# November 2026



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Michael and Baylor Bates upon the birth of their son, Calvin Earl Bates, on October 28, 2026.

A meal train has been set up as the Bates' transition to caring for a newborn.
https://irvpc.link/bates-family

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



## WINTERIZATION

In the 90s, my parents owned a 1970 camper trailer that we hauled around the county during the summers to support our weeks of camping with friends and family. Every Fall, we would dedicate a Saturday to be Winterization Day: we would prepare the camper for winter hibernation by cleaning it inside and out, flushing all the plumbing with antifreeze, adding strategically placed mouse traps, tossing in some mothballs for good measure, and wrapping it in a big blue tarp before tucking it away at the back of the farm for the next six months.

Winterizing at Church doesn't involve mothballs or antifreeze, but it does involve some intentional preparation. The Sunday before Thanksgiving marks the end of the liturgical year, so after worship we will clean up Communion, change the sacramental Whites to Advent purples, do some Hanging of the Greens, eat like we're entering a state of hibernation, and hunker down for Advent.

We will spend November preparing for this winterization! How? Primarily through gratitude and hope.

### GRATITUDE

It's that time of year: we count our blessings and give thanks to the God who provides for our every need. Thanksgiving reminds us to give thanks for our family and friends; for our homes and our church home; for our resources and opportunities; for more than enough to not only live but to thrive!

*Continued on Page 3*

*Please join us for*

## A Thanksgiving Celebration!

We will gather to celebrate our community, our connections, the many blessings in our lives, and our Stewardship pledges!

November 22nd after worship in Fellowship Hall

Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy and rolls will be provided. If you are able, please bring a salad or side dish if your last name begins with A-M or a dessert if your last name begins with N-Z.

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."*

— Psalm 107:1

**Come give thanks with your IPC family at our annual Thanksgiving Pitch-In!**

Bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share and join us for good food, good conversation, and plenty of fellowship. After all, Jesus spent a lot of time around the table with friends—and we see no reason to break with tradition. Plus, calories consumed in Fellowship Hall are widely believed to fall under grace.

Whether your specialty is a treasured family recipe, a pie worthy of its own hymn of praise, or something you picked up at Kroger on the way to church (no judgment—grace abounds!), bring it along.

There's always room for one more at the table. Come hungry, come thankful, and come ready to enjoy time together as a church family.



# Building LEGACY

Faith • Family • Future

Think back to when you first attended church, sat in a committee meeting, worked a trustee clean-up, or volunteered in some capacity with the church. Remember who was there with you; we have been blessed with generations of members who devoted their time and care to this church. They ensured that the work of God was done here in Irvington, and they also beautifully maintained this building so that we could continue to serve God in it.

Now it is our turn; our turn to continue maintaining the building so that future generations may continue to worship here. We, as members and visitors, come and go. The staff retires or moves on to other opportunities. God is the only continual part of this church: to ensure that future generations have a place to sing hymns of praise, plan mission outreach, listen to the word of God, pray, and join in fellowship, we ask you to consider giving to the capital campaign.

*Contribute to the Capital Campaign*

This campaign will fund the replacement of the HVAC system that services the sanctuary, window repairs, masonry work, electrical upgrades, and flat roof replacement. Please continue the legacy of stewardship of past generations.

## WELLNESS FAIR BIG THANK YOU

A BIG thank you to YOU! The fourth Irvington Halloween Festival Wellness Fair was a huge success. Participation increased by over 23%, with over 330 people learning about local services and ways to improve their health. Our neighbors were thrilled to win smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, fire blankets, first aid kits, thermometers, bicycle helmets, or a gift card from Irvington Wellness Center. In addition to receiving lots of "swag" from our partners, our neighbors also received a tasty bag of apples.

Community Hospital East was busy with administering over 100 flu shots. We also collected about 100lbs of expired and unwanted medications, which will be disposed of properly so they don't contaminate our water and soil. Jane Pauley Health Clinics provided blood pressure checks. ICAN and Overdose Lifeline were excited to share over 220 Naloxone kits with our neighbors.

Our neighbors and partners shared some of their thoughts on the event. "Thank you for all you provide for all of us in Irvington." "I look forward to this every year." "Everyone was so nice and helpful. We appreciate all that you do for our community." "Love this place." We overwhelmingly learned that both our neighbors and community partners are planning to attend again next year.

