



# 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

February 2010

## And the giving did not end

2009 was a tough year economically. The near collapse of the world markets, the long and grueling climb from the cellar of an economic slump, the sense of unease and unrest regarding recovery; enough to make a grown person cry!

Yet, despite our economic woes there continued to be an unprecedented outpouring of generosity and good will to the less fortunate who dwell within Edmonton's inner city.

I remember well the week before Christmas receiving the daily deliveries of Emmanuel Christmas Sacks. With many phone calls and greetings from city churches, rural charges, Brownie groups, city and hospital workers, Curves, over 900 arrived at the ICPM doorstep! Such good will!

As Glory Lutheran volunteers arrived for the Saturday sorting, one volunteer, hoping to make



Bethel Lutheran Singers

quick work of the Sacks, stood in the storage room doorway, slack jawed and shaking his head, as he witnessed a room jammed full of the boxes and bags of the sacks needing attention.

Yet, in the end, the effort of the many was well worth the time, energy and costs incurred. The ICPM Christmas Service arrived with brightly lit hall, and the Bethel Lutheran, Sherwood Park, orchestra and choristers offering joyous melody of traditional carols and Christmas songs, thanks to the efforts of Pastor James Avery! As part of the festivities, the Emanuel Christmas

Sacks were given out and thankfully received. Blessings and thanks were heaped upon the volunteers offering this touch of Christmas joy.

And, the giving did not end. Along with the 75 "turkey" vouchers donated by an anonymous donor the overflow of Christmas Sacks were distributed throughout the community:

George Spady Centre, WEAC, Elizabeth House, Edmonton Women's Institution and to the Community Nurses' Office. May this newsletter carry the thanks of the many who received these gifts throughout the Festive Season!

In the midst of the economic woes, the bright light of Christ's spirit shone this Christmas in the inner city through an outpouring of good will and heartfelt caring for those less fortunate. As Tiny Tim captured the moment in Dickens' Christmas Carol, "God bless us! God Bless us - Every One!"

*Pastor Rick+*

# The Parliament of the World's Religions

Melbourne Australia,  
December 2009



Making Friends in Melbourne

As I settle back in the comfort of my seat, the gigantic 747 winged us over the vast Pacific Ocean visible some 1000's of feet below. We had left Melbourne, Australia some three hours earlier in the brightness of a noon day sun. Now as we surfed the International Date Line, we plunged into a darkening night. I had left the land of didgeridoos, koala and kangaroos. I have time to reflect on the seven wonderful days of the Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne Australia, December 3-9, 2009.

Representatives of Edmonton's churches and indigenous community had come to the Parliament to present the workshop "Edmonton's Experience of Reconciliation with Indigenous People." 1500 workshops had been submitted to the Parliament's advisory, 350 workshops had been chosen for presentation, Edmonton's being one of those selected.

The Parliament of the World's Religions, held every five years, attracts 5000+ peoples of every faith and nation. The specific focus of the Melbourne Conference was the invitation to indigenous peoples of the world, especially the aboriginals of Australia to offer their tradition, ceremony and wisdom. Key issues addressed by the Parliament included: Intra religious dialogue, Social Cohesion / Reconciliation in Village and City, Women in Leadership, Human Rights and Peace Building. Exciting times!

Through the sponsorship of the United Church Presbytery, the UC Inter Church Inter Faith Committee, along with grants from the Edmonton Interfaith Centre, the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, the City of Edmonton and the Inner City Pastoral Ministry, a Team was sent to represent the "Gathering - Kanata: Canada – Return to Right Relations" recently held in Edmonton. The "Gathering" events brought together aboriginal and non aboriginal elders, clergy, and community leaders encouraging an open dialogue that began the important work of reconciliation and healing between the aboriginal and non aboriginal communities.

Lewis Cardinal, community leader, educator, Aboriginal Elder, the Rev Travis Enright, Aboriginal Liaison for the Diocese of Edmonton and the Rev Rick Chapman, Pastor – Inner City Pastoral Ministry, were sent to Melbourne to offer Edmonton's experience of reconciliation with indigenous peoples.



