



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

Fall 2009

Women's Wellness 2009

Submitted by Linda McIsaac

In September Star of the North Retreat Centre hosted "Time Away From the Everyday", a wellness retreat for women. Twenty-three women from the inner city attended the retreat.

The women who attended the weekend were enthusiastic and appreciative. They were given the opportunity to attend a variety of craft and self care workshops. Relaxation was encouraged through yoga, the opportunity for nature walks, a movie night, ritual, singing and sharing. The women were pampered with little gift packages, chocolate, door prizes for all, and roses in each bedroom.

The generosity and support of the community has been overwhelming and we are truly grateful. A special thank you goes out for the many financial contributions that came in to sponsor women to attend the retreat. Many individuals also contributed hours of time, supplies, skills and talents, in order to help make this weekend happen. We are so grateful!

Some of the comments made by the women at the end of the retreat were:

- Being here has given me what I needed.
- It's good to get away from everyday life, to have quiet.
- When I come here I am able to be myself.
- My life is chaotic; I appreciate the calming, soothing atmosphere.
- It's been a time to try new things.
- When I look at the banner I made last year that hangs on my wall, it brings back to me the freedom I feel when I'm here.
- I am always at home; I don't get to go anywhere. It is good to be here and to be with people.
- My life is hectic, here I could forget about everything else and relax



- When I came I wore a button that said "I love being me", but its not really true. Today I don't feel I need to wear that button, I feel better about being me.
- This morning I thought how privileged I am to be here.
- "Just be kind to myself" That's what I realized this weekend.
- I'm here, and it is good.

Post Script: Inner City Pastoral Ministry has been part of the planning committee for the Women's Wellness Weekend for several years and again this year, Sr. Marion, Linda Winski and Pastor Wendy Ainsworth planned and provided a prayer/reflection time on Saturday evening as part of the weekend program. The Women's Wellness Weekend is a splendid experience of partnering that makes possible a life-giving, faith deepening event that must surely delight the God of us all!

"Action for Homelessness" – A Symposium

Pastor Rick's Reflection

As the Province and City of Edmonton vision for the future, plans for development and revitalization have not centered solely on the Tar Sands and city revitalization exclusively. As a matter of fact, much work has been done to address the communities growing concern regarding homelessness and housing.

Both the Provincial and Municipal government have sought to address the increasing need to house the homeless by drafting 10 Year Plans to end homelessness and eradicate poverty.

In light of Edmonton's 10 Year Plan and as the International Day for the Elimination of Poverty (UN) October 17th approaches, the faith community, and in particular the many denominations of the Christian Church are compelled to respond to this tremendous social need. The Rt. Rev. Jane Alexander along with the Very Rev. Lee Bezanson, All Saints Cathedral, the Rev. Bob Peele, St Augustine's, and the Rev. Rick Chapman, Inner City Pastoral

Ministry, along with Hazel Love McLaughlin, Catherine Molyneux, and Carolyn Nutter, have diligently planned just such a response, a Symposium – entitled ...

"Action for Homelessness - From Dialogue to Faith Community Action."

The Symposium is an opportunity for the Diocese of Edmonton, our Ecumenical Partners, and our city wide interfaith community, to engage in a dialogue with Provincial and Municipal government leaders, housing coalitions and agencies regarding the issues and solutions surrounding people who are homeless and in need of housing.

The goal(s) of "Action for Homelessness" are:

- ★ to present an opportunity to engage with the plight of the homeless and the need of people for adequate housing
- ★ to educate clergy and interested lay and community leaders and youth representatives

- ★ to bridge the interests of government and social agencies with the Church and the interfaith community in regards to the 10 Year Plan and Housing 1st initiatives
- ★ to animate ecumenical partners and the interfaith community to move from dialogue to faith community action

The Symposium begins with a presentation from Key Note Speaker, Dr. Murray Mac Adam Social Justice Consultant with the Diocese of Toronto. Dr. Murray has for several years animated and directed a ministry of social justice within the church particularly in the areas of homelessness and housing, child poverty and HIV AIDS.

Complementing Dr. Murray's address, a member of Edmonton's municipal Homelessness Commission will outline the Mayor Mandel's 10 Year Plan and the Housing 1st initiative.

