

SEPTEMBER 2017

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

INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY TURNS FORTY!

"GOING TO WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE"

Our ministry celebrates a great milestone in 2018, when we will mark the completion of 40 years of our formal existence as Inner City Pastoral Ministry. We look forward to commemorating this wonderful occasion with a variety of events and initiatives during the year. But, as much as we are looking ahead to the coming year, this is also an occasion for us to look back, to reflect on our beginnings, and to appreciate how God's grace and Spirit has been with us every step of the way, from our first days in 1978.

The idea for a pastoral ministry based in the inner city began in 1976, when the Edmonton Presbytery of the United Church noted that, despite a variety of specialized services for such things as child care, counselling, job skills training and the like, there was no formal spiritual presence in the inner city, no place where community residents could go for prayer or worship or religious guidance. Following a trial period in 1976, when Sunday family worship services were held at the Bissell Centre, a task force of the Presbytery took the bold step of deciding to establish a permanent inner city ministry with a full-time pastor. In order to reflect the nature of this new venture, it was given the name by which we are still known today: Inner City Pastoral Ministry.

The first steps in establishing the fledgling ministry were to call a pastor, and find space for an office and the Sunday worship service. It was perhaps a sign of the ecumenical basis of ICPM that would develop in the years ahead that the first minister called to serve was a Lutheran, Pastor Barrett Scheske, who started his ministry in 1979. Office space was arranged at 10922 – 97 Street, in the same building as the Mil-Arms Company (short for Military Arms). As Pastor Barrett noted in a reflection some years later, "Talk about swords into plough shares!" The first Sunday worship services were held

in the gym in the basement of the Bissell Centre, amidst bags of produce, a jumble of children's toys, and piles of boxes. Pastor Barrett commented that the services were a challenge—"You never quite knew who was going to say what"—but always enjoyable. And in the reflection that he provided on the occasion of ICPM's 25th anniversary, he said, "For some it is a real struggle to come. But I look up when I am saying the Lord's Prayer and there are no three-piece suits. There is every kind of dress and state of grooming. And there is a quality there—a deep spirituality. It is very moving."



Community of Emmanuel celebrates in worship and praise

A staple of the Sunday morning worship experience from the first days was the provision of a meal for the residents who came to the service. A hot lunch of soup and sandwiches preceded the actual worship service (rather than followed it, as is now the case). After a couple of years, attendance at the meal portion had grown so large that it became necessary to seek a wider range of resources and volunteers. Out of this need was born the roster of some 80 congregations and parishes and civic groups that now provide the meals each Sunday of the year.

For the forty years of our existence, the central focus of our ministry has been sharing the lives of our brothers and sisters who live in the inner city. This is expressed in the formal statement of our reason for existing: "Guided by the Spirit of God, we walk with the people of the inner city of Edmonton." Our walk, which, as one of our

early Board members noted, consists of "going to where the people are," is based on the message of hope that springs from the words of the Gospel, and from the life of Jesus Christ among us. As Pastor Barrett said, "Hope lies in the building of relationships and the small celebrations in daily living."

We are humbled by the opportunity to continue to walk with our brothers and sisters in the inner city, to celebrate with them the joys of their lives, and also to share with them the grief that comes with their disappointments. And we look forward to sharing our anniversary year with all of you! Watch for details of our plans and events in the February 2018 edition of this Newsletter.

*John Campbell
Chair, Board of Directors, ICPM*



Thank You!
for the 85 + churches and synagogues that serve a nutritious Sunday lunch every Sunday throughout the year!

ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

The atmosphere was festive at ICPM's annual summer community barbecue, held in the pleasant, pastoral gardens of Christ Church Anglican on Saturday September 2, during the Labour Day long weekend. Christ Church was co-host, a Rotary Club provided support, and the Burger Team from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, led by Maria and Steve, worked tirelessly to serve a delicious and plentiful lunch. Hot dogs, hamburgers, tasty desserts and cooling refreshments were enjoyed by

over 150 people, including folk from the surrounding city centre area and the inner city community, as well as many members of the Christ Church congregation.

The weather was perfect! Entertainment included Gospel Blue Grass, with Farley Magee, Pastor Rick, and Michelle; and Indigenous drumming and dance, with Carol Powder and family. There were also activities for the children, parachute fun enjoyed by a group of excited youngsters led by the Rev. Nick Trussell.

At the heart of this gathering was a call to participants to give thanks to God for the

gifts of beauty and plenty in creation, and for the gift of our lives, woven together into the fabric of a shared life that hums with energy, the life of our common community.