Lewis Cardinal greeted by  
Traditional Keeper of the Land

This workshop was immersed in the music, prayer and ceremony of both the aboriginal and Christian traditions. In the context of the aboriginal "talking circle" and utilizing the Medicine Wheel the call for reconciliation was offered. The Edmonton experience of aboriginal and non aboriginal

relations was addressed from the four directions. From the East, Lewis spoke of pre contact and the life and values of indigenous people living in a land they named Kanata- the Cree word translated, sacred land. From the South, Rev. Travis spoke of the concept of Treaty. In the mind of the aboriginal leaders Treaty was understood as sacred covenant. In the mind of the European the



Rev. Travis Enright,  
Aboriginal Liaison, Anglican  
Diocese of Edmonton

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## Melbourne continued...

concept of Treaty was understood as a court settlement. In the West, Pastor Rick spoke of assimilation and the use of Residential Schools to change the language and lifestyle of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nations people. Adding to this presentation Alvin, a Residential School survivor, shared of his experience during his youth at the Residential School in Port Alberni. Finally, in the North, Jamie Scott, a United Church National leader, shared of the work and ministry of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Church's efforts to offer meaningful opportunities of sharing and support in the areas of healing and reconciliation across Canada.

Workshop participants from many parts of the world, with tears and a new resolve, covenanted together to build opportunities for divided communities to reconcile and heal. We ended with a handshake of reconciliation one with another. While many are calling for peace, we see the world still very much divided, animosities inherited from our ancestors. Edmonton's experience of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples was offered as one model to encourage and explore reconciliation and healing!

I reflected on our Lord's words in Matthews Gospel, "Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God!"

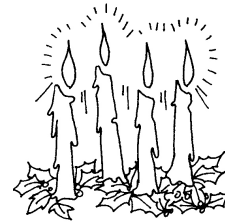
*Pastor Rick+ - Reflections on  
Melbourne 2009*

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## Christmas Joy at the George Spady

As Sister Marion, Linda Winski and Pastor Rick pull up to the George Spady Centre, its time once again for our yearly offering of Christmas Lite, a time of carols and the Christmas story shared amongst the homeless of the inner city. The ministry team after offering quick greetings sorts from the trunks of our cars what we will carry on this journey, Sister Marion with guitar and crèche, Linda with the advent wreath and candles and Pastor Rick with boxes of chocolates. Ankle deep snow and cold impede the steps of our bundled figures, smoke from our breath rising above our heads in the frigid night. We make our way slowly toward the beacon of light beaconing us toward the back entrance of the George Spady.

Upon ringing the entrance buzzer we are greeted with the warmth of a well lit reception area and a warmer greeting still from the Spady staff. We must wait a moment in the entry-way while a patron still shivering from the streets is signed in. Backpack secured, he now heads for the safety and comfort of his assigned floor mat. We are then ushered into the main hall, the mat area where some 80 men find refuge. Blue sleeping mats each with a reclining figure surround the walls of the centre, then more blue mats in rows up and down the all-purpose room. The atmosphere is hushed. A party of men surround a table playing crib and speaking in quiet tones of their day's adventure. Surprisingly, though it is just after 7:00 pm many of the patrons are settling in for a night's sleep.



As Sister Marion, Linda and I prepare to present our Christmas Lite offering, I'm wondering if our

presence will be perceived as intrusive. But, with an affirming nod of the night worker, Sister Marion's guitar opens our Christmas Lite offering with the singing of a traditional carol, some of the men join in, many are resting quietly, listening. Linda, presents the Christmas teachings symbolized in the Advent wreath, lighting each candle in turn. The candles add a comforting glow to the subdued environment. More carols, the story of the first Christmas is told, the Christ candle in the midst of the glowing wreath is lit. We sing...Hark the Herald Angels sing – Glory to the newborn king...A prayer and a blessing is offered to all...Christmas in a tiny way has come to the inner city. Pastor Rick enters into the mat area, offering chocolates and wishing a Merry Christmas to the men. Many return the greeting and say thanks.

Amongst the homeless, down and out and without the simple comforts of family, at this time of year loneliness is most keenly felt. We are in the midst of many hungry souls. Yet, I easily imagine the silhouette of our Lord's presence resting amongst these precious men. I am convinced our Lord was there to greet us that pre Christmas night for Christmas Lite at the George Spady Centre.

