

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

Pastor Rick's Reflections

February 2011

As one year ends and the new year moves quickly forward, it is good to take a moment to reflect on the good things that made for a fulfilling 2010, while visioning ahead into 2011.

a sacred place of worship each Sunday. Though the community gathered is humble and sometimes down trodden, the sense of God's presence is evident as we sing, proclaim the Good News, and pray.



As always the ministry of ICPM is a ministry of presence amongst the community that makes the inner city their home. For me as Pastor the highlight of each week is the coming together of the Community of Emmanuel, the Sunday Worship service followed by the Sunday Lunch. Amazing as it seems an average of 100+ people gather for this early morning service. The room used as a drop in during the mid week becomes

As the lunch is served the numbers of participants swell to 250 on average and 300+ at times. Over 12,000 lunches were served in 2010! The street community, those living in apartments and rooming houses, members of the Chinese community, and visitors to the city join together for lunch. In breaking bread together we grow closer to one another. None of this hospitality would happen if it were not for the 90+ churches who at no

little expense and effort provide and serve the meals. Let's not forget the Jewish community, the many synagogues that partner to provide a meal as well! Within this ministry of hospitality and care we grow closer to one another, that is the "inner" city and the "outer" city as one person commented.

The mid week ministry is first and foremost based on building relationships. Building a rapport day by day, week by week, year by year with individuals, couples and families who have lived in the area for years, and also with the many who are, as the song goes, "Passin' through!"

It's quite amazing how many people "know the Pastor." Through brief encounters on the streets, in the Drop In Centers many times individuals will ask for further conversation. In need of a quiet moment, a listening ear, the office has been a place where one person after another have opened their hearts. Rough and tough men and women, often with a tear, speak of the losses and challenges of their lives. "Say a prayer for me Pastor. I need to know that God is with me." Further, the Pastoral Team visits and prays with people in their homes, city hospitals, Remand Centers, Prisons, and on the street. ICPM is a ministry

Pastor Rick's Reflections...continued

of presence amongst the people of the inner city.

In the midst of all the complexities that makes for an “inner city” three areas of concern and care have been highlighted:

(1) Homelessness to supported housing

Adequate and affordable housing is a big and complex issue as anyone who has stepped into this field will tell you. Yet, a broken human dignity often finds its first strengthening when a person is adequately housed with support. Recently, in keeping with the Mayor's “10 Year Plan to End Homelessness,” the Faith Community has been challenged to offer a response to persons transitioning from homelessness to supported housing. Along with Jay Freeman, the Mayor's City representative, Archbishop Smith,



Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton and a member of the Mayor's Homeless Commission and the Archdiocesan Social Justice Officer, Bob McKeon are spear heading this Faith Community response. The result is the establishment of an Interfaith Plenary Group that will sign a city wide action

statement in support of the Mayor's plan. Further, a steering committee has been established to facilitate a way of offering support amongst individuals who now find themselves housed through Housing First initiatives. As Pastor of ICPM, I am present at the Interfaith Plenary Meetings and hope to be a member of a steering committee that will assist in developing the “Welcome Home,” a support response for persons transitioning from homelessness to supported housing. Bishop Jane Alexander, Diocese of Edmonton, has reestablished the Anglican Social Justice and Advocacy Committee. This committee's sole focus is “homelessness and housing.” ICPM is present on this committee as well. ICPM as a ministry is in close proximity with individuals being housed and the agencies that support those being housed. ICPM is seeking its own “local” response to support the many transitioning from homelessness to supported housing. The stage is set, strategies are being developed, and the Faith Community including ICPM is involved.

(2) Aboriginal – healing and reconciliation.

Many Aboriginal People live within the inner city. With the assistance of Aboriginal leaders such as Lewis Cardinal and the Rev Canon Travis Enright, a pastoral response and opportunities for events promoting healing and reconciliation have been developed.

The “**Gatherings - City Wide**,” “Kanata : Canada - Return to Right Relations” has been a wonderful process created to develop good relations between two communities seeking understanding, healing and reconciliation one with another.



Further “Kanata : Canada” Gatherings are being planned for 2011.

The “**Gatherings - Inner City**,” “Walking Together,” and “Bridges from Brokenness to Strength” incorporate indigenous styles of group sharing to offer healing within the context of a sacred circle. Four such Gatherings (see “Bridges from Brokenness to Strength” article) are planned in 2011. An accompanying discernment process throughout the year will determine the future direction of this time of sharing.