"Pass the mustard, please! And I'll have a few more onions on my hot dog! Yum! "

*Rick Chapman +
Pastor, ICPM*



St. Theresa's burger team in action



Carol Powder, Noah and family offer sacred song

OUR COMMON GROUND

“FOUR SACRED GATHERINGS”

Our Common Ground – Wisdom,

the second of four Gatherings promoting reconciliation and healing, was held on June 17 at the Boyle Street Plaza with more than 100 people in attendance.

The Gathering began with a celebration of Indigenous culture! Carol Powder sang a beautiful drum song. Elder Elsie Paul offered a prayer in her Cree language, and Harold Roscher, the Director of the Edmonton Native Healing Centre, led a prayer in the four directions. Four women, traditional dancers, offered their prayers by dancing to the beat of the drum. And Carol Powder’s drum group, Chubby Cree, offered many songs throughout the Gathering.

The participants enjoyed bannock, berries and refreshments while listening to the wisdom of eight elders and spiritual leaders from our local Edmonton area. The Elders (Indigenous Wisdom Keepers) and the non-Indigenous spiritual and community leaders shared a wide range of perspectives, teachings and stories around the theme of the four elements, earth, air, fire and water.

The grand finale of this Gathering was a circle facilitated

by the Rev. Travis Enright, who invited the participants to reflect on the spirit of the seven sacred teachings as a way to move forward in the journey of reconciliation and healing. Rooted in honesty and humility, the teachings chart a course for living well together in the land the Creator has given us.

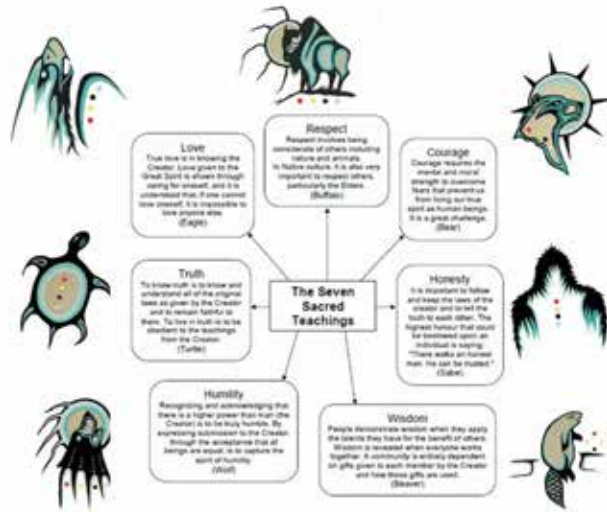
Our Common Ground – Healing,

the third of the four Gatherings, was held at Robertson-Wesley United Church on Saturday, September 23. Through ceremony, feast, listening, and dialogue, we continued to reflect on the theme

of reconciliation. The Rt. Rev. Jane Alexander, Anglican Bishop of Edmonton, and Indigenous Elders spoke about their personal journeys. And the Rev. Travis Enright explored more deeply the seven sacred teachings—truth, respect, love, courage, honesty, wisdom, and humility—as a means of guiding our communities along pathways of healing.

Our Common Ground – Thanksgiving,

the last of the four Gatherings, will be held on Saturday December 16 (time and place to be announced). Join us as we celebrate the Winter Solstice and the sacred season of Christmas!



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In 2018 the Inner City Pastoral Ministry will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. We are humbled by the efforts and dedication of the many staff, board members and volunteers who have sustained our ministry over the 40 years of its existence. But most of all, we are honoured to have had the opportunity to walk with the residents of the inner city of Edmonton, journeying together in faith for these many years.

The reflections in the panel at the right offer some insight into the impact of our presence. They were provided by members of our community on the occasion of our 25th anniversary in 2003.

With God’s grace and your support we look forward to continuing to serve for the next 40 years.

John Campbell
Chair, Board of Directors, ICPM

“My mother used to bring me to ICPM on Sundays, so I’ve been coming since it first started in the old Bissell Centre. I came at a time when I didn’t know who or what to believe ... and all of you were able to make the Bible work—to make it fit in my life. And one thing stands out for me: I always felt good when I was there. And I know I will always be accepted. It’s my church, and it makes me feel good.”

“You would pray for me. No one else cares.”

“ICPM has always been a place of giving—among the people and from the church.”

“We can come here and you don’t judge us.”

“I always feel welcome here. I’ve been coming for over 15 years now and never been turned away once. Thank you. It’s the only place I can always count on.”

“I feel welcomed here. Thanks!”

“You are the only ones who pray for me.”

“We had our own pew. Mom would make us sit in the front row. I think that she came because she saw that ICPM served mind, body and spirit of everyone who came. You still do that.”

