



## THE CALL TO MINISTRY

Look around the church. The child watching her mother lead Children's Ministries, the teenager traveling to Montreat, or the new member could one day answer God's call to a life of ministry.

"Looking back, you can see how everything led to this place," says Mary Sellers Shaw, a recent M.Div. graduate from Vanderbilt University. She received a call to First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, TN this summer as the director of Mission and Outreach and will be ordained in 2019.

But to her, and to a recently ordained minister and three Inquirers all under the care of Independent Presbyterian Church, the path to ministry wasn't always so clear.

Mary Sellers and Cammie Coulter both grew up at Independent Presbyterian Church. Cammie initially thought she'd follow her mother, Cindy Coulter, into Children's Ministries. Mary Sellers, the daughter of Cindy and Steve Shaw, wasn't as certain where she was being led. Both listened and discerned their callings during a year serving as Young



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CAMMIE COULTER, MARY SELLERS SHAW WITH HER MOTHER, FATHER AND SISTER, COURTNEY BOWEN WITH HER SON AND HUSBAND, EMILY FRANDSEN

Adult Volunteers after college.

"There's something beautiful spending your days listening and sharing with one another," says Mary Sellers of serving at Nashville's Room at the Inn, a

homeless shelter. "I was living out the things we talk about in the church."

"I experienced hopelessness and frustration at systems of oppression

CONTINUED ON PG 3

### FEATURING

Meet the November Organ Recital Series Artists **PG 4**

### FEATURING

Secret to Holiday House Tour Success **PG 7**

### LEARN

Ways to Give this Holiday Season **PG 5**

### MISSION

Preparing Students to Succeed **PG 6**

# UPCOMING events

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

## OCTOBER

- 3 Wed** Speaker Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin, 6:15 pm, HH ❖❖
- 6-7 Sa-Sun** Youth Presbytery Retreat ❖❖
- 14 Sun** Youth Pantry Scavenger Hunt ❖❖
- 21 Sun** Fall Festival, 4- 6 pm, CFAF ❖  
Harvest for Hunger Drive ❖❖
- 28 Sun** Focus on Faith Speaker Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana. See pg 5 for details ❖  
Evensong, 4 pm ❖
- 30 Tue** IPC Roundtable, 5:30 pm, GH ❖❖
- 31 Wed** Halloween. No dinner ❖

## NOVEMBER

- 4 Sun** Organ Recital Series begins ❖❖
- 5 Mon** Youth Grant Team Presentation ❖
- 6 Tue** 4th Quarter & Friends Trip ❖
- 11-12 Su-Mon** Retreat at Living River (K-6) ❖
- 14 Wed** Final Fall Wednesday Night ❖
- 22- 23** Thanksgiving. Offices Closed
- 25 Sun** Christ the King Hymn Festival, 8:45/11 am worship ❖
- 29 Thu** PW Holiday Luncheon, 11:30am ❖  
Christmas Flower Deadline ❖

## DECEMBER

- 2 Sun** Advent Workshop, 4:30 pm ❖❖  
Giving Tree Begins ❖
- 5 Wed** Children Sing at First Light ❖
- 8-9 Sa-Sun** Holiday House Tour ❖
- 9 Sun** Christmas Pageant, 10 am, HH ❖
- 16 Sun** Storyteller Dolores Hydock, 10 am  
Christmas Concert, 4 pm ❖❖
- 17 Mon** JLB Chorus, 10:30 am, GH ❖
- 20 Thu** Westminster Choir Tour, 9 am ❖❖
- 24 Mon** Noon Nativity Service, 12 pm ❖  
Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, 4/6 pm ❖

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

## CONSIDER THIS

### *What an Exciting Time at IPC!*



There is just so much going on. Check out the news about our seminary students who are featured on the cover. Think about your own participation in the worship, study and service of God here at IPC. Think also about what this time of year means to us. During this busy period of our lives, I hope you will pause periodically to prepare your hearts for the coming of the Christ-child.

In keeping with our own holiday traditions here at IPC, we have numerous opportunities for you to honor the birth of our Savior. On page 6 of this issue of *The Window*, there are nearly a dozen ways for you to spread some holiday cheer by being a blessing to someone else. Several, including service opportunities with our 69th Annual Holiday House Tour, simply involve giving your time, which I realize is no small gift. Our Holiday House Chair and Congregation Vice President, Penney Hartline, explains how your time makes an incredible difference in the lives of women and children who benefit from this annual tour. Read her story on page 7.

