

FEBRUARY 2017

icpm  
X

# 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

## MOVING FORWARD

### WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER – 2017

**“Moving Forward – We Are All In This Together – 2017”** is an Ecumenical vision inspired by the Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, in particular those (numbers 43 through 94) on the theme of Reconciliation, which challenge Canadians and the Church to demonstrate good will, and to gain an increased understanding of the need for reconciliation and healing between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Central to **“Moving Forward – We are all in this Together”** are four focus Gatherings to be held in

the course of 2017, scheduled to occur during the weeks of the solstices and the equinoxes. Michelle Nieviadomy, ICPM’s Oskapewis (“Helper” in Cree), who will lead these events, writes “We will be facilitating and hosting four Gatherings around the four seasons, focusing on the themes of prayer, wisdom, healing and thanksgiving.”

The Gatherings will engage the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, include youth and young adults, bring together Elders and spiritual and community leaders, and include a focus on family, all leading to a final

“Summit” as the concluding event of the year’s celebrations.

Although the Gatherings themselves are a key component of the vision, the real work of 2017 will be to bring together both Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership on several levels. Drawing on many existing networks of leadership, we will gather representatives of the Indigenous community, youth and young adult leadership, the ecumenical and interfaith communities, helping agencies, and the academic community, in order to share, to educate, and to develop future plans that will open reconciliation and



Michelle Lighting the Christ Candle.

healing opportunities over many years. Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, working together, will be immersed in planning and implementation. In this way, the Gatherings will encourage intergenerational solidarity, and widen the spiritual quest for reconciliation and healing within many diverse communities. Further, *"Moving Forward – We Are All*

*In This Together"* will unite existing Indigenous ministry initiatives that have tended to work in isolated silos, including those of the Edmonton Presbytery of the United Church of Canada, the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, Inner City Pastoral Ministry, and supportive ecumenical and interfaith partners. Program funding for *"Moving Forward – We Are All In*

*This Together"* was granted by Inner City Pastoral Ministry, The Edmonton Presbytery of the United Church of Canada, and the Anglican Foundation of the Anglican Church of Canada.

*Rick Chapman +  
Pastor, ICPM*

## HERE IS THE SCHEDULE:

**March 20**

### PRAYER CIRCLE

A Gathering of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth and young adults, focusing on spirituality and prayer.

**June 21**

### WISDOM CIRCLE

Taking place on National Aboriginal Day, this Gathering will focus on the wisdom of the Elders and the spiritual and community leaders of Alberta, and of the Capital Region around Edmonton in particular.

**September 22**

### HEALING CIRCLE

A multi-generational, family-focused Gathering, celebrating the strength of family life, and emphasizing the need to care for Elders and children.

**December 21**

### THANKSGIVING CIRCLE

A Gathering of celebration, a "Summit," bringing together the participants in the three previous Gatherings.



## THE IMPACT OF ONE BEQUEST

Three years ago, ICPM received a bequest that expanded its ministry. This is the story of what happened. Making a bequest is something we don't think about in great detail. Perhaps it's because a bequest is an action far away in time, one that requires us to consider our wills; it's something we don't have to do today. Or perhaps it's because we think our legacies aren't important. **But they are important!** Legacies can express who we strived to be. They can have a long-term critical influence. They can express love, and be a means of putting into action Jesus' second commandment.

Many years ago, my wife and I received a surprise cheque in the mail. It was from my cousin, who was the executor of my aunt's will. My aunt made bequests in her will for every one of her nephews and nieces. It truly was an expression of her love. How were we to handle this generous gift? Bequests ask that question. What are we to do with it? Are we to treat it like the servant who hid his master's money in the ground? Or are we called to be faithful, and do much more?

Those were the questions we asked three years ago when ICPM received a \$10,000 bequest. Such gifts are wonderful surprises for an organization

like ICPM, which operates very frugally and close to the line. What were we to do as a Board? Were we to be prudent and put the money away for a rainy day? Or was this gift an opportunity to think more broadly about our mission? Several months later we had a question put before us: Would we expand our ministry to provide more attention to our aboriginal brothers and sisters? As you now know, our answer was **yes!** This \$10,000 bequest gave us the courage to make that decision, and to act on Micah's words below.