Thank you for donating to purchase our drawing prizes and yummy desserts. Thank you for inviting your friends and neighbors to attend. Thank you for donating blood and visiting our providers. Thank you for volunteering on Friday and Saturday.

Because of you, the Wellness Fair has become an event our neighbors and community partners look forward to. Because of you, we have shared hospitality and care with everyone who entered our doors. Thank you.

## Fellowship Hour Changes Coming Soon!

At the beginning of 2027, there will be some changes in how Fellowship Hour is organized. A different scheduling model will be started with individuals, small groups, or families signing up to host in lieu of committees, boards, etc. Watch for more details soon!





*Continued from Page 1*

It's also the season when we are called upon to respond to God by dedicating our gifts and skills to building up one another, our community, our congregation, and our world. We are receiving gifts for our physical building, but also dedicating our pledges for next year as we look toward the future of IPC's ministry in 2027 and beyond. We will commit to our ministry together and spend time discerning our identity and our ever-changing call.

We are starting the month with celebration for new life in our midst as we baptize the children of Chris & Maggie Hansen and Emeline & Scott Thompson (Foster and Theodore, the grandsons of David & Susan Hansen), an example of the generations of families who have been part of IPC. In the weeks that follow, we will share Bibles with our 3rd grade students, dedicate gifts to the Capital Campaign's first goal; pledge support for the 2027 church budget; come together to celebrate Thanksgiving as a church family; hear the Word of God proclaimed by four different pastors… And that is just on Sunday mornings!

Thanksgiving calls for reflection on the past; offers joy and celebration; prompts generosity; and drives discernment and…

**HOPE**

The last Sunday of November will feel different as it marks that transition from Thanksgiving to the new Church year and Advent: when we settle in and wait for the coming of the Promised One. We light candles, and we quiet our hearts in hope. We wait for the good news that God is born. We prepare with pageants and presents, yet in the midst of our busy waiting, we know all too well that the world is not as it should be… The echoes of thanksgiving celebrations linger in the halls, but they are falling behind the darkness of winter, the weight of the world's brokenness, and small flickering flames that embody our hope for the Messiah.

We will journey together into Advent using the theme Until the Dawn, focusing on the actions we can take that acknowledge the long nights and darkness of the season, yet recalling the promises that grant us hope for the future. We will remember—with gratitude—the promises of what will come, the reminder that this season of rest brings dreams and regeneration, and the call for courageous actions like singing songs that proclaim hope and the Good News.

It's a month of WINTERIZING, friends! I'm looking forward to a month full of responding in gratitude and preparing in hope.

Grateful to have YOU on my list of many blessings,

Pastor Jon

## HANGING of the GREENS

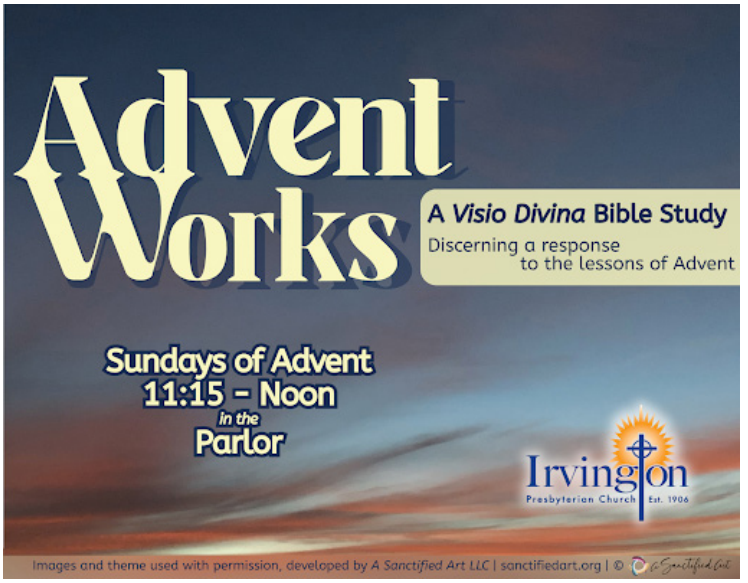
Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 29th, immediately after worship, to prepare our beautiful sanctuary for the Advent Season. All are welcome, and no experience is necessary. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Moorhead at 317-430-3402.

