



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

Spring-Summer 2009

Kanata: Canada Return to Good Relations

By Pastor Rick Chapman+

Recently, the event entitled “Gathering 2: Kanata / Canada – Return to Good Relations” was held. With the creative planning and support of the Rev James Ravenscroft, Robertson Wesley United Church, the Rev Travis Enright, All Saints Anglican Cathedral, Lewis Cardinal, Community Leader and Educator, partnering with the Inner City Pastoral Ministry, fifty plus spiritual and community Aboriginal and “Canada” leaders met to engage in authentic dialogue regarding Aboriginal and Canada relations.

The event began with the representation of Aboriginal and Christian spiritual tradition and story being shared through the medium of art, music, drumming, ceremony and story telling. One participant, a residential school “survivor,” commented that his heart was very glad to finally see the two religious traditions standing side by side, each distinct, yet celebrated as two powerful spiritual traditions.



As the gathering continued, opening ceremony began with Taz McGillis sharing a “mourning” song in honor of her father. She mourned for her father the loss of his family and culture, he having spent many years in the residential school system. The gateway to a return to good relations for many of our aboriginal people is through the doorway of loss and grief. The ceremony was moving and we prayed.

Authentic dialogue took place within several sharing circles. The “1st” circle to share were individuals

highly respected in their fields for their ministry and work within community healing and reconciliation.

Maggie Hodgson, a leader in the field of Healing and Reconciliation, Will Campbell, Aboriginal Elder, Bob McKeon, Archdiocese Social Justice Office, Cecile Fausak, United Church General Council and Residential School Committee Chair, and Travis Enright, Anglican Aboriginal Liaison spoke to three questions offered by Lewis

Cardinal. The questions were simply put: (1) What do I bring that would contribute to a return to good relations? (2) How do I envision a return to good relations? (3) What are the steps needed to begin to unfold this vision?

Will Campbell, Aboriginal Elder, stated that the word “return” seemed inappropriate. Historically, Will commented, “To ask Louis Riel or Sitting Bull about a return to good relations with “Canada” would encourage the response, “What good relations?” Will stated that what is

Kanata: Canada continued...



Aboriginal elders share their wisdom.

needed is for a space to be created, a place within our communities, to begin the building of honest and open relations between Aboriginal people and Canada. I found Will's comment at once humorous, profound, insightful and hopeful for he was encouraging us to open ourselves to a new paradigm of Aboriginal, Canada relations. Will was encouraged by the nature and authentic dialogue taking place within the "Kanata / Canada" gathering.

As the 1st circle completed its discussion, each of the six remaining circles, with the help of a facilitator, explored the same questions. Circle participants included aboriginal and Canada leaders involved in health care, agencies, jails and prisons, municipal and provincial governments, interfaith, education and community leadership. Within the circle I participated, a young aboriginal woman, naming herself a strong Christian, shared that it was not until she entered into the prayerful spirituality of her native tradition that she truly came to a place of peace within herself. I have heard this

experience shared by many young people of aboriginal heritage. The reclaiming of one's aboriginal culture and heritage and finding comfort within the depths of native spiritual practice brings healing to first nations people who stand within two cultures Kanata and Canada.

As Lewis Cardinal explains, the term Kanata, a Cree word, speaks of the sacredness of life and this land

given to us by our Creator. In this time of transition, we together, Aboriginal and Canada are able to reclaim the sacred trust we share in this land. The time has come that together we begin to share and drink deeply from each others cultural and spiritual insights, Kanata / Canada relations. Ask yourself, "What do I bring to this gathering that contributes to a return to good relations?"

Palm Sunday and Easter in the Inner City

As the churches of Edmonton celebrated Palm Sunday and Easter so too did the congregation of the ICPM Emmanuel Community Church.

The Easter story speaks of palms raised heavenward, the crowds in thanksgiving to God honored Jesus as Messiah, the long awaited Son of David. Heralded by the celebrating multitudes, Jesus joyous pathway opened to the very heart of the sacred city. Triumph quickly lead to tragedy. Jesus was betrayed, scorned, beaten, and crucified. The word of life came amongst us and we received him not. Yet, in the stillness of his final moments of Golgotha, a cry broke forth from our Savior's heart of love, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." In other words, "I love you."

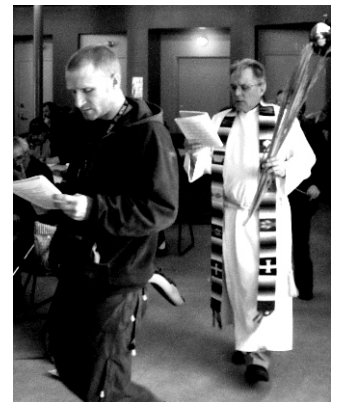
As a Southern preacher proclaimed, "It's Friday, but thank God, Sunday's comin!" Easter morning brings Jesus resurrection and a new story begins. Mary Magdalene, full of joy, became the first messenger of the resurrection of our Lord, "I have seen the Lord!"

