



HOW TO FORM HABITS OF GIVING

BY JOHN AND LISA BURTON, IPC MEMBERS

“I’m hoping to raise a child with no empathy or compassion...,” said no parent. Ever. So, what is a parent to do? During Lent, we often give up something or take on a positive habit. That’s a good place to begin.

Start with small habits of giving. Purchase groceries and leave them near the car so that each time you come to church, your child can grab an item or two to put in the Food Pantry collection baskets. Connect the dots for them. People in our community are always in need, so we will always give. And giving through the church reminds them that we give because God tells us to help others. This is different than doing service hours. You can complete service hours, but serving for God never ends.

Our family, along with friends, has served dozens of meals at First Light, a shelter for homeless women and children. We plan a healthy meal on a reasonable budget. We discuss the reasons women find themselves homeless. They have seen girls their age come through the line for dinner. Over



LISA AND JOHN'S DAUGHTER, ADELAIDE, SERVING DINNER AT FIRST LIGHT WITH FRIENDS. IPC GROUPS PROVIDE DINNER SEVERAL WEEKS EVERY YEAR.

time, they confidently took command, relegating the adults to the “back of the house” while they handled the serving line, bantering with guests and sharing smiles. Over the years, they have seen

more and more children at First Light, and that breaks our hearts. Their empathy for the plight of the homeless has taken root, and they are forever

CONTINUED ON PG 3

FEATURING

A look at IPC's first church opera **PG 4**

FEATURING

A new tool to help with planned giving **PG 6**

LEARN

How our youth are joining God in the world **PG 6**

MISSION

Finding the Lord at Bible Times Marketplace **PG 5**

UPCOMING events

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

APRIL

- 2 Tue** Easter lily flower deadline ❖
- 3 Wed** IPC Roundtable: Addiction, Great Hall, 5:30 pm ❖
- 8 Mon** Lunch & Learn: Domestic Violence, GH1, 11:30 am ❖
- 11 Thu** "Three Hermits" Opera, 7 pm ❖❖
- 13 Sat** Easter Egg Hunt, CFAF, 10 am ❖
"Three Hermits" Opera, 7 pm ❖❖
- 14 Sun** Palm Sunday services, 8:45/11 am and 5 pm ❖
Confirmation, 11 am worship ❖
Second Sunday ❖
- 18 Thu** Maundy Thursday service, 7 pm ❖
- 19 Fri** Good Friday service, 12 pm ❖
Offices close at 12 pm
- 21 Sun** Easter services at 8/9:30/11 am and 5 pm ❖
- 28 Sun** STAIR Sunday ❖
Evensong, 4 pm, Sanctuary ❖❖

MAY

- 5 Sun** Youth Sunday ❖
God's Gifts presentation, 10 am ❖
- 12 Sun** CFAF Sunday ❖❖
Second Sunday ❖
- 16 Thu** Day School graduation, 11 am ❖
- 19 Sun** Guest speaker Dr. Alison Chapman, 10 am. *Details PG 7* ❖❖
- 27 Mon** Memorial Day. Offices Closed. ❖

JUNE

- 3- 6 Mon- Thu** VBS ❖❖
- 3-7 Mon-Fri** BTMP ❖❖
- 8- 14 Sa- Fri** Youth Mexico mission trip ❖❖
- 9 Sun** PMUAB Sunday ❖❖
Second Sunday ❖
- 27- July 7** Rwanda mission trip ❖

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

CONSIDER THIS

Journey with Jesus



Every journey begins with one step. For Jesus, it was a step into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. It was a journey filled with sacrifice, prayer and reflection. We honor it by embarking on our own journeys each Lent.

This year, I urge you to say "yes" to the opportunities put before you. Perhaps, it's the chance to volunteer within one of our ministries, join a group or lead a class. Use this time of prayer and reflection to listen for how and where God is calling you.

