



# STRAIGHT

## FROM THE STREET

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY

### What's News in the Boyle McCauley Community?

Spring-Summer 2008

Pastor Rick  
Chapman+



The revitalization planning of the Boyle McCauley areas is upon us with the commencement of community revitalization meetings, and the discussions of the BRZ, business revitalization zone association(s). You may have heard something of these plans through the local papers. Reports on the hopes for the renewal and expansion of the down town core have caused quite a stir. The proposed building of a new Oilers' ice arena is one of the hotly debated items.

I have had opportunity to attend several of these revitalizations meetings. I have learned that community revitalization planning is not easy. There is no crystal ball one can gaze into to determine how the future will look. Interests of the city, the business community,

the local residents, and the wider community of Edmonton are taken into account when engineering future change and the spending of precious tax dollars. The vision does gradually emerge from the minds and hearts of committed individuals and groups living within a particular community through a well planned process of consultation.

Revitalization planning may be as simple as the desire to beautify a streetscape by hanging flower pots and planting trees. The preservation of historic homes and buildings, the development of more green spaces, pedestrian and bicycle walk and roadways, community centers for gatherings and the development of the arts are suggestions as to how best to encourage the building of a community with character.

Questions of how to attract new and desirable business enterprise into an area which is experiencing a decline are also discussed. Noted was one city that painted on existing and vacant buildings the type businesses desired with a revitalized vision of the area. Public safety and a sense of well being within one's community is a constant theme.



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## What's News?...

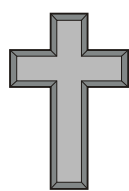
Unique to question of the revitalization of the Boyle McCauley areas is the consideration of the number of agencies, supported housing units, transition houses, shelters and drop-ins located in the districts. Over the years, forty and more support agencies have found a home in the Boyle McCauley areas. Seniors on fixed incomes, individuals with needs due to longer term mental and physical health concerns, low income wage earners, the "hard to house," the homeless and those suffering addictions all find care and support in the areas.

Revitalization plans that look to the gentrification of the area, meaning, the hopes of new home buyers and business planners to upscale the community, at times, conflict with the historic social supports offered to the disenfranchised and lower income individuals already living and receiving support within the community. This point of tension is what the city, the business community, residents and agencies struggle with when engaging in the discussion of Boyle McCauley revitalization. "No more!" "What are we to do with these people?" "Move them on!" "More policing!" are comments gaining a hearing in BRZ and Boyle and McCauley Revitalization community meetings.

Simply seeking to move "unwanted" populations of people from one area of the city to another will not fix the "problem". The homeless, the less fortunate, and the need to offer care of the vulnerable, is going to get worse before it gets better in our booming economy. Rising rents and increased living costs will force many more individuals and families living on marginalized and fixed incomes into the unwelcome need for social supports. Plans of revitalization and

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## 30th Anniversary Cross



Recently, a letter was sent out to churches highlighting, as part of our 30th Anniversary, our desire to make available to the people of the inner city an "ICPM 30th Anniversary Cross."

ICPM has consistently given out 200 – 300 crosses a year as we minister within the inner city. In many ways the request for a cross from individuals has come out of a direct contact with the pastoral ministry. The cross represents for the individual a moment in time when they have felt prayerfully in touch with God's presence.

A number of churches, who have received our letter, have responded.

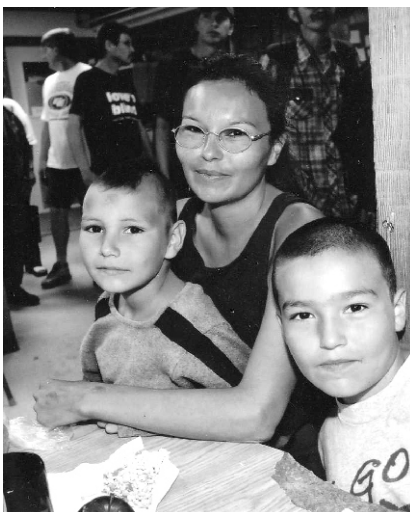
The first response of these churches is to offer a gift to purchase crosses for the inner city.

The second response has been from members of the church who hold ICPM close to their hearts. "We would like the opportunity to wear a cross from ICPM also! Please send us a number of crosses for our interested church members."