*David Barnum  
Board Member, ICPM*

***"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."***

One of the traditions of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry at Christmas time is the distribution of gift bags to members of the inner city community. Known as Emmanuel Christmas Sacks, these gift bags contain a variety of useful and festive items, including gloves, toques, socks, toiletry items, candy canes and chocolate bars, hand warmers, and hot chocolate packages. We receive donations in the months leading up to Christmas from a great many organizations and congregations, and we have a work bee on a Saturday before Christmas to put the gift sacks together. The finished sacks are then given out on Christmas Day and during the next couple of weeks, and are also shared with other inner city agencies for distribution.

This year's assembly day was Saturday, December 17. As has been the case for many years, a group of hard-working volunteers from Glory Lutheran Church in Sherwood Park came to lead us in the assembly of the sacks. And for a second year, we were joined by players from the SW Zone Oil Kings youth hockey team, along with many of their parents and

siblings, who enthusiastically helped out with the work, and later did some spirited carolling at the Operation Friendship Seniors Centre! With the assurance and skill of an orchestra conductor, Pastor Rick organized approximately 50 volunteers into a smoothly-functioning assembly line. When we were finished, we had created over 600 Emmanuel Christmas Sacks, and more than 200 gift bags for seniors at the Friendship Centre. And, proving once again that many hands make light work, we were done before noon!

In addition to distributing the sacks to community members who came to lunch on Christmas Day, we were able to give sacks to Elizabeth House and Bissell Centre to be distributed to their residents and clients. As well, special deliveries to designated families were undertaken by volunteers from Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Sherwood Park.

Sue Pasker, the ICPM Board Member responsible for the Emmanuel Christmas Sacks program, sent me this message for donors and volunteers:

*"The December 2016 Christmas Gift Sack ministry was a blessing to many. Gift sacks were shared with the Community of Emmanuel on both Christmas and New Year's Days, with Elizabeth House and Bissell Centre, and with community members both at the ICPM office and in hospital. Although a complete list of donors is not available, if you or your group of volunteers worked to gather and share these gifts, we at ICPM offer our deepest thanks for your continued good works. May you feel very blessed for the blessings you have given!"*

The Christmas sacks and gift bags were greatly appreciated by all who received them. To the many donors and volunteers, I add my thanks to Sue's for making this important part of our Christmas ministry possible.

*John Campbell  
Chair, Board of Directors, ICPM*



**The Assembly Line**



**Gift Bags for Seniors at the Friendship Centre**



**Hockey Players Carolling at the Friendship Centre**



## Sunday Ministry

The Sunday Ministry is the “flagship” of ICPM’s activity. Why? Read on!

## Sunday Worship.

The Community of Emmanuel continues to be a vibrant worshipping community within the inner city. The weekly service, celebrated in the Bissell Centre’s Drop In, brings together a cross section of the inner city population, 47% of which is Indigenous or Métis. Attendees include individuals living in supportive housing, homeless and transient folk, industrial labourers and tradespeople, single men on low incomes, seniors living in affordable housing, and persons with diagnosed mental health challenges. Numbers attending the Sunday Service peaked at 130 and averaged 113 in 2016.

## Sunday Lunch.

Every Sunday of the year—all 52 of them!—lunch is offered. A nutritious and tasty meal (but let’s not forget the dill pickles) was served in 2016 to an average of 249 people, with over 300 attending on occasion. Sunday Lunch is supported by more than 85 churches, Lutheran, Anglican, United, Roman Catholic, Mennonite, Christian Reformed, Seventh Day Adventist, and the Synagogues. Consider these numbers: 18 volunteers x 52 weeks = nearly 1,000 individual volunteers present with the Community of Emmanuel in a given year. In terms of cost, feeding 300 people requires a quantity of food worth about \$800. So again, consider the numbers: \$800 per Sunday x 52 Sundays = an in-kind donation of food worth \$41,600 over the course of a year.

