

AUGUST 2019

icpm
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Straight from the street

A newsletter for friends of Inner City Pastoral Ministry



"With what shall I come before the Lord? He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
Micah 6:6-8

WELCOME MARY-LOU CLEVELAND!

NEWLY-ELECTED ICPM BOARD CHAIR

Mary-Lou Cleveland was elected ICPM Board Chair at the Annual General Meeting held on March 20, 2019. She filled the vacancy created by the departure of John Campbell, a dedicated long-term Board member who resigned at the end of his second 3-year term as Chair. The ICPM Board Chair sets the agendas for meetings of the Board, serves on both the Finance Committee and the Stewardship, Education and Communications Committee, and supports the Ministry Team—altogether a daunting task!

Mary-Lou is a member of All Saints' Anglican Cathedral and an avid supporter of ICPM, having coordinated the Cathedral's Sunday Lunch Volunteers for several years. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience from her previous profession as a public school teacher and principal, as well as a strong sense of social justice and advocacy. Welcome Mary-Lou!

*Rick Chapman +
Pastor, ICPM*

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Stepping into the role of Board Chair for ICPM has been a gift. Initially, the thought of it was daunting. But God's power, working in us, can do more than we can ever ask or imagine! So my fellow Board Members and I continue to answer the call to share our gifts and talents to support the work of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry.

In May I had the privilege of attending a Sweat Lodge on a farm west of Enoch as part of Four Directions, one of ICPM's "Our Common Ground" activities. The intricacy of constructing the lodge, the significance of its shape, and the spiritual rituals are things I will always hold in my heart and mind. The continuous prayers and songs, along with the heat, had a cleansing effect on my body and soul. This experience has definitely been important in my personal Reconciliation journey.

Blessings and Joy!

*Mary-Lou Cleveland
Chair, Board of Directors, ICPM*



ICPM BOARD MEMBERS SUPPORT HOMELESS CONNECT
LEFT TO RIGHT: SHARON WEBB, COLLEEN SMITH, MARY-LOU CLEVELAND

MEN'S RETREAT 2019

WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

"Will the circle be unbroken" is a well-loved country classic song, recorded by Johnny Cash, Randy Travis, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and others as a powerful call to appreciate the importance of family ties. But for ICPM's men's group, meeting monthly over the past year, it has also been a focus of discussion. A sculpture of a broken circle, located in Edmonton's river valley, was used in each discussion about how our relationships become broken. The group engaged in an honest sharing about how we deal with issues like anger, betrayal, abuse, and violence in order to make the circle whole again.

Further, the men spent several months talking about the seven grandparent teachings that relate to the medicine wheel, and then moved on to share ideas

about how we restore the wholeness of the circle that is the model of creation.

Expanding the Men's Ministry, ICPM travels to McCullough Centre in Gunn, about 75 kilometres from Edmonton, where there is a men's treatment centre. Monthly visits offer a ministry of presence amongst the men, both to be available, and to offer the residents a connection with ICPM should they come to live in Edmonton.

The culminating event each year is an annual overnight retreat at Star of the North in St. Albert, held on the May long weekend. The more-than-20 participants at the retreat engaged in guided meditations and exercises led by Fr. Souci of Sacred Heart Parish of the First Nations. Ideas were explored in the context of earth, air,

fire and water. But there was still time for bowling, bingo, and lots of good food, as well as painting with Bruce Thompson, and creating our own personal lanyards!

The Men's Group is now focusing on talking about ways to address the social issues that make life difficult for many in the ICPM community, issues like homelessness, poverty, cultural insensitivity on the part of organizations that provide services, and lack of voice in decisions that affect daily life. Participants are sharing that, while working to address personal issues is important if the circle is to be unbroken, so too is working to ensure social structures are fair for all.

