

icpm



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

October 2007

Pastor Rick's Reflections

Pastor Rick Chapman+
ICPM

I had a wonderful time away this summer camping and hiking in Jasper and holidaying on the West Coast visiting family and friends. Where does the summer go?!

I don't know how it is with you, but when I stand in the midst of mountain grandeur, looking out over the turquoise waters of a glacier fed lake, I seem to rediscover that place within me that the awesome silence speaks to; a place of rest, a place of wonder, a place of strengthening.

While I was sublimely enjoying my time away, I remained conscious of the many people who were making the tent city their home this summer. The towering edifices that cast shadows upon the residents of tent city were not the majestic peaks of the Rocky Mountains, but the granite of Bissell Centre, the office towers housing the Social Welfare offices, the Court House, the Edmonton Remand Centre, City Hall and the Provincial Legislature. I mention these powerful giants because within these structures decisions are made that profoundly affect the lives of the many who find themselves homeless or low income housed within the inner city of Edmonton. Truly these powers hold the awesome responsibility of creating policies and holding the practice of

care regarding those deemed disenfranchised within our social fabric – all this responsibility practiced with the blistering glare of the media spotlight upon them.



We being many are one body, for we all share
in the one bread.

It's not easy to reconstruct an airplane while in flight, yet those who tackle the questions of Edmonton's needy and homeless must do just that. I think we all should give them a hearty hurrah!

But, or perhaps I should say "and"... upon my return to the ministry of ICPM ... I could not help observing that the situation of having a tent city occupying provincial lands was resolved, as one reporter wrote, "Transient's tent city quietly folds." Fencing that during the summer was erected to protect the residents of tent city from outsiders now serves as a barrier to entry to the site. And once again we are left with another reporter capturing the headline "Nowhere to call home" as an evicted

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.

Pastor Rick's Reflections continued...

resident of tent city ponders where he will find shelter as winter approaches.

Have there been well managed transitions of the homeless to affordable housing? In some cases “yes” – the Urban Manor, WEAC, Herb Jamison, and the “Y” are responding with some beds and an enlarged “mat” program. Also, housing workers have relocated many to affordable rental units. But in many cases ... “no” ... as many of the folk of tent city I have spoken with have not been successful in finding a place to call their own and have relocated their tents to the river valley and behind vacant buildings ... again.

My conclusion to this commentary on the pandemic of homelessness is ... a short term solution related to the housing needs of the many people living on the streets within the inner city of Edmonton has been engineered by our city planners. What is still a concern is the need for long term solutions regarding the care offered for those homeless and vulnerable. Many proposals have been offered to both Provincial and Municipal levels of government from agencies and well versed people who have worked with these questions for many years. Edmonton and the Province of Alberta have begun the lengthy process required to tackle the concerns of chronic homelessness, affordable housing and the need of supported housing. Now is the time to follow through with this planning and to develop the policy changes needed to implement long term solutions for housing, better still to offer supported housing for those who find themselves chronically homeless.

Friends of God, Friends of ICPM

(John 15:12-17)

The theme for this year's ICPM board retreat was “Friends of ICPM.” The passage we studied was from Chapter 15 of John's Gospel where Jesus talks about his friends. In our daily lives, we have friends by mutual choice. We seek out others who are compatible, and with whom we share something in common. Jesus makes the incredible claim that we are no longer to be called servants, but



Kathy Hutchinson – Sharing the Good News.

actually to become friends of Jesus, friends of God. We do not become friends of God by our choice, but rather by God actually choosing us. As friends, Jesus commissions us “go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last.”

This takes us far beyond the small group we would normally call our friends. We are called then to expand the list of those we name as our friends. Those who God calls friends, then become our friends also. We know from many other passages of scripture that God calls the poor and those on the margins of society (Mt 25) to become his friends.

At ICPM, we are called as friends of God to include the poor in our circle in a special way. This call is rooted in our Baptism. It is significant that we on the board and ministry team



Church Partners – Serving 300+ for lunch.

come together from four denominations to live out our call as friends of God in a shared mission. The approximately one hundred supporting congregations that come to provide the Sunday lunch and share worship expand this circle even further. Through ICPM, God call us to meet friends of God in the inner city in the Community of Emmanuel, and expand our circle even further.

The Sunday time of shared prayer and lunch at ICPM is very important. However, this is just the beginning. Jesus, in this passage from John's



“The Team” – Linda, Sister Marion, Pastor Rick and Marylyn.

Gospel, challenges us to go much further: “This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.”

–Bob McKeon

Women's Wellness Weekend

In September of 2007, Star of the North hosted "Time Away From the Everyday," a wellness retreat for women. The Star of the North staff worked with a committee of women from inner city agencies and the Inner City Pastoral Ministry that provide support and education for disadvantaged women to plan and implement the retreat. Also, over forty religious orders, CWL groups, and individuals provided support by sponsoring women, providing funding for the women to attend. Many volunteers donated time and materials for the various workshops, as well as "goodie bags," home baking, and roses for the room.