Further, “**Standing Stones**” is a worship service that includes an intraculturated use of symbol and ceremony that celebrates Christian and Native spirituality. “Standing Stones” was offered with the support of the Rev Canon Travis Enright in 2010. This service will be offered every fifth Sunday within the Community of Emmanuel in 2011. The introduction of “Standing Stones” includes a year long discernment process that will determine this service's future direction within the Community of Emmanuel.

As Canada and the Canadian Church seeks to meaningfully right the legacy of an injustice of the past what is needed is to respond to our Lord's call to be peacemakers. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God” Matthew

Pastor Rick's Reflections...continued

5:9 Certainly, ICPM with its deep involvement with many 1st Nations, Inuit and Métis people within the inner city is already heeding this call.

(3) Women's Wellness

Women live on the streets of Edmonton as well! “**Women’s Wellness**,” the ministry of Sister Marion Garneau and Linda Winski, Pastoral Associates, responds on many levels to the needs of women who find themselves for a time on the street. The Women’s Wellness ministry includes a monthly women’s group. Supported by the skills of Mary Norton, group facilitator and animator, the women have a time of conversation, arts and crafts and fun events. Yearly, the women attend a Retreat held at the Star of the North Retreat Centre. Joining with many other participants from the inner city area the women have a fun weekend of relaxation, individual and group care.

Sister Marion is heavily involved in the mentorship program in the Edmonton Institution for Women. Linda visits regularly within the inner city particularly at WEAC, the Women’s Shelter. A full outline of the Women’s Wellness Ministry can be found in the Fall 2010 ICPM newsletter *Straight from the Street* accessible on the ICPM website, <icpmedmonton.ca> in the Publications section.

The Pastor is often asked, “What would a person do to learn more of the ministry of ICPM?” Here are a few suggestions reflected in our work of education over the past year:

- Visit the ICPM website, <icpmedmonton.ca> and subscribe to the newsletter
- Arrange a visit with the Pastor or Pastoral Associates



- Ask to be taken on an inner city “Walk About”
- Invite ICPM to speak at your Church, Women’s or Men’s Group, etc. about the ministry or about issues affecting the people of the inner city, example, Homelessness and Supported Housing
- Join with your Church to volunteer to provide and serve a Sunday Lunch
- Join with your Church to attend the “After the Lunch is Over” Workshop held in October
- Attend the “Outdoor Way of the Cross” held on Good Friday, an Ecumenical walk within the inner city with over 1000 in attendance.
- Ask how to become a “Friend of ICPM” churches and individuals who offer support for this ministry through donations, the Emmanuel Christmas Sack Appeal and the Lenten Cross Appeal

The intent of this Pastoral Reflection is to offer an overview of ICPM ministry involvements for 2010

while planning ahead for 2011. The ministry of ICPM is dynamic and relational, meeting the need of individuals, advocating and educating within the wider community regarding the systemic issues that affect the inner city population. Pray that this ministry may be blessed as ICPM ministers responds to God’s call of justice and mercy.

Yours in Christ
Pastor Rick Chapman+

Edmonton Homeless Memorial

The 6th Annual Memorial for Homeless Persons was held at ‘Boyle Street Community Services’ on Saturday, January 22, 2011. Fifty-seven persons were remembered. People gathered:

- ★ ‘to take time to grieve for and remember those relatives and friends who died in Edmonton as a direct or indirect result of not having a home’,
- ★ ‘to be present to those who sorrow at the loss of friends and loved ones’,
- ★ ‘to gather as a community to pray for and support those who are without adequate housing’,
- ★ ‘to increase the awareness in the broader Edmonton community of the extent of homelessness and of its tragic consequences’,
- ★ ‘to celebrate life through prayer, music, and good fellowship’.

Community of Emmanuel Christmas 2010

The Community of Emmanuel Worship Service with Sunday Lunch and the mid week ministry is busy, busy all of the time, yet when the Christmas Season arrives even more so!

The Advent Christmas Season of Worship offers opportunity to celebrate the joy of the coming of Emmanuel, God with Us, while prayerfully affirming within the community the many struggles and difficulties people face. As the celebration of family and friends heightens, many individuals are painfully reminded of how alone they really are.