*Jim Gurnett
Pastoral Associate, ICPM*



BROKEN CIRCLE



MEN'S RETREAT 2019

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2019

It was another great year for the women's retreat, held at Star of the North in St. Albert from May 30 to June 1. Thank you to the staff of the retreat centre for their hospitality. Fifteen ladies from the ICPM community were blessed by experiencing circle games, stories, singing, crafts, good food and community! The women got to recharge, restore their spirits in the quiet, experience love from the community, and be reminded that God has fashioned our lives from the moment we were conceived to the present day. God's love is infinite.

*Michelle Nieviadomy
Oskapewis (Indigenous Helper), ICPM*



WOMEN'S RETREAT 2019



FRIENDS OF ICPM

THE BURGER TEAM, ST. THERESA CONFERENCE, SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The St. Theresa Conference, St. Vincent de Paul strongly supports the ministry of ICPM by providing a service of caring for the many people in the inner city who live in poverty. When we partner together, the Burger Team drives up with a fully loaded truck: BBQs, awnings, and team, with

burgers and hot dogs and all the trimmings, desserts, bananas and refreshments. 400 to 500 people receive a welcome hot dog and burger—a BBQ feast—efficiently served to the inevitable line-up! Thanks to Maria and Stephen, St. Vincent de Paul vice-president and president respectively, all runs

smoothly, and receives a grateful response from the community. God's richest blessing on this fabulous team and our partnership in ministry!

*Rick Chapman +
Pastor, ICPM*



THE BURGER TEAM



LINING UP FOR A BURGER BASH

GRADE 6 CLASS GEORGE P. NICHOLSON SCHOOL

From time to time the Grade 6 students at George P. Nicholson School engage in a "Walk About" in the inner city of Edmonton in order to understand the complexities of an inner city community experiencing poverty, and often marginalization as well. Led by teacher Lorelei Campbell and a number of parents, the group seeks to come to terms with the issues faced by people who are homeless or living on the margins. ICPM offers leadership for the Walk About, discussing human care and the systemic nature of poverty. The people on the streets welcome the students, and respond well to encounters with them. The students in turn become aware that what was once defined as "them and us" has become "we." God's richest blessing on these young "Friends of ICPM"!

*Rick Chapman +
Pastor, ICPM*



GRADE SIX FRIENDS OF ICPM

OUR COMMON GROUND 2019

Our Common Ground has evolved from its early beginnings in 2017, and now includes an extensive group of events and activities that respond to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Michelle Nieviadomy, ICPM's Oskapewis (Indigenous Helper), leads an interfaith Advisory Group that presides over the program. Support has been received in the form of an Anti-Racism Grant from Alberta Culture, as well as gifts from invested donors. Blanket exercises; Indigenous cultural and educational events like medicine picking, sweats, and culture camp; ceremonies, including Standing Stones and the Pipe Ceremony; inner city and family gatherings; the series of learning circles based on the CBC documentary series *8th Fire*; and the annual round dance all combine to form a comprehensive intergenerational



OUR COMMON GROUND LEADERSHIP TEAM

approach to reconciliation and healing within the community—Our Common Ground 2019.

*Rick Chapman +
Pastor, ICPM*



STANDING STONES

Standing Stones is ceremony in which the spiritual traditions of both Christian and Indigenous peoples are honoured and celebrated. The two traditions stand side by side, offering a deep expression of worship through shared wisdom, prayer, healing and thanksgiving. Just as the Psalmist declares that "righteousness and peace have kissed each other," so these two ancient spiritualities "kiss," celebrating their common belief in the Creator, in purification, in sacred story and tradition, in the building of a sacred community; and sharing the joy of knowing the inclusive love of God for all people. As the deep wisdom that is

held within each tradition is shared, the ceremony broadens our understanding of God.

Standing Stones offers an opportunity for reconciliation and healing within community, reconciliation and healing being first and foremost a spiritual quest. By drawing the community together, Standing Stones makes possible a significant step forward in the ministry of healing and reconciliation.