Continuing a long-standing IPC tradition, we will once again welcome four internationally known organists for the November Organ Recital Series. Read more about them on Page 4. Other performances that you won't want to miss include the following: the 5th Grade Christmas Pageant, storyteller Dolores Hydock, the Christmas Concert with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and the Junior League of Birmingham Chorus singing for the Birmingham Men's Club. Pull out your calendar and start making plans, especially for our Christmas Eve worship, which is, like Easter, one of the most special times of the year at IPC. I will have written another poem for my Christmas Eve homily just for that service and look forward to sharing it with you!

All the Best,

*Bill*

William J. Carl III  
Senior Pastor



INQUIRER CAMMIE COULTER SERVING AT GREEN OPPORTUNITIES AS A YAV.

that seemed impenetrable. I considered turning my back on the injustices I saw,” says Cammie who served with Green Opportunities, which helps people from marginalized communities find jobs. “Ultimately, the relationships I formed with the community reminded me that I have a responsibility to my neighbor to lift every voice and make sure everyone has a seat at the table.”

Cammie is now an Inquirer (or someone who is still discerning her call) and a M.Div. student at Union Seminary.

From Inquirer, people pursuing a life of ministry in the Presbyterian church become a Candidate for Ordination, Receive a Call, then are ordained.

Mary Sellers and Cammie’s path to ministry isn’t so common. According to PC(USA), more than two thirds of the denomination’s inquirers and candidates already had at least one other career. Inquirers Emily Frandsen and Peyton Chandler and recently ordained Rev. Courtney Bowen are part of that group.

“Definitely inklings along the way [of being called]. It was on a Pentecost Sunday. I got this sense that I needed to go to seminary,” recalls Rev. Courtney Bowen who left a 12-year banking career and IPC, her first church to join, to attend Louisville Seminary. She graduated in May, received a call to The Church of the Covenant in Elizabeth, IN as the stated supply pastor and was ordained September 29.

“I wanted to change the course I was on. I wanted to be more intentional in my faith,” says Inquirer Peyton Chandler (*pictured to right at Session*). He joined IPC this year and traded his advertising job for one as the coordinator of Worship & Congregational Care at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church. He plans to attend Beeson Divinity School.

“It’s a long story,” says IPC Youth Ministry interim director and Inquirer Emily Frandsen who worked as a house parent at the Presbyterian Home for Children and a chaplain at various state parks. She’s currently enrolled as a M.Div. student at Dubuque Theological Seminary. “The timing is now right. The call will become clearer. The call to a specific area of ministry will become clearer. I’m excited about the discernment process.”

Someone else seated in the pews could also hear the call. Cammie, Courtney, Emily, Mary Sellers and Peyton encourage those individuals to simply listen and trust God.

# welcome TO IPC



**Debra Atchinson**  
New Member



**Kyle Fessler**  
New Member



**Parker Rose**  
New Member



**Mallory Lane  
Burr Weatherly**  
New Members



**Paul Ehrhardt  
Emily Shoen**  
New Members



**Emily Frandsen**  
New Staff  
Interim Youth Director



**Henry Scott**  
New Staff  
Recess Program  
Assistant

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



# A MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

NOVEMBER ORGAN RECITAL SERIES ARTISTS LOOK FORWARD TO "MEETING"

