

■ January 2025



CHRISTMAS WEEK
PICTURES

--PAGES 5 & 6

The
Irvington
Presbyterian Church Est. 1906
www.irvpresby.org

Come worship with us at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday!

2025

Happy New Year

May the New Year be a time of spiritual growth, renewed faith,
and abundant blessings for you and your loved ones.

Where Will You Be in 2031?

“Never count your chickens before they hatch!” That phrase was one that was uttered often growing up on a chicken farm, but it is one that has helped me keep myself in check when I start getting excited about something that isn’t quite fully incubated. As with most clichés, however, there’s an alternate side to that: if you never count the eggs, you won’t know how big to build the hen house! Without a plan or dream that is rooted in possibility, how could you ever get ahead?

So, my friends, I’m asking for your help in counting the eggs, imagining what possibilities are incubating, and dreaming what could be possible with what might hatch! Don’t worry, there will be no fowl activity involved! (I won’t even pretend like that’s the end of my chicken jokes...)

Over the next few weeks, you will start seeing some prompts around the Church, in bulletins and pews, etc. They will be the beginning of a dream or a story that you might tell about IPC except they will be stories you will tell in 2031 – at our church’s 125th anniversary (our quasiquicentennial).

You may think this all sounds vaguely familiar, and that may be due to IPC’s pre-pandemic consultant who came and offered some potential storylines that were meant to help us imagine the possibilities for our church. We are a different Church doing some different things in a new world now. It only makes sense to do some dreaming and imagine what is possible in this time of our Church’s life.

Why are we doing this? Because Session is interested in getting feedback and input from you! What dreams do you have? What is God doing in your life and how is God moving in your heart that might resonate with others? Everyone’s ideas will be compiled and reviewed, highlighting creative ideas, repeated themes, unforeseen similarities or obvious trends... Your ideas and stories will help inform the Elders as they continue shaping the activities and programs that IPC uses to fulfil our calling to serve Christ and the world. We plan to review everyone’s submissions in late February, so you’ll only have a few weeks!

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From the Archives...

The Little Brick Church

In 1906, a hearty group of 100 Irvingtonians met in the auditorium of School 57 to decide they would seek permission to establish Irvington Presbyterian Church. Amos W. Butler led that meeting, a petition was put before the Presbytery of Indianapolis, and Irvington Presbyterian Church was established.

As they continued to worship in Carr's Hall, and School 57 and in a tent, they knew their next step was to build a church to gather the charter members, and then to grow their congregation. But where?

One of the co-founders of Irvington, Sylvester Johnson, owned land around his beautiful Italianate home on the west side of Audubon Ave. He agreed to sell a lot at the corner of Johnson Avenue and Julian Avenue to the new Presbyterians. Most importantly, IPC member and architect Benjamin Weesner (1841-1921) created the design for a "little brick church" to welcome all on that lot. (They delayed breaking ground until 1907 so that Sylvester Johnson could harvest his produce planted there).

The little brick church was dedicated in 1908 with the "front door" welcoming worshippers at 55 South Johnson Ave. It had a gymnasium on the north side of the brick church (and we are still seeking photos of that area north of the church.)

By 1924, IPC was quickly out-growing the small brick church. Through much discussion, and financial consideration, the decision was made to create a much larger edifice by tearing down the brick church and gymnasium in order to build the current limestone Irvington Presbyterian Church.

More history to follow!



History geeks—

Frank Hurdis and Sheri Patterson

**Alzheimer's Support Groups
for Caregivers continue to
take place here at Irvington
monthly on the 2nd Tuesday in
the parlor at 1 p.m.**

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IN MEMORY OF Barbara Wood

June 29, 1927 — December 5, 2024
The Christian sympathy of the
congregation is extended to the
family and friends of Barbara Wood.

OUR STORY, OUR FUTURE: A VISION BY IPC

In January 2019, IPC embarked on a sacred journey by completing the New Beginnings assessment with the Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation. The process presented three different visions of IPC’s future, yet none fully resonated with the hearts and spirits of IPC members. Then, the challenges of COVID-19 lock downs paused our path, and these stories and dreams were set aside.

Now, having had time to understand our post-Pandemic world and ever guided by faith and the renewed call of the Spirit, our family of faith can dream what might be the future of IPC.

Every member and friend of the congregation is invited to join in crafting a shared vision for IPC, imagining a story of our church 7 to 10 years from now – a vision born from our collective hopes, prayers, and dreams. The fruits of this journey will be a portrayal of IPC’s future envisioned by IPC, inspiring us as we strive toward a unified and God-led future, and equipping Session with an understanding of the sense of call within the membership of IPC.

Please submit you story for consolidation by Jan 31 to: VisionByIPC@irvpresby.org

Let us come together, write a story, and step boldly into the future God has prepared for us.

Start your story here: *I was there standing {where} a beautiful limestone church in Irvington,* _____

Living
In
Fellowship
Together

JOCKAMO’S TASTING PARTY *Monday, January 20th at 6:30 pm*

Jockamo’s private back room has been reserved for a tasting party of various pizzas, salads and drinks. We will be sampling both white and red wines; and pitchers of water, iced tea and soft drinks will also be available. The cost will be \$22 per person (tip included).

Mark your calendar for a fun evening of fellowship! We will gather on Monday, January 20th at 6:30 pm. Women of all ages are welcome and please feel free to invite a friend to join us – the more the merrier! We will be collecting feminine hygiene products for Westminster. Please contact Kathy Moorhead (317-430-3402) if you have any questions and to also let her know if you will be attending.



