



STRAIGHT

FROM THE STREET

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



February 2008

Pastor Rick's Reflection



On several occasions over the last six months, I have been offered the enormous privilege of participating in Sacred Circle. Sacred Circle is a “gathering” called together by people of 1st Nations, Métis and/or Inuit heritage. The “circle” enables each individual present in the circle an equal share in the communications regarding important events within the life of the community. The “sacred” relates to the sacredness of the assembly that is blessed by the elder(s) with ancient ceremony. In a very real way the sacred circle invokes the presence of the “holy,” asking the

Creator to permeate the hearts, minds and conversations of those gathered.

The question you may be asking is, “Why were these particular sacred circles called?” The gatherings were called in regards to the Residential School Settlement. Many 1st Nations, Métis and Inuit children were removed from their homes and communities and were

sent to Residential Boarding Schools. The Residential School Settlement is a court mandated response to the class action suite of Native persons against the Canadian government and several mainline church denominations. The Residential School Settlement is a process that enables payment, healing and redress of an historic wrong suffered by many Native Peoples in Canada. The Residential School Settlement includes: Common Experience Payment, IAP hearings, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the

Healing Fund and Archival Site(s) to document the history.

You might think that the central conversation of the Sacred Circles would be related to the money now being received by those persons who qualify. Actually, the “sharing” that took place within the Sacred Circle(s) related mainly to very personal and often painful “survivor” stories experienced by individuals as they were caught up in this system of assimilation. Much of what was being shared told the stories of 8-12 year old children, who, being taken from the familiarity and love of their homes and parents, were transported many hundreds of miles, to be placed in a very foreign environment. Home, family, culture, language and tradition were excised from the Native child. A very systematic and deliberate effort of state and church worked to assimilate the Native child into Canadian culture. The Residential School System was designed, and I quote, “to take the Indian out of the Indian.” More painful still, were the stories told of physical and sexual abuse suffered by many of these children at the hands of some of their caregivers.

Continued page 2

Pastor Rick's Reflections continued...

Can these stories be true? Unfortunately, these personal histories are not myth. The intent of the Residential School System to assimilate Native children into the Canadian Dream is well documented and the instances of abuse have been established in a court of law. Many of our churches were implicated as partners in this benighted history. The question presented for discussion by Bishop Mark MacDonald, Anglican Bishop amongst 1st Nations people in Canada, is worth considering. Bishop Mark's question went something like this ... "How do we, as the church, come to grips with the reality that our beloved church holds within it the evil seed that enabled our complicity in this treatment of a people, and yet, holds the seed of hope that enables healing and reconciliation?"

As a Pastor ministering amongst many 1st Nations, Métis and Inuit people, my thought immediately leads me to consider the need for reconciliation and healing. If there was ever a moment in Canadian history that the churches are enabled to exercise a ministry of Social Justice, it is now, and it is a ministry in support of our Native people. This ministry will be a ministry of reconciliation and healing. We are invited to join the Sacred Circle with our brothers and sisters in Christ of the 1st Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and with them enter into a ministry of reconciliation and healing.. Let us take every opportunity to do so, humbly, and as Christ leads us.

In Loving Memory...

Bette Grace Frost



After having suffered a major stroke in September, 2007, Bette Frost passed away on December 9 at the age of 83 years. Bette Frost was a good part of the heart and soul of ICPM having served as a Board member and Lunch Program Coordinator for 15 years. Bette had a wonderful smile and a great sense of humour. She made many a friend in the church network as she developed and maintained contact with the churches who prepared and served the lunch after the Sunday service. Everyone knew and loved Bette and ICPM will never forget her contribution. Her spirit will live on in the Sunday lunch program which she organized and in the relationships she developed.

Bette was one of the few Board members who carried its history and its vision in her bones and she consistently reminded us of the essential mission of the organization should we show any indication of straying from it. Unable to make the 2007 Sunday Lunch Church Contact Workshop because of her illness, she wrote these words regarding ICPM ...

"I wish to tell you what is my deep heart feeling about ICPM, why I became involved and why I have stayed involved for 15 years. It was started by a group of ministers who wanted to provide a "church" for the people of the Inner City – people who did not want institutions, people who were not comfortable with or seeking grandeur. It was to be a church without walls, with a ministry that would walk the roads and speak of spirituality. It would embody the simplicity of Christ's sandals and cloak over the shoulder. Jesus met people in their own environment, with no pretenses.