*Pastor Rick+*



## Christmas Gift Sacks 2009

As a new year begins we reflect on the 2009 Christmas season of sharing and serving our inner city friends. The response was very heartwarming for the gift sack giving.

ICPM was blessed to receive 925 Christmas Gift Sacks plus many other items to fill the needs of and bless the inner city residents. Extra socks, gloves, scarves and toques were, and are always, most welcome.

When contacting the groups who have supported ICPM in the past, some were committed to other charitable giving in 2009 or made financial gifts.

The following groups and churches are to be thanked for their support, for serving and sharing in the 2009 Christmas Gift Sack ministry:

- All Saints Anglican,
- Annunciation Roman Catholic,
- Ascension Lutheran,
- Assumption Parish,
- Augustana Lutheran,
- Calvary Lutheran,
- Christ Church Anglican,
- Curves-Sherwood Park,
- Dynalife,
- Glory Lutheran,
- Hope Lutheran,
- Kirk United,
- Mill Woods Community Church,
- Mount Olivet Lutheran,
- Mt Zion Lutheran,
- NAIT,
- OLPH Roman Catholic,
- Strathcona Community Day Care,
- St. Albert Evangelical Lutheran,
- St. Athanasius Orthodox,

## Christmas Lunch at ICPM

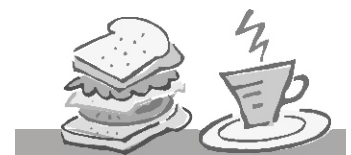


- St. Augustine Anglican,
- St. Columba Anglican,
- St. George's Anglican,
- St. Mary's Anglican,
- St. Matthias Anglican,
- St. Patrick's Anglican,
- St. Paul's Anglican,
- St. Peter's Anglican,
- St. Philip Anglican,
- Stollery Hospital and
- 43<sup>rd</sup> Edmonton Girl Guides.

The gift sacks and items were distributed before Christmas to the Immanuel Community, shared with other agencies and continue to bring help to those in need.

Again, we extend our sincere thanks and blessings for all the helping hands.

*In His name,  
Sue for ICPM Board*



## Memorial for Homeless Persons

In remembrance of the 46 persons who have lost their lives to the street in 2009, opening message by Pastor Rick at the Memorial for Homeless Persons, Boyle Street Community Services, January 23.

The Spirit of the Lord rests on me, to offer good news to the poor

God has sent me to open the doors of freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind to release those oppressed and to proclaim

Now is the moment for hope, because God's power to heal and reconcile is very near  
Luke 4: 18-19

In this age of the lightening cure, and the quick response of acute care medical treatment, the desire of our human care services to offer freedom for the captives, sight for the blind and the release of those oppressed places the focus on the triage units of modern emergency care and ever shortened hospital stays. We make quick work of those sick and temporarily disadvantaged. Get better! Get on your feet! Get going!

What is often not as clearly defined, is the type of medical and psychological care needed for individuals who suffer with longer, sometimes permanent health care issues.

For instance, the long journey of addictions recovery, and / or the life time effect on mind and body of many mental illnesses.

The care of persons suffering chronic health conditions is left with the community: community health clinics, rehab facilities, community

## Community Calendar

### SPECIAL SERVICES

**Standing Stones** .....Sunday March 7

The Rev Travis Enright, Aboriginal Liaison for the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, will offer a Holy Communion service named "Standing Stones." Designed after with an Aboriginal model of Circle sharing, "Standing Stones" is celebrated every second Wednesday at All Saints Cathedral – an innovative approach to worship and celebration. We are grateful for Rev Travis coming amongst us during the Lenten Season to offer his wisdom.

**Gathering- Kanata: Walking Together**

Saturday, April 24 10 am - 1:00 pm

The Gathering is being celebrated amongst the community of the inner city. Within the context of sacred ceremony and a sharing circle, we will share our truth(s) regarding the experience of life within the inner city. Further, we will explore the effect of two cultures sharing together within the inner city community, the cultures being the aboriginal and non aboriginal communities.

Palm Sunday .....March 28

Easter Service.....April 4

**STAR OF THE NORTH** .....Wed. March 10 6:00PM

**Partnering with People: Meeting Christ in the Margins - With Inner City Pastoral Ministry**

You are invited to come to the Star of the North, St Albert, to meet members of the Ministry Team and the Board. Join us for a simple dinner followed by a gathering to celebrate the blessings of this special ministry.