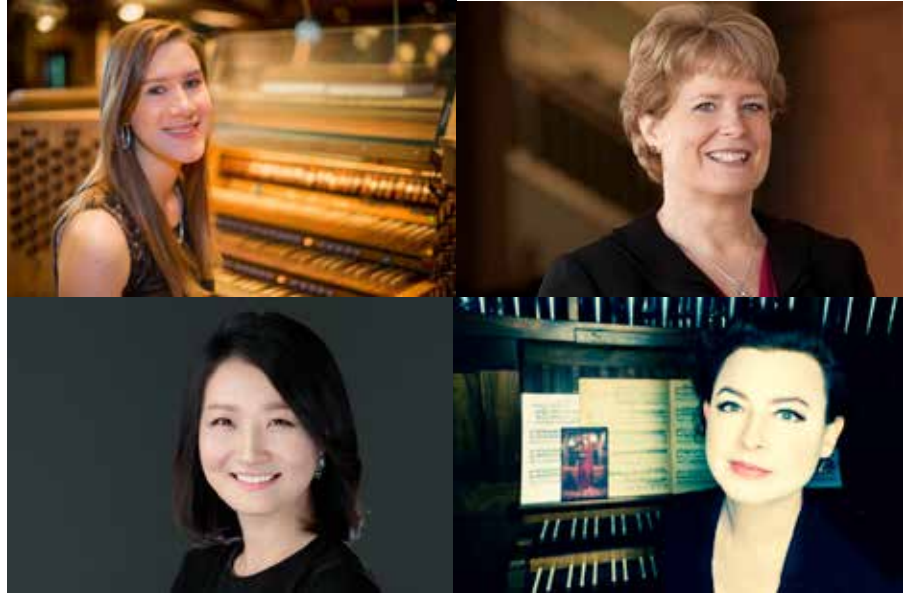
A typical meeting often involves exchanging names and a handshake. But when four women each take a seat at the Joseph W. Schreiber Memorial Organ for the November Organ Recital Series, introductions will come by way of the press of a foot pedal or key and musical notes.

"Getting to know a new-to-me organ is like getting to know a fascinating new person. I absolutely love the process, finding out: What are its strong points? How can I enable its unique voices to sing at their best? What new combinations of sounds can I discover?," says organist Jan Kraybill who is the Organ Conservator at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, and Organist-in-Residence at the international headquarters of Community of Christ in Independence, Missouri.

"An organ is an instrument of breath and wind, each one unique just as each human voice is unique," says Caroline Robinson, the Minister of Music at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Pittsford, NY.

"I think things that I most cherish and look forward to each time I sit at a new instrument are what it has to teach me, and what sounds or characteristics are unique to it that I can hope to use in a beautiful way that emphasizes and enhances those things," adds organist Damin Spritzer, an Assistant Professor of Organ at the University of Oklahoma with the American Organ Institute and the Cathedral Church of Saint Matthew in Dallas as Artist-in-Residence for Cathedral Arts.

These organists will have the opportunity to meet this new friend, Independent Presbyterian Church's Dobson Pipe Organ, on Sundays in November. This organ recital series, which has featured more than 160 artists since 1965, will welcome Robinson, Kraybill, Dongho Lee, Artist-in-Residence at Providence United Methodist Church



RECITAL SERIES ARTISTS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CAROLINE ROBINSON, JAN KRAYBILL, DONGHO LEE AND DAMIN SPRITZER

in Charlotte, NC and Director of Music Ministries and Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Belmont, NC and Spritzer. Each one has at least one favorite piece that they look forward to hearing on the Dobson. Robinson looks forward to "the whole thing." Lee cannot wait to hear how the Dobson handles repertoire spanning three centuries. For Spritzer, it's *Tuba Mirabili* because of her love of English organ music. Kraybill's choice will be rooted in the importance of the day her performance falls on- November 11, Armistice Day which marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

"This organ's majestic trumpets and gorgeous strings, and everything in between, will contribute great emotion and beauty to the program I've designed, simply called 'Peace.' I am so looking forward to playing it there," says Kraybill.

All of these women were drawn to the organ's "majestic and beautiful" sounds at a young age. Some followed their family's love for organ music. Others were encouraged by organists at their childhood churches.

"What inspired me to become an

organist is what inspires many to do so: the power of the instrument in the building. Nothing else, except maybe an earthquake, can shake a building to its core in a way that the congregation (or audience) can feel. I loved the way I could feel the building move when the instrument roared. I also loved its more tender moments. There's a range of expression that few instruments can achieve," says Lee.

Over the years, they've travelled the world performing and earning accolades for their musical gifts. Each will add Independent Presbyterian Church to its performance venues in November. Don't miss these performances on Sundays at 4 pm. It's the Music & Fine Arts' gift to you and the community.

RECITAL  
SCHEDULE

**Nov. 4** Caroline Robinson  
**Nov. 11** Jan Kraybill  
**Nov. 18** Dongho Lee  
**Nov. 25** Damin Spritzer

Recitals begin at 4 pm.  
All are free.  
Open to the public.



