

FEBRUARY 2020

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# Straight<sub>+</sub> 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*

## Remembering 2019- ICPM In Action

Another exciting year has passed in the ministry of ICPM. The introduction of a new Board Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and two new Lutheran Board Members; continuing program needs; and financial challenges filled the calendar!



ICPM THANKSGIVING TREE

For me, as Pastor, the **SUNDAY WORSHIP AND SUNDAY LUNCH PROGRAM** is the highlight of the week, with the Community of Emmanuel gathering for worship, with a nutritious and hearty community lunch following. Services of Holy Communion, Standing Stones, and Service of the Word are offered by Pastor Rick, Michelle Nieviadomy, Oskapewis, and Jim Gurnett, Pastoral Associate. Gord Holub, from Shuswap Band in BC, offers the ceremonial smudge week by week, honouring our presence on Treaty 6 land.

The **SUNDAY LUNCH** ICPM team of lunch coordinators and ICPM volunteers anticipates the weekly arrival of church volunteers, who come, week by week, from 80+ churches, synagogues, and, recently, Al Rashid Mosque - Human Concern International. Each week, 18 volunteers arrive to supply and serve the lunch. That's 18 people times 52 weeks of the year, approximately 1000 volunteers per year. Who keeps this continuous roster of volunteers supplied? None other than Sharon Webb, Board member and Sunday Lunch Coordinator. Thank you Sharon!



STAFF & VOLUNTEER LUNCH

Mid week programs include the **MEN'S** and **WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL WELLNESS GATHERINGS** held once a month and culminating in annual retreats at Star of the North Retreat Centre, St Albert. The men's gatherings are lead by Jim Gurnett and Gord Holub, and include a hearty lunch of burgers or pizza, with group discussions including topics such as 7 Sacred teachings, "Will the Circle be Unbroken" discussing relational wholeness, social issues of people living with poverty, and "Building Bridges" – honouring self, others, the creation, and the Creator. Retreat themes pick up on the monthly reflections. Father Soosai from Sacred Heart Church, supported





MEN'S RETREAT 2019

by Archbishop Sylvain, Oblate, and Bob McKeon, social justice educator and advocate, offered reflections on building bridges of wellness in relationships during the men's retreat in 2019.

The women's wellness gatherings are lead by Michelle, Oskapewis, supported by Linda Heywood, ICPM volunteer. The women's program includes a delicious lunch, spiritual reflection, and handicraft activities. The annual ICPM women's retreat is supported fully by the Star of the North planning committee, and for this we give thanks!

**OUR COMMON GROUND**, a ministry of reconciliation and healing, supported in part by an Alberta government anti-racism grant, was introduced as a ministry of ICPM four years ago with the arrival and leadership of Michelle Nieviadomy, a Cree woman from Saskatchewan, Treaty 4. Our Common Ground is a multifaceted ministry centring on several educational events in the year, such as Indigenous pipe

ceremony, sweats, medicine picking at Alexander Reserve, Atchakosuk – Cree Star Stories, and the annual Winter Solstice Gathering – this year, a "mini" Round Dance. This year the medicine picking included community members and the Summer Youth Club from Good Shepherd Anglican Church. The pipe ceremony was hosted by Christ Church Anglican, while "Atchakosuk – Cree Star Stories" At Telus World of Science featured Hunter Cardinal offering reflections on a Cree understanding of the stars and constellations. Special thanks to the Our Common Ground Advisory Committee, and Rev. Nick Trussell for their support ensuring the success of the gatherings.



ADVISORY GROUP - OUR COMMON GROUND

8th Fire was a second pillar of Our Common Ground with monthly gatherings discussing the themes of the 8th Fire CBC series that explores Indigenous perspectives in regards



MEDICINE PICKING



to First Nations communities in Canada, the Indian Act, the treaties, residential school history, Indigenous economic development, and the causes and effects of discrimination and racism often experienced by Indigenous people in our nation.

Our Common Ground includes 4 Directions, an urban core support, education, and networking group of urban core "workers" and lived-experience people who wish to engage in relationship building, reconciliation and healing. Facilitated by Michelle Nieviadomy, Oskapewis, supported by Elder Russell and Pastor Rick, to offer spiritual direction, the group gathers to pray, smudge, and engage in learning activities, with conversation, networking, and sharing over a nutritious lunch.

Highlighting the year are **SPECIAL EVENTS** with particular emphasis on the Winter Solstice-Christmas celebration, a family night. This gathering included a delicious



CHUBBY CREE DRUM GROUP

hot meal supplied and served by Brown's Social House in Sherwood Park - turkey and ham with the trimmings and apple pie! Carol Powder, with her Chubby Cree drum group, welcomed the Winter Solstice, offering Indigenous drumming, song and dancers. Christmas crafts, Farley Magee and the ICPM carollers, and the Nativity story by candlelight welcomed the Christmas season. Supported strongly by ICPM Board member Sue and the Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, the traditional "give away" supported many families with gifts for adults, teens, and children of all those present. A delightful way to enter the Winter Solstice and Christmas celebrations!

