



STRAIGHT

FROM THE STREET

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



Fall 2008

Branding to Bridges

Pastor Rick Chapman+

Each year the ICPM Board and Ministry Team meet for a day retreat at one of our member's cabins on Pigeon Lake. What a lovely setting, a sunny autumn day, enhanced by the quiet, rippling waters of the lake and an occasional family of ducks quacking their way along the shoreline.

The Retreat day events and discussions are captured within the setting of a progressive Eucharist, beginning with a time of prayer, scripture reading and meditation, noonday prayers, and finishing with the breaking of bread; a time of worship celebrating our fellowship in Christ.

This year our key note speaker, Kourch Chan, assisted by Judith Paquin of E4C, led us through a discussion of "branding." What is branding? Referred to by advertisers and marketing people, a brand is a name or a symbol that is commonly known to identify a company or its products and separates the company from other businesses. For ICPM,



the "branding" process was seen as a helpful tool to assist in clearly defining and presenting the ministry of ICPM to our community and our churches. Our ICPM brand would be encompassed by our logo, a "ministry of presence" within the inner city community of Edmonton.

Complimenting our first steps into this branding process, The Rev. Stephen Hallford, St Peter's Anglican Church, a member new to our Board, was asked to offer a theological reflection on the significance of our branding theme, a ministry of presence. Here are the Rev. Stephen's words ...

"For me, the image of walking together with people is at the heart of this ministry; walking first with people of the inner city, but also walking with people of the 'Outer City.' This is a ministry of presence. Amazing presence.

Paul, the apostle, knows about amazing presence. In his letter to Christians in Colossae he writes that this amazing presence is

"the mystery of Christ among you, your hope of glory." (Colossians 1:28)

Paul writes that he struggles to help the people recognize Christ among them. Notice that Paul doesn't write that the mystery is "Christ among us", exclusive. No, he writes that the mystery is "Christ among you", inclusive.

As I reflect on Paul's insight regarding the mystery of the presence of Christ, I am glad and relieved that the heart of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry is all about walking together. Walking together we discover the surprising mystery,

Branding to Bridges...continued

the presence of Christ among the “you” of the Inner City.

I used to see the Inner City Pastoral Ministry as a noble effort by privileged Christian “Outer City” residents to offer some ray of Christian love to under-privileged “Inner City” residents.

Over the course of my involvement with Pastor Rick, Sister Marion, Linda and the Board I have realized that the ministry is actually much more than bringing a ray of Christian love to people who live in the Inner City. I have begun to realize that the ministry is about helping “Outer City” and “Inner City” residents discover the amazing presence of Christ among us all.

I realize that bringing people of the Outer City and Inner City together is really daunting. There are lots of barriers to be overcome, barriers of fear, misunderstanding, ignorance, and inequality. There is a really deep, dark chasm separating Outer City and Inner City residents.

So I began to think of an image to describe the ministry of presence of Pastor Rick, Sister Marion and Linda. I make no claim to understand chemistry, but somewhere along the line I have heard about “nucleating agents.” Nucleating agents act as enablers within a chemical process, allowing separate elements in a solution to combine or come together to form something new. This image really challenges me, as it helps me see the dynamic, the transformative nature of the ministry of presence as Outer City and Inner City communities come together.

I end this reflection by sharing my conviction that the separated communities of the Outer City and the Inner City discover the true glory of Christ as we discover the “Us” established by the transforming presence of Christ walking with anyone open to his company. Thanks be to God for the work of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry in helping to accomplish this transformation.”

As the Pastor of ICPM, I thank Rev. Stephen for this insightful reflection and the helpful images. May I conclude by suggesting that our “brand” rests first and foremost upon the enabling dynamic of our “ministry of presence”, discovering together the presence of Christ among us, Outer City and Inner City residents alike!



Celebrating 30 years of ministry

Dear friends in the inner city,

How I still miss you all after nearly seven years away! And I would love to be there this Sunday, October 5, for the anniversary celebration of 30 years since Inner City Pastoral Ministry began. To think that 15 years ago, in 1993 when I first came to the inner city to work, the ministry was only half as old!

