



# STRAIGHT

## FROM THE STREET

Pastor: Rev. Rick Chapman  
Pastoral Associate: Sister Marion Garneau  
Pastoral Associate: Ms. Linda Winski

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY

April 2007

## Easter Blessings!



As we enter the sacred and celebrated time of the Easter Season, I find an opportunity to stop and to give thanks for all God offers and opens to us in Jesus Christ. Jesus, who entered the depths of human despair, even death, rises from this dark abyss, enabling new life and light, blessed hope and healing to permeate all of the human experience. God with us through thick and thin.

As we leave a rather cold winter, as frosty days give way to spring warmth, I am reminded of C S Lewis' great children's work "The Tales of Narnia" As the Lion King, Aslan, draws near, spring begins to fill the land. Waters long frozen begin to flow, the leafless tree and hibernating flower, once again bud and bloom. The whole of creation celebrates its release from the spell of the evil Ice Queen. Such imagery enables us to picture the liberating Christ becoming present again and again in lives wrapped in the cold clutches of fear, pain and abandonment.

The light of Christ, through the ministry of presence of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry, is being represented within the

lives of those of the inner city community; lives that often walk close to the edge of despair and yes – even death. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless and be wonderfully present with us, in the lives of the folk we meet day by day, in the food kitchens, shelters, and drop ins that feed, clothe and house the homeless. Pray for our ministry and may God warmly bless you this Easter Season.



*Yours in Christ  
The Rev. Rick Chapman+  
Pastor ICPM*

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Inner City Pastoral Ministry is an interdenominational Christian Ministry of presence. In partnership with community, and guided by the Spirit of God, we walk with the people of the Inner City of Edmonton.

## Homelessness and Affordable Housing

Imagine yourself, during the cold, cold days of mid winter, being without a residence or a warm bed. Wakened from a restless sleep at 5:30 AM, you rise from a comfortless, although dry, floor mat where you have slept head to head and elbow to elbow with 70 other people, some friends, some strangers. One of the bustling crowd, you make your way through the shelter door which warmly greeted you the evening before. Now in the early dawn, you are welcomed to the wintry city streets of Edmonton by a cold blast of air. Where to go for the next few hours until a Temp Work Agency or a local Drop In opens – a snooze at Tim Horton’s perhaps? – A cup of coffee would be nice but I’m fifteen cents short – darn. So begins another day on the street, another round of drop in coffee, food kitchen frozen pizza, soup and sandwiches!

When discussing the growing community concern regarding individuals and families that cannot find proper housing, two key words seem to be joined very closely together, the key words are “homelessness” and “affordable housing.” In reality, persons who are “homeless” and persons seeking “affordable housing” can be light years apart. For instance, CMHC sponsors first time home buyers, those who can muster a 5% down payment to purchase a home, the ability to purchase, a task that can still be difficult with housing prices rising daily. Compare, however, a person who is homeless, that is without residence, and without references, credit rating and without a damage deposit, even a rooming house at \$500 a month is beyond reach.



ICPM ministers amongst the many of this cities homeless individuals who because of a personal economic downturn, or reasons of health and/or addictions, find themselves living on the streets, parks and/or taking advantage of shelters and transition style residences.

Along with the homeless, many more individuals in need of chronic health care, or who are socially or educationally disadvantaged, are lucky enough to find a residence in church and community supported housing.

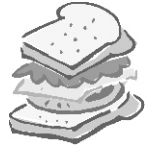
The answer to this growing gap between homelessness and affordable housing is not an easy one. However, two answers are being

suggested. First that more supported and affordable housing units be built – offering access to more housing for more people. Second, that those individuals and families who are in need of supported housing have on site life skills workers. The task of the life skills worker will be to develop, along with the individuals and families accessing the housing option, a network of holistic care. What can I do? Individuals, churches and faith communities can join together to support existing housing coalitions and to advocate to various level of government for the cause of the “homeless.”

