

icpm
STRAIGHT
FROM THE STREET
A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY

June 2011

Community Artist Shares His Gift

Grant is one of the vibrant personalities of the inner city community. He has lived and found himself a home in the Boyle McCauley area. During the past year Grant has created for himself a comfortable home in a local rooming house and is doing well.

What makes Grant's personal story so interesting is that one year ago he was doing time in the local Edmonton

Remand, as he says, "The City Bucket." So, how does Grant maintain his solid life style? Grant states, "I receive 95% of my determination from my lawyer Mr. Ruaf who is like a step father to me. He keeps in touch with me and takes me out to supper faithfully once a month."

Homeless, Grant was released from the Remand and immediately took advantage of the shelter and support services of the Hope Mission. Through the Mission's housing support program Grant was housed in a local rooming house, now his home. Grant tells the story, "Without skipping a beat, when I got out, I headed straight over to the Hope Mission for housing. While at the



Hope Mission I ran into a worker and a nurse that helped me get on my feet. The second day there I also met Pastor Allan and he started telling me about other organizations and services. I came to the ICPM Service and Sunday lunch as I attended as many services as I could."

Grant maintains his sobriety through the 12 Step Program and community AA meetings. Further, Grant receives support from the many agencies in the Boyle McCauley area and attends a number of worship services including the Community of Emmanuel, the ICPM Worship Service and Sunday lunch offered at the Bissell Centre Drop In Sunday by Sunday.

As Pastor of the ICPM, my relationship with Grant began when I received a phone call from the Remand Chaplain asking if I would please arrange a visit with Grant. I did so, and Grant requested that I get his mountain bike out of the City impound. His bike had been confiscated at the time of his incarceration and was now about to be auctioned off. Upon release Grant visited with me in the ICPM office and began attending

the ICPM Community of Emmanuel service. Since then a strong relationship has developed between Grant and me. Frequently, Grant and I meet to share stories and to have times of fellowship.

We began this article by saying that Grant is a Community Artist. His art form is rather unique. Grant creates out of recycled materials model roadster cars and motor bike "choppers" with accompanying carrying trailer.

How did Grant begin this artistic hobby? Let Grant tell the story. "While locked up in 23 hour solitary confinement I began imagining how to create a roadster car out of the recycled materials of the institution. A

Artist...continued

discarded juice box formed the body of the car, a shiny chip bag and cuttings out of a local paper added colour. Juice box straws became the vehicle's axles. With no scissors and no glue, I mastered the cutting of the parts by scrolling with an institutional flex pen and assembled the parts with Remond toothpaste." Grant built a number of these beautiful art pieces with one greatly creative and resourceful mind.



Grant continues to master his art skills at home and shares his work with the community. In late June his roadsters, choppers and trailers will be on display at the local recycle depot. Also, Grant sells his work and gifts his art to people he cares about. ICPM received one of Grants remand models ... one of the original models, proudly displayed in the ICPM office.

Although Grant has not had an easy life, he is one of God's special people. Let Grant tell the story in his own words. "Being locked up in solitary confinement, even with a Grade 5 education, I picked up the Bible and proceeded to read bits and pieces of it. I thought I should start from the beginning, Genesis. I thought, "This is interesting." My faith grew stronger towards God and God's way of living. So ... while inside ... I planned to go to the Inner City Service. I moved in a block away from the Bissell Drop In and continue to this day with my ↗

ICPM - A Ministry of Presence ... Partnering With the Community

The following are events in which ICPM has had an active role...

- **The Outdoor Way of the Cross - Inner City, Apr 22**

A Good Friday Ecumenical inner city "way of the cross" walk offering reflection on issues of justice that affect individuals, the community and the land

- **Gathering - City Wide - City Hall, May 3**

"Peace Movement: Listening to Self, Others and the Land" was a city wide interfaith gathering of religious and spiritual leaders celebrating Edmonton's diverse community and offering reflection on the need for reconciliation and healing within the complexity of historic and modern day issues that shape Canadian society.