In 1993 and for the rest of the 90s while I was there, we had quite a struggle to prove to the public and to the government that poverty and hunger and homelessness were serious concerns. I think that was a successful struggle, because now people generally accept that those are big problems which we must solve. But the struggle is to find ways to solve them. Even in the midst of the best economic times ever known in Alberta, those with little or no income are still mainly ignored except at times when it suits the politicians and the media to sentimentalize or demonize the poor. A bylaw officer in Calgary was quoted this week in the Calgary Herald newspaper, referring to “the true homeless” as “those who are forced to use shelters but go to jobs every day”....So a person is not truly homeless unless he or she has a job and just can't find a place to live??? I guess we haven't come very far.

In the midst of the economic boom, the poor are even worse off. And that's a hard fact. In the years since I left the inner city ministry, I regret that the situation is no easier for the people I knew on the street. Many of those I knew are gone - some have passed away, some have moved. But some have “graduated” to better circumstances and we're all glad for the programs that do survive, which actually help people to get back on their feet and move into happier situations.

To those of you who remember me, I send fond greetings. I have many happy memories of you all, even though those were hard times for you. The memories are happy because you were brave and resourceful in the difficulties. Most of all, you were funny and you were kind. In the hard times you taught me a great deal; in the good times you inspired me. I will never forget you.

Pastor Faith Brace
Cochrane, AB



Celebrating 30 years of ministry

Inner City Pastoral Ministry Emmanuel Community Church

As the Emmanuel Community Church gathered at the Bissell Centre Sunday October 5th, the congregation was led in worship and song celebrating 30 years of ministry in the inner city. Sister Marion drew people's attention to the picture gallery of Pastor's and people set up around the room for the occasion illustrating 30 years of faithful service. As the Christ candle was lit, thirty tiny candles, one for each year of ministry, were lit by congregational members. Many nations, many denominations, gathered as brothers and sisters in Christ, sang songs of praise for God's blessing over these many years.

Many of the hard working and faithful ICPM Board were present to affirm their love for this inner city ministry. Bob McKeon, living in the

Boyle McCauley Community and having ministered as a Board member for twenty years reflected in the homily about God's love for each and every one of us, and God's presence and comfort in our life journey, through the good times and the bad. "And what does God require of us?" he asked. "To love the Lord your God with all your heart and with your entire mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12: 30, 31)

Pastor Rick and Linda led the prayers for the continued blessing of the ministry, as well as offered petitions to God, requested from within the community. Prayers were offered on behalf of loved ones and friends, for the sick, the dying, the

homeless and those struggling with addictions. We then broke bread together, affirming our fellowship of Christ. 30th anniversary crosses were offered to all to remember this significant milestone in the ICPM ministry.

The service was followed by a wonderful sit down lunch provided and served this week by members of Grace Lutheran and St Matthew's Anglican Church. A fairy princess clown was present twisting balloons into hats, crowns and animal shapes. Rough and tumble men of the streets, women, boys and girls stopped in childlike wonder to receive their special balloon gift. A great time was had by all; a wonderful Emmanuel Community Church celebration of 30 years of ministry.



Celebrating 30 years of ministry!

Emmanuel – ‘God with us’. Thirty years of experiencing God through the people and community of the Inner City of Edmonton. What an amazing journey. Congratulations.

When I was asked to write some reflections of my time with you, so many images of people and their stories danced into my mind that I was almost overwhelmed with the emotions that came with them, for a part of my heart will always be in the Inner City. My ministry was filled with so many different experiences – joy, hope, despair, sorrow, laughter, tears, frustration, fear, blessing, dying, living, dreaming – the list goes on, but there was always something that challenged me and revealed to me God’s presence among us.

I remember sitting on curbs talking with people and the police stopping to ask what I was doing. I treasure the times I was stopped on the street and asked to pray with or give a blessing to someone. I was often invited into people’s homes to hear their stories. I cherish the art, music, drama, dance and poetry – gifts of the people so freely given. I remember binding wounds – both physical and spiritual. I recall conversations held in my ‘office’ – the green room in the basement of the Bissell Centre. I laugh when I think of carrying toonies in my pocket all the time and the stories I heard that would prompt me to give them away. I am humbled to remember the amazing compassion and generosity of the people who, when they had only 1 sandwich, would tear it in half to share with someone who had none. I hold in my

heart my colleagues in ministry in the Inner City, the incredible members of the board of ICPM who supported me in ministry, and the ‘Friends of ICPM’ who make this ministry possible by their prayers and financial support. And I am awed by the generosity of the hundreds of people from the different churches, temples, synagogues and mosques who come and bring food to share and join us in this ministry on Sundays.