Oh well – back to the streets. Hey buddy – got fifteen cents for a cup of coffee?

## After The Lunch is Over

Inner City Pastoral Ministry invites the volunteers of the 100+ churches that support the ICPM Sunday lunch ministry to a time of sharing and reflection on the experience of participating in our Sunday Worship and serving of the lunch. The event to be held on April 21 9:30 AM to 1 PM.



Our time together included: Guest speaker, Marilyn Flegler of the Bissell Centre and former ICPM Board member, who offered reflections on poverty in the Canadian context. Also, group sharing, faith reflection, stories from inner city realities, action possibilities and resources for further reflection. A light lunch is provided.

If you miss this Spring’s educational workshop, we hope to host another in the latter part of year.

Plan to attend!

### PRAYERS PLEASE...

Both in your individual prayer and your prayer as a faith community, please remember the following:

- All those living on the streets and seeking shelter from the cold
- All those seeking work
- All those who live their lives under the shadow of prostitution or addiction
- All women seeking to be reunited with their children
- All families seeking reconciliation and healing
- All victims of violence and abuse
- All who are alone, lonely or afraid
- All who are sick, suffering and dying

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## Emmanuel Community Christmas 2006

The Christmas Season is a wonderful time in the life of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry. So many people show



their support through volunteer help, gifts and donations! The Board and Ministry Staff of ICPM would like to thank our church and faith communities for your wonderful response to our Emmanuel Community during Christmas 2006.

The Emmanuel Gift Sacs, stuffed with useful items and thoughtful extras, enabled ICPM, on your behalf, to provide the people of the Community of Emmanuel with lovely gifts this Christmas.

The people in the inner city received your gift sacks and many other gifts with great thanksgiving. As I gave out the gifts I was met with smiles and many a heartfelt thank you. Because of the generosity of your donations, some 1200+ gift sacks received this year, we were able to share our abundance with local care homes, shelters and social agencies within the inner city.

Women's Guilds offered gifts of knitted toques, scarves and mitts. Special gifts of quilts, blankets and warm clothing were also donated and distributed, all serving to clothe inner city people during these cold winter months. A special gift of chocolates donated by one thoughtful person warmed the hearts of many within the inner city. The list of caring gifts goes on ...

Volunteers continued to serve Sunday lunch through out the holiday season. Many other volunteers ,taking time out of their busy holiday preparations, assisted in sorting and distributing the

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## ICPM Office Move

The ICPM Office has moved!

The Boyle McCauley Health Centre, where our office has been for some time, requires the office space to accommodate the growing number of Health Professionals and Social Work staff.

We are thankful that E4C has responded so graciously and enthusiastically to our need for office space and we are now located at the Alex Taylor Building 9321 Jasper Ave, 2nd Floor.

Relocation to the Alex Taylor Building will bring us closely in touch with E4C and the various non profit agencies which serve the Edmonton Community; a whole new perspective so to speak. The office is only large enough to accommodate a desk, file cabinets and telephone and computer.

This limited office space and our relocation on the outer edge of the inner city will mean that our one with one pastoral counselling will be done offsite. The Bissell Centre has offered us opportunity to use a multi purpose office at Bissell West. This opportunity will enable us to continue a very personal and direct in touch ness with individuals who frequent the programs and Drop In Centre of the Bissell, as well as those who live in the Boyle McCauley Community.

We believe the move to the Alex Taylor will be a temporary move, as we anticipate having an office made available to ICPM at the Bissell Centre, that is, once the Bissell East has be renovated.



Renovations of the Bissell East will take up to a year, thus, you will find the ICPM office at the Alex Taylor throughout this year 2007 and into 2008. For the time being our mailing address (ICPM c/o Alex Taylor Bldg., 9321 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton AB T5H 9Z9), phone number (424 7652) will remain the same.