As musicians and singers from Bethel Lutheran, a young couple singing “O Holy Night” and Sister Marion and Farley offered seasonal music of celebration, time was taken Sunday by Sunday to light candles in a time of prayer for those suffering feelings of loss and loneliness.

Emphasized by the darkening days of winter, one cannot help but be thankful that God’s presence comes among us, light into our darkness.

So much seems to be funneled through the brief Yuletide season. Starting mid December the Emmanuel Christmas Sacks began to arrive. With the help of Sue, Glory Lutheran, staff of the ICPM and the Bissell, family and friends of ICPM, over 900 Christmas Sacks arrived, were stored, sorted and distributed within the community. A special donation enabled 35 turkey vouchers and 35 food vouchers to be offered to needy single moms, couples and singles of the inner city.

A Pastor and congregation provided Pizza for 300 at the Christmas Service, with chocolates and candies donated by others. Many churches



continuously provide and serve the lunch throughout the year and those serving at Christmas brought special treats of mandarin oranges and sweets. Interestingly, while the Christian community was busy with the many services and celebrations of the season, members of the local synagogues came to assist ICPM with the lunch at the Carol Service! As Pastor, I was thrilled to be placed in the role of Santa’s Elf in the pick ups and deliveries of many of these gifts,... an elf buried under the avalanche of good will!

Sister Marion, Linda and I went to local drop ins and care facilities within the community offering “Christmas Lite” seeking to bring the care and joy of God’s blessing to many who seek refuge, healing and community within the inner city.

The ministry of Inner City Pastoral Ministry is

dependent on the good will offerings of the Faith Community. Incredibly, our red lined budget, arched into the black as individual donors, churches, and church women’s groups poured out their offerings of financial care at Christmas to support this ministry!

It is amazing to experience Christmas within the community of the inner city, enabled by the support and care of the Faith Community of the greater Edmonton area and surrounding communities! God bless you for your continuing support of this vital ministry.

*Yours in Christ
Pastor Rick Chapman+*



Christmas Gift Sack Ministry – December 2010

Christmas 2010 again reflected a wonderful response to ICPM's appeal for Christmas sacks for distribution to those in need in the inner city. Over 950 sacks were received this year.

The choice to provide items such as socks, waterproof gloves, scarves and toques to fill the sacks proved an easier way for some groups to be involved. Other gifts of blankets, quilts, underwear, nylons, leotards, long johns, bus tickets and hoodies are always most welcomed. These latter items will continue to offer help in the winter months.



The following are to be thanked for their support for the 2010 Christmas Gift Sack ministry:

All Saints Anglican,
Annunciation Roman Catholic,
Ascension Lutheran,
Assumption Parish,
Augustana Lutheran,
Christ Church Anglican,
Cota family,
Devon United Church,
Dynalife,
Ebenezer United Church,
Holy Trinity Anglican,
Hope Lutheran,
Johnson family,
Joshua,
Kirk United,



Lord of Life Lutheran,
Mill Woods Community Church,
Mount Olivet Lutheran,
Mt. Zion Lutheran,
NAIT,
OLPH Roman Catholic Parish,
Strathcona Community Day Care,
Ste. Anne's Parish,
St. Athanasius Orthodox,
St. Columba Anglican,
Stewart family,
St. George's Anglican,
St. Margaret's Anglican,
St. Mary's Anglican,
St. Matthias Anglican,
St. Patrick's Anglican,
St. Paul's Anglican,
St. Peter's Anglican,
Stollery Hospital and
Webb family.

Glory Lutheran Church stepped up again to bring gifts and help sort the



volume of sacks and other gifts that were received; this is of great assistance to the Inner City Pastoral Ministry staff. The gift sacks and items were distributed on December

19th and 26th to the Emmanuel Community, shared with other agencies and continue to bring help to those in need.

We extend our sincere thanks and blessings to all for the generosity of spirit and support. One of our ladies who organized her Church summed it up this way, "It was a joy for us to share with your community in spreading the Christmas Spirit."

May God continue this good work in all your lives throughout 2011!

*Sue Pasker for
Inner City Pastoral Ministry*



Subscribe to the ICPM List Online...

After many months of trying, we finally have the online List Serve functional. If you want to be on the ICPM electronic mailing list, please visit the ICPM website and subscribe to the online list serve. You will then be sent a notice as to when the next newsletter has been posted on the website and you may also receive notice, from time to time, of events of interest.