The day sessions will include testimonials from individuals and their case workers who have successfully moved from homelessness to being housed. Discussion groups with representatives of the Faith community, the Housing Trust Edmonton, housing agencies and community service organizations will explore the question, "What does the Faith Community bring that contributes to the 10 Year Plan to end homelessness and poverty in our city? A Friday Evening "Walkabout" within the inner city is an option for interested symposium participants.

More from Women's Wellness



Twenty-three enthusiastic women gathered for crafts, relaxation and fellowship at the Star of the North Retreat Centre.



A prayer/reflection time on Saturday evening was part of the weekend program.

Churches Called to Engage Homelessness

Increasingly, homelessness is becoming an important issue for Christians in Canada. Last year the Anglican Primate and the Evangelical Lutheran National Bishop called for the members of their respective churches to advocate for funding for affordable housing with Members of Parliament. This national church initiative was rooted in the words of the prophet Isaiah, who told the Israelites that authentic religious practice includes sharing “your bread with the hungry,” and bringing “the

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homeless poor into your own house” (Is 56:8). These national church leaders invited their people to go further: “to go beyond the prophet’s call to create a society where the hungry are able to eat their own bread, and the homeless poor are brought into their own house.”

In Edmonton, addressing homelessness is now a major city priority. In 2008, over 3000 men, women and children were identified as homeless in the latest homeless street count. This number has steadily increased in recent years. In the face of this social reality, the Mayor of Edmonton called for a new way to address this issue. Rather than following the past practice of managing homelessness by annually increasing the number of shelter mats and expanding the winter emergency plans, he called for Edmontonians to work towards a future where homelessness would be eliminated.

Community leaders from all sectors of society, including the faith communities, worked together to create a 10 Year Plan To End Homelessness, entitled “A Place to Call Home.” This 10 Year Plan emphasizes the “Housing First Principle,” where the priority is “to find people permanent homes and give them the support they need to be successful in their homes.”

The 10 Year Plan requires a substantial multi-year funding commitment from all levels of government. Supporters of the plan argue that the Housing First approach is actually less expensive than the ever increasing costs of emergency shelters, health care, policing and social services. Clearly the 10 Year Plan requires supportive social services from many of the inner city and city-wide agencies.

However the success of this ambitious plan very much requires the support of the wider community, including local church congregations. The report, “A Place to Call Home,” has some specific suggestions for faith groups and community organizations. The first suggestion is encourage us to learn more about homelessness in our city, and specifically to speak people who are affected by homelessness, meet them face to face, and find out what they need. The many church members who are already generously assisting at places like ICPM, Mustard Seed or Marian Centre have already entered this learning process. Many within faith communities are already financially assisting these front line agencies and ministries. For ten years, the Edmonton churches have supported the “No Room in the Inn” campaign at Christmas in support of a specific community affordable housing initiative. Another suggestion is for us

to lobby our elected officials, telling them we support ongoing funding for affordable housing programs. Certainly we can do more in these areas.

The 10 Year Plan report’s final suggestion poses a provocative challenge for our local congregations and parishes. It calls us to welcome the Housing First families and individuals into our own neighbourhoods. Too often the public voice from local community leagues and community associations, when faced with the possibility of low income people moving into their communities, has been NIMBY (Not in My Backyard). Too often local parishes and congregations have remained silent in these important neighbourhood debates. The 10 Year Plan Report contains a challenge for a new local community voice: “the more people understand about the causes, the costs, and the solutions for ending homelessness, the sooner we’ll transform NIMBY to YIMBY (Yes In My Backyard). Hopefully, our local congregations, inspired by the words of Isaiah, will soon become visible leaders in this transformation.

Bob McKeon
ICPM Board Member

Web-links

“A Place to Call Home”
www.endedmontonhomelessness.com
Anglican National Statement
www.anglican.ca
Evangelical Lutheran Statement
www.elcic.ca

ICPM's Fall Retreat

Where would you like to be on a beautiful warm sunny day in September? For ICPM Board members, that was an easy question on September 12th. They chose to be at a cottage on the shores of Pigeon Lake watching ducks and windsurfers ride the whitecaps. We are so fortunate to be able to have our retreat at the Sisters' of Charity cottage, thanks to Sister Marion and her Order. Our goals for the fall retreat are to plan for the year

*We have an action plan
and are committed to
healthy practices*

ahead, to discuss more fully topics that require more time than a regular meeting allows, and to get to know our Board members better. We began the day with prayer, song and sharing with others a memorable moment from our summer experiences. The Circle Sharing is one of my favourite parts of the day as we learn about things that each person holds dear.

