as "Mr. Fred," but his full name is Fred Douglas O'Neal, III. A native of Birmingham, he attended J. H. Phillips High school then Alabama A&M University where he earned a B.S. in Print Production and Management. He has been in the security business for the past 5 years, and he currently holds a private security license and has regular training in order to guard effectively.

When asked what he loves the most about our church, Mr. Fred told me that it's getting to know the people and also working in a peaceful, beautiful environment.

While on duty, Mr. Fred guards our children on playgrounds, directs traffic for drop-off/pick-up, and escorts IPC Day School classes to the park each week. He also provides security for the church in the evenings and on Sundays. Currently, the House & Properties Ministry Team is developing policies that will guide our security well into the future.

BRIEFS

IPC Welcomes First Scholar in Residence

This summer, former youth intern Halle Hill is back at IPC, working as a Scholar in Residence. Halle graduated in 2017 with a B.A. in Religious Studies and Sociology from Maryville College. Currently, she is an M.F.A. Creative Writing candidate at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA.

Halle's main research focuses on sacred and secular spaces in the American South. She is interested in how they interact, how they change, and what they imply for the future of the church. At IPC, Halle is interested in the Highland Hall purchase from the Church of Christ, Scientist.

During her time at IPC, she will act as a research assistant for Dr. Tricia Bruce, Associate Professor of Sociology at Maryville College. Their collaboration will go towards Dr. Bruce's forthcoming book and Halle's MFA thesis. In the fall, they will present their work at the 2018 American Academy of Religion conference in Denver, Colorado.

Halle will be here from June to mid-August. If you see her around, please say hello!

Deacon Roundtables

Navigating the changing parent-child relationship as your parent ages can be challenging. Join the Deacons for dinner Tuesday, August 14 at 5:30 pm in the Great Hall and a special discussion on helping our parents prepare for older age. All IPC members are invited and encouraged to bring friends and neighbors. Childcare is available. Cost is \$5 per person.

Register online at:
ipc-usa.org > connect > links

SAVE THE
dates

- October 7** Grace Groups start
- October 21** Fall Festival at Children's Fresh Air Farm
- Harvest for Hunger starts
- October 28** Focus on Faith Speaker Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana
- October 30** Deacon Roundtable
- November 4** Organ Recital Series begins
- November 25** Christ the King Hymn Festival
- November 22 & 23** Thanksgiving Holiday. Offices closed.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

EVENSONG

SUNDAYS AT 4 PM
IPC SANCTUARY

WELCOME
THE VOICE OF GOD
INTO YOUR HEART

Schedule

August 26, 2018
September 30, 2018
October 28, 2018
January 27, 2019
February 24, 2019
March 31, 2019
April 28, 2019

Details

Evensong means "evening prayer." This afternoon or evening service has been offered for thousands of years. Its origins can be traced back to services led by Jesus himself.

At IPC, the services begin at 4 pm and feature a select group of singers from the IPC Choir called the IPC Camerata. Each approximately 40- minute service has a different theme, often drawing from the liturgical calendar. An organ recital follows. All are free and open to the public. Childcare is available.

Information about November Organ
Recital Series and other events online at
ipc-usa.org > worship > music-fine-arts