As this 2019 report concludes, I cannot fail to mention the tremendous support of the wider community that enables ICPM to continue this vibrant ministry. Many churches, synagogues, Al Rashid Mosque

with Human Concern International, and private individuals generously contribute to maintain the daily, weekly, and monthly financial needs of ICPM. Thank you! Special appeals at Easter, supported by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church, and the Christmas Emmanuel gift campaign contribute hundreds of gift cards to the urban core community, enabling needy families and individuals to purchase Easter and Christmas dinner. So abundant are the gift cards that there is a continuous supply to offer support to community members well after Easter and Christmas. This Christmas, George P. Nicholson School children with teacher Lorelei Campbell fund raised hundreds of McDonald's gift cards, to be distributed to homeless people who need a hot meal and a moment of rest off the street.



GEORGE P. NICHOLSON SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Further, gifts in kind are donated regularly-- including socks, toques, scarves, underwear, and hoodies! St Nicolas School's social justice class sent a box of socks and toques.

Flo Reducah is our "sock lady," supplying hundreds of pairs of socks and needed clothing items monthly through the support of Annunciation Roman Catholic Church, Edmonton. Thank you Flo!

A hearty thanks to all who contribute and support the ministry of ICPM. My heart overflows with gratitude and praise as I sense a strong presence of God's spirit as the faith community gathers, celebrating the life God gives in a diverse and spiritually alive community of faith. May God continue with richest blessings in 2020!

*Rick Chapman +  
Pastor, ICPM*

## Family Night Dinner

December 11 saw 63 people from several families that are part of Community of Emmanuel gather for a celebration and dinner. The evening was sponsored by Mount Olivet Lutheran Church's Larry Fowler Memorial Fund and the meal was provided and served by Brown's Social House, Sherwood Park. "I would like to acknowledge Brown's for their donation of a wonderful meal, and their five staff who volunteered to serve. This was a wonderful gift," says Sue Pasker, who

coordinated the event. The extra food was distributed after to people living in tents nearby. Edmonton Girl Guides, Mount Olivet Lutheran, and Strathcona Child Development Centre provided gifts for everyone. Special music and joyful celebration was organized by Pastor Rick, Farley Magee, and Michelle Nieviadomy.

*Sue Pasker  
Emmanuel Gift Ministry Coordinator*



WINTER SOLSTICE CHRISTMAS FAMILY NIGHT



# *Little Things Can Make A Big Difference*

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Each day as members of the ICPM team connect with people in the community, a wide variety of needs might come up in the conversation. Some are spiritual, some relate to issues of health or housing or relationships. These issues can take time and sometimes involve encouraging or assisting a person to find other sources of assistance.

But often ICPM can provide a bit of valuable support on a small scale by just having a little something to share. Many ICPM supporters are already generous in donating items like socks, underwear, gloves, toques, and scarves. Small containers of toothpaste, shampoo and soap bars, as well as razors and toothbrushes are always needed too. So too are cough lozenges, chewing gum, and small packages of tissues.

Some of the most helpful things are gift cards of small value (\$5-10) for places like McDonald's or Tim Hortons. There are big parts of the day when the few drop-ins in the community are either not open or are crowded, yet if a person does not have money they are not welcome in many other places. A gift card lets a person buy

a coffee and muffin with dignity and enjoy the warmth and privacy of a restaurant for an hour, and this is good for mental health. Similarly, the choices available at a food bank (even if a person has access to one) are very limited, so small gift cards for places like Dollarama, Superstore, or Walmart make it possible for a person to purchase a few food items, or maybe some needed stationery, craft materials, tools, or housewares.

Coffee shop reward cards that provide a free beverage once they are filled by some purchases are also great to pass along.

Another "little thing" that is very helpful is a bus ticket. People living in poverty walk a lot, in all sorts of weather, but this can be very difficult for some with mobility challenges, or the distance involved might be too large. A bus ticket or two can save hours of difficult travel or even make the difference in being able to do something at all. The tickets are typically used to make a medical appointment, visit a family member or friend, or make an appointment for housing or other services.

Do you have an idea for other little things that you think might be helpful? Please

get in touch and discuss with us. ICPM has limited room to store larger things, but little things can often offer a bit of assistance, and encourage a person with a result far greater than the value of the item.

*Jim Gurnett  
Pastoral Associate, ICPM*



SLEEPING MAT MADE FROM PLASTIC BAGS  
FOR LIVING ROUGH

## *A Message From The Chair*

Hello and Blessings to all of our Champions and Supporters!

Inner City Pastoral Ministry's Advent Campaign is an Important financial pillar for the welfare of ICPM. It supports the work of the Community of Emmanuel Sunday Service, as well as ongoing outreach programs, such as Our Common Ground and 4 Directions, that continue to promote reconciliation.