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Emmanuel Christmas Gift Sacs, while other volunteers offered special seasonal music during our worship service and during the lunch program.

Your gifts and donations are truly appreciated. These donations enable the ICPM to maintain a ministerial presence in the inner city all year long. We look forward to our continuing partnership with Edmonton and area churches, faith communities, individuals , and community groups as we provide a pastoral ministry to those most in need.

If you would have any questions or would like to discuss further involvement in the ministry of ICPM, please call us at 424-7652. ICPM would be happy to come out to your parish/congregation/faith

community/group to share with you how God calls the ICPM to minister to folk of the inner city. Christ's richest blessing continue with you in 2007! In Christ,

*Rick Chapman+*  
*Pastor ICPM*

### Prayer

Our faith should be our steering  
wheel

Not our spare tire

A short prayer will reach heaven

If you don't live far away

A happy home is more than a roof  
over your head

It's a foundation under your feet.

*Linda Koester*

## Board Member Updates

### George Rawson –

Our condolences and wishes of God's peace are offered to George's family who passed away just before Christmas 2006. George was a wonderful gift to the ICPM Board offering his enthusiasm and encouraging support to this ministry.

We will miss George greatly!

### The Rev Lynn Elliott

On a happier note we welcome The Rev. Lynn Elliott to the ICPM Board. Lynn is a minister serving with the United Church of Canada. Lynn comes to ICPM with many gifts and ministry experience. Lynn has served on many charitable boards and institutions and ministered within the bustling inner city of Vancouver.

## Board News

The ICPM has over the last few months been engaged in developing a three-year plan in regards to the overall direction of ICPM. Areas of planning include the development of Board policy and procedures, governance, care of ministry personal and human resources. The three-year plan includes a balanced approach to ICPM public relations, education, communications and funding strategies. These plans have already begun to be implemented.

This year the AGM was held at the Anglican Parish of Christ Church March 15th, 2007. A social time was followed with a shared meal. The meal was of the nature offered once per month by Christ Church to the homeless population of Jasper Avenue. The guest speaker for this year was Jim Garnett, who is at this time deeply involved in the ministry of housing new Canadians.

Further to Board news, speaking engagements and education workshops such as "After the Lunch is Over" Saturday April 21st at the Bissell West Centre— offers Lunch Ministry Coordinators, Outreach Committee Members and interested Volunteers the opportunity to explore the issues of poverty and homelessness. We wish to explore the reciprocal relationship of charity and social justice ministry. The ICPM Board has exciting things planned for 2007.

## Enclosed is my gift for Inner City Pastoral Ministry

Amount of gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr., Mrs., Ms, Dr. etc.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home) (Work)

Send to: Inner City Pastoral Ministry  
c/o Alex Taylor Building  
9321 Jasper Ave. Edmonton AB T5H 9Z9

Charitable Registration: BN107507378 RR001

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## ICPM Board Members 2006-2007

Nancy Kerr	Board Chair
United	
Susan Querengesser	Vice Chair
Lutheran	
Diane Doeing	Secretary
Lutheran	
Fred Drummond	Treasurer
Anglican	
Bette Frost	Lunch
Ministry Co ordinator	
United	

### Members At Large:

Jose Gonzalez  
Roman Catholic

Bob McKeon  
Roman Catholic

Neil Querengesser  
Lutheran

Coby Veeken  
Roman Catholic

The Rev. Stephen London  
Anglican

Nick Ritson-Bennett  
Anglican/Bissell Centre

Lynn Elliott  
United

### Ministry Team as Members of the Board

Rick Chapman Pastor

Sister Marion Garneau  
Pastoral Associate

Linda Winski  
Pastoral Associate

## NOTICE:

The ICPM newsletter "Straight from the Street" is now available electronically in pdf format.

If you would like us to remove your name from our 'snail mail' list and send the newsletter to you electronically, please send us your email address with a request to remove you from the mailing list and put you on the electronic mailing list.