The story has not ended. And so we, within the Emmanuel Community, shared in the joyous celebrations as an Easter community, proclaiming together, Alleluia. Christ has Risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

As N.T Wright has written, "We are being invited to complete the story – to take our understanding of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and live out that story in our lives.

Alleluia. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

May His grace and peace be with you. May He fill our hearts with joy.



Emmanuel congregation celebrates Palm Sunday.

"Meeting Christ in the Margins" *by Linda Winski, Pastoral Assistant*

On Good Friday, April 10, 2009, hundreds of Edmontonians participated in the 29th annual Outdoor Way of the Cross through the streets of Edmonton's inner city. Beneath a grey and cloudy sky, with the occasional sprinkling of rain, the faithful gathered at the Boyle Street Community League to begin the walk returning to the Community League in sunshine two hours later.

This ecumenically planned event attracts Christians and others who come together to commemorate in a very public way the crucifixion of Jesus over 2000 years ago. Through reflection, prayer and song, the participants followed a large wooden Cross through the streets, making several stops along the route where they reflected on the relevance of the life and death of Jesus to our personal and collective lives in the 21st century.

This year's gathering pondered the theme "Meeting Christ in the Margins". The theme was chosen because of the increased number of people being pushed to the margins of mainstream society to places of insecurity and hardship. On the margins, people don't have access to the resources available to mainstream society. In many cases, they don't have access to basic needs of food, clothing and shelter and mainstream society shuns them. Anyone involved at ICPM can certainly witness the devastating effects of marginalization on the lives of people in the community among whom we seek to serve.

In keeping with the special fondness that Jesus had for those who were on the margins in his day – the poor, the widow, the infirmed, the



and poor, those who have and those who have not... walking shoulder to shoulder, side by side in the footsteps of Jesus the Christ.

hungry... each of the 7 stops along the chosen route focussed on a particular aspect of marginalization in our world and listeners were invited to envision alternatives to the status quo which mostly serves the interests of the "haves" in our society at the expense of those who "have not." One of the most striking features of this event for me is that in the crowd that follows the Cross at this annual event are rich

In the weeks after the event, members of the planning committee have reported numerous comments received from participants about how important this event is to their Easter liturgical experience and about the particular relevance of this year's theme. ICPM has had the privilege of being involved on the planning committee for this event for many years and has often presented the reflection at a station. We continue to support this initiative and are grateful for the opportunity to witness to the presence of Jesus in the midst of marginalization. Thanks be to God.



ICPM Sunday Lunch Church Volunteers

Central to the ministry of the Inner city Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) is the Sunday by Sunday Worship Service and Sunday Lunch Program. Over 100 churches and members of the Edmonton Faith Community participate as volunteers with ICPM to prepare and serve the

lunch 52 Sundays of the year.

Presently, there is opportunity for your church to become part of this rewarding and personally enriching ministry. Pastor Rick Chapman and Sharon Webb, Sunday Lunch Coordinator, are seeking the volunteer support of your faith community to provide and serve a Sunday lunch.

Larger congregations often take on the entire provision and serving of a Sunday lunch. Smaller churches work together in partnership with another church sharing this experience of ministry and care together.

If you are interested in further information regarding this ministry opportunity please contact:

Sharon Webb, Sunday Lunch Coordinator 780-458-1267 and / or
Pastor Rick Chapman 780-424-7652

Ministry at WEAC

by Linda Winski, Pastoral Assistant

It was a small but intense gathering of women at the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC) on this particular Sunday evening. Sr. Marion and I had gone for our usual once a month *Singing and Sharing* time with the women who choose to join us in the cafeteria. Usually, we spend most of the time singing some familiar songs like *Amazing Grace, The Rose, Put your Hand in the Hand, How Great Thou Art...* and read a short story or poem that has a hopeful message. Tonight, however, we did very little singing...but a lot of sharing happened among the women present.

There was R... a tall, blond, thin young lady who told us that she was coming off cocaine addiction. She was still mourning the fact that her Mom had died on her 18th birthday (which was not that far past).

Then there was L... another young woman who was new in town... having come here from Toronto. She was barely 5 ft. tall and very timid and afraid. She had come to Edmonton with a boyfriend. It wasn't long after they arrived that he started beating her up. When she could no longer take it she fought back and got charged with assault!. She was put in jail for 2 weeks and is currently out on her own recognizance until her trial in April. She is at WEAC because she has no other place to go and has no resources. Being a 'newcomer' to the province, she had yet to navigate the systems to find financial and medical support particularly because she is diabetic and needs her insulin. She continually comments "I'm so scared... I don't know anyone and

I'm just so scared!" She is so afraid of having to go back to jail and really wants to go back home but she is also carrying a lot of guilt about having hurt her parents when she was at home. Besides, how would she get there?

Some in the group tried to encourage her and give her ideas for where to go for help. But it all still seemed to overwhelm and paralyze her as her tears flowed freely. It was one of those times where one can only enter the helplessness and quietly ask God to care and protect her.