I rebel at the thought of Capital projects, campaigning for funds to build a structure. Utilities, employees, repairs, etc. that make churches what they are today – expensive! The focus becomes leaky roofs, backed-up sewers, insurance, paperwork, rules, constantly revised "policy statements." The church becomes the building, instead of the people. One becomes tied up in red tape which strangles good intentions. There is a loss of kindness and love. Communications become confrontational instead of civil (the polite concern for the happiness and comfort of others.) Time is spent in one's own mind instead of interaction. We lose our focus on "the straight goods." What a waste of life. Instead, we need to laugh, to listen and in Christ's tradition, to be ready to serve others!"

Bette was a woman of deep and passionate faith. It was this passion that made her a tenacious guardian of the essential mission of ICPM – to be a church without walls, with a ministry that would walk the roads and speak of spirituality. We miss you, Bette and take courage and comfort in knowing that you will always be the guardian angel of ICPM.

Christmas Gift Sacks 2007

I received an excited phone call during Christmas Week. “Pastor Rick,” Eric’s joyous voice burst through the phone, “Thank you, thank you, thank you for this wonderful gift! How did you know just what I needed? You must have gone to the store and hand picked each of these items for me! This gift is so perfect!”



Eric is a good friend of mine, one of the folk who lives in a supported housing unit within the Inner City. Eric is a good and appreciative friend, who I have come to know through our ministry of presence within the inner city of Edmonton. How thrilled he was to receive a Christmas Gift Sack offered by one of the many supportive churches who gave so generously.

I appreciated the call from Eric because it brought home to me, quite clearly, that the Christmas Gift Sacks do have meaning for the many people who live, often alone and anonymously, within the many shelters, transition houses and supportive housing in the Boyle McCauley area. Our Ministry Team had distributed some 350 Christmas Gift Sacks at the ICPM Christmas Service and delivered another 500 Christmas Gifts Sacks to various support agencies and shelters. I really had little time to appreciate what each of these individual gifts might mean for person after person who received a gift. Eric brought the meaning of the gift home to me that day through his appreciative phone call. I had not gone to the store to hand pick each of the items placed in the Christmas Gift Sack, but someone from the local church had, often adding a seasonal bow, Christmas Greeting card and a prayer with each sack.

I extend to each of you in the many churches who supported the Christmas Gift Sack appeal for Christmas 2007, Eric’s excited and joyous message, “Thank you, thank you, thank you for this wonderful gift! How did you know just what I needed? You must have gone to the store and hand picked each of these items for me!”

Pastor Rick

Dorothy

Dorothy Delorme – Member of Emanuel Community Church - ICPM Church Service

Dorothy, mother and grandmother, writes ...

I've been coming to the Bissell Centre Church Service every Sunday for the past twenty seven years.

I love coming here because it gives me a peace of mind. I feel at ease both in body and spirit.

People from all walks of life come here to pray and love to hear the Word of God. The sermon is powerful and easy to understand. I feel like I am in another world.

Different church denominations come here to serve us a meal afterwards. They are friendly and kind to us and the people are grateful and happy.

All the past pastors, whom I get to know, did a job well done.

Pastor Rick and his wife Bernadene, Sister Marion, Linda, ICPM volunteers, and Terry are doing an excellent job here at the Bissell Centre. Keep up the good work and thank you.

Dorothy offers this prayer ...

Whatever our hands touch, we leave fingerprints, on walls, on furniture, on door knobs, dishes and books! There's no escape. As we touch, we leave our identity.

O God, wherever I go today, help me leave "heart prints." Heart prints of compassion, of understanding and of love, heart prints of kindness and genuine concern.

May my heart touch a lovely neighbor or a runaway daughter, or an anxious mother, or perhaps an aged grandfather.

Lord, send me out today, to leave heart prints and if someone should say, "I felt your touch" may that one sense your love touching through me. Amen

30th Anniversary!

Inner City Pastoral Ministry 30th Anniversary 1978-2008

Since the inception of Inner City Pastoral Ministry thirty years ago, the ministry has sought to affirm with the church and live out within the inner city community this 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.”

ICPM was birthed from the visionary leadership of the United Church who saw the need to establish a ministry within the Boyle Street – McCauley areas, a ministry of presence where people could seek help or guidance in spiritual matters or counseling, and to offer a gathering place for prayer and worship. Soon the Anglican Church, the Lutheran and then the Roman Catholic Church, came along side to support this unique ministry.