## Indigenous Ministry

Assisted by Indigenous Helper Gord Holub, Michelle Nieviadomy, ICPM’s

Oskapewis (“Helper” in Cree), continues to offer a ministry of Indigenous presence. Her position, which has been part-time at 16 hours per week, has recently increased to full-time thanks to a three-year commitment of funds provided by the Moving Forward Group of the Edmonton Presbytery of the United Church of Canada. Work must now begin to create a circle of support for Michelle, along with appropriate administrative support from ICPM. Overall, program funding for the Oskapewis ministry is provided by ICPM, the United Church of Canada, and the Anglican Foundaton of the Anglican Church of Canada. In 2017, Michelle will lead an ecumenical initiative called “Moving Forward – We Are All In This Together” (see the article on page 1).

## Pastoral Associate

Billy Isenor was hired as Pastoral Associate in September 2016. He will enhance the ministry of ICPM by offering his skills and resources at Worship and Lunch on Sundays, and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. At the end of an orientation period that extended through the end of December 2016, Billy is already very much present within the community, with the Art Program, and with the Men’s and Women’s Spirituality Groups. He is now discerning a focus for his ministry, which will centre on persons leaving institutions. Billy expects to offer support to individuals as they reintegrate into the community, assisting them to make the often difficult transition from recovery centres, and correctional and health care facilities.

## Mid-Week Ministry

One-to-one visits and conversations are the life blood of ICPM’s Ministry of Presence. The stream of people dropping into the office is continuous, so much so that there is often a need to find

alternate space for other activities like staff meetings and the writing of reports and newsletter articles. Conversations in the office are complemented by visits that take place out on the street, and in the Bissell and Operation Friendship Drop Ins. From many conversations over time a relationship is built, and the shared snapshots of people’s lives gradually create a fuller picture of the person. As trust builds, more of the life story emerges, with its joys and struggles; participants share about their successes, their health and well being, their family history and other family matters, and their relationship concerns. We learn who is in hospital or Remand, and we hear about the need for food, clothing and shelter. In addition to pastoral care, ICPM offers some tangible supports such as socks, hygiene packs, underwear, bus tickets and vouchers (when available), and provides referrals to agencies that offer housing, food and clothing. These mid-week ministry connections with members of the community often translate into attendance at the Sunday morning worship services.

ICPM also offers a ministry of presence at the Bissell Centre, supporting quarterly memorials that honour the lives of community members who have died. Memorials are celebrated as well at Pioneer Place Senior Citizens Apartments, and at Operation Friendship Seniors Society. We attend the funerals of people we have known, and the Pastor is sometimes asked to be the celebrant.

## McCullough Centre

McCullough Centre is an addictions recovery and care facility located west of Edmonton near the town of Gunn. Many men who live with addictions choose to go there for a time of recovery. Over 65 men live in some 26 housing units in quiet country surroundings. ICPM’s

ministry there is an extension of our ministry of visiting and prayer. On the first Tuesday of each month, we offer a Standing Stones service, with an average of five men attending, and we engage with the community of men as a whole around the fire pit (which is the smoking area). Usually four ICPM Team members travel to the Centre, Farley Magee, for music, Alf or Richard, as volunteers, Billy, and myself. Joining with this ministry team are the local Anglican clergy from Onoway, who offer additional support on Sunday and during the week. Many of the men leaving the Centre return to the inner city for housing and support, providing ICPM with an opportunity to continue already-established friendships. In 2017, Billy, as Pastoral Associate, will engage with individuals reintegrating into the community from McCullough.

**Men's Spirituality Group**

Programming is not easy in the transient inner city environment. We are pleased that some 15 to 20 men attend ICPM's monthly pizza-and-pop luncheon, where fellowship is offered, along with an opportunity to reflect on themes of spiritual life, and self care in the areas of mental and emotional health. Gord Holub, Indigenous Helper, has been engaging the men in dialogue about

themes drawn from *Breathing Underwater* by the Franciscan, Richard Rohr. The Annual Retreat is the culmination of the Men's Group program year. Traditionally held on the May long weekend, it takes place at the Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert. With the support of Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, Bob McKeon and, in 2016, our Diaconal student, John Helps, 20 men engage with themes of spirituality and recovery, while building supportive friendships.