STUDENTS BOWING THEIR HEADS IN PRAYER DURING CHAPEL, WHICH THE CHILDREN ATTEND DAILY. PHOTO: VIRGINIA JONES

## SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

### *2018 Program by the Numbers*

BY CATHERINE GOUDREAU, DIR. OF CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FARM

- **Grades served:** 3rd, 4th, and 5th
- **Graduates:** 73
- **Reading hours per camper:** 42
- **Math hours per camper:** 42
- **Academic achievement the average student loses if not engaged in summer learning:** 3 months
- **Average academic gain in reading:** 2 months
- **Average academic gain in math:** 5.5 months

We are proud of all our students who made incredible academic gains. They also participate in swimming, music, drama, nutrition, physical education, drumming, STEAM, chapel, soccer, dance, yoga, and field trips.

We are thankful to every teacher, volunteer, and donor who made this summer possible. We forward to an even bigger and better summer 2019.

## BRIEFS

### *MaryAnn McKibben Dana Visits IPC*

Focus on Faith invites you to a special Sunday event with pastor, author, and blogger Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana. The author of numerous books including *Sabbath in the Suburbs* and *God, Improv and the Art of Living* will speak during the Sunday school hour in Highland Hall then serve as our guest preacher during 5 pm worship. Following the evening service, she will lead a theological roundtable at 6:30 pm at Clubhouse on Highland.

**Details:** [ipc-usa.org](http://ipc-usa.org) > connect

### *Preparing Children, Youth for Christmas*

The Season of Christmas is about preparing ourselves for the arrival of the Christ-child. Here at IPC, many of our holiday traditions are centered around our own children and telling the story of Jesus' birth.

Our fifth graders will once again present the Christmas Pageant followed by a Birthday Party for Jesus on December 9. All of our children will bring tidings of joy to women and children while carolling at First Light on December 5.

On Wednesdays, the Children's and Youth Ministries now provide community service opportunities to help local ministries, like STAIR. (Second Wednesdays for K- 6. All Wednesdays for youth.) Youth will also participate in an annual food pantry scavenger hunt to stock the IPC Food Pantry. Anyone can donate to the Harvest for Hunger Drive to help stock the pantry October 21- November 18.

**Look for details in upcoming weekly emails.**

SAVE THE  
dates

<b>January 1</b>	New Year's Day. Offices Closed
<b>January 9</b>	Wednesday Nights Resume Rehearsals for Children's Spring Musical
<b>January 27</b>	Evensong
<b>February 4- 10</b>	Religious Arts Festival
<b>March 23- 31</b>	Chiapus, Mexico Mission Trip. Contact: Brian Lays, <a href="mailto:blays@ipc-usa.org">blays@ipc-usa.org</a>
<b>June 3- 7</b>	VBS (Age 3- 5K); BTMP (Grades 1- 5)
<b>June 28- July 7</b>	Rwanda Mission Trip. Contact: Susan Clayton, <a href="mailto:sclayton@ipc-usa.org">sclayton@ipc-usa.org</a>

## STEWARDSHIP

*An Act of Trust, Faith,  
Devotion*

BY REV. LUCY TURNER, DIR. OF  
STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

Fall is a season marked by many events and traditions. I always look forward to the new football season, the changing colors of the season, the coolness of the air and the anticipation of Thanksgiving and Christmas with family and friends. Among the events and traditions of the church is the annual stewardship campaign when members are asked to make a pledge for the coming year. What is a pledge?

You may think of it simply as a **financial commitment** to share in the funding of the annual budget of the church. However, the pledge you make is so much more. It is also a **sign of trust** in the men and women whom God has called to be the leaders of IPC. The building of the annual budget begins with input from the committees and ministry teams and ends with the vote of the Session on a balanced budget.

Even more, your pledge is an **expression of faith**. From the beginning of his ministry on Earth, Jesus has depended upon disciples to spread the gospel. Your pledge is your response to the call of Jesus Christ so that God's word may continue to be heard in our city and is the means by which good works may be done in Christ's name. Finally, your pledge is an **act of devotion**. Love is expressed in many ways. Your pledge is one way for you to show your love for our gracious God and the body of Christ known as IPC. As you consider your pledge for 2019, I ask that you think on these things and pray about how you may share in the call of God to IPC.