- **Gathering - Inner City - Bissell East, May 14**

"God Walks With Us" was a gathering of the inner city community to share and celebrate our faith journeys and God's continuing presence with us. Assisted by an artist, the group shared and displayed in an artistic format the many God moments that have brought joy and meaning to their lives.

routine of daily living for God and attending and helping out at the ICPM Sunday Services. The Sunday church service is a place where I get full of fuel ... I feel good after attending. I'm determined to follow up on ICPM service. It keeps me strong through the week. And ... I continue my art work through out the week."

- **Women's Wellness Weekend - Star of the North Retreat Centre, May 14**

Women from the inner city community, many of whom experience life on the margins shared in a refreshing and spiritually uplifting weekend at the Star of North Retreat Centre. Arts and crafts, group reflection and fun offered many women a needed break from the daily pressures of inner city life.

- **Standing Stones - Community of Emmanuel - Bissell West, May 29**

With the assistance of the Rev Travis Enright, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Diocese of Edmonton, the Community of Emmanuel celebrated a "Service of the Word" that integrates Aboriginal tradition and the honoring of Creation. This service, held on fifth Sundays is well received within the Emmanuel Community that honors its Aboriginal and Metis members.

- **North of 60 - Bissell East, June 01**

Mike and Barb Oram, mid week ICPM Pastoral Care Volunteers, in their ministry of presence have sought to build relationships with the many people who have come to live in Edmonton from North of 60. The North of 60 event with 30 inner city community people in attendance includes stories and song from Canada's Northern areas as well as a hearty lunch enjoyed by all.

Women's Wellness 2011

In May, Star of the North Retreat Centre hosted our 6th **“Time Away From the Everyday”**, a wellness retreat for women from the inner city. We had a great turn-out with 34 women attending the retreat and 6 staff and volunteers assisting. We also had several wonderful workshop leaders come in Saturday to teach skills including spring wreath making, beaded jewelry, yoga, creative writing, & soapstone necklaces. A special addition to this year's retreat was a visit to the Fr. Lacombe Chapel to learn some of the history of St. Albert.

The women on the weekend were an enthusiastic group. 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 women's religious communities and CWL groups, as well as a number of individuals have become regular sponsors. The weekend would not be possible to run without the support of the many individuals who contributed hours of time, bussing, supplies, skills and talents. For all the wonderful blessings, we are grateful.

The following are some of the comments made by the women on our evaluation form handed out at the end of the weekend:



How do you feel?

- ★ Well rested, well fed, clean inside
- ★ Wonderful, rested, I made new friends. I come away totally refreshed
- ★ You have no idea how nice it is to have someone cook for you
- ★ I feel optimistic for my future and achieving my goals
- ★ learned to relax more in social situations



- ★ I feel it is OK to be different
- ★ I feel better about myself
- ★ I have an inner calm, I want to sing again
- ★ It lifted my spirit really up
- ★ Ready to go back to the grind
- ★ I would like to come back every year
- ★ I love it here

What did you learn?

- ★ I learned to meet new people & learn different perspectives
- ★ Daily journaling
- ★ I will use some of the relaxations in weekly life
- ★ I'll take more time out for myself
- ★ I will take more time for me and I won't get so anxious and grouchy
- ★ Not to take life so seriously, to learn to relax
- ★ I learned to respect people for who they are
- ★ Not to let stress get to me as much-take notice of my breathing to relax & de-stress myself

Pastor Rick's Reflection

God's call of compassion and care amongst the less fortunate continues to be one of the central pillars of the faith. The apostle James calls the early Christian community to love one's neighbor as a sign of God's reign, the faith being lived out in community. "You do well if you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." James 2:8

It would seem that the Spirit has a heart for those experiencing poverty and rests upon those in need. "Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?" James 2:5. As followers of Christ, we need not be surprised when we are led by Christ to share in his ministry amongst the many who find themselves living in the margins.

The guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting of Inner City Pastoral Ministry was Archbishop Richard Smith. The Archbishop, one of the engineers of the Capital Region Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, offered a provocative reflection on the faith communities continuing responsibility to offer care and support for those who find themselves homeless.