Many of you have been answering God's call to help others for years. IPC members Lisa and John Burton made feeding families at a local homeless shelter a priority for themselves and their three daughters years ago. In the cover story of this *Window*, Lisa is sharing ways for other families to start introducing their own children to a lifetime of service. Carrying out God's work is also a family affair for Jan Posey who serves as a tribal mom at Bible Times Marketplace. Learn more about how she got involved and how you can as well on page 5.

This issue of *The Window* celebrates many other journeys--the road to graduation for our high school seniors and the nearly 20-year process of bringing a church opera to IPC. Music & Fine Arts director, Dr. Jeff McLeland, explains why you shouldn't miss "The Three Hermits" on page 4.

Whatever journey you are on, I hope you find inspiration within the pages of this *Window*!

All the Best,

Bill

William J. Carl III, *Senior Pastor*



DR. CARL AND HIS WIFE, JANE, WERE ON DECK TO READ TO VBS CAMPERS IN 2017. LEARN MORE ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW YOUR CHILD'S FAITH THIS SUMMER ON PG 5

changed.

Through mission trips to Mexico and Africa, tutoring at STAIR, serving at First Light and supporting the IPC Food Pantry, we have sought to incorporate doing God's work into the habits of our family. All of us have been given gifts that are to be used for others. Sometimes, it is simply the gift of saying "yes." Yes, I will bring some food. Yes, I can help serve a meal. Yes, I can carve out some time to tutor.

"Do not be conformed to this world," says Paul in Romans 12. This world tells us to focus on ourselves. Do not conform. Follow God. Serve Others.

Even after Easter, prayerfully consider the ways that you will continue to serve.

SERVING GOD THIS LENT

- Donate to the IPC Food Pantry.
- Serve dinner at First Light with your family or group on Saturday, April 6. Contact: Rev. Susan Clayton, sclayton@ipc-usa.org or (205) 933-3677.
- Participate in the CFAF Extreme Makeover Day on Saturday, April 6 from 9 am- 12 pm and help the CFAF Garden Group prepare the Children's Fresh Air Farm for the Easter Egg Hunt, Bibletimes Market Place and Summer Learning Program.
- Fill an Easter basket for one of 85 children at First Light Foundations Early Learning and Family Center, First Light or Presbyterian Home for Children by Palm Sunday. Contact: Lisa Burton (205) 602-4996 or Susan Dulin (205) 541-8606.
- Share God's love and help neighbors-in-need by donating to One Great Hour of Sharing collection during all worship services on Sunday, April 14. The funds will help provide relief to people affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and resources to the poor and oppressed.

welcome

TO IPC



Charlotte Brown
New Member



Martha Fielder
New Member



Liz Saunders
New Member



Kathy, Tim and Bailey Busby
New Members



Caitlin, Teddy and Preston Miller
New Members



Elizabeth, Robert and Andrew Walker
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.



Rosalynn Fairless
New Staff
Music & Fine Arts
Executive Assistant



Sandra Putman
New Staff
Receptionist

AN OPERA DECADES IN THE MAKING

BY DR. JEFF MCLELLAND, IPC MUSIC & FINE ARTS DIRECTOR

When I came to IPC as Organist/Choirmaster in August 2000, Senior Pastor Dr. Jim Carter strongly encouraged me to consider presenting the opera, "The Three Hermits" by Stephen Paulus. Dr. Carter had been instrumental in securing the funds to commission this opera when he was pastor at the House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN. Before coming to IPC, I had directed music for operas, musicals, and dinner theatres in Mississippi. I know the enormous amount of work it takes to undertake a production like this. It has taken 20 years, but we are now ready to present this production in our sanctuary in collaboration with the UAB Opera Department on April 11 and 13. The opera is one hour in length and incorporates eleven soloists from UAB and IPC, along with the IPC Choir as the chorus of Pilgrims. Members of the Alabama Symphony will be playing in the orchestra. The two main characters are Chris O'Rear as the bishop and Beth Middleton as the mother.