YOUTH HELPING TO STOCK THE IPC FOOD PANTRY THROUGH THE ANNUAL YOUTH PANTRY STOCK

## SERVE OTHERS

*'Tis the Season for Giving*

**The holidays provide countless opportunities to use your God-given talents in service to others.**

- Youth can stock IPC Food Pantry at October 14 Pantry Scavenger Hunt. Contact: Emily Frandsen, 903-0211
- Youth and children (K-6) can participate in community service projects on select Wednesday nights from 6:15- 7:15 pm. Contact: Emily Frandsen, 903-0211 (youth) or Stacy Pulliam, spulliam@ipc-usa.org, 933-3690
- Donate non-perishable food items for IPC Food Pantry through the Harvest for Hunger Food Drive October 21- November 18.
- Buy tickets to the Holiday House Tour December 8- 9.
- Serve as a Holiday House host. Contact: Hallerin Hill, hhill@ipc-usa.org
- Bake cookies for Holiday House tea.
- Volunteer in a house or park cars at Holiday House. Contact: Rusty Boyd, boyd.rusty@gmail.com
- Honor loved ones by making a Christmas Flower Contribution by November 29. We'll include their names in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin. Contact: Lea Anne Hardy, lhardy@ipc-usa.org, 933-1803.
- Purchase fruit and support the mission of the IPC Choir. Contact: Barb Fillmer, bfillmer@ipc-usa.org, 933-3700
- Make a gift to the Giving Tree from December 2- 23. Contact: Susan Clayton, sclayton@ipc-usa.org
- Volunteer at the Advent Workshop on December 2. Contact: Stacy Pulliam, spulliam@ipc-usa.org, 933-3690

# HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

BY PENNEY HARTLINE, HOLIDAY HOUSE CHAIR

**I**t is hard to believe that 2018 will represent the 69th year for the Independent Presbyterian Church Holiday House Tour. The tour takes place on Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9. You will not want to miss it!

The Holiday House Committee is excited to announce Val and George Holman, Alice and Bob Schleusner, and William McClure have graciously offered to share their homes with us. In addition to the private homes, our members will decorate the Sanctuary, Parlor, Chapel, and Great Hall where everyone is invited to the Holiday Tea.

We are grateful for the volunteers that work to make the tour a success every year. The committee is supported annually by more than 250 volunteers. These volunteers serve a variety of roles: house chairs, hosts, tickets sales, publicity, decorators, bakers, traffic and parking coordinators, and greeters. Whatever your STRENGTH may be – we have a spot for you!

Over the past 5 years alone, the tour has welcomed 10,000 plus visitors, organized 1,300 volunteers, hosted 28 homes, condominiums, or businesses, served over 6,000 finger sandwiches, baked countless homemade snacks from our very own Holiday House Cookbook, tied hundreds of bows, hung lots of garland, and raised over \$150,000 in proceeds. The monies raised by The Holiday House tour provide addi-



GREAT HALL DECORATED FOR THE HOLIDAY HOUSE TEA. DECORATIONS AND HOMEMADE COOKIES PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEERS. PHOTO: BILL MCKELVEY

tional funds to select organizations supporting women and children. The Children's Fresh Air Farm, The Open Door, STAIR, Presbyterian Home for Children and First Light have received recent gifts.

To be a part of this tradition, look

for volunteer opportunities soon in the weekly emails, bulletins, and in the parlor. Volunteering for a two hour shift is a great way to get meet other members, have some fun, and get into the holiday spirit. We have a spot for you!

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED



Contact Hallerin Hill, [hhill@ipc-usa.org](mailto:hhill@ipc-usa.org) or Penney Hartline, [pphotline@mindspring.com](mailto:pphotline@mindspring.com) to volunteer with the Holiday House Tour

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Join the Women of the Church and guest speaker Margot Shaw, Founder/Editor of *Flower Magazine* on Thursday, November 29



INDEPENDENT  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# CHRISTMAS AT IPC

MUSIC, WORSHIP AND EVENTS

## CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST-CHILD

### Christ the King Hymn Festival

Sunday, November 25, 8:45 am and 11 am

### Holiday House Tour

Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9

### Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 9, 10 am

### Storyteller and IPC member Dolores Hydock

Sunday, December 16, 10 am

### Christmas Concert with ASO

Sunday, December 16, 4 pm

Hear the IPC Choir and Alabama Symphony Orchestra  
perform Poulenc's *Gloria*

### Junior League Chorus Performance

Monday, December 17, 10:30 am, Great Hall  
Special Birmingham Men's Club event.

### Noon Nativity Service

Monday, December 24, 12 pm

### Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Monday, December 24, 4 pm and 6 pm