L.I.F.T. Cookie Exchange

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday school classes are filled with eager young hearts, and we need your love and energy to help them grow! In the new year we invite you to volunteer with our Christian Education department.

Teaching Sunday school is about sharing life, hope, and faith across generations. You're making a lasting impact that blesses the children and your heart.

Whether you love storytelling, crafts, or simply nurturing young minds, there's a place for you here. Your time is a blessing to our families, and we can't do it without you.

If you're ready to help or want to learn more, reach out to Pastor Maureen at mwilson@irvpresby.org

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You'll find some of the prompts around the Church, but here are some things that may help get your imagination moving:

Where might you be in 2031? What do you imagine your connection to IPC might be? Will you be able to volunteer or join some committee work? Could you be empty-nesting or grand-babysitting? What legacy would you want to have lingering of you in this place?

Think of something IPC has or does that meets a need. If IPC poured all its energy into that, what could be possible in 7 years? What would the Church building look like? Who would be here? And when?

Or imagine the Church was given \$5 million by a generous donor who said that it needed to be used by the Church within 7 years to help it serve more of Irvington or Indianapolis AND that YOU had to choose how to spend it. What would you suggest we do?

What is something that the church could do but would be crazy to try? What is the risk? And what could be the reward?

Some simple examples: Irvington needs a grocery store. What would happen if IPC used our parking lot to build a grocery store and used any profits to pay for groceries for those in need in our neighbourhood?

What would happen if we removed the 3rd floor and un-renovated it into a gym—or transformed it into a space for large group gatherings or community events or concerts?

What is the craziest thing the Church could do that would stop people in their tracks and make them think, "Wow, they are gutsy, but they certainly love Jesus!"

This is just to get the creative juices flowing, friends, so don't be apprehensive or worried; let the Holy Spirit dream some dreams with us!

Grateful for the chance to imagine some possibilities with you,

UNHANG THE GREENS

It's always a little sad to take down all the decorations after the excitement and anticipation of Advent and Christmas. Yet, this allows us the needed time to catch our breath as we begin a new year. Please plan to help immediately after worship on Sunday, January 5th as we "unhang" the Greens. Many hands make light the work. Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Moorhead.

The Justice Advocacy Team needs YOU!

The IPC Justice Advocacy Team needs YOU! The JAT will be meeting to plan events and share ideas/opportunities to learn more about social justice issues facing our community for 2025. If you would like to learn more about how you might become involved, mark your calendar for our next meeting.

We will be meeting on Sunday, January 26th after worship in Room 24. For more information, please contact Kathy Moorhead at 317-430-3402.







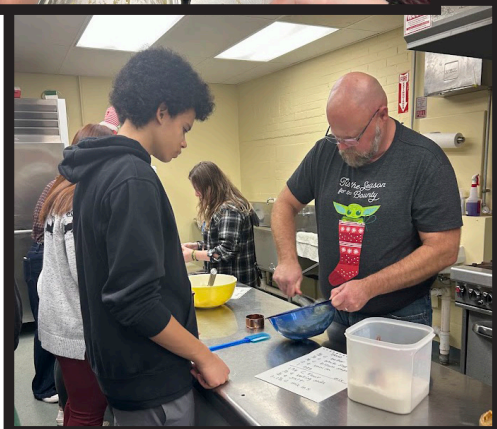
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the parlor at 10 a.m. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Steve Payne. All are welcome.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Please join us the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor for the Women's Bible Study. This Bible study is led by Rev. Wilson. All are welcome!



YOUTH NEWS

Youth Update:

Reflecting on a Joyful Season

Celebrating Advent with our youth was a wonderful experience! We shared in the joy of the season by watching a Christmas movie, baking and gifting cookies, and experiencing beautiful luminarias. Many of our youth also participated in one or both of the Christmas Eve services, making the season even more meaningful.

We wrapped up the year with plenty of laughter and fellowship at our New Year's Eve party.

Our youth group continues to grow, averaging 10 participants each week, and we're thrilled to see many of them bringing friends. It's heartwarming to know they want to share this special time with others beyond our church family.

As we step into 2025, we're excited to continue growing together in fun, faith, and food!

Stay updated with our latest events and photos by following us on Instagram @ [irvpresbyyouth](#).

If you are in 6th-12th grade, we can't wait to see you at our upcoming activities!

JANUARY 5
5:30-7:30

JANUARY 12
5:30-7:30

JANUARY 19
5:30-7:30

JANUARY 26
5:30-7:30

Irvington Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

55 Johnson Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46219-6498

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JACK'S O R N E R

This time of year, I read stories of Christmas cheer. One story which struck me was about a woman named Patricia Gallagher. She was lonely back in 2009 when she got the impulse to visit nursing homes and read "Twas the Night Before Christmas"

to the residents. She called two of them and they gladly welcomed her. She gathered up all the stuffed animals she had accumulated over the years. She handed them out to the seniors to hold while she read. After the reading, she tried to collect them in order to pass them out at the next nursing home. No one wanted to give them back. The animals brought great joy to the seniors. She put an ad on craigslist asking for stuffed animals.

In the first two years she collected 11,000 stuffed animals. Local schools started holding toy drives and she was receiving about 200 a week. She now not only goes to senior living, but homes for veterans and retired nuns. It reminds all of them of when they

were kids. So many wonderful stories this time of year.

Here's the website if you want to look at it. It has pictures:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/patricia-gallagher-stuffed-animals-christmas-gifts-for-seniors-philadelphia/>



Next month I'm sitting down with Pastor Jonathan and talking about the confusing parts of the Bible.