*Rick Chapman +
Pastor, ICPM*



STANDING STONES—MICHELLE NIEVIADOMY

MEDICINE PICKING - CEREMONIAL HERBS

Sweetgrass, sage, cedar and tobacco are the four sacred plants. In Indigenous practices, burning them is a sign of deep spirituality. Cedar and sage are burned to drive out negative forces when prayer is offered. Sweetgrass, which signifies kindness, is burned to invite good spirits to enter. These purification rituals are also used to smudge regalia, drums and other articles before taking part in a powwow.

The four plants are used in both individual and group ceremonies. Each plant was originally given to a specific tribe. Now they are used, singly or together, as incense, which is usually ignited in an abalone shell or another type of container, and then passed from person to person in the circle.

*Rick Chapman +
Pastor, ICPM*



MEDICINE PICKING
ALEXANDER FIRST NATION

OUR COMMON GROUND (CONT'D)

PIPE CEREMONY

The pipe is very sacred to First Nations people. In the past, it was used to open negotiations between different nations as a way for “good talk” to take place. This ceremony was also regarded as the way by which participants would be truthful, respectful and abide by the decisions and agreements that were made during the meeting time. Tobacco that has been blessed through prayer is normally used for the ceremony.

The pipe is usually kept in a sacred bundle that is owned by the pipe carrier, and only he (or a helper) is allowed to open the bundle to prepare for the ceremony. After all preparations are accomplished, the ceremony can start. When asked, the pipe carrier can do the ceremony in almost any location. The participants sit in a circle with the pipe carrier.

Amongst some First Nations, the men sit in an inner circle and the women sit in an outer circle; in others, all sit in one circle. The helper places the sacred tobacco into the pipe and lights it in front of the pipe carrier. The pipe carrier, who is the host of the ceremony, says prayers to seven cardinal points: the Four Directions; the “Above” or Spirit World; the “Below” or Mother Earth; and the “Centre” or all living

things. The pipe is then passed to the participants for them to either touch or smoke it.

The passing of the pipe can be repeated several times. The tobacco is then allowed to “die” and the pipe is disassembled to be returned to the bundle until the next ceremony. After this, the pipe carrier may speak a few words of gratitude about life and expectations; each participant is also invited to speak such words; and the ceremony is considered closed.

*By William Asikinack, in Indigenous Saskatchewan Encyclopedia
Downloaded from https://teaching.usask.ca/indigenoussk/import/pipe_ceremony.php*



PIPE CEREMONY ELDERS AND PARTICIPANTS

PIPE CEREMONY AT CHRIST CHURCH

Traditionally, pipe carriers were men. However, in modern times women are pipe carriers, as was the case during the pipe ceremony held at the Anglican Parish of Christ Church on Friday March 22, 2019. An Elder and a Helper, both women, offered the ceremony. Men, women and children, gathered in a circle, shared in the ceremony and the prayers. After the passing of the pipe amongst the gathered community, the Elder offered traditional teachings. The pipe ceremony was both educational and prayerful, uniting Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the community in spiritual celebration. A feast followed!

*Rick Chapman +
Pastor, ICPM*



PIPE CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

ATCHAKOSUK–CREE STAR STORIES

ICPM and partners were pleased to present “Atchakosuk–Cree Star Stories” on June 16. We rented the Zeidler Dome at the Telus World of Science for a private screening of the dazzling panoramic movie *Legends of the Northern Sky*, which tells Cree stories inspired by the constellations.

Following the movie, Hunter Cardinal offered the crowd—more than 140 people of all ages, from different parts of the city—some teachings on Cree concepts. He spoke about *Misâwa* and *Wahkohtowin*, how we, through good relations, are part of the life and stories of all things.

Then there was tea and bannock for all in the park outside, where Hunter helped people young and old to make tobacco ties. These could be given to Elders as protocol, in thanksgiving for traditional teachings. And so the journey of learning would continue!