Archbishop Smith spoke of the March 17 signing of the Interfaith Action Statement on Homelessness and Affordable Housing. Faith leaders of the City of Edmonton, Aboriginal and Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran, Roman Catholic, United and Unitarian to Zoroastrian, to name a few, signed a pledge that states,

"We, leaders of different religious and spiritual communities in Edmonton and area, come together to express



our shared commitment to eliminate homelessness in our community. We support the challenging goals of "A Place to Call Home: Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness."

Accompanying the signing of the Interfaith Action Statement is a bold Action Plan. The success of the Action Plan is contingent on the support of many volunteers to be drawn from the religious and spiritual communities of Edmonton and wider area. The Action Plan will encourage the participation, training and covenanting of the many worship communities of the City of Edmonton and beyond to companion and accompany individuals who are transitioning from homelessness to a home. The Congregational Housing Action Guide edited by Bob McKeon, Social Justice Office of the Catholic Archdiocese, outlines an 11 point sampling of how faith communities are able to engage in a ministry of compassion and care amongst those who have experienced homelessness. (Contact Bob McKeon at <sjustice@caedm.ca>)

Central to the Interfaith Action Plan is a program called "Welcome Home"

being organized through the Edmonton Housing Commission. Beginning this fall, the Welcome Home program will partner volunteers from faith and community organizations with families and individuals needing assistance and personal support as they transition from homelessness into long-term, sustainable housing in neighborhoods across the city. Many faith leaders, churches, denominations and many other religious and spiritual communities are beginning to educate so that they may be better prepared to serve within this ministry of care.

ICPM, as you may be aware, ministers amongst many persons experiencing homelessness in the inner city. Yet, homelessness is not confined to the urban centre. Many individuals and families both urban and rural are one pay check away from losing their housing and their home!

I believe that Edmonton's city and greater area response to the plight of the homeless is little short of a miracle. Let us prayerfully prepare for our part as a religious and spiritual community, readying ourselves, and offering God's care and support to those most in need.

Mid Week Pastoral Ministry Volunteers

– Mike and Barb Oram



Barb, Jesse & Mike

We are Barb and Mike and we are your mid week Pastoral Ministry Volunteers. We serve with the Inner City Pastoral Ministry with the support of All Saints Anglican Cathedral. We work with Pastor Rick on Special Project as well as do visitations out on the street.

Wednesday's can be very busy. The first part of our day is spent in Pastor Rick's office. During this time, we could be meeting with some of the people that come to visit in the office or more than likely, we are planning some event. We developed a new program called "North of 60". This program invites people who were born, lived or are interested in life above the 60th parallel to listen to stories of the north and participate in a lunch. We have had our first session in January with another scheduled for June 1st. We had a excellent turnout. In addition, we have participated in the Saturday gatherings as well as the Standing Stones Service on the 5th Sunday of a month.

After the office period, we head out into the street. Our first stop is usually across the Street at the Bissell Centre West. We have become known to the people who use the Drop-in and enjoy

visiting with those who wish to visit as well as praying with those who ask.

We then walk the streets checking in on folks we know to see how they are doing and to see if there is anything that we can do for them. There is a stop at Operation Friendship to visit with the seniors. Sometimes, we are invited out to lunch by a resident or two and end up enjoying the cuisine of the Hope Mission. Infrequently, we

travel over and visit at the Boyle Street Co-op.

Having had the experience of a family member with addictions and on the street, giving back to this community, with humility, gives us the courage and strength to provide support to our own family member. We are rewarded just being a part of the community if only on Wednesdays and some Sundays.

Farewell to Terry Kettleon ...

Terry Kettleon offered a ministry of dedicated service as the Sunday Food Coordinator with the ICPM Sunday Lunch Program and the Community of Emmanuel for more than eight years. Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and Terry is moving north to pursue employment and educational opportunities. Terry's last Sunday with ICPM was April 24th and she is already sorely missed!

In the 8 years Terry did this job she missed only 4 Sunday's; that's 4 Sundays out of 52 Sundays a year for 8 years! Now that is commitment! Terry was a wonderful gift to ICPM. She greeted and directed over 1000 faith community volunteers a year, organized the distribution of the nutritious lunch for an average of 250 community people each Sunday, while maintaining a sense of care and humour with her numerous interactions with community members. Many will remember her directives, "OK Pumpkins, let's keep that line moving!"