The ICPM 30th anniversary crosses are available. Our request is that the faith community will assist us in the purchase cost of these crosses. ICPM pays \$2.00 for each cross, thus 50 crosses cost us \$100.

The hope in our 30th anniversary year is to have 1000+ of the 30th anniversary crosses made available to people of the inner city and individuals within the churches. The 30th Anniversary crosses are a reminder to pray for and to celebrate the 30 year ministry of ICPM, 1978-2008. For further information contact Pastor Rick Chapman - 424 7652.

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the Boyle McCauley are a wonderful opportunity to empower the community to address all aspects of what a revitalized community will look like in the future. My concern is that the voices of those most vulnerable are not always represented at the table. The revitalization of our communities, no matter how beneficial and beautiful, cannot be done by sweeping the less fortunate under the carpet. We, as a community, as people of faith, have a God given trust to consider, first and foremost, the care of those most vulnerable.

renewal of our city must realistically take into account the need for food, clothing and, yes, shelter of those most vulnerable.

I believe the public meetings offered by the city of Edmonton in

## AGM Keynote Speaker

It is wonderful to be together celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry especially during the season of Easter. Easter is the hope of new life, the hope of resurrection, the idea that there is hope beyond our failings, beyond our mistakes, that there is hope even beyond death.

There are days when despair can overwhelm us. I am sure that I am not alone in feeling a little lost sometimes. Certainly the issues raised in the last decade around Indian Residential Schools and the harm caused to generations of First Nations people, caused me to falter.

I was the United Church minister in Port Alberni, BC, when a former Dormitory Supervisor was charged with 18 counts of sexual assault. The local congregation was stunned to learn what went on underneath their noses at the school, and after much study, and hearing of stories, they wrote an apology in 1997.

I feared many things in those early days of seeking an apology from our Church. I feared that we might lose our soul to our fear of lawsuits, I feared that we might stop being the Church as we tried to save the institution, and I saw hope dawn when we took a leap of faith, and apologized, knowing it might leave us open to legal consequences that would have destroyed our denomination. In that moment we lived our faith in resurrection, facing death in the hope of new life.

In 1998 when the Moderator of the United Church issued an apology for our part in the Residential School system, and he also gave a commitment from the church to find an alternative dispute resolution for

those who suffered at Indian Residential Schools. The Residential Schools Settlement is a result of that work. Through it some money has been made available to survivors. The money is an important symbol. It means that finally we are taking the cries of First Nations people seriously, acknowledging this history of suffering, and firmly stating our intention to walk a path of healing. But the reality is that the searing horror that is the legacy of these schools cannot be solved by money.

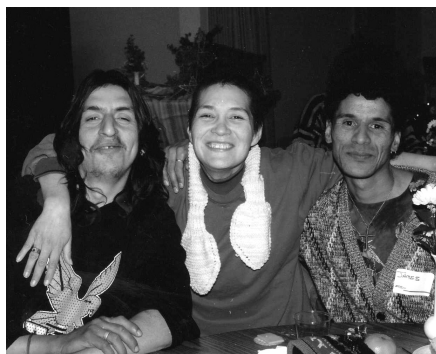
We need now to join our First Nations brothers and sisters, when invited, into healing circles to bear witness. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission will open up this wound long festering and the Immigrant peoples (that is all of us who are not first nation) will find the revelations difficult to hear, but if we are going to heal the rift between our communities we must face the death of our delusions about our past, so that we can find the possibilities of new life. This will be a difficult process. Many may fear the consequences. It will certainly lead to upheaval. But out of

that upheaval will come healing and resurrection, new life.

As Christians we know that we practice resurrection whenever we affirm that death is not the final word. Cruelty, hatred, and violence do not have the final word. God has the final word. And God's final word is life. New life is our great gift and our great hope. This season of Easter we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and we celebrate our own resurrection, and we celebrate the possibility of resurrection all around us. I give thanks to God for the work of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry. You are a source of hope not only to those you serve in the Inner City, but also to the congregations that support your work. Lutherans, Anglicans, Roman Catholics, the United Church, and the other denominations and Faith Communities you work with, see hope at work in you. May it always be so. Thanks be to God!