**The church will be closed on the following days:**

Veterans Day, November 11
Thanksgiving, November 26
November 27—Day after Thanksgiving
December 24—Christmas Eve
December 25 – Christmas Day
December 28 – Monday after Christmas
New Year's Eve, 31 is ½ day
*(The Church Office will be open from 9-noon)*
New Year's Day, January 1, 2026

## GIVING THANKS OFFERING

The Giving Thanks Offering helps the church's budget attempt to end on a positive note. You may give any amount you choose. You can contribute anytime during the month of December. Envelopes will be in the pews, and you will receive one. The church and Finance Committee thank you for all your gifts during 2026.



## L.I.F.T Christmas Party & Cookie Exchange

### *December 7th*

**Need a break from the hectic pace of holiday preparations? Looking for fellowship, fun, and relaxation?**

**You're invited to the LIFT Christmas gathering. Because of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we'll have a combined gathering on Monday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor.**

**We will gather for our annual Christmas party and cookie exchange. It is perfectly fine not to participate in the cookie exchange. This is not to add one more thing to your to-do list. If you'd like to exchange cookies, please bring a large batch of your favorite cookie. Women of all ages are welcome, and you're welcome to invite a friend to join us. Mark this date on your calendar for a fun evening of fellowship together. Please bring a snack or beverage to share. We will be collecting feminine hygiene products for Westminster. Contact Kathy Moorhead (317-430-3402) if you have any questions.**

## Missions Possible

**The cold months and the holidays are coming! The Mission Committee invites you to wrap up 2026 with warmth for Westminster Neighborhood Services children and families.**

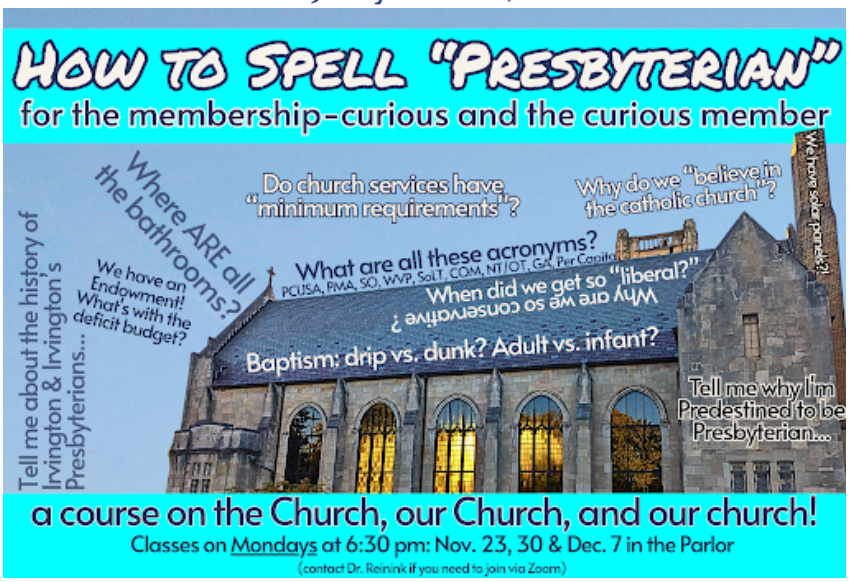
**The Annual Christmas Tree, located in the Welcome Center, will accept your donations of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves. You may deliver your purchases to the A.C.T. in the Mission Alcove any time from November 1st to November 20th.**

**The Annual Christmas Food Bags will be distributed to families on December 12th. We will be collecting tuna, baked beans, and pasta from November 15th to December 8th. These A.C.F.B. items can be placed on the designated shelves in the Mission Alcove.**

**In conjunction with this collection, you are invited to help pack the Food Bags at Westminster Neighborhood Services on Friday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. IPC has been involved in packing for several years, and if you have never helped with the packing, please come join the "veteran packing group" to fill the bags. The more the merrier!**

**Thank you for helping others stay warm inside and out. Your kindness through these donations is greatly appreciated by all who receive it.**

***--Jenny Giddens, Mission Committee Chair***




## THANK YOU

**Gary and I wanted to thank everyone who came and was a part of the When We Walk by workshop. We are looking forward to all of your questions and concerns about the workshop. Gary and I plan to host a couple of additional workshops and would like anyone interested to attend. We will let you know when these workshops will take place.**

**As Mother Teresa said, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other—that man, that woman, that child is my brother or sister."**

**See you in Church!**
**Gary Conway and Jackie Cox**



## 2027 PER CAPITA

Every member is apportioned a share of the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly expenses for administrative purposes. The per-member amount is a regular expense payable by the church in January. The amount to be paid this year per member is: $47.00.