Terry's familiarity with the community was hard won. For many years Terry worked as an outreach worker for those experiencing homelessness on Whyte Ave. Many of the inner city community people knew Terry through the assistance she offered them in the midweek. As Pastor of ICPM I often would phone Terry asking for her support in locating housing and support for many people in need who arrived at the ICPM office.

Terry was a tireless and dedicated worker offering a ministry of care amongst inner city community people most in need.

Farewell Terry! On behalf of the ICPM Board, the Ministry Team, the Sunday Lunch volunteers and the Community of Emmanuel we wish you God's speed and success in your new ventures. May the God of peace, the God who opens doorways of blessing, lead you on your journey and open pathways of blessing for you. We miss you Terry !



Terry Kettleon (r)

Good Friday Outdoor Way of the Cross

Even though Good Friday was much later than usual this year, two weeks before the event, some of us were wondering if we would be walking through snow or mud left from the long, long winter. Yet... the day came, and the sun shone, and in spite of the chilly wind, the people



came as they have for 31 years in this Good Friday tradition for many of Edmonton's faithful.

This year's theme was "Healing a Broken World"; and at the various stops along the designated route, participants reflected on a particular expression of brokenness in our world, listened to readings from Scripture and prayed for reconciliation and healing. Our presenters this year, brought stories of their experience of working with people who are among the most vulnerable in our communities and our world: People living in poverty and without enough to eat, people whose lives are



challenged by addictions, people paralyzed by broken relationships, people living without homes, people living in war torn countries, people imprisoned and all of us living on a planet being ravaged by human exploitation and greed. They brought both their experience of brokenness and their hope for healing to the reflections and the organizers of the event wish to thank each of them for their participation in this year's event.

As I walked with the 1000 'pilgrims' and listened to the reflections, I was again struck by the incredible bond that exists among those who attend and how this 'community' that gathers is both diverse in its unity and unified in its diversity. Some participants walked dogs, pushed strollers and carried babies, while others used canes, or walkers or someone else's arm for support along the way. Some were dressed very stylishly while others wore the only clothes they had in the cart that was their closet. I can't remember where else I have experienced a Senator walking along side someone who is homeless yet they are unified by their humanity and being created in the image and likeness of God. Somehow, this commemoration of the death and resurrection of the Holy One of God unites us all and is a powerful experience of Church, lived on the streets of Edmonton.

Inner city Pastoral Ministry has been actively involved in planning this event for close to 20 years and each year we are thankful for and inspired by those who bring their faith out of the churches and into the streets where life happens and faith must be lived. For a copy of this year's reflections, contact Linda at 780-424-7652.

An Inner City Hallelujah

Good Friday, April 22, 2011

Today, in the inner city, walking and talking with Frank, a wounded native drummer that coulda, shoulda been me, I find myself surrounded by folks following a cross.

It seems that Frank and I have lived life stories that are nearly the same. I feel we are brothers, two thieves who find ourselves hangin around with a cross on our backs; our only connection, the Love flowing out of the Guy in between.

Somewhere inside me a star falls, a bridge is crossed, I hear the silken slither of my need, my greed for endless comfort sliding away, and the gentle thud of my stone heart falling to earth where it belongs.

Now, all three of us look out over the crowd and see a future where all who are here are being gathered into the great Hallelujah, no matter where or what they have been.

- Douglas Krefting



Final Prayer at the Outdoor Way of the Cross

Litany of commitment

One: We thank you, God, for the wonder of healing, in a world where there is so much suffering and hurt.

Many: We pray for the loving heart of Jesus to desire to bring healing where there is pain.

One: We pray for courage to offer healing even when the response may be anger or rejection.

Many: We pray to be willing to give of our own strengths and resources to let others find healing.

One: We pray for eyes to see the possibility of healing in the worst of circumstances and words to encourage those giving up to believe in the possibility of delicious healing.

Many: We pray for the courage of Jesus to stand with those ignored and outcast who are hurt by those whose lives are comfortable.