Finally, I want to say that in the Inner City I came to new understandings about giving. I learned that often it was difficult to distinguish the giver from the recipient – for in the experience, both became recipients of God’s

humility and Grace. And so I was taught more by the people of the Inner City than I could ever imagine. I learned to hope when there seemed no hope; I learned to celebrate when I wasn’t sure there was joy; I learned to dance when there seemed no music; and I learned to laugh when I wanted to cry. Mostly, I learned to deeply love God and His people. I give thanks to God that I was privileged to be a part of this ministry. Emmanuel – ‘God with us’ and may He ever be present for ages to come. What an amazing journey. Congratulations.

–Rev. Wendy Ainsworth
(Pastor Wendy was with the ICPM for nearly 5 years before she moved on to St. Faith’s Parish in 2004.)

After the Lunch is Over

We were thrilled to have fifty Sunday Lunch Contact people and Sunday Lunch volunteers attend the 2008 “After the Lunch Is Over” workshop held on Saturday October 4th.

Bob McKeon, the Key Note Speaker, reviewed 30 years of ICPM ministry within the inner city of Edmonton, opening the minds and hearts of the many attending to the needs of the inner city and the need for ongoing support of the Sunday Lunch Program.

Denise, a community member, spoke of her life within the Boyle Street area. Those gathered asked Denise many questions about her experience and Denise described her struggle as a single adult on assistance. Rising cost of housing, groceries and transportation places added pressure on already stretched dollars. She explained that the choice of a movie with a pop and popcorn once a month means she must find three days of meals in a food bank or a soup and sandwich lineup in a local drop in. Times are tough and money is tight.

...continued →



After the Lunch is Over...continued

Jacob, a young man from Somalia spoke of his search for employment. Jacob has been in Canada three years, and has recently moved from Ontario to Alberta to find good employment. His dream is to attend school and become a pastor or a lawyer. That day, Jacob stood before us with a pack sack on his back. He finds shelter at a friend's home where he sleeps on the couch.



These wonderful stories, the lives of two people residing in the inner city, one long term, one short

term and transient, opened the eyes of our understanding and the need for continued care of the community for those experiencing poverty and need.

As the morning progressed Sharon Webb, the ICPM Sunday Lunch Coordinator, spoke to the volunteers about the food needs and supplies for the Sunday Lunch Program. Pastor Rick spoke about our desire to have the volunteers share the experience of servicing the ICPM lunch at the Bissell Centre with their respective congregations, through prayer, bulletin insert notices, church newsletters and reporting. Though ICPM and the Bissell are very closely linked, and ICPM now has its office in the Bissell Centre, the two groups are separate organizations. Volunteers shared ideas during times of table talk and feed back sessions.

We had a wonderful day. Much was accomplished. Much was learned. We give thanks for the dedicated contact persons and volunteers, those with us on the Saturday and all those church volunteers who keep the Sunday Lunch Ministry happening fifty two Sundays of the year!



Women's Wellness Weekend

Once again the 'Time Away from the Everyday' ... a wellness retreat for Women of the Inner City and beyond ... took place on a beautiful September weekend. This special event is possible thanks to the generosity of so many generous people ... the planning circle, those who give their time as workshop leaders, those who give the resources to make the event possible, agencies and families who invite, encourage, and sponsor the Women, staff of 'Star of the North' who give beyond usual commitments ... in short, an experience of God's dream for us all!

Though many more registered, twenty-five actually arrived. Some of the stories of those who couldn't make it speak of the pain and uncertainty of their lives ... the one who was beaten up the night before, the many who were too sick to actually attend, those who met challenges which kept them away; some stories we will likely never hear. Nor will we know the challenges met by many who did arrive.



How to capture the spirit of the days! Each Woman's room was prepared with gifts and a beautiful rose in full bloom. Excitement was tangible as all arrived and began making themselves at home. Mutual support was so obvious through the days ... new persons being 'adopted' by those who had attended other years, those with language challenges being mentored by supportive peers. Individual needs were respected in many ways. So many creative, encouraging, empowering moments were woven into the unfolding of each day.