✠ The Rev. Barrett Scheske

The Rev. Barrett Scheske, the 1st Pastor (Lutheran 1979-1982), described the needs of the community in this way, “The inner city is the home of Edmonton’s poorest people. In less than one square mile, not five minutes from the downtown office towers, people crowd into rooming houses and single family dwellings. The area is characterized by a highly transient population, mostly male, and many single parent families. Two thirds of the households fall below Canada’s official poverty line. Unemployment

is widespread. Alcohol and drug abuse, prostitution, family violence and street crimes are common. People die young here. These are the people who are part of the ICPM faith community.” Not much has changed in thirty years. Poverty, homelessness, unemployment, mental health and addictions, street violence and crime are the day by day venue people of the inner city must endure.

Through the years the ICPM has had strong ties with the Bissell Centre, a United Church Community Outreach. Sunday worship was and continues to be hosted by the Bissell Centre. At times the worship was conducted in a corner of the gym amongst packing boxes and heaps of clothing donations. Today the Bissell Drop In, Sunday by Sunday, is converted into the Emmanuel Community Church. Pastor Wendy Ainsworth (Anglican 2001-2004) had a “stow away” altar built that contains all the needed regalia, linens and symbols of worship to create the Sunday morning sacred space. A colorful and striking banner, designed to depict both Christian and Aboriginal symbols of faith, quilted by the women of St Paul’s Anglican Church, Leduc, helps immensely in transforming a plain room into a worship space.

A nourishing lunch, with good fellowship, and an opportunity to touch, however briefly, the lives of others has always been a top priority of the Emmanuel Community Church. From the early days when the women of Robertson Wesley United Church would provide coffee

and goodies, the Sunday Lunch has evolved to 100+ churches of several denominations and faith communities providing a nutritious and balanced meal every Sunday of the year.

✠ Pastor Odette Perron

Pastors and Pastoral Associates have each made their mark within the life of this ministry. Pastor Odette Perron (Anglican 1984-1989) built the worshipping community, introducing many families with their children to this unique faith community. During Pastor Odette’s tenure the congregation approached her to say, “We need a name for our church.” Names of various Saints were suggested. In the end a name which described the refuge, hope and the inspiration of the ICPM was chosen. The community spoke, they would be called the Community of Emmanuel – God With Us.

✠ Pastor Suzanne Cowles

Pastor Suzanne Cowles (Lutheran 1989-1996) describes her years in the inner city as, “It was the best of times and the worst of times.” She witnessed the immediate effects of significant government cutbacks in social assistance on the inner city population. Numbers in the Sunday lunch line rose dramatically. Pastor Cowles was challenged to sustain the faith of the people as they saw more and more being taken away and nothing being given back. These changes pushed Suzanne into activities and involvement in the community whose primary focus was social justice.

† Pastor Faith Brace

Pastor Faith Brace (Lutheran 1995-2001), after completing a student internship at ICPM with Pastor Cowles, plunged into the ministry of the street as the full time Pastor. Coming along side, building relationships, moving out amongst the homeless and destitute, advocating for the ministry of ICPM amongst the supporting churches consumed Pastor Faith's time and energy.

† Sister Marion Garneau

During her tenure, Pastor Faith invited Sister Marion Garneau, Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, (Roman Catholic 1996-present) to join the Ministry Team of ICPM as a Pastoral Associate. Sister Marion brings an incredible wealth of gifts to this ministry, not the least of which include her compassion, love, gentleness, patience and music. Sister Marion writes, "It is my church ... oh yes, it is my church and I'll be their on Sunday. We have heard from so many... from a young man serving time in prison, from a woman recovering from life threatening events from an old man dying in hospital. What a comfort to know that so many people of the Inner City have found the Community of Emmanuel their home over the years."

† Pastor Wendy Ainsworth

Pastor Wendy Ainsworth (Anglican 2001-2005) carried the torch of God's love throughout the inner city.

Growing concerns of regarding homelessness, increasing drug and alcohol abuse, the care of people with mental health problems, poverty

and concerns for women facing domestic or street violence filled Pastor Wendy's days.

† Linda Winski

In response to the growing concern to offer people spiritual counsel, care and prayer Pastor Wendy in consultation with the ICPM Board advocated for the introduction of a Pastoral Assistant. Presently, the Pastoral Assistant is Linda Winski (2005-present) who devotes her time to the pastoral care, worship and lunch ministry of the inner city and Emmanuel community, particularly being present at the Women's Emergency Accommodation Shelter.