One: We pray for understanding of healing as an act of justice and not of charity, an act between equals and not a stooping to offer pity.

Many: Open our hearts to be challenged and changed by the model of healing as Jesus practiced it .

One: Give us the courage to see hurting even when it is masked and to be healers even when there is no easy way to do so.



Many: Give us eyes to be offended as we see acts of violence, hate and greed that wound our sisters and brothers.

One: Support us, loving God, to love the unlovely but to raise our voices for fairness for every being created in your image. Give us the spirit of the grass, persisting to send its tender green shoots through the cracks of the hard concrete that tries to hold it back.

Many: We re-commit ourselves to be your agents for a city and world marked by fairness for every sacred soul.

We celebrate that each and every person is our brother, our sister, alive, loved, blest in the Spirit of God.

We commit to lifestyles of justice and mercy, caring for this Earth, advocating for the oppressed, being citizens who demand a society where each person can be who you created them to be.

We celebrate that it is in healing that we are healed.

ICPM Welcomes Two New Board Members

Imagine our joy and expectations when we welcomed Dr. Sherry Ann Chapman and the Rev. Nancy Steeves, to the ICPM Board at the Annual General Meeting in March. Both call Southminster-Steinhauer United Church their church home.

I first met Sherry Ann in 2002 when she was a doctoral student in my Department of Human Ecology, completing a dissertation on 'Aging Well: Constructing Identity with Special Things'. I was struck by her 'joie de vivre', her compassionate nature and her willingness to listen.

When I recently learned that she attends Southminster-Steinhauer United Church, I asked her to consider ICPM Board work. She expressed interest but suggested we talk again after her return from Israel/Palestine. Sherry Ann has just come back from a three months with the World Council of Church's Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel. She said that they offered a protective presence by walking with vulnerable people and monitoring checkpoints. They stood with the Women in Black, and served as a companion for families in East-Jerusalem neighbourhoods with home-demolition orders. Ask her sometime about the challenge of departing from Jerusalem. In her leisure time she folk dances, learns American Sign Language and sings with the Edmonton group "Earth Sing".

My introduction to the Rev. Nancy Steeves came at an Advisory Committee Meeting for the United Church Campus Ministry at the University of Alberta. I was immediately impressed that she had time for Chaplaincy advising while she was working two half-time positions, United Church minister at Buchanan-Eastwood and criminal lawyer. As a full time minister at Southminster-Steinhauer, she has put aside legal work. Nancy is a United Church representative on The Church Council on Justice and Corrections. Nancy will bring a wealth of experience to the ICPM

continued on page 8

New Board Members...continued

Board. She has expressed a desire to reconnect with inner city folks. I once asked a wise older United Church minister, "Who are considered the best preachers in town? Nancy Steeves was one of two mentioned. Nancy recently wrote an answer to The Big Question, a column that appears in the United church Observer online (www.ucobserver.org/columns/2011/03). Her answer to the question "What is the real power of prayer?" brought lively discussion. I particularly liked this thought "Isn't the sacred the persisting and pervading presence of justice, mercy and compassion in which we live and move and have our being".

We look forward to getting to know and work with Sherry Ann and Nancy and we hope they find their ICPM work rewarding.

— Nancy Kerr

On Being Counted...

We humans like to be counted in, rather than counted out. We like to be looked upon by particularly our families as having value and meaning, *to be counted*. In fact, for many of us, being valued is one of the driving forces within our lives. But what happens when we are not valued, when who we are is looked upon is being not wanted or simply endured, when we are not counted, but ignored. What happens to us then? Do we then look upon ourselves as others look upon us, as being less? And, if we do, do we not lose our inner sense of being human?

At such times in our lives we often forget we are not alone. We forget there is a creator who deeply and forever loves us. We need at such times to be told, reminded, touched by a Presence beyond ourselves. That's what ICPM's Ministry of Presence really means: it is a ministry of saying God is loving...always.

Your help to keep ICPM's ministry active and alive is very much appreciated.

—David Barnum, Stewardship

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.

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Rick ChapmanPastor
Sister Marion Garneau.....Pastoral Associate
Linda Winski.....Pastoral Associate

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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.