The 23 women who attended the retreat were enthusiastic and appreciative. One woman commented "I learned that it is OK to pamper myself, to let go and have fun. Caring and sharing time with others can be wonderful. I learned that I can stand tall."

Others stated, "It was a life-changing experience. I am totally relaxed, and found some inner peace. I'm not as stressed out and I cannot tell you how much this weekend has meant to me. I cannot thank you enough!"

The generous support of the community in making this weekend possible has been overwhelming, and we are truly grateful. Thank you

ICPM was pleased to be part of this ministry, an ongoing annual retreat for women. Sister Marion and Linda, Pastoral Associates of ICPM are part of the retreat planning and the implementation of this weekend retreat. A number of the ICPM Emmanuel Community, that is, women of the inner city, their friends and relations attended the retreat. Another example of how ICPM partners with the faith community offering support and pastoral care for women of the inner city.

—Sister Marion

Walkabout With Pastor Rick+

www.icpmedmonton.ca Under construction

One item of interest available on the ICPM website is the article "Walking Around the Blocks – a day in the Life of the Pastor" written by Neil Querengesser, an ICPM Board member. Neil went on a "walkabout" with Pastor Rick in the inner city and writes of his experience.

Neil's article begins ...It's the first day of May, 2007, overcast, cool, and threatening rain. I meet Pastor Rick Chapman at one o'clock outside his new Inner City Pastoral Ministry office upstairs in the renovated Alex Taylor Public School, several blocks from where much of his street ministry takes place. The move is temporary. Within a year, it is hoped; the office can find a home on its familiar 96 Street once more...

Arriving at the Bissell Centre ... The sidewalk in front of Bissell Centre is littered with old clothing, food scraps, half a sleeping bag; it's usually cleaner. We walk a few steps to four people who are sitting on an old mattress and a box. They recognize Pastor Rick and wave.

... One young man, whose name I don't catch looks up and smiles, but otherwise keeps his head down. Guy, a red-faced middle aged man who alternates between French and English generally too fast for me to follow, has a glove on his right, apparently injured, holds out his left for me to shake. Jenny from Northern Canada shakes my hand too. Waiting an appropriate interval, I loosen my grip, but she holds on, kindly for a few seconds more.

"So Neil," she asks, smiling. "Is Pastor Rick training you for his job?"

Although he is wearing ordinary clothing and his clerical collar is almost hidden under a sweater, Pastor Rick is recognized long before we arrive...

This story continues as you visit our website www.icpmedmonton.ca click on "people" and then click on the "Walking around the Blocks" link.

Pastor Rick
leads worship at
Emmanuel
Community
Church

*"Come aside
and rest a while"*



Emmanuel Christmas Gift Sacs 2007

A Note from Pastor Rick+ and the Ministry Team

ICPM celebrates the Christmas Season within the inner city by distributing Emmanuel Christmas Gift Sacs amongst the many homeless and / or isolated folk of the inner city.

I remember offering one of the Christmas Gift Sacs one grey and cold winter evening in December to a fellow seeking warmth on a park bench. His eyes filled with tears as I wished him a Merry Christmas and he received one of your Christmas Gift Sacs. "Thank you," he said, "you've made my day."

I learned later from a caseworker within a housing project addressing the needs of "hard to house" men that often these gifts are the only gifts a man might receive over the Christmas Season- a lonely time for men and women indeed. A small gift perhaps, the Emmanuel Gift Sac, but an important gift none the less.

As you may be aware, many, many churches, agencies and individuals support the ICPM Emmanuel Gift Sac ministry. This year we once again offer you opportunity to respond to this ministry. 400+ Christmas Gift Sacs are distributed through the Emmanuel Community Church, that is, the ICPM Sunday Service, while over 800+ Christmas Gift Sacs are distributed to the many agencies, drop ins, shelters and transitions houses found within the inner city. The Emmanuel Gift Sacs are offered to men and women, children and teens during the Christmas Season. Your

support of this ministry is welcomed.

This year, 2007, ICPM has limited storage space due to a temporary office move. For this reason, Pastor Rick+ will be linking those donating Emmanuel Christmas Gift Sacs directly to the various agencies, drop ins, shelters and transition houses throughout the inner city that ICPM ministers within and partners with. Please call Pastor Rick+ at the ICPM office, 424 7652, to be linked with our inner city partners and to determine the appropriate type of Christmas Gift Sac – men or

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



women, children or teen your church or group may be able to provide.

It's not too soon to begin planning your support of this valuable ministry.

Emmanuel Christmas Gift Sacs would include:

- Comb and/or brush
- Ski gloves (waterproof)
- Small shampoo
- Toque
- Lip balm
- Cotton socks or wool socks
- Bar of soap
- Washcloth
- Note pad and pen
- Nail clippers and nail file
- Pkg of soup
- Small Kleenex
- Pkg hot chocolate
- Deodorant
- Christmas treat (candy cane?)
- Small toothpaste
- Chocolate bar
- Toothbrush
- Christmas bow inside
- Dental floss
- Small Christmas stuffed toy or small age appropriate fun item (crossword booklet etc)

The Christmas Gift Sacs would be contained in a large clear plastic zip lock freezer bag with perhaps some Christmas stickers as decoration.