We thank the Earlham College Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, under the direction of IPC Director of Music Doug Shafer-Johnson, and Percussion Program members, under the direction of Keith Cozart Steele, for putting on a fantastic concert at IPC on October 25th as part of their Fall Tour!

Earlham College

## EXPRESSING ONE'S SHELF

The IPC Book Club (no, really, we do read and discuss!) has started a new chapter! Usually the Book Club meets every other month to talk about a chosen book, but we thought that it would be fun in the off months to meet and share other authors and books that we have read and enjoyed. On October 14th, we met and had a lively discussion about some of our favorites.

Among the writers and their works highlighted were:

- *The Daughter of Montague* series by Christina Dodd, a mystery series reframing of Romeo and Juliet in which the star-crossed lovers didn't die
- *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid, a fictional account of an actress and her seven husbands over the course of her life
- *The Dollhouse, The Chelsea Girls, The Spectacular, and The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis, works of fiction centering on New York City landmarks
- *Beholder* by Ryan La Sala, a moving YA novel

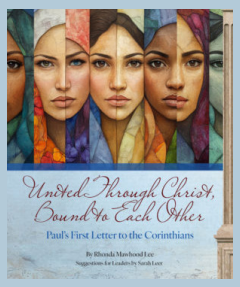
It was a fun evening and a future favorites meetup may happen in the new year in addition to the regularly scheduled November 11th book discussion of Richard Paul Evans' *The Christmas Stranger*.

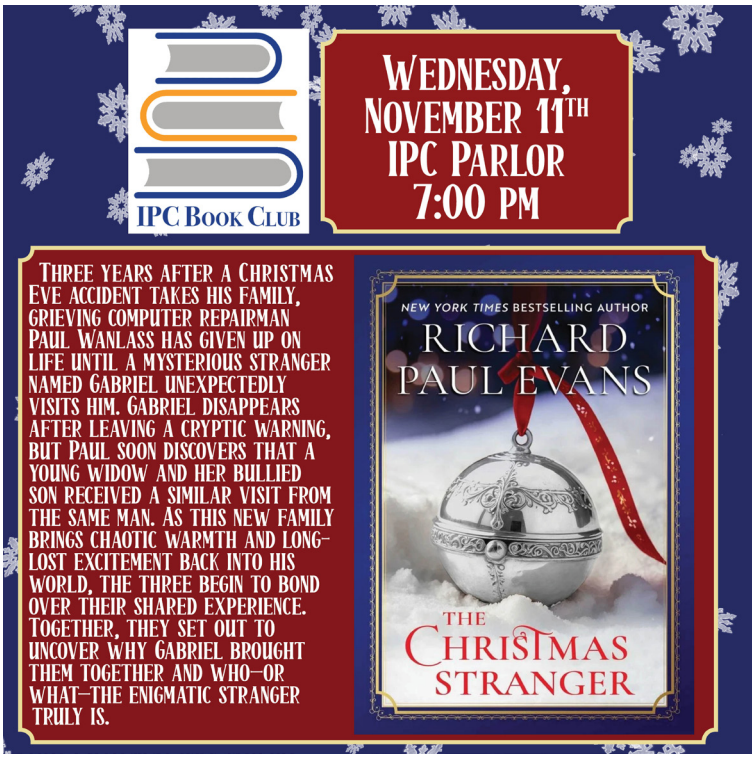
## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Third Thursdays of each month at 10:30 AM in the Parlor

Followed by lunch at a local restaurant

This year's book:
*United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*
Author: Rhonda Mawhood Lee
Book cost: $14
Contact Gail McNierney with questions.



# YOUTH & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM NEWS



**YOUTH NEWS:**

The youth group has continued meeting weekly and recently went on an outing to an apple orchard! We took the church bus and our friends from Downey Christian Church to Anderson Orchard for apple picking, cider, and cobbler.