“I go because I feel comfortable there—accepted, along with everyone else.”

TEMPLES OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS – A SACRED PILGRIMAGE

 PASTOR RICK'S SABBATICAL, OCTOBER 23 – DECEMBER 15, 2017

Throughout my ministry, and now with Inner City Pastoral Ministry, I have had opportunities to engage with the interfaith community. Examples of interfaith exposure include the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action; the North American Interfaith Network; the Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee of the United Church, Edmonton Presbytery; and the Capital Region Interfaith Housing



The 12th century
Meenakshi Temple in
Madurai, India

Initiative. I have presented workshops during global gatherings of the interfaith community at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne in 2009, and in Salt Lake City in 2015. These workshops centred on Edmonton's experience of reconciliation and healing with the Indigenous community, and on the justice issues of homelessness and housing, respectively. My interfaith involvement has been a spiritual journey, increasing my understanding of the religious and cultural life of people from many nations who now call Canada their home, and offering opportunities to explore the spiritual life of various faith communities.

As I look out upon the global community, I am fascinated that the peoples of the world, with their many cultures both ancient and modern, have designated sacred sites, and built temples as places of worship. Ceremony, tradition, symbol and teaching are often depicted in graphic form, through images and script, at sites as diverse as caves and elaborate temples. As opportunity presents itself, I propose to make a pilgrimage to sacred sites, visiting the great temples of the world's major religions. It's a journey I have already begun, by visiting locations sacred to Indigenous peoples, the First Nations of

Canada, the Mayas of Mexico and Central America, and the Maori of New Zealand. I now propose to widen my exposure: during my sabbatical in 2017, I will visit the temples of North and South India, experiencing the wealth of sacred life and ceremony of the people of India.

Through this journey I hope to gain a fuller and more complete knowledge of the world's great religions, their cultures and spirituality. I also plan to explore the mission of the Christian Church throughout the centuries, as Christianity sought to offer the Gospel message of Jesus of Nazareth to the peoples of many nations. Further, I will seek to discover whether the evolution of Christian understanding and spirituality was itself influenced by these encounters. This knowledge will deepen my insight into the beliefs and spiritualities of the world's religions, equipping me for ministry in Edmonton's multicultural, multi-faith context. Sabbatical leave 2017, "Temples of the World's Religions – A Sacred Pilgrimage," begins in South India, a spiritual journey of discovery.

God's Peace!

*Rick Chapman +
Pastor, ICPM*

ICPM'S PASTORAL ASSOCIATE, JIM GURNETT

Jim Gurnett joined the staff of ICPM as Pastoral Associate at the beginning of September. He brings to his new position many years of experience in community work. Whether editing the newspaper for a small town, serving as principal in a neighbourhood school, guiding the work of such community organizations as Bissell Centre and Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, or supporting academics researching the human quality of hope, he has always considered it important to honour each person where they are at, respect their choices, and support their decisions to change. And he has always held the view that, when people are connected in safe and healthy ways in community with each other, the power of the whole is greater than the sum of the individuals.

Most recently Jim worked with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta as the Executive Director of the Government Caucus. His volunteer commitments include being president of Canadians for a Civil Society (the host organization of the annual Daughters Day celebration), and treasurer of the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. One of his most treasured volunteer activities is being part of the planning committee for the annual Good Friday Outdoor Way of the Cross.

Jim grew up in the Christian Brethren church, but began attending an Anglican parish during time spent working in Afghanistan. He has mostly found his church home in Anglican parishes in the years since. He lives in Sherwood Park, and treasures time to spend with nine

grandchildren, scattered in Edmonton, northern Alberta, and Vancouver Island.



"I ALREADY HAVE ONE."

These words were spoken to me by a young man in his early 20s at a community event at my church a few years ago. We had collected a supply of new backpacks so that we would have some on hand to give away, and I had encouraged him to take one. "I already have one," he replied. "But look," I responded, hoping I could talk him into taking one. "It's a brand new backpack. A person can always use another nice backpack, right?" "No, really. I'm fine. I have one, and it's good for me," was his polite, yet firm reply. "Give that one to someone who doesn't have one." "I will do that, and thank you," I said. As he turned away to look at other items in our give-away area, it dawned on me that I had just been given a lesson in stewardship.

There was no doubt that, financially, this young fellow had little to come and go on. And the backpack he mentioned was probably one that he'd had for quite a while; likely it was showing its age.

I was struck by the sincerity with which he looked out for someone in greater need than himself. His needs were already taken care of. What was he going to do with a second backpack—wear two at the same time? Something that would have been surplus for him, he knew could be put to better use by someone else.