**Women's Spirituality Group**

The Women's Spirituality Group is a monthly event offering local women an opportunity for fellowship, arts and crafts fun, and spiritual reflection, along with a hearty lunch. Michelle Nieviadomy led this group of 12 to 15 women in 2016, with the logistical support of Linda Heywood. The women's group was established by Sister Marion and Linda Winski several years ago, and we are pleased that the women continue to participate under Michelle's and Linda's leadership. In May the group participated in a Women's Spirituality Retreat that was supported by the Star of the North Retreat Centre, and in June a "Spring High Tea" was hosted by St. Theresa's branch of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

**Art Program**

In the fall of 2016, Bruce Thompson, ICPM's Artist in Residence, offered a nine-week Art Program for both men and women. Fifteen people registered for this Tuesday morning class. The medium offered was water colours, with Bruce teaching the finer points of the colour wheel, the use of brushes, and so forth; the themes painted were flora, fauna, and landscapes. The cost of materials was covered by a gift of \$450 from the Knox-Metropolitan United Church Women. Bruce plans to conduct another eight-week program in the winter and spring of 2017. He hopes to become a official Pastoral Ministry Volunteer with ICPM in 2017.

**ICPM is a Ministry of Presence**

ICPM builds relationships of support and care, engaging and developing spiritually based programs, while offering the Good News of Jesus of Nazareth to a diverse and unique community. With gratitude and praise, we offer thanks for God's blessing in 2016. May God's Spirit open pathways of joy and hope in 2017!

*Rick Chapman +  
Pastor, ICPM*

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE PROPOSED MINISTRY PLAN 2017**

Since my tenure as Pastoral Associate began in September 2016, I have had time to connect and grow with the community we serve, and identify where I might be able to bring my gifts. In harmony with ICPM's core mission, values and goals, my pastoral and social justice plan is to build new relationships and reconnect with our community members at institutions such as the McCullough Centre and the Women's Prison. In those places, I will offer our ministry of presence, so that, when the time comes for someone to reintegrate, I will be a face they already know, ready to accompany them on their journey back to our community.

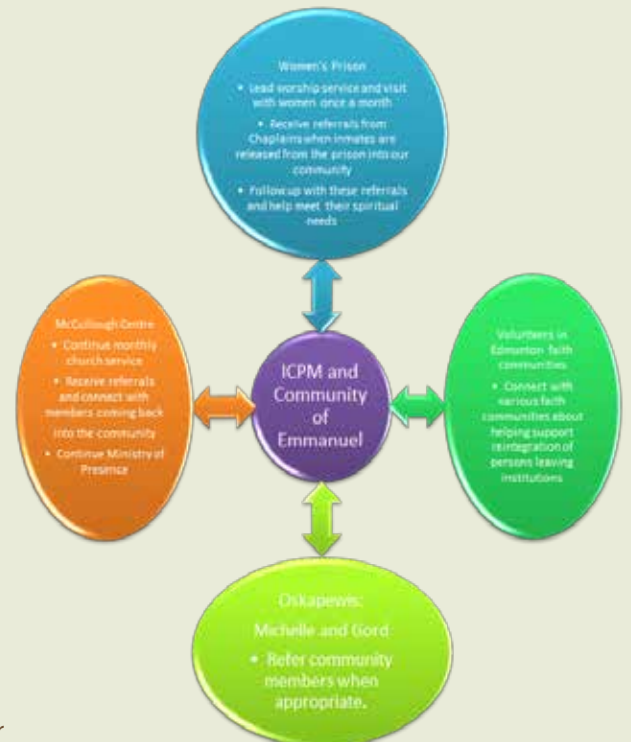
At the McCullough Centre, we already offer the Standing Stones service once each month. Through those monthly visits, I expect to build relationships with the people there. Then, when they come back into the community, I will be able to connect with them by means of home visits and going for coffee, as well as through the established programs of ICPM. In addition, I will be the contact

for the pastoral team at McCullough Centre when they wish to refer people to ICPM.

At the Women's Prison, with the support of the Prison's chaplaincy team, I will offer a worship service once a month as a means of connecting with the women there. I will take referrals from the chaplains when inmates are released back into the community, focusing in particular on those who are being released without any reintegration plan.

The long-term goal, and my hope, is that I will eventually be able to help persons leaving institutions to reintegrate into the faith community of their choice by securing the care and support of those communities.