*From a talk given by  
Rev. Kathy Hogman,*

*Chair of Edmonton Presbytery of the  
United Church of Canada, at the ICPM  
Annual Meeting on March 27th, 2008*



A time for laughter



Long Term member of the Emmanuel Community



## Your Gifts Enable Us to Continue

*"If you are enjoying the shade  
of a tree someone else planted,  
plant a tree"*

*"If you are enjoying the water  
of a well someone else dug,  
dig a well"*

**I**nnor City Pastoral Ministry is thankful for all the generous supporters of this important ministry. We strive to make life a little bit better for those who live on the streets of Edmonton. Without you, giving your time and your money we could not walk with those who need our love and support most. It is through your generous gifts that we continue to plant trees and dig wells for those who need them most.

We have many congregations and individuals who have supported our ministry for many years. Over 100 people have consistently given gifts over the last 10 years!

We have others who have given as they are able. We are grateful for all who give financially and who enter into our community on Sunday mornings to serve food to the hungry. We are grateful for all you have done and will continue to do to sustain our work. We are also grateful for your prayers and constant encouragement of this ministry.

We need your ongoing support in order to continue our ministry. The needs among those living on the streets or in severe poverty have only increased as the economy has grown in Edmonton. We have been good stewards of the funds which have been provided to us and we want to do more. We want to be able to continue and we know that there is greater need.

The founder of our church, Jesus Christ, got lots of bad press because he insisted on being involved with

"earthly" things. Not that he was particularly concerned with people's wealth (unless it came at somebody else's expense) but he was very concerned about what people did with their wealth and power, with their time and talents. Most of all he was concerned about their attitudes. "Where your treasure is," said Jesus, "there your heart will be also." When you consider your next gift to Inner

City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) please remember that you are participating in an act of expressing your faith. Stewardship is what you do after you say, "I believe".

We believe that together we can make a difference.

Thank you for considering your gifts to ICPM

*Fundraising Committee*

### Quotable Quotes

#### Safe housing ...

##### Living Without Food, Bissell Centre, March 2007

- "A regular roof over my head would really help much."
- "Safe, cheap accommodation to do my own thing, cook what I want at my own time and not be forced to eat at some else's time."
- "I am good at finding hiding spots in buildings to sleep. I have been living on the street off and on for the past 15 years."
- "I just need the basics. Shelter, shower, a place to sleep, the basics. Washer and dryer. I would like to have a kitchen to cook macaroni and cheese."
- "Right now, I'm sleeping on someone's floor – prior to that, I was sleeping in a van."



#### What is it like to go hungry ...

##### Living without Food, Bissell Centre, March 2007

- "I have no money and no income. I've been six months on the street."
- "I'm embarrassed at digging in cans and bins."
- "Before I was on the streets, I had two jobs and couldn't afford to feed myself."
- "Hunger accents my loneliness. I am physically weak and it makes me more weak. It puts me in a grumpy mood – I lash out at people here."
- "The hardest part is all the walking. I am 7 months pregnant. My ankles are swollen and sore. I must walk around 5 miles a day to get to the various places for food and shelter."

# Way of the Cross

## Local Christians walk the streets to reflect and pray for the less fortunate

By Renato Gandia, Sun Media

Hundreds of Christians walked the alleys and streets of Edmonton's poorest neighbourhood Friday denouncing the damaging effects of Alberta's economic boom.

It was part of the Good Friday Outdoor Way of the Cross, an annual walk that began 28 years ago to bring the day's celebration out of the churches and into the streets, said co-organizer Linda Winski.

"It's a way to give public witness to the fact that our faith is profoundly social and that the scripture and that the teachings of Jesus are relevant to our time," she said.

This year's theme was "Alberta's boom – for whom?"

Winski said organizers chose the theme to highlight the deplorable status of the city's poor and marginalized while Alberta's economy continues to thrive.

Groups of people took turns carrying a wooden cross from one symbolic station to another in a re-enactment of the last hours before Jesus Christ was crucified.

They sang worship songs and recited prayers focused on social justice, stopping at nine key spots in the inner-city, including the Boyle Street Community League Park, the former tent city, Boyle-McCauley Health Centre, The Haven – a house for refugees, and the Bissell Centre.

People reflected and prayed for the homeless, students, refugees, the disabled and society's outcasts.