Our Board has been concerned about the homelessness that is prevalent among Sunday morning worshippers and visitors. We see many sleeping at the entrances to Bissell West when we arrive early on Sunday mornings to prepare for worship and lunch. Bob McKeon talked about the problem in Edmonton and gave us articles to read and information on upcoming events such as "Action for Homelessness, A Symposium: From dialogue to faith community action" (Oct. 16-17). Because homelessness affects the health of our inner city community, we took

time to discuss how we would manage on a Sunday if many community members came with flu symptoms. We talked about how a serious H1N1 flu outbreak could affect ICPM's ministry and decided that our essential service is the Sunday lunch. We worked through a document that Rick Chapman had drafted. It included general information about H1N1, transmission, precautions, and determined three levels of care we might take depending on the seriousness of an outbreak. Phase 1 for staff and church volunteers includes general precautions that will be implemented now. Other agencies including the Bissell Centre are still working out protocols at this point. We realized the importance of communicating with church volunteers who are scheduled to bring food in the fall so that they know we have an action plan and are committed to healthy practices for our staff, church volunteers, and Sunday worshippers.

In planning for the coming year, we looked at ten ICPM events or responsibilities and determined the

staff and Board members who would assist with each. We were delighted to learn that one of our new Board members, Lynne Fredine, has training as a webmaster and is willing to take on that role as she assists others with the development of our website.

We closed the day with prayers for ICPM, the inner city community and friends of ICPM. The Rev. Steven Hallford led us in Holy Communion as the sun streamed into the cottage at Pigeon Lake. It was a fine retreat.

Nancy Kerr

E-Mail Newsletter:

Want to get the news via Email?

Please follow the instructions below:

1. Send an email to newsletter-subscribe@icpm Edmonton.ca
2. Confirm 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 email list.

Fall Workshops Held

After the Lunch is Over – Educating Together

Sunday Lunch Program church volunteers meet to discern and explore our call to ministry in regards to the continuing need to feed, cloth and to develop the ministry of presence.

Bissell Centre 10527 96 St

October 3, 2009 (9:00 am – Noon)

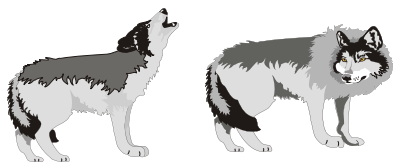
Action for Homelessness Symposium – From Dialogue to Action

A symposium to explore a faith community response to the growing concern of homelessness and inadequate housing within our community. Registration fee: \$50.

All Saints Anglican Cathedral 10035 103 St

October 16– 17 2009 — 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm & 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Reflection



A Cherokee elder was teaching his grandson about life.

"A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy.

"It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith. The same fight is going on inside you and inside every other person too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather which wolf would win.

The old Cherokee simply replied "The one you feed."

Author unknown.

Wish List ...

- Cotton socks
- Long Underwear (medium and large sizes)
- Winter waterproof gloves
- Toques and scarves

Emmanuel Christmas Gift Sacks 2009

Looking ahead, we are already thinking about celebrating the Christmas Season 2009 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 20.

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 33mm x 39mm in boxes of 10 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 13-17

Delivery location to be announced.

For further information please contact

Sue Pasker at 780-417-3906 or abbytab@shaw.ca

Without You...

"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"

Inners 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 begins to show the effects in Edmonton of the global downturn. 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 "earthy" things. Not that he was particularly concerned with people's wealth, but he was very concerned about what people did with their wealth and power, with their time and talents. Most of all Jesus was concerned about our 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".

Thank you for considering your gifts to ICPM! We believe that together we can make a difference!

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

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ICPM Board Members 2008-2009

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The Rev. Bob Kimmerly.....United

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Anglican/Bissell Centre

Sue PaskerLutheran
Christmas Sack Contact

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.