Based on a story by Leo Tolstoy, an Orthodox Bishop is traveling to the Solovetsk monastery on a ship across the White Sea in Russia in the 1880's with his mother and two nuns. Hearing a fisherman tell of three strange old hermits who live on a remote island, the bishop resolves to go there and deliver some religious instruction to them. He spends the entire day on the island teaching the Lord's Prayer to the hermits, who have considerable difficulty learning it. Finally satisfied that he has done God's work, the bishop returns to the ship and sails away. As the moon shines over the water and the bishop is sitting on deck with his mother, she notices a disturbance behind them on the water. It turns out to be the three hermits, who are running over the water toward them. When the hermits arrive, they apologize to the bishop for having forgotten the words



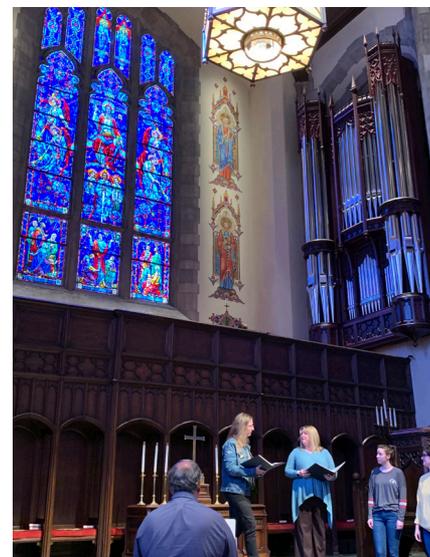
IN 2000, IPC MUSIC & FINE ARTS DIRECTOR DR. JEFF MCLELLAND STARTED WORKING TO BRING THIS OPERA TO IPC



OPERA PERFORMANCES ARE FREE. NO TICKETS REQUIRED.

of the Lord's Prayer after "Who art in heaven." Chastened, the bishop assures the old men that the way they choose to pray is well loved by God. The hermits then turn and run back over the water. The last words we hear are those of their original prayer: "Three are Ye; three are we; have mercy on us!"

"And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for



OPERA WILL BE PERFORMED IN THE SANCTUARY APRIL 11 AND APRIL 13

they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." – Matthew 6:7-8

The Three Hermits will be presented in our sanctuary on Thursday, April 11 and Saturday, April 13 at 7 pm. Admission is free. Please join us!

SURELY THE LORD IS AT BIBLE TIMES

BY JAN POSEY, IPC MEMBER AND TRIBAL MOM

Do you have a favorite thing you do at church? Something that makes you pretty sure you are doing God's work? Mine is Bible Times Marketplace (BTMP). I have been doing it since my girls were old enough to go - 23 years ago. I missed one year when I had radiation for cancer. If you do not know what BTMP is -let me try to explain.

For one week, approximately 100 children and teenagers become the twelve tribes of Israel. We learn about Joseph, Moses, David, Jesus, or Paul. We sing songs, watch dramas about Bible stories, create crafts, bake bread, and generally have fun by creating memories and making new friends. We do all this under a tent on the grounds of the Children's Fresh Air Farm in the summer heat and rain. Because the Farm is truly a "thin place," the Spirit moves among us and it really becomes something special, something holy.

My daughters were always in my tribe then they were my tribal assistants. Finally, they too were tribal moms. We planned vacations around this beloved family activity. My husband, Robert, never missed the program. When the time came that I had to do without my daughters, I was quite sad. But it turned into a very special summer.

I had a little girl in my tribe whose



JAN POSEY SERVING AS SIMEON TRIBAL MOM AT BTMP IN 2018

family did not attend church. She had never owned a Bible or heard any of the stories. She loved it and left with a Bible of her own. It was one of my favorite summers.

One of my favorite Bible Times

songs is "Surely the Presence." The lyrics simply are "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place." And He always is at Bible Times and the Farm. Come join us and see!

GET INVOLVED



BTMP campers (completed 1- 5 grade) & tribal assistants will embark on "The Adventures of David" at CFAF June 3- 7.