The youth will be decorating the church bus for the IPC trunk or treat! I am looking forward to seeing all the kids who come out for a second round of candy and costumes that evening.

**KID NEWS:**

The kids have been meeting for the usual Sunday school programming, and we've had a great turnout from adults who are first-time Sunday School volunteers helping lead lessons and crafts.

I'm already planning ahead for Christmas Eve, so anyone who wants to participate in that service as part of the kids' program should reach out.

Some of the kids and I also recently had fun with Pastor Jon right after church for a few Sundays, learning more about communion and how to be an acolyte! No one spilled grape juice, nothing was lit on fire except the candles, and everyone had a good time.

**UPCOMING YOUTH NEWS:**

This winter, we've got plans for the youth: our annual Friendsgiving, a Christmas Cookie Decorating Party, and a lock-in and Pancake Supper fundraiser. If anyone wants to volunteer with the teens for these events, please reach out to me!

# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1st in Fellowship Hall following worship, we will celebrate all November birthdays! We will have cake and other goodies! If we have omitted anyone's birthday, it may not be recorded in the church office. You can email Lori at lchapman@irvpresby.org to share your birthdate.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Patte Owings* | *November 1* |
| *Paul Medlock* | *November 7* |
| *Alice Ritchie* | *November 10* |
| *Nicholis Burkett* | *November 11* |
| *Jennifer Harris* | *November 11* |
| *Cameron Harris* | *November 12* |
| *Mercedes Roots* | *November 13* |
| *Lloyd Crain* | *November 14* |
| *William Rowan* | *November 14* |
| *Susan Hansen* | *November 15* |
| *Christopher Hansen* | *November 17* |
| *Matthew Hansen* | *November 17* |
| *Mamie Hawks* | *November 17* |
| *Lily Young* | *November 20* |
| *Lori Chapman* | *November 25* |
| *Theodore Duggal* | *November 25* |
| *TJ Hengst* | *November 25* |
| *Donna Tindall* | *November 26* |
| *Kaiden Harris* | *November 27* |
| *Ann Kitchen* | *November 29* |

## 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!

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.

alz.org® | alzheimer's association

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Norma Deane Pittman**

*October 22, 1930 - June 26, 2026*

IPC extends our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Norma, who died in June.

# From the Archives…

## *VOLUNTEER*









***A noun and a verb… both show love for IPC!***

***What an amazing volunteer JENNY GIDDENS is!! You know her, right?***

***A native of the Wabash, Indiana, area and a graduate of Hanover, that wonderful Presbyterian college, Jenny married the love of her life, John Giddens, on November 26, 1983. Their son, Zach, was born on April 30, 1988.***

***Sadly, John perished in a car accident shortly after Zach was born. Determined to have her son baptized, she chose Irvington Presbyterian Church in February 1989 and has been here ever since, adopting two wonderful daughters, Abby in 2001 and Emmy in 2005. Oh yes, Zach and wife Ally "gave" Jenny granddaughters Vivian (6) and Isla (3)!!***

***In 2014, Jenny volunteered to paint the Rambler Room after they removed all the carpet. Right above the Parlor, it's one of the rooms with the original wooden gym floor from 1929. 'Really charming!!' Before that, in 2006, Jenny helped Bob Lewis renovate Fellowship Hall in a variety of ways to honor IPC's 100th anniversary! BTW, Bob married Jenny's mother, Izzy, after both of their spouses passed away.***

***Jenny worked like a wild woman with the fabulous Bill Wilkens as they presented the IPC Fish Frys in the parking lot during many Irvington Halloween Festivals!! Organized notebooks are an outstanding testament to her leadership, as she continued the Fish Frys after Bill's passing. Jenny also served on the Pastor Nominating Committee when the church called Rev. Heimach as the 9th IPC Minister in 2003.***

***Jenny has taught Sunday School, filled in as youth leader before Craig and Kristin Shaw arrived, and is currently an Elder and chair of the Mission Committee (she says "since God made the earth"). You will see her on Sundays in the IPC Chancel Choir—what a gorgeous voice—and she quietly takes care of wonderful people who need extra love!!!***