Gathering: Bridges from Brokenness to Strength

Have you ever felt the need to share with another human being a personal life challenge, a difficulty, a circumstance that has left you feeling broken and alone? The first requirement needed for this depth of openness is a trusting, caring and secure environment. The recent “Gathering: Bridges from Brokenness to Strength” was just such an opportunity. Fifteen individuals, members of the Community of Emmanuel (ICPM Sunday Worship) and a Ministry Team met for a Saturday morning of sharing and caring. The Gathering was purposefully planned to open a safe place within the faith community that enabled healing and reconciliation to occur within the context of prayer and shared personal story. Personal story related to our sharing of our faith journeys from places of brokenness to places of strength.

The morning began as the community greeted one another. Prayers were offered, candles were lit, drawing the group together in a circle of light. The group then entered a time of sharing where we spoke of our personal stories, a time of bridging from brokenness to strength. The stories shared included: Being seventeen and facing life alone on the street, having landlord trouble and facing possible eviction, the loss of a deeply loved child, the love of a caring grandmother who despite her own struggles with blindness prayed for me, and the loneliness of a 9x12 room with a brick wall for a view where no one ever calls. Yet, in the midst of the deeply troubling circumstance, a bridge was found. Some of the bridges were described in statements like “I was helped by caring friends

and community.” “I found my voice as I appealed my eviction in court.” “I have a new and bright place to stay.” “I discovered I was not alone.”

With the assistance of a local musician and songwriter we put our story to song. The morning ended with a celebration of our circle of light as we blessed one another with prayer. We shared lunch and in breaking bread together we grew closer to one another.

The next day, during the Sunday Worship service at the Community of Emmanuel, our song was shared with the wider faith community. We sang together the refrain. The concluding statement, “We shared and though at first unaware, we later affirmed that God had quietly come among us.”

The Gatherings celebrate our desire for reconciliation and healing within the community. Three additional Gatherings are proposed in 2011, celebrating the presence of God in our lives through the arts. Over the year, we will capture our stories in music, fine arts, drama and poetry. The Gathering: Bridges from Brokenness to Strength, a safe place, a sacred space, where healing and reconciliation takes place in a context of prayer and personal sharing.

Pastor Rick Chapman+

Song of the Street

1. By the light of burning bridges
I can see my trail of tears
I was forced down to my knees
By the sum of all my fears.

Chorus:

But I was not alone,
God was always near
You are not alone,
Jesus says don't fear
We are not alone,
God's already here

2. Losing my eldest daughter
I was losing her for years
I thought I would go crazy
Lost in a torrent of tears.

Chorus:

3. I was seventeen,
Alone upon the street
Head down in downtown,
Lookin' at my feet
But I made some friends,
Friends that I could keep

Chorus:

4. People are important,
Family comes to find
Granny prays for people
Even if they're blind
Faith and grace and charity
These are things that last
Give hope for the future
And freedom from the past

Chorus:

5. Not alone but lonely
This went on for years
Unchosen loneliness became
my choice
Silence of my fears
Solitude just grew and grew
And nearly took my voice
Fierce love for my son
Kept me whole and strong
Keeping things together
Helping us along

Chorus:

Continued

Song...

6. Sometimes I get so lonely
Staring at the wall
Lookin' out the window
No one ever calls

Chorus

7. Nearly lost my home sweet home
People wall to wall
Got to be a problem
Landlord came to call
Said I had to leave
Said I had no choice
But then I took him to court
And there I found my voice

Chorus.

Father was a carpenter
We travelled town to town
Camrose, Glendon, Turtleford
Buffalo Lake and down
He made a drum from deer hide
And stretched and made it strong
Somehow it became my voice
It sang my sacred song...

Chorus.