VBS campers (completed 3-year-old class- 5K) will blast off "To Mars and Beyond" at IPC June 3- 6. Register at ipc.org >connect

IPC FOUNDATION

New Website

“O God, call me to the laughter of great giving.”

These words of our founding pastor, Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, still resonate throughout our work at Independent Presbyterian Church, especially through the IPC Foundation, which is why it seemed only appropriate to use the words from Dr. Edmond’s prayer to open the Foundation’s new planned giving website.

Our new website, which goes live later this month, will have resources to help you structure a lasting gift to the IPC Foundation. Not only will you find step by step instructions for making a gift to the Foundation, but also a gift calculator to determine the lasting value of your gift for you and the Foundation. On the site, you can read inspiring stories from grant recipients and donors; they are testimonies to the power of giving to change the lives of those who receive and those who give. Go to ipc-usa.org/giving or plannedgiving.ipc-usa.org to learn more about the opportunities to partner with the Foundation in serving Jesus Christ in Birmingham and around the world.

For more information or to discuss a gift to the Foundation please contact Rev. Lucy Turner at lturner@ipc-usa.org or (205) 933- 3729.

Planned Giving



“O God, call me to the laughter of great giving.”
 —Henry M. Edmonds, founding pastor

The Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation is a public charity established by the Independent Presbyterian Church in 1960. The Foundation encourages and receives contributions, invests funds and seeks innovative and responsive ways in which its assets may serve Jesus

Talk to Us
 Our Office of Planned Giving
 Call (205) 933-3729

SCREENSHOT OF NEW PLANNING GIVING WEBSITE



MEMBERS OF THE 2018 YOUTH GRANT TEAM WHO RESEARCHED AND CONDUCTED SITE VISITS BEFORE AWARDING \$20,000 TO ORGANIZATIONS

IPC YOUTH

Big Hearts, High Achievers

How our youth are already joining God in the world

Our Youth at IPC have BIG HEARTS!

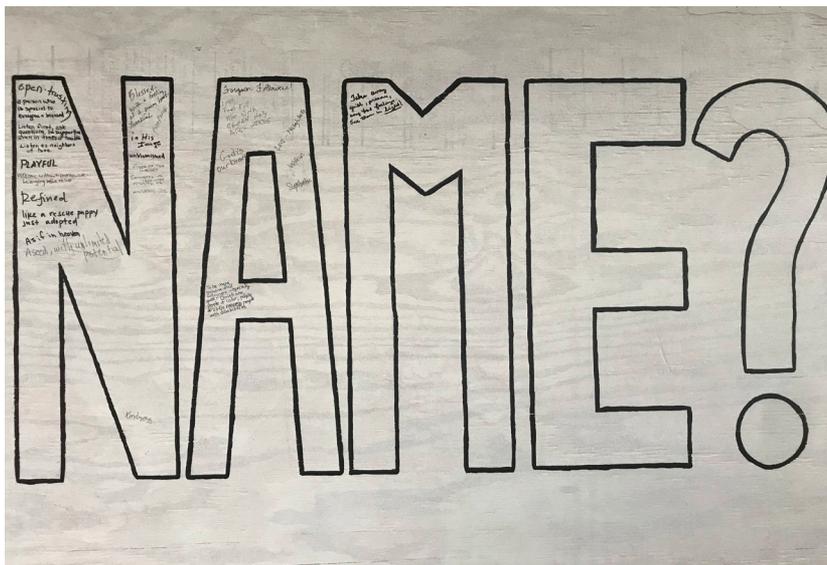
- Eight students volunteer for STAIR and LIFT OFF to Learning programs
- One student brought in more than 400 items for the Food Pantry this Fall and will hold another Food Pantry Drive at her school in April
- More than 25 of our students logged over 100 combined hours in service projects at the church this year
- 25 students volunteered for an entire week as Tribal Assistants at the Bible Times Marketplace last June

Our Youth at IPC are HIGH ACHEIVERS!