**WOMEN'S WELLNESS RETREAT** ...May 14 to 16, 2010

ICPM partners with others to plan this wellness retreat for women in the Inner City and beyond.

mental health workers, social assistance, supported housing, shelters, day drop ins, soup kitchens and dare I say, chaplaincies offering spiritual support for the care of the individual in their long journey of maintaining at least some semblance of health and reason.

Some don't make it and we see them dying young. We offer this time of the Homeless Memorial grieving the loss of many to our community and to friends and family. So... in our grief, we offer

their lives and their spirit to the Creator ... not with the remorse of not having done enough ... but with thanks that we were able to share to some degree in their difficult journey... and to affirm within our hearts that ...

The Spirit of the Lord still rests on us, to offer good news to the poor.

God has sent us to open the doors of freedom for the prisoners ...

This journey of liberation may take just a little longer than I first imagined. *Pastor Rick+*

## 30th Annual Outdoor Way of the Cross on Good Friday!



The Edmonton Outdoor Way of the Cross will celebrate its 30th anniversary when it takes place from 10 a.m. to noon on Good Friday, April 2, 2010. This year's walk will begin and end at the Boyle/McCauley Community Hall, 9515-104 Avenue. During the walk through Edmonton's inner city, participants will stop at various places to reflect, pray and sing, making connections between the biblical story of the life and death of Jesus and our lives in the world today.

This ecumenical prayer event commemorating the suffering and death of Jesus was started in 1981 by a small group of Catholics from the Social Justice Commission, Development and Peace, and the Franciscan Friars in an attempt to bridge the events of Jesus' historic crucifixion with the suffering and death of people in contemporary society. The first event attracted a few hundred participants. By the second and third year there was ecumenical participation in planning and the numbers increased. In recent years, numbers have been estimated

at close to a 1000 people and sometimes more.

In an article in the Western Catholic Reporter on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Way of the Cross in 2005, it was noted that "this is a very powerful experience of what it means to be Church in the world today. This is the body of Christ present in the midst of our city, in the streets where things are messy and dirty, where injustices are really evident and yet signs of hope are also present." Others noted that this event was unique in its ability to gather senators and politicians to walk with the homeless and

downtrodden, mothers pushing strollers alongside adult children pushing their parents in wheelchairs, people from a variety of faith traditions and cultural backgrounds alongside both the first peoples and newcomers to our land, those who donate money and resources to agencies who serve the poor and those who rely on these resources in order to survive... and we all gather in a public expression of our Christian faith on the streets where both despair and hope co-exist.

The theme for our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year is "*Be Bold in our Hope*". The various stops will also celebrate and acknowledge the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bissell Centre, the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boyle McCauley Health Centre, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Edmonton Social Planning Council and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Oscar Romero and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Edmonton Outdoor Way of the Cross. Please join us to commemorate the crucifixion and the resurrection on Good Friday, April 2, 2010.

*(Note: ICPM has been involved on the planning committee for many years.)*

### Annual General Meeting

Inner City Pastoral Ministry

March 18, 2010

Christ Church Anglican

5:00 pm Gathering

6:00 pm Meal and Speaker

7:00 pm Meeting



Speaker: Lewis Cardinal Community and Aboriginal Leader, Educator  
Kanata : Canada – Return to Right Relations



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## Without You ...

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 the most.

Jane Alexander, Bishop of the Diocese of Edmonton, commented recently, “No one deserves to be

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*For homelessness “the raw physical experience of vulnerability of cold and hunger” is often accompanied by a “loss of dignity and identity.”*

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without the basics – a place to lay their head down at night. While homelessness is a problem some people would just as soon forget, we must not be complacent and allow those who are homeless to become invisible. For homelessness “the raw physical experience of vulnerability of cold and hunger” is often accompanied by a “loss of dignity and identity.” (The Messenger, December 2009)

Jesse, AKA Trinity, or Guardian of the Inner City, reminisces about the “middle class life” he once had. Though Jesse once had a job up North as an oilfield surveyor, a workplace injury and a serious motorcycle accident, resulted in the loss of employment. He is 42 now and has been living on the streets of Edmonton since January 2008. Harsh living conditions have added years to his face. On a good

day, he will have breakfast at the Bissell Centre, and try to scrounge up change for a bowl of noodles – his afternoon meal. At night he takes refuge in the doorway of the Hope Mission. His personal belongings are stowed in a duffel bag, which he conceals behind a fence for safe keeping.