Some of the comments from the Women: "I met new friends and learned new things", "I sent my worries on their way", "I had time to daydream", "I found direction for myself", "I feel more content with myself", "I found some peace and courage." "This is only the second time I've been away from home. I'm learning to travel on my own".

As we have been for a number of years, 'Inner City Pastoral Ministry' is part of the planning committee and leads prayer on Saturday evening. Linda Winski and Sister Marion were joined by Pastor Wendy Ainsworth in the preparation and leadership of this part of the

Women's Wellness...cont.

weekend. It was also a privilege to live in at the retreat, to have moments to chat with those



attending, and in a special way to connect with those who are part of ICPM's 'Community of Emmanuel'. As well as sponsoring Women for the retreat, our Sunday Lunch Coordinator, Sharon Webb, was our competent bus driver carrying all safely to and from the event.

The Women's Wellness Weekend once again was a splendid



experience of partnering that makes possible a life-giving, faith deepening event that must be a delight to the God of us all.

Sister Marion Garneau scic

Emmanuel Christmas Gift Sacks 2008

Looking ahead, we are already thinking about celebrating the Christmas Season 2008 by distributing Emmanuel Christmas Gift Sacks among those who are homeless and often isolated in the inner city at Christmas.

As you may be aware, many churches and caring individuals support the ICPM Emmanuel Gift Sack ministry. This year we are appealing for 400 gift sacks for distribution at Christmas Service of the ICPM's Emmanuel Community Church on December 21st. Also, the Ministry Team is appealing to churches to consider "adopting" an agency within the inner city with a donation of Christmas Gift Sacks. ICPM is present within these agencies that do such a wonderful job of supporting and housing the homeless and the least fortunate of men and women, offering drop in, shelter, and transitional housing. The adoption of an agency will require an additional 600 Christmas Sacks, all distributed within the inner city community.

It's not too soon to begin planning your support for this valuable ministry. The Christmas Gifts Sacks would be contained in large, clear, plastic zip lock bags. The clear bags have been introduced in recent years instead of the "stuffed socks" of the past due to new regulations regarding the safe distribution of items of any sort to the community. The gift bags used effectively in the past are Ziploc 33mmx39mm in boxes of 10 costing approx \$4.60 and may be purchased at any local grocery store. I found these bags at Save on Foods

Emmanuel Gift Sacks items would include ...

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| ★ Comb and/or brush | ★ Nail file |
| ★ Small Hand sanitizer | ★ Deodorant |
| ★ Lip balm | ★ Ski gloves (waterproof) |
| ★ Hand lotion | ★ Toque and scarf |
| ★ Washcloth | ★ Cotton or wool socks |
| ★ Small Kleenex | ★ Note pad and pen |
| ★ Toothbrush | ★ Small fun item (crossword etc.) |
| ★ Toothpaste | ★ Christmas treat (candy, chocolate etc.) |
| ★ Dental floss | |
| ★ Nail clippers | |



Delivery dates will be the week of December 15-19th

Delivery location to be announced.

For further information please contact

Pastor Rick at the ICPM office 780 424 7652.

Charles T. Cripps

1929 – 2008

In my first days as part of ICPM, over a dozen years ago, Pastor Faith Brace and I were invited to the home of Charles and Dodie Cripps for a meal. Their good Friends, Fred and Wilma Drummond, joined us. I began to experience something of the goodness, gentle strength, and greatness of a man who so enriched 'Inner City Pastoral Ministry'. However, as happens too often in life, it was only in the endless stream of tributes to Charles at his funeral that I became aware of the amazing number and breadth of his charitable works, the multiple gifts of his time and talents shared so generously with so many People. Did I mention Chuck's humility!



Charles served ICPM as member and chair of the finance committee. He was committed to assuring the best care of resources and of accountability to our Supporters and to the Public. It was through Charles that Fred Drummond was invited to the ICPM Board and has become our astute steward of financial resources. Chuck was ever alert to possibilities for adequate funding of the ministry.