Next to me, another tall, blond, very quiet young woman offered but one comment: "It's really hard being here."

Tammy – a large black woman, young and beautiful, is also here from Toronto. "No work there," she said. So she came to Alberta to find work. She was living in a hotel but it cost too much so now she is at WEAC, until she can find a job and hopefully a place of her own.

And then there is B, a regular at WEAC, who leaves and then circumstances find her needing to come back. She is working on her

"inner child". B shares that finding Jesus has helped her cope and that without God she wouldn't have anything.

Other women offered the occasional comment and for an hour the circle of 9 or 10 women shared the experience of entering into one another's places of vulnerability. They couldn't "fix" each other, but they could share the journey and at least for a time, they didn't feel so alone. God bless the women ... one and all.

Singing and Sharing with the women at the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC) happens for an hour (more or less) on the last Sunday of each month. ICPM also provides a ministry of presence on the 2nd and 4th Monday for 2 – 3 hours between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. At least once a year, we hold a memorial for all of the women known to WEAC that have passed away in the past year. The latest one was held on Sunday April 26 where the lives of 18 women were celebrated. Thirty women were in attendance including five WEAC staff.

Calendar of Events

Homelessness Symposium – From Dialogue to Action

To explore a church response to the growing concern of homelessness and inadequate housing within our community.

All Saints Anglican Cathedral, 10035 103 St October 15-17, 2009 —
7 pm -9 pm & 9 am-4:30 pm

After the Lunch is Over – Educating Together

Discerning our call to ministry in regards to the continuing need to feed, cloth and to develop a ministry of presence

Bissell Centre, 10527 96 St, October 03, 2009 — 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Women's Wellness Weekend

Star of the North Retreat Centre – September 25, 26, 2009

From the Board Chair *by Nancy Kerr*

It is a brilliant cold day in mid May as I write this column, not unlike the day of our Annual General Meeting in March - a day when a person living outside would want a warm place to stay or a cozy jacket. Our keynote speaker at the AGM, Shelley Williams, the Executive Director of the Bissell Centre, talked to us about her work on the Edmonton Committee to End Homelessness, and changes in practice that the Bissell Centre made this winter. On cold days the Bissell Centre found that their Drop-in Centre was seriously overcrowded with people filling the chairs and sitting on the floor. Conditions were unsafe for both staff and visitors. Because there are 85 chairs, the Bissell Centre reluctantly put a cap of 85 on the number of people who could be in the drop-in centre at one time. ICPM hopes not to limit the number of people it feeds on Sunday. We are watchful for overcrowding and if numbers are high, we encourage people to move outside once they have eaten. Shelley also spoke about the work that the Edmonton Committee

to End Homelessness did in developing *Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*. Using the Housing First principle, their goal is to provide housing options for all people living on the street and in public places, as well as the support they need to meet challenges once they are housed. Where Housing First programs are in place such as Toronto, Denver, and Portland, we know that if people have a safe place to sleep and live, they are then able to work on other aspects of their lives. A pilot project is underway in Edmonton. Shelley left us four research reports for people interested in learning more about poverty and homelessness (See Resources). A video: *Ending Homelessness, for Good* at www.endedmontonhomelessness.com is also available. It profiles a hard-to-house man who was given an apartment in Edmonton and helped with adjustments to living indoors. He has turned his life around

New Board Members Welcomed

At the AGM we welcomed three new Board members. John Gee, a member of All Saint's Anglican Church and choir member, comes to us with a wealth of experience. He has expertise in areas such as accounting, grant proposals, revision of agency policies, and implementation of data bases. He is a senior administrator at Boyle Street Community Services and has worked for other social service agencies. John lives in the inner city where he comes into

regular contact with the people we know at ICPM. Lynne Fredine is a member of Kirk United, sings in their choir, and is vice chair of their Board. Lynne learned about ICPM through Bette Frost, a member of Kirk United and our past Sunday Lunch Coordinator. Lynne has a sincere compassion for people living in poverty and facing many challenges. Her most satisfying job was training people for new careers. The Rev. Bob Kimmerly, minister at Kirk United, was recently the administrator at the Edmonton Presbytery office. He brings to the Board experience working for the BC government in the area of child and family issues and alcoholism. His pastoral charges have ranged from Bella Bella where he worked with First Nations people to rural Saskatchewan and city churches in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Resources

Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness: A Place to Call Home. Prepared by the Edmonton Committee to End Homelessness, January, 2009, 72 pages.

Scanning the Terrain: A Discussion Document for Poverty Elimination. Bissell Centre, January, 2009, 37 pages. (Permission to photocopy).

You Never Know if You're Going to Wake Up Dead: Living Without a Home. Bissell Centre, 2008, 26 pages.

Living Without Food: "You don't realize how important it is until you don't have it". Bissell Centre, 2007, 22 pages.

Resources available at www.bissellcentre.org

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. 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.

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"

Inner 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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Anglican/Bissell Centre

Sue PaskerLutheran
Christmas Sack Contact

Ministry Team as Members of the Board

Rick ChapmanPastor

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.