This year it is wonderful to share that individuals contributed \$15,350.00 and churches contributed \$13,052.00, for a total of \$28,402.00 towards our

2019 Budget. We are grateful for this abundance of financial gifts.

These resources ensure that ICPM continues to provide counselling, advocacy, visiting homes and hospitals, and making referrals to surrounding agencies on behalf of community members. As well, ICPM has a link with the McCullough Centre at Gunn, supporting men reintegrating with the community. Everyday, Pastor Rick, Oskapewis Michelle, and Pastoral Associate Jim provide services to those in greatest need, from counselling to

providing bus tickets to having coffee and listening. Lifting those who have the least means that everyone in the community is lifted.

On behalf of the ICPM Board, Accept our gratitude for all of you who donated as individuals and as members of churches.

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

*Thank-you!  
Your support makes a difference!*

# Winter Gathering Concludes Our Common Ground Year

ICPM hosted a Winter Gathering as a great way to end Our Common Ground events & learning circles for 2019. The event was December 6 at Sacred Heart Church. It was a celebration of community, with feasting, drumming, round dancing, and a mini give-away. Together, we shared a beautiful feast, with a turkey dinner and all the fixings, plus bannock, soup and dessert!

Kokum Kathy (kokum is grandmother in Cree) opened our celebration with a prayer, while the drummers offered

an honour song. After we feasted and fellow-shipped, Pastor Rick offered a beautiful reflection proclaiming how Jesus is the ultimate gift and heartbeat of God.

We ended our evening with the drummers singing a couple of songs while we round danced!! The energy in the room was of friendship and love. And now we look forward to 2020, sharing community together!

*Michelle Nieviadomy  
Oskapewis, ICPM*



MINI ROUND DANCE



## The Value Of A Visit - Introducing A New Friend Of ICPM

When Sr. Mary Phillip, SP, moved to Edmonton from Calgary in the spring of 2019 part of her assignment was to serve at Anawim Food Bank. As she listened to the people coming for help with food supplies, she realized that some were looking for something more.

Anawim is a community service provided by the Sister of Providence, with the help of volunteers, for many years. It is located on 95 Street in McCauley.

As Sr. Mary met people there, they talked of feeling lonely, of wishing for someone to talk with. Out of discussions about this, a shared work has developed with Sr. Mary and Jim Gurnett, ICPM's pastoral associate, starting to identify and visit people in their homes.

"In the privacy of a home, some people will talk about issues they do not feel comfortable to raise in a more public setting. 'How do I deal with my anger?' for example," says Sr. Mary. "And as they share their life stories, sometimes significant needs are identified too, and referrals to places such as St. Vincent de Paul can also be arranged."

"Someone to listen can be valuable when you are living alone and maybe have difficulty getting out and about," adds Jim. Sr. Mary has also become a part of the Sunday team at Community of Emmanuel. "Services are like a family, everyone accepted. And the ecumenical nature of the service lets everyone feel included and connected. The respect for Indigenous

culture built into the service is also meaningful for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous worshippers," she says.

In addition to her work at Anawim and with ICPM, Sr. Mary is also involved with pastoral care at Providence Centre's infirmary where older sisters from many Roman Catholic orders make a home and receive needed care.



Sr. MARY



# *Emmanuel Christmas Gifts 2019*

Thanks to the generous support of 16 churches, individuals, and groups, ICPM was able to provide 90 gift card bags and 125 gift packs with socks, toques, personal hygiene, and other needed items to people on the Sunday before Christmas. Additional gift cards and items not used for the bags are being given to those in need through the cold winter period.

Gift cards to stores and restaurants with a total value of \$5635 were donated. Additional cash donations of \$1945 were used to purchase more gift cards and other items to supplement the donations.

*Sue Pasker*  
Emmanuel Gift Ministry Coordinator



PREPARING CHRISTMAS BAGS

***Sincere thanks are due to the participants and coordinators who made this possible:***

- *Annunciation Roman Catholic Parish*
- *Christ Church Anglican*
- *St George's Anglican*
- *St Mary's Anglican*
- *St Matthias Anglican*
- *Mount Zion Lutheran Church*
- *Glory Lutheran (special assistance with preparing all the bags!)*
- *Hope Lutheran*
- *Mount Olivet Lutheran*
- *George P Nicholson School*
- *St Nicholas School*
- *Edmonton Girl Guides*
- *Legislative Assembly IT department*
- *Strathcona Child Development Centre*
- *Nancy Kerr*
- *Terry Witkopf*

## *Coming Event:*

### **ICPM Annual General Meeting**

**Wed Mar 18**

**5:30 PM (Doors Open)**

**6:00 PM (AGM Meeting)**

**Robertson Wesley United Church**  
**10209 123 St NW, Edmonton**

#### ***Keynote Speaker:***

- *The Rt Rev Jane Alexander, Bishop of Edmonton*

## **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.*



You can donate to ICPM quickly and easily online! Go to [www.CanadaHelps.org](http://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  
Sue Pasker ..... Lutheran - Emmanuel Christmas Gift Coordinator  
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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Straight From The Street

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