Charles played a part in bringing St. Timothy's Anglican Church into ICPM's Sunday Lunch Program. Also, for years Chuck would solicit and gather vegetables and fruit from large grocery stores to share with the 'Community of Emmanuel', ICPM's faith community. It was a concern of mine the amount of heavy lifting he must have had to do himself to make this possible. Chuck witnessed to environmental responsibility by encouraging and helping to make

The Branding Challenge

—Nancy Kerr, Board Chair

Imagine a beautiful warm Saturday in early September. What will you do? Work in the garden? Stroll in the River valley? ICPM Board members know that they'll be wending their way to Pigeon Lake for their annual Board retreat. Thanks to Sr. Marion Garneau, each year our fifteen board members meet at the Sisters of Charity cottage for a day-long retreat. This is an opportunity to share fellowship, talk at length about issues at hand, review our mission and plan our goals for the coming year. Sitting in the cottage living room, those with their back to the picture window can still view the blue water and ducks by looking in the mirror over the fireplace.

This year we invited Kourch Chan and Judith Paquin of E4C to talk about the branding exercise E4C went through recently. It resulted in many things including new printed materials, a new logo and an easier →

possible the use of mugs at the Sunday Lunch. And all was done with grace, humor ... with joy really and no hint of personal cost. Not surprisingly, Charles and Dodie's home was often 'home' to Board Members where all were received as 'family'.

Yet uppermost in my memory, Chuck was a man of faith ... of an active faith that bettered the lives of countless People of the Inner City and beyond.

His respectful, non-judgmental care and concern for others helped shape the vision of 'Inner City Pastoral Ministry'. Charles, thank you for your life! We give special thanks for the part of it that continues to empower ICPM's presence in the Inner City.

Sister Marion Garneau scic

way for people to recognize the programs that E4C shepherds. Research revealed that many people knew about programs like Kids in the Hall Bistro, Elizabeth House and Clareview Head Start but not their connection with E4C. Branding or rebranding is not only important in the business world but also is being used by other agencies including charitable organizations. The challenge facing ICPM is to increase our visibility in the city so that more people know about the wonderful work that our ministry teams does for inner city people living in difficult conditions. Because of the historic connection of ICPM with the Bissell Centre, most people refer to ICPM activities as Bissell events like "the Bissell lunch" and "the Bissell Sunday service". These are really the "ICPM lunch at Bissell" and "the ICPM Sunday worship at Bissell". Now that our office is located in the newly-renovated Bissell East building, the identity of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry will be even harder to maintain.

Don't misunderstand me. We couldn't do without the Bissell centre and its staff. ICPM is deeply grateful for having been able to conduct a worship service at the Bissell centre for so many years. We are deeply grateful now to have office space at Bissell, so close to where the people we seek to help will gather.

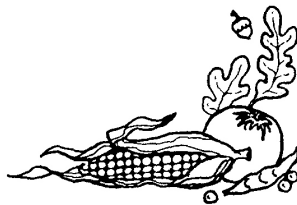
At the annual retreat in September, Board members began to talk about what a branding exercise might do for ICPM. As we seek to bring the ICPM message to more Edmonton folks, we will continue to investigate whether branding would help us communicate our story.

Thanksgiving ... and Prayers Please.

Most of us will have gathered with family and friends to celebrate a meal together on Thanksgiving weekend. Hopefully we will also have taken some time to reflect on the blessings we enjoy... nutritious food, a warm home, a sufficient income to meet our needs, family and friends, and a multitude of other things and opportunities that enrich our lives. For many in the community of Emmanuel, these things that can so easily be taken for granted, simply are not a reality we are frequently reminded of this in the prayer request we receive. Knowing the power of prayer, we ask that you join us in praying for the following both in your individual and community prayers...

Please pray for...

All who are living on the streets and seeking shelter from the cold
All who are seeking meaningful work
All who live their lives under the shadow of prostitution or addiction
All families seeking reconciliation and healing
All victims of violence and abuse - women, men and children
All who are alone, lonely or afraid
All who are sick, suffering and dying
All who are mourning the loss of loved ones
All who have asked ICPM for prayers ...



We've Moved...Again

New Address:
c/o Bissell Centre, 10527 96 Street NW, Edmonton T5H 2H6

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 Bissell Centre
10527 96 St NW, Edmonton AB T5H 2H6

Charitable Registration: BN107507378 RR001



ICPM Board Members 2008-2009

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Nick Ritson-Bennett
Anglican/Bissell Centre
The Rev. Lynn Elliott
United
Sue Pasker
Lutheran

Ministry Team as Members of the Board

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

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.