"Sometimes it's really disheartening when you think about what really has changed in 30 years," said Winski. "The context is a little bit different but the issues are the same."

Participants questioned whether government policies alleviate the plight of the poor or cause harsher conditions.

Students voiced their concerns about affordable tuition fees and housing.

"If you have a place to rent, make them affordable for the students," U of

A student Penny Nelson implored the crowd.

"Invite us for meals," said another student, which drew laughter from the crowd.

Karen Gabert, with the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, spoke about the untold stories of refugees from war-torn countries.

"Refugees are often overlooked among other immigrant stories," Gabert said.

People of faith must speak up against injustices as much now as 2,000 years ago, said event co-organizer Jim Gurnett.

Winski said Friday's street prayer is a reminder that Jesus Christ was crucified because he questioned the status quo and stood for social change.

"As Christians, we ask ourselves how we might live faithful discipleship in the midst of a boom, which is benefiting a number of people but certainly leaving people on the margins as well."

*Reprinted with permission*

## Poetry of the Street

That tongue belonging  
Cree survives in the words.  
My niece offers her tearful daughter.  
It's okay my girl.  
My girl, that tender way of  
affirming kinship.  
My girl, that recognition of being'  
Stilled into and belonging to Cree.

*Linda Koester*

## A poem, dedicated to Gilbert Auger's love of birds.

A fool and his money are good  
for business.  
As the twig is bent, the birds  
fall off.  
A barking dog won't bite ...  
At least as long as its still barking

*Linda Koester*

## Celebrating 30 Years in Ministry!

The Annual General Meeting was held on March 27, 2008. The AGM began by celebrating in worship, prayer and song Inner City Pastoral Ministry's thirty years of ministry within the inner city of Edmonton, 1978-2008. Those who attended this AGM included supporters of ICPM, church dignitaries, church outreach and social justice representatives and Sunday lunch contact volunteers.

Christ Church Anglican hosted our evening; the Rev Michael Rolph offered a hearty welcome and graced our meal. The supper, prepared and provided by Dedrie McKay was a very nutritious and tasty meal. This same meal is offered monthly to support the homeless and needy frequenting the Christ Church area. Thank you to the congregation of Christ Church for their hospitality.



The evening began with a Worship Service lead by Pastor Rick. Sister Marion provided the music and Linda Winski offering the prayers of the people. As members of the 30th anniversary committee planned the service, they were eager to present to those who gathered a "taste of Sunday morning" at the Bissell centre. The celebrated banner of ICPM, fashioned and donated by the women of St Paul's



Anglican Church, Leduc, provided the backdrop. Display boards filled with pictures of Pastors, Emmanuel Community manners and the ministry of presence of ICPM were the "host of witnesses" that surrounded those offering thanks to God during the service. Pastor Rick, Sister Marion and Linda Winski offered worship, prayer and song in like manner to a Sunday morning worship at the Bissell.

The quest speaker for the evening was the Rev Kathleen Hogman, Trinity United Church, and present chair of the United Church Edmonton Presbytery. Rev Kathy spoke of the justice ministry of the church, particularly in regards to our need to be aware of the Residential School Settlement and of our call to ministry amongst people of 1st Nations, Inuit and the Métis. Further, Rev Kathy spoke of the resurrection of our Lord, not to be understood as a static theological construct, but resurrection as a dynamic experience, God's justice and hope changing a troubled world. A summary of Rev Kathy's reflection is found in this newsletter.

To top the evening off, letters of congratulations and blessing from the four supporting denominations of ICPM were read on the occasion of ICPM's 30th anniversary. These letters were a wonderful affirmation of continued support for the ministry of

ICPM as demonstrated by these excerpts ...

"ICPM has been blessed. Together you have provided spiritual sustenance and a safe alternative to drug and alcohol abuse, you have cared for people without homes those who suffer mental distress, the poor and women facing domestic and street violence. You have built community and solidarity with 1st Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Edmonton seeking healing from the abuse of the Indian Residential School and have been key among the church's witness in seeking a new path to right relations."

*Rev. Lynn Maki, Executive Secretary, Alberta and Northwest Conference, United Church*

"We are profoundly thankful for your work in Edmonton's Inner City. Through your ministry you are serving Christ's mission to "bind up the broken-hearted."