There’s things I miss,” he says, “like going out to a nice restaurant, listening to music or enjoying a movie with a glass of port.” However, the one thing Jesse would like most now, is respect. Even without respect, he says, “I will always have my dignity.” (The Messenger, December 2009)

Jesus walks with Jesse in the midst of his homelessness. Jesus journey’s with the homeless in the midst of their poverty. ICPM is a ministry of God’s presence walking with those struggling within the poverty of our inner city.

We need your ongoing support in order to continue our ministry on your behalf. The needs among those living on the street 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 ongoing need.

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

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## Board News

Every Board has a life of its own. New friendships and working relationships form when people join the Board. Board members leave when they seek new opportunities - a job offer elsewhere, another board, or perhaps when an unfortunate turn of events occurs such as a lost job, or illness.

This year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), we say goodbye to three wonderful Board members. **Neil Querengesser** will be dearly missed after six years of service. Neil attends Glory Lutheran Church. Neil, an English professor at Concordia University, has chaired the Ministry and Personnel Committee. He has ensured that we conduct yearly interviews with due diligence. He and Marilyn Fleger drafted our *ICPM Handbook of Policies and Procedures*. When the United Church asked us to prepare ICPM Community Ministry Standards, we were so thankful that Neil took on the job. We now have an array of Standards of Practice that impressed an insurance company when we recently sought insurance coverage and we hope it will impress the United Church officials as well. As an English professor, Neil likes to write. Read Neil’s story about exploring the inner city, *Walking Around the Block*, on our web site.

**Susan Querengesser**, Hosanna Lutheran Church, after six years of service, will also be sorely missed. She brought to the board a passion for inner city people, a lively positive outlook on life, a quick wit, and willingness to take on Board work. Her days are spent at the University of Alberta, Glen Sather

## Board News continued...

Sports Medicine Clinic and she runs marathons on weekends. With ICPM, she has been a great help to Fred Drummond on the Finance Committee and to Board as secretary. Thanks Susan for your assistance with finances and preparation of Board minutes.

**Lynne Fredine** joined the Board at the AGM last March. She came as a United Church representative. Lynne attended Kirk United where she was a chair the Board and she anchored the sopranos in the Kirk choir. (She will be sorely missed!) Since Lynne's special talent was writing and web site development, she offered to help us with changes to our ICPM web site. Unfortunately, her employment situation changed in the spring, so that recently she moved "to the wilds of Grimshaw", Alberta, to live with her daughter's family and pursue her writing career. She writes "I have so enjoyed meeting and working with you all, and wish I could continue even from this distance. I

was so looking forward to the exciting work ahead! I hope that I will be able to be of service at some later time".

We extend sincere thanks to Neil, Susan, and Lynne and wish them God's blessings on their future volunteer work in the community.

*Nancy Kerr, Board Chair*

*Every Board needs committed people like Neil and Susan Querengesser and Lynn Fredine.*

## Stats 2009

Emmanuel Church attendance:

Total: 5,584

107 average per Sunday

Sunday Lunch ministry

Total meals: 12, 960

249 average per Sunday

Funerals 1

Memorials 5

## ICPM Board Members 2008-2009

Nancy Kerr.....United  
Board Chair

*Vacant*.....  
Vice Chair

Susan Querengesser .....Lutheran  
Secretary

Fred Drummond.....Anglican  
Treasurer

Sharon Webb.....Anglican  
Lunch Ministry Co ordinator

## Members At Large:

Bob McKeon.....Roman Catholic

Neil Querengesser .....Lutheran

Coby Veeken .....Roman Catholic

Lynne Fredine.....United

John Gee.....Anglican

The Rev. Bob Kimmerly.....United

The Rev. Stephen Hallford....Anglican

Nick Ritson-Bennett  
Anglican/Bissell Centre

Sue .....Lutheran  
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.

## 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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