- 14 students will be confirmed as members in April
- 20 students will graduate high school in May
- Four of our high school seniors serve on the Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley Youth Council
- 15 students served on the Youth Grant Team & awarded \$20,000 to deserving organizations

Our Youth at IPC love to BE TOGETHER!

- 24 students will attend the Montreat Youth Conference this summer
- 31 students attended the annual Winter Retreat
- More than 40 students attended the Fall Kick-off pool party in August



BOARD DISPLAYED DURING 2018 "WHAT'S IN A NAME" SERMON SERIES INVITING WORSHIPPERS TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

WORSHIP

Know, Be Known around The Table

What's in a name? A large white board with those words greeted worshippers to the 5 pm service in Highland Hall last spring. Rev. David Seamon led a preaching series about names in the Bible and asked people to consider what it meant to be part of the evening worshipping community. He and a group of 25 people compiled the information and broke into teams to work on a name for the evening worship service and the events that make up this growing worshipping community at IPC. Every group came up with the same name- The Table.

It's the desire to know and be known. The best way to do that is around a table," explains Rev. Seamon. "The table highlights hospitality. Anyone can come to the table every week to be fed and nourished. It's also a constant reminder that this is the Lord's table."

All are welcome to come to The Table for 5 pm worship in Highland Hall. A Second Sunday Supper follows every second Sunday. Watch the eUpdate for other events sponsored by The Table coming soon.

BRIEFS

Summer Christian Ed

Special guest speaker Dr. Alison Chapman from the UAB Department of English leads a special discussion on "Ideas of Satan in the Middle Ages and Renaissance" on Sunday, May 19 at 10 am in Highland Hall. Learn about the changing ways that writers, like Dante and Milton, depict Satan. She'll explore the transformation of Satan as the Father of Lies, a terrifying physical force in the Middle Ages to the dark, twisted psyches chronicled in the 17th Century.

Continue your faith formation by joining a class during our Summer Christian Education Term beginning in June. Samford University Professor Dr. Jeff Leonard will lead an adult class on Sundays at 10 am. Look for more information in upcoming eUpdates.

PMUAB Sunday

Help our STAIR families keep roofs over their heads and lights and other utilities turned on. Ensure no resident is asked to leave Kirkwood by the River because they have outlived their financial means. Give low-income students in Jefferson, Tuscaloosa, Bibb and Shelby Counties the chance to experience and learn about nature at Living River. Your gift to the Presbytery Ministries United Appeal of Birmingham (PMUAB) provides funding for those ministries through the Kirkwood by the River Life Care fund, the Living River Power of the Outdoors Scholarship Fund and the IPC Social Services Fund.

Learn more about PMUAB and how you can help during worship on Sunday, June 9.

SAVE THE
dates

- July 4** Independence Day. Offices closed.
- July 7- 13** Youth Montreat Retreat
- August 9- 11** 2019 Montreat Women's Conference
- September 2** Labor Day. Offices closed.
- September 12- 22** Scotland Trip



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

HOLY WEEK AT IPC

APRIL 13- 21, 2019

EMBARK ON JESUS' JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

Saturday, April 13

Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am, Children's Fresh Air Farm
Bring children and grandchildren and their baskets to the Farm. A light lunch follows. Cost: \$5. RSVP online.

Sunday, April 14

Palm Sunday Services at 8:45 am, 11 am & 5 pm

Palm crosses made by the Guild will be available.

Confirmation during 11 am worship

One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering will be collected in services to assist those affected by natural disaster, hunger or in need of medical care.

Thursday, April 18

Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm, Sanctuary

Friday, April 19

Good Friday Service at 12 pm, Sanctuary

Church offices also close at 12 pm.

Sunday, April 21

Easter Services at 8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am, Sanctuary

Evening Service at 5 pm, Highland Hall

Details: ipc-usa.org > worship > services

DEDICATED TO
THE MEMORY
OF
ROBERT RAMSAY
1840 AND 1891
JANET SKINE
RAMSAY 1916