Delivery date - Dec 10-15th

ICPM Board News – ICPM Circle of Friends

ICPM Circle of Friends was our theme for discussions at the Board Retreat this Fall.

Bob McKeon, a long time Board Member and noted theologian, Newman Theological College, opened the day with a reflection on what draws us together as Friends serving in ministry as members of God's family.

The Board and Ministry Team then shared together the number of people that make up the Circle of Friends that support the ministry of ICPM. I will share some of that discussion with you in this article.

The ICPM Circle of Friends includes first and foremost, the Emmanuel Community Church and the many folk we know and love within the inner city of Edmonton. Each Sunday during the Sunday Service we meet with 100+ of our inner city friends in worship and song. During the week the Ministry Team builds relationships with the many individuals who frequent the streets of the inner city. Truly the folk of the inner are our friends.

Central to the ICPM Circle of Friends is the Board and the many Committees that respond to the needs of the "Ministry of Presence" of ICPM within the inner city of Edmonton. The Board represents a balance in membership of partnering churches that have supported this ministry for almost 30 years, in alphabetical order, the

Anglican, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and United Churches.

Our next Circle of Friends is the ICPM Volunteers who set up for and organize for the 107+ churches



Working hard at the Board Retreat.

and faith communities that support the Lunch Ministry each and every Sunday of the year. Consider, each Sunday the church or faith communities arriving with 15 volunteers to supply, prepare and serve the lunch, that's 15 volunteers x 107 members of church and faith communities equalling approximately 1600 persons present in a given year! ICPM volunteers also support the ministry at special times of the year to produce the newsletter and Christmas Gift Sacs.

ICPM also has a Circle of Friends within the inner city community, that is, the many resource partners amongst whom we minister: agencies, drop ins, shelters, transition housing, community supports for food, clothing, housing, the courts, jails, hospitals, the list goes on. Our relationships with inner city support workers are critical as we refer inner city folk to needed resources.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the Circle of Friends who support the ministry financially. Major contributions from the Anglican, Lutheran, Roman Catholic United Churches and the ICPM

Emmanuel Community Church, make up about 75% of the financial support of the ministry. The many private donations of folk interested in supporting our ministry make up the other 25% of our financial need.

As you see, ICPM is truly blessed with a wonderful network of folk who make up our Circle of Friends. We took time at our Board Retreat to reflect on and to give thanks to God for this blessing, the ICPM Circle of Friends.

Board Members

The Rev Steve Hallford, St Peter's Anglican Church, has graciously agreed to assist ICPM as an ICPM Board member. Welcome Steve! Rev. Steve replaces the Rev. Steven London, St Michael's Anglican Church, whose tenure as ICPM Board member was complete this Fall.

Bette Frost, long term coordinator of our Lunch Ministry, suffered very serious stroke in September and we ask everyone to keep Bette in prayer.

We Need Your Support

ICPM needs your support to continue to offer the important “ministry of presence” within the inner city of Edmonton. In addition to our valued volunteers who serve, and the many who contribute financially to ICPM, we also in need of additional funding of \$20,000 this year to maintain present levels of ministry and to meet the needs that continue to increase each day.

The strength of the ICPM Board, the Ministry Team and the many ICPM Volunteers position us to move forward with our vision of increasing presence within the community. Please prayerfully and carefully consider the present financial need of ICPM and the further development of this caring and healing ministry as you partner with us through your financial donation to ICPM this year.

During this season of Thanksgiving may we continue to share our abundance that others may know God’s love.

ICPM Fundraising Committee

Electronic E Mail List Update

We are taking another step into the electronic communication age and are asking you to subscribe to the ICPM email list online. By doing this, we will be reducing the margin of error that comes with our current practice where you provide us with a written email address and then we transfer it into the address book. If you have provided us with your email contact information in the past and wish to continue to receive the newsletter and other notices of events electronically, please follow the steps below:

If you have provided us with your email contact information in the past and wish to continue to be on this list – to receive the newsletter and other notices of events and articles of interest, please follow the instructions below to join the info@icpmedmonton.ca mailing list.

1. send an email to newsletter-subscribe@icpmedmonton.ca
2. confirmation email will be sent to your email address
3. reply to the confirmation email
4. if all goes well, you should receive an email informing you that you have been added to the ICPM mailing list

ICPM Board Members 2006-2007

Nancy Kerr	Board Chair
United	
Susan Querengesser	Vice Chair
Lutheran	
Diane Doering	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 Hallford	Anglican
Nick Ritson-Bennett	Anglican/Bissell Centre
The Rev. Lynn Elliott	United

Ministry Team as Members of the Board

Rick Chapman	Pastor
Sister Marion Garneau	Pastoral Associate
Linda Winski	Pastoral Associate

Thank You!

Over 30 key volunteers and contact people of the supporting churches and faith communities met at the Bissell Centre to share their experience of partnering with ICPM in the Sunday worship and lunch ministry. The heartfelt passion with which the volunteers held the ministry was evident and expressed during this time of sharing. Thank you for your ministry of service to the needy!

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