*Song created by members of
the Community of Emmanuel
and musician Farley McGee at the
"Gathering: Bridging from Brokenness
to Strength" – January, 2011]*

STATS 2010

Number of services – 50
(2 less services due to renovations
at Bissell West)
Total # of people in attendance at the
worship services – 5,428
Weekly average – 109
Total # of Sundays on which lunch
was served – 52
Total # for people receiving lunches
12,444
Weekly average – 249
Funerals/Memorials – 7

Events/Activities Calendar

RECENT EVENTS:

- ICPM Women's Group, Friday, January 21, 10 am to noon
- Gathering: Bridges from Brokenness to Strength
Saturday, January 22 9:30 am– 12:30 pm, Bissell Centre East
- Singing and Sharing at WEAC, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2 – 3 p.m.
- Standing Stones Worship Service
Sunday, January 31 11:00 am – noon, Bissell Centre East
- Interfaith Housing Plenary Group
Tuesday, February 1, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Catholic Pastoral Centre
- North of 60 Luncheon, Wednesday February 9 10:30 am – noon, Bissell Centre East

— UPCOMING EVENTS —



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry.

Thursday March 17, 2011

at Robertson Wesley United Church,
10209 - 123 St NW Edmonton.

Meal at 6 p.m. followed by Guest Speaker
Archbishop Richard Smith,

Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton speaking on

"Ending Homelessness: Engaging the Faith Communities".

Annual General Meeting of the ICPM 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

RSVP – Pastor Rick Chapman 780 424 7652

GOOD FRIDAY OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS

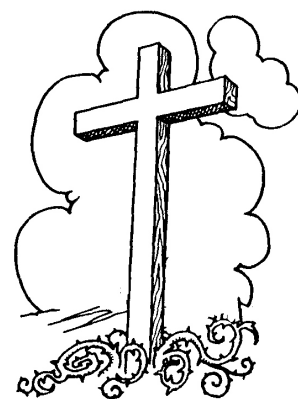
The 31st annual Outdoor Way of the Cross will be
held on

Friday, April 22, 10 AM – Noon.

The walk begins and ends at Alex Taylor School
9321 – Jasper Avenue.

This year's theme is **"Healing a Broken World"**.

The Outdoor Way of the Cross is a community
event sponsored by the Edmonton and District
Council of Churches. Everyone is welcome.



THE 'WOMEN'S WELLNESS RETREAT'

Friday, May 13 to Sunday, May 15

See Wish List for information about how you can support this initiative.

Wish List

Lenten "Cross" Appeal

Over the years many people have received a gift of a "cross" in a time of need as a part of the ICPM ministry of comfort and prayer.

"Pastor, I do you have a cross," is a much heard request. "I just need to know that God is with me," or "My friend is troubled and sure needs some encouragement, do you have a cross for him / her?"

As many as 1500 crosses in a year have been given out in the community. Each cross is offered in a pastoral moment, and comes with a prayer for the person's safety and a reminder of God's abiding presence in their life journey.

This year we are appealing in the Lenten Season for churches and individuals to support the purchase of 1500 crosses to be offered to the community in 2011. Each cross costs \$2.00. Please consider a donation towards the 2011 Lenten Cross Appeal. Please indicate that your donation be

designated for the Lenten Cross Appeal.

Thank you for your continued support of those in need of hope and encouragement on the streets of our city.

Women's Wellness Retreat

Star of the North – May 13 – 15, 2011

These retreat weekends provide an opportunity for women from the inner city to get away from the everyday stresses of daily life, and to focus on their own self care in a nurturing, safe environment. Our hope is that they leave refreshed and more able to cope with challenges in their lives. These retreats are made possible through generous donations made possible by many individuals. If you would like to assist with making an 'impossible dream' come true for many Women who would not otherwise have such an opportunity, please contact Linda MacIsaac at the Star of the North Retreat Centre 780-458-8877.

ICPM Board Members 2010 - 2011

Bob McKeon.....	Roman Catholic Board Chair
Nancy Kerr.....	United Past Chair
Sue Pasker	Lutheran Secretary Christmas Sack Contact
Fred Drummond.....	Anglican Treasurer
Sharon Webb.....	Anglican Lunch Ministry Coordinator

Members At Large:

David Barnum	Anglican
The Rev. Steve Hallford.....	Anglican
Karen Peterson	Lutheran
Coby Veeken	Roman Catholic
Linda Boire	Roman Catholic
Joy Berg	Lutheran
The Rev. Bob Kimmerly.....	United

Ministry Team as Members of the Board

Rick Chapman	Pastor
Sister Marion Garneau	Pastoral Associate
Linda Winski.....	Pastoral Associate

Now you can **donate to ICPM quickly and easily** online! Go to CanadaHelps.org. Search for "Inner City Pastoral Ministry" All donations are much appreciated and all who donate \$10 or more receive a tax receipt.

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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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.