† Pastor Rick Chapman

After Pastor Joanne Kobylka had completed an interim ministry year with ICPM (United 2005-2006), Pastor Rick Chapman was called to the ICPM ministry (Anglican 2006-present). Pastor Rick came to this ministry with many years experience of ministry within both inner city and aboriginal ministry. Establishing a relationship with inner city people and support agencies and building relationships within the Emmanuel Church community, along with supporting churches and church committees have filled the Pastor's days. A particular concern of Pastor Rick is the 1st Nations, Métis and Inuit who live within the urban centre of Edmonton. Historic developments regarding the Residential School Settlement have turned the spot light on the Native Peoples in Canada. From early beginnings, the ministry of ICPM, many of the people ministered amongst have been 1st Nations, Métis and the Inuit. Our love, care and

prayer amongst all people of the inner city continues. Our love, care and prayer amongst Aboriginal people is a special privilege of God's call upon our ministry.

Our 30th Anniversary celebration would not be complete without mentioning the many, many volunteers who assist in so many different ways the ministry of ICPM. The volunteers have blessed us as we journey with the people of the inner city. May God bless you in return!

The Inner City Pastoral Ministry is a ministry of presence in partnership with the community and guided by the Spirit of God, we have for 30 years walked with the people of the inner city of Edmonton.

30th Anniversary Prayer

O God, for 30 years we have journeyed with you. We have sought to see your face within a ministry of presence amongst the people of the inner city of Edmonton.

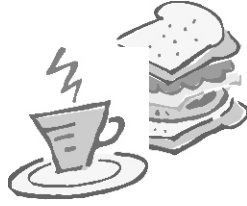
We thank you that we have discerned the presence of the Spirit in our midst. We thank you for the spiritual blessing that has rested upon us these 30 years.

Journey with us, O God, for we continue to seek how best to follow you. Journey with us as we share your name in a ministry of care, healing, and prayer among the lives of your people within the inner city community

We give thanks for all those who have made the ministry possible over the years. May the plans and our leadership be open to your Spirit's leading in this day and in the days to come; that together we might follow you. Amen

New Lunch Coordinator

As many of you may know, some may not, our beloved Bette Frost passed away just before Christmas after suffering a severe stroke. Our prayers continue with Bette's family as they deal with the loss of their mother and grandmother.



Bette for years offered her time, energy and organizing skills to the Sunday Lunch ministry. What a great job she did! We have through Bette's efforts a list of over 100 churches and faith communities who support Sunday lunch for the folk, many who are homeless, of Edmonton's inner city. Thank you Bette.

You can imagine that the coordinating of the Sunday lunch ministry is a big job for someone to take on. We are glad to say that we have had someone step forward to fill the breach. May I introduce to you Sharon Webb, St Matthew's Anglican Church, St. Albert.

Here's what Sharon writes when asked for her BIO ...

I'm married, for forty years this year. I have three adult children and three grandchildren. I work as a bookkeeper for Ideal Rewind Services and have done so for the past thirty three years. I drive a school bus (part-time) for the past twenty years.

I have lived in Alberta all my life, in the Peace River area for my first fourteen years, then came to Edmonton and I have lived in St Albert for the last twenty nine years.

I went to school in Edmonton, grade nine and up. I attended, first, Faithful Companions of Jesus, a convent, Grade Nine, and then I went to Academy Assumption, Grade 10, and then, St. Joseph's High School, Grade Eleven.

I have volunteered fourteen years with Girl Guides of Canada at the District and Area level in St. Albert.

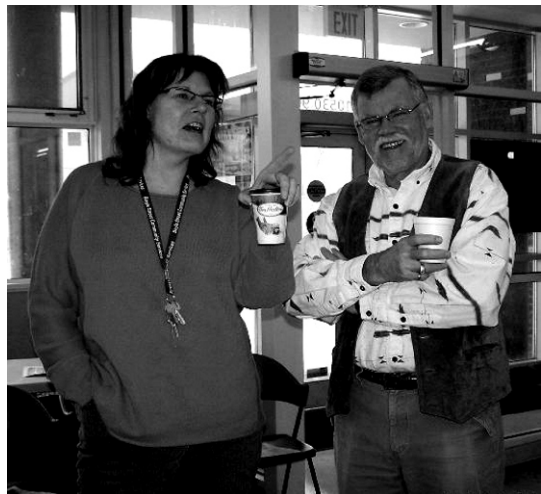
I have been treasurer for numerous clubs in Edmonton and St. Albert.

I'm Anglican and attend St Matthew's Anglican Church, St. Albert, and I am an active member of the choir and the women's group at St. Matthew's.

Adding to what Sharon is saying ... Sharon is the contact person at St Matthew's for the Sunday Lunch Ministry.