*Rev. Kathy Hogman, Chair, Edmonton Presbytery, United Church*

"The Inner City Ministry is a unique expression of ecumenical co-operation and support for Edmonton's forgotten and disadvantaged. I am deeply grateful that your ministry is being offered in the name of Christ and the power of the Gospel."

*The Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Alexander, Bishop of Edmonton, Anglican*

"The ministry of ICPM constitutes something of an "essential service" within the life of the Church ...



## Celebrating...

Through such “works of mercy” we manifest a concrete love for our neighbor; a love that mirrors God’s own loving care and attention for the bodily and spiritual needs of every one of us. Jesus said, “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. Mt 25:40” Thank you for being this ministry of presence to the “least” members of God’s family.”

*The Most Reverend Richard W. Smith, Archbishop of Edmonton, Roman Catholic*

“I am aware of the impact ICPM has had by welcoming people from many parishes across Edmonton and the surrounding area to serve in various ways through ICPM. Thank you for your ongoing ministry of accompaniment and advocacy.”

*Bishop Ronald B. Mayan, Synod of Alberta and the Territories, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada*

In conclusion, the AGM was a wonderful beginning as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of ICPM within the inner city of Edmonton.

## Ministry Activities at ICPM



## ICPM Board Member News

### Diane Doering

The March annual general meeting of the ICPM Board was the final meeting for our much loved Board member, Diane Doering. Over the years Diane has been our faithful secretary keeping meticulous minutes both for our monthly Board meetings and for our AGMs. With cheerfulness and generosity Diane has given of her time and talents with the work of the Board. Diane has also encouraged the support and ministry of her church, by gathering volunteers of Glory Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park to sort and organize the over 1000+ Christmas Sacks arriving at ICPM’s door for Christmas Season distribution. Thank you Diane for the generous gift of your time and your talents over the years!

As we bid farewell to Diane, we welcome two new members to the ICPM Board.

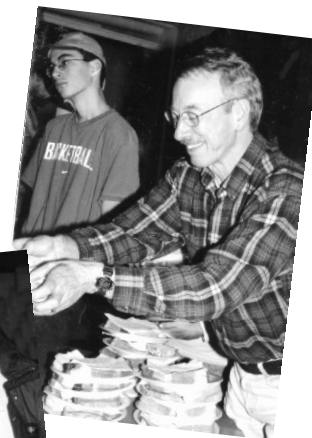
### Sharon Webb

Sharon Webb, a member of St Matthew’s Anglican Church, St Albert, is a newly elected to the Board. Sharon’s presence on the ICPM Board is in keeping with the tradition that the Sunday Lunch Coordinator attends our monthly meetings.

Sharon brings with her much expertise in event planning, as well as skills in leadership in regards to church and community outreach and education. We are blessed that Sharon has taken on this ministry with such enthusiasm!

### Sue Pasker

Sue Pasker, member of Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park, is our newest elected member to the Board. Sue has been interested and has supported the work and ministry of ICPM for several years. Sue is the ICPM contact for the Mt Olivet Sunday lunch and has personally encouraged and supported the ministry of the Christmas Gift Sacks over several years. Welcome on board Sue!



## Upcoming events ...

### 1. "After the Lunch is Over"

Saturday October 4th 9:00 am - 12:30 PM

Annual gathering of Sunday Lunch Contact people and Sunday Lunch volunteers from the various church and faith communities. Come and share your experience and ideas regarding the ICPM - Bissell Lunch ministry.



### 2. "30th Anniversary Celebration"

Sunday October 5th 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Come celebrate with the Emmanuel Community thirty years of ministry within the inner city community. Worship, song and fellowship will be followed by the 30th anniversary lunch. All Friends of ICPM are welcome!

### 3. "Office move"

Summer 2008

Pray for our office move this summer to the newly renovated Bissell Centre East. The ministry team is looking forward to this move that will place us once again in the heart of the inner city community.



*Pictures in this issue show ministry and volunteers over the years.*

**E**nclosed 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  
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## ICPM Board Members 2007-2008

Nancy Kerr Board Chair  
United

\_\_\_\_\_ Vice Chair

Susan Querengesser 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 Veeen  
Roman Catholic

The Rev. Stephen Hallford  
Anglican

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.