***IPC recently celebrated our 120th Anniversary on June 14, 2026. In the five weeks before that, Jenny joined Gary Conway, Lynda Dunlevy, and Sheri Patterson to wash windows, scrape walls, paint walls, and lift up Fellowship Hall once again for all to enjoy!***

***Consider the word VOLUNTEER……you don't have to be Jenny Giddens, but you can VOLUNTEER in many ways at IPC! Join us in making IPC an even better place where we do God's work through our gifts, talents, and time…TOGETHER!***

***Your IPC historic geeks……***
***Frank Hurdis & Sheri Patterson***

# MY GA EXPERIENCE

**The morning of June 26 came really early (3:00 a.m.). Driving to the airport was really nice. No traffic! Both flights were great, and I arrived in Milwaukee. The volunteers were helpful, and I checked into my hotel early. The registration for GA at the Baird Center was smooth, and I registered at the same time as Rev. Bob Heimach! We agreed to meet later for dinner and attend a concert at Immanuel Presbyterian Church.**

**On Saturday, I finally met my committee members at the committee luncheon. As I said before, a 2-inch Zoom square does no one justice. After the luncheon, we were encouraged to attend the Town Square. This was a place for displays, resources, and opportunities to connect with ministry resources (lots of freebee pens). That evening, the Synod of Lincoln Trails hosted a dinner, and we met other members of our synod. On the walk to dinner, Bob and I may have witnessed a naked bicycle parade (you will have to ask me about that one!).**

**On Sunday morning, I attended Calvary Presbyterian Church, and on the way, I saw some of Milwaukee's architecture. That afternoon at 2 p.m., the assembly started. I looked around and saw about 1,000 people in that room, ready to do God's work. It was awe-inspiring! I soon discovered the internet wasn't working, and it stayed that way for the rest of**

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SEAL SEAL

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**JACK'S CORNER**



We all remember the King of Rock-in-Roll, Elvis Presley. He first appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show on September 9, 1956. An estimated 60 million people watched. His last concert tour included a June 26, 1977, show at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis, with 18,000 attendees. Elvis opened with "See See Rider Blues" and closed with "I Can't Help Falling in Love with You." He ended his concert with these words, "We'll meet you again, God Bless, adios."

Elvis and his entire entourage stayed at the Stouffer Inn at Ohio and Meridian Street. They had the entire 17th floor. The group stayed the entire week before the concert. Five Indianapolis Police officers were assigned to Elvis, and I was one of them. We had our own rooms and could order from the menu any time, as often as we wanted. Alcohol was the only exception. Our job was to keep anyone from entering the floor. Hundreds gathered around the hotel all week. Ginger Alden, Elvis's fiancée, tried to get off the elevator, and I had to send her down to the main floor. Elvis's secretary, Lamar, had to go and rescue her. In front of Elvis's room door was a black, luxurious, furry rug with Elvis in white letters. Elvis and I talked all week like we were best buddies. On Friday, Elvis traveled to Dayton, Ohio, for a concert and returned that night. We got him back to the hotel unnoticed, via a freight elevator. After his Saturday concert in Indianapolis, we were told we were the best security team he had ever had. A movie was scheduled to be filmed in Arizona in the spring. We planned to ask our Indianapolis Police Chief to assign our team to secure Elvis during the movie's filming. Elvis died on August 16, 1977. He was 42 years old.

*Continued from Page 7*

the evening. Some votes were taken the old-fashioned way – by voice. Monday and Tuesday mornings started with a church service. 1,000 voices singing in a ballroom do raise the rafters. The internet was finally working, and we got down to business. We discussed many overtures from the 12 different committees. These two nights went well into the evening. On Wednesday, there was no church service, and business started immediately. During those 3 days, were there times of tedium? Sure. I saw one table with a box of Legos! I took notes and drank numerous cups of coffee to fill in the time (thanks to Rev. McGee!). Although the days were extremely long and at times frustrating, we knew as a body that we were doing God's work for the church. Thursday was a very short day for the assembly. We chose new co-moderators, approved the GA budget for the next 2 years, and voted on the next General Assembly, to be held in Puerto Rico. Looking back on the whole process from start to finish, the encompassing work, meeting people from across the U.S., long days, and short nights, would I do it all again? In a word: YES!

**TJ Hengst**
**IPC Clerk of Session**