Together we learned a bit about the stars, and a lot about how good relations—in our lives here and now—can bring a little of the heavens down to earth.

*The Rev. Nick Trussell
Urban Reconciliation Facilitator
Anglican Diocese of Edmonton*



HUNTER CARDINAL—MAKING TOBACCO TIES



LEGENDS OF THE NORTHERN SKY





EXPLORING SOCIAL JUSTICE

As a way of extending Jesus' call to be generous in giving to those who are struggling, we invite you to think about having a workshop on "doing" social justice—on engaging in a ministry that transforms social structures and systems in the community that marginalize certain groups of people and hold them in poverty.

- How to do social analysis of an issue
- How to develop a plan for an appropriate action that will make a difference
- How best to evaluate the success of your action

For further information, contact Jim Gurnett – Pastoral Associate, 780 424 7652, info@icpmedmonton.ca.

CIRCLE OF HOPE

We invite you to host a workshop in which Michelle Nieviadomy will offer a Cree woman's perspective on truth telling, healing and reconciliation. The Circle of Hope workshop creates opportunity to come together as human beings to share in story, in ceremony, and in the love of the Creator.

- Kanata – Sacredness of the Land
- Treaty as Covenant
- Residential Schools and the 60's Scoop and the lived experience of a racial divide
- Awakening to reconciliation and healing

For further information, contact Michelle Nieviadomy Oskapewis (Indigenous Helper), 780 424 7652 info@icpmedmonton.ca.



CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES: NEW ON THE ICPM WEBSITE!

We have created a new section on the ICPM website with resources and information for the congregations, parishes, and other groups that provide support for our ministry. Go to www.icpmedmonton.ca and click on "Congregational Resources" in the black banner near the top of the page. There you will find information about the Sunday lunch program, and other ways to support the ICPM ministry, like holding a Loose Offering Sunday. There is also information about having our Pastoral

Associate, Jim Gurnett, lead a Social Justice workshop in your congregation, and about arranging for our Oskapewis (Indigenous Helper), Michelle Nieviadomy, to lead a workshop on reconciliation topics and initiatives. And there are brochures and other materials available to view and download. Be sure to check out this new page on our site!

*John Campbell
Past Chair, Board of Directors, ICPM*





You can donate to ICPM quickly and easily online! Go to www.CanadaHelps.org
Search for "Inner City Pastoral Ministry". All who donate \$10 or more receive a tax receipt.

Enclosed is my gift for Inner City Pastoral Ministry

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Gift Amount \$ _____

I wish to receive further information from ICPM by email By postal mail

ICPM Board Members

Mary-Lou Cleveland	Anglican - Board Chair
Dr. Nancy Kerr	United - Past Board Chair
Victoria Wynn	United - Secretary
Cathy Armstrong	Anglican - Treasurer
Sharon Webb	Anglican - Sunday Lunch Coordinator
Ann Matheson	Anglican
Coby Veeken	Roman Catholic
Rev. Linda Whittle	Anglican
Kim Armstrong	United
Colleen Smith	Roman Catholic
Lucas Stone	At Large
Pastor Bruce Ehlert	Lutheran
Andrea Wilhelm	Lutheran

ICPM Ministry Team

Rev. Rick Chapman	Anglican - Pastor
Jim Gurnett	Anglican - Pastoral Associate
Michelle Nieviadomy	Indigenous Oskapewis
Bruce Thompson	Anglican - Artist in Residence
Gord Holub	Indigenous Helper
Farley Magee and Julie Lloyd	Musicians in Residence
Linda Heywood	Food Coordinator
Annie Johnson	Food Coordinator
Nicole Wiebe	Evangelical Free - Graphic Design
Jim Whittle	Anglican - Newsletter Copy Editor

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ICPM Mission Statement

Inner City Pastoral Ministry is an interdenominational Christian Ministry of Presence. In partnership with the community, and guided by the Spirit of God, we walk with the people of the inner city of Edmonton.