*Billy Isenor  
Pastoral Associate, ICPM*



## “ICPM is an ecumenical Christian ministry of presence.”

Those are among the first words that you will see when you visit the website of Inner City Pastoral Ministry. They are only a few words, but they tell a wonderful story of how we share God’s love with our brothers and sisters who live in the inner city, and how we walk together with them.

A ministry of presence. This view of ministry produces in my mind a comforting sense of honouring those whom we serve. We are with the members of our community, not to judge them or to reorder their lives, but simply to be present with them. And it is this act of being present that makes it possible for us to engage them in a mutual sharing of God’s love and reconciliation.

Our being present with the residents of the inner city takes many forms. To begin with, there is the Sunday worship service

and the serving of the lunch that follows. At this time of course, our pastoral staff are present with the community. But not only the pastoral staff, because every Sunday 20 or more volunteers arrive in the inner city from the congregation that provides and serves the meal, and many more people back home, who have contributed food or financial donations, are present through their gifts. We are also present during the monthly meetings of the men’s and women’s spirituality groups, when there is time for reflection and sharing among those attending. We are present during hospital visits, with community members who are seriously ill. And we are present during times of celebration—the arrival of a new member of a family, the good news of a job or a new apartment, the reuniting of family members who had become separated or estranged.

But “we” does not refer only to the pastoral staff, the Board of Directors, and the program volunteers of ICPM. “We” also includes “you”—you who are present in ICPM’s ministry through each and every act of kindness, love and support that you extend during the year. Our ministry does not happen without you. Your prayers, your donations of time and money and food, your participation in the Sunday worship services and meals—these are all ways that you become present in the ministry of ICPM, and present to the community we serve. Simply, and humbly, I say “thank you.” May God’s peace and blessings be with you throughout the year ahead.

*John Campbell  
Chair, Board of Directors, ICPM*



## COMING EVENTS

### ICPM Annual General Meeting

Thursday, March 16  
(7:00pm)

St. Faith’s Anglican Church  
11725 – 93 Street NW

### 37th Annual Good Friday Outdoor Way of the Cross

Good Friday, April 14  
(10:00 am – 12:00 noon)

**Starts** at Immigration Hall, 10015 –  
105A Avenue NW

**Ends** at Hope Mission, 9908 – 106  
Avenue NW

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gift Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ICPM Board Members**

- John Campbell ..... Lutheran - Board Chair
- David Barnum.....Anglican - Board Vice-Chair
- Nancy Kerr..... United - Past Board Chair
- Ann Matheson .....Anglican - Treasurer
- Victoria Wynn..... United - Secretary
- Sue Pasker .....Lutheran - Emmanuel Christmas Sack Coordinator
- Sharon Webb..... Anglican - Sunday Lunch Coordinator

**Members at Large**

- Linda Boire .....Roman Catholic
- Rev. Nancy Steeves .....United
- Coby Veeken.....Roman Catholic
- Rev. Linda Whittle.....Anglican
- Pastor Philip Penrod ..... Lutheran
- Brittney Nurse.....Roman Catholic
- Kim Armstrong .....United

**Ministry Team**

- Rev. Rick Chapman.....Anglican - Pastor
- Michelle Nieviadomy ..... Indigenous - Oskapewis
- Billy Isenor ..... Anglican - Pastoral Associate
- Bruce Thompson..... Anglican - Artist in Residence
- Gord Holub ..... Indigenous Helper
- Linda Heywood..... Food Coordinator
- Ann-Marie Johnson ..... Food Coordinator
- Tanya Eckenswiler ..... United - Admin Assistant
- Nicole Wiebe ..... Evangelical Free - Graphic Design
- Jim Whittle ..... Anglican - Newsletter Copy Editor

## **INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY**

Straight From The Street

c/o Bissell Centre

10527 96 St. NW

Edmonton, AB T5H 2H6

[www.icpmedmonton.ca](http://www.icpmedmonton.ca)

[www.icpmedmonton.ca](http://www.icpmedmonton.ca) | [info@icpmedmonton.ca](mailto:info@icpmedmonton.ca)

### **In This Issue:**

#### **Moving Forward**

**We're All In This Together - 2017**

#### **Annual Report**

**A Review of 2016**

#### **Emmanuel Christmas Sacks**

**Assembly Day**



icpm  
X