Sharon will be making herself known to each of the churches who have volunteered to supply and serve the ICPM lunch at the Bissell Centre for 2008. We hope, in time, that a Sunday Lunch "Team" will be developed as people from various denominations volunteer to assist Sharon in this very big task.

Thank you Sharon for taking on this big job and we are pleased to greet you as our new Sunday Lunch Coordinator!



Terry Kettleton our Sunday Food Manager explaining to Reinhard Dunsen, a church volunteer the finer points of serving 300+ community people at the Sunday Lunch.



Young people from St John's Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park volunteer to prepare and serve the ICPM Sunday Lunch

Demographics of the Inner City are Changing

by Jim Gurnett

Mennonite Centre for Newcomers

A visit to Edmonton's urban core neighborhoods shows a great deal of change. But it is not only in the restaurants and places of business that we see change. With thousands of immigrants coming to the city each year and many of them living in central neighborhoods this diverse population is more evident than ever.

Poverty amongst new immigrants is about five times higher than for the overall population. Immigrants often live in the inner city neighborhood because there is more chance of finding a place that is at least close to affordable. Transportation is also more available, or a person can walk to many places.

The evidence of the diversity of faith communities is also evident, more Buddhist temples and monasteries, small shrines outside the homes and businesses, more grocery stores offering halal meats.

Many immigrants are Christians and the changes are evident here too. The former French Roman Catholic church on 96 Street is now home to a large Vietnamese congregation. A vibrant African church meets each week at the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers on 101 Street, and many others are becoming part of existing congregations. Some churches now have Sudanese services on Sunday afternoon.

And so, the work of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry has new areas of responsibility to explore. Not only are a lot of these newcomers economically poor, but often they lack English language skills or labour



market skills. And there are issues of family tensions and youth getting connected to inappropriate ways of living. Some are struggling with the effects of years of living where violence is normal. Volunteers from mainstream Canadian society can be an important support for these people.

ICPM is open to the challenges a changing Edmonton will bring to its ministry. During the Christmas Season an unexpected surplus of gifts, thanks to St. Matthias Anglican Church, meant that many Sudanese and Karen families where children would otherwise have had very little, were able to have the joy of opening their own gifts.

We are thankful for the diversity of culture, language and religious traditions new Canadians bring to our city. Let us support our new neighbors in every possible way. Let us not forget that it was not to many years ago that our ancestors came to this land to build a safe community for their families and to prosper in this fair city of Edmonton.

Fund Raising and Finance Committee

In November of 2007 the Fund Raising Committee sent out an urgent Appeal Letter to individuals, churches and church organizations. The outlook for balancing our year end at the time looked, may I say, grim.

ICPM, identified as a church ministry, must raise its funds from individual donors sympathetic to our work and from the church. Government grants are not an option.

Well, God's people shone through! During the ensuing months leading to Christmas, a tremendous and generous response of donations were received. Individual donors gave a little more. Churches appealed to their Outreach Committees and special appeal groups and funds were soon forthcoming. Church Women's organizations also responded to our need.

Our year end expenses were met and we had a little left over to carry us through the month of January.

Thank you all for your generous response! May God bless you as you support the ministry of ICPM!

E-mail Newsletter

Want to get the news via email?

Please follow the instructions below.

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

Annual General Meeting

Inner City Pastoral Ministry

30th Anniversary Celebration

1978-2008

All those interested in the ministry of the Inner City Ministry are invited to the Annual General Meeting to be held on

March 27, 2008

5:00 – 8:00 pm

**Christ Church Anglican,
12116 102 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta**

SCHEDULE

Gathering.....5:00

+ Prayers

Supper6:00

Speaker.....7:00

+ AGM

Finale.....8:00

ICPM Board Members 2007-2008

Nancy Kerr Board Chair
United

Susan Querengesser Vice Chair
Lutheran

Diane Doering Secretary
Lutheran

Fred Drummond Treasurer
Anglican

Sharon Webb Lunch
Ministry Co ordinator
Anglican

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

Angels in our Midst

It was a Sunday before Christmas ... not too warm and not too cold, but winter time none the less. He came early this Sunday. Normally, he would show up during the lunch a couple of grocery carts in tow, piled high with the many things he gathered on his journey through the inner city streets. This Sunday, however, he was early enough to attend the worship service which preceded the lunch. He sat down in a chair behind a table where some women were sitting. Because he didn't usually come to worship, I went over to welcome him. He looked up and smiled, revealing the familiar gap in his mouth where teeth used to be. His sky blue eyes twinkled with recognition ...

To read more of this heart moving story please visit the ICPM website at <http://icpmedmonton.ca>.

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

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.