How much does each one of us have in our life that is surplus to our needs, to our *real* needs? Like the rich man in Jesus' parable, are we filling barns with grain that we don't need today, but think we might need at some point down the road? What aspects of our lifestyle are centred on gratifying passing impulses, rather than on responding to the true needs that are out there in our community? I don't know about you, but I can think of many examples in my own life, in response to these questions.

Please share your blessings by making a donation to support our ministry. You

can go to the Canada Helps website, locate the donation page for ICPM, and make a donation online. You can mail a cheque to our office at the address listed in this newsletter. You can organize a fundraiser in your congregation or at your office. Inner City Pastoral Ministry is your ministry in the inner city of Edmonton. It is *your* ministry, which walks in faith with your brothers and sisters of that community, which shares the good news of the Gospel with those who are experiencing challenges in their lives. As you contemplate how you may be of assistance, may the words spoken by my young friend years ago stay with you: "I already have one." Thank you for your prayers, and thank you for your support!

*John Campbell
Stewardship Committee, ICPM*

GIFT CARDS FOR SOBEYS AND SAFEWAY

Purchase grocery gift cards and support the Inner City Pastoral Ministry! Buy your gift cards from ICPM in denominations of \$25, \$50, or \$100. You get the full face value when using them at either Sobeys or Safeway, and ICPM receives 8% of the face value. It's a true win-win: we all need to buy food, using the grocery cards doesn't cost anything extra, and ICPM benefits!

*Coby Veeken
Board Member, ICPM*



\$25 \$50 \$100





EMMANUEL CHRISTMAS SACKS 2017

Looking ahead, we are thinking about the 2017 Christmas celebrations in the inner city. Once again ICPM anticipates distributing the Emmanuel Christmas Gift Sacks to the homeless and those in need. As you may be aware, many churches and caring individuals support the annual Emmanuel Christmas Gift Sack appeal, and we thank all those who have contributed in the past.

The gift bags are stuffed with useful and festively seasonal items. The gift bags most effectively used in the past are Ziploc-type, 33cm x 39.6 cm. The Emmanuel Christmas Gift Sacks are filled with the following items:

Standard:

- Waterproof ski gloves (Med. for women, Lg. for men)
- toque and scarf
- cotton socks
- comb and / or brush
- shampoo (small)
- hand lotion (small)
- Kleenex (small)
- deodorant
- toothpaste (small)
- toothbrush
- washcloth (white in colour as colour bleaches into clothing upon washing)

NOTE: NO hand sanitizer, please

Also ... Christmas treat and small gifts, such as ...

- candy cane and / or chocolate bar
 - crossword / Sudoku booklet
 - little Bible and / or card of hope
- Optional:
- dental floss
 - Halls cough drops
 - animal treat, chew toy for pets
 - nail clippers and / or nail file
 - lip balm
 - makeup (for women)
 - note pad and pencil or pen
 - hot shots (hand and / or foot warmers)
 - package of hot chocolate or cup of soup

NOTE: NO hand sanitizer, please

Other items needed for the Community cupboard (NOT included in the Emmanuel Christmas Sacks):

- underwear (male M & L; female S, M, & L)
 - long johns (male M & L; female S, M, & L)
 - bus tickets
 - hoodies
 - gift cards (\$10, \$15, \$25) from ...
- Wal-Mart, Tim Horton's, Superstore (President's Choice), McDonald's (for office use for needy individuals and families)

Delivery:

December 11 - 15 (Monday - Friday)

Inner City Pastoral Ministry Office

Bissell Centre East, 10527 - 96 St., Main Floor Reception, open from 9 am - 4 pm

Best to phone ahead (Sue, 780-974-2525) to be met by a volunteer

Mark All Deliveries Clearly:

- FOR ICPM
- CHURCH OR GROUP DONATING
- CONTACT PERSON
- ADDRESS OR EMAIL CONTACT

(so that ICPM is able to send a thank-you note)

Distribution: Sunday December 24
Contact: Sue (Christmas Sack Coordinator): 780-974-2525

COMING EVENTS

Homeless Connect

Offering free services for homeless people

Sunday October 15, 10 am - 3 pm

Shaw Conference Centre
9797 Jasper Avenue NW

Our Common Ground - Thanksgiving

Saturday December 16

Time and Place To Be Announced

Emmanuel Christmas Sacks 2017

Delivery dates for donations:

Monday - Friday, December 11 - 15, 9 am - 4 pm

Sorting date:

Saturday December 16, 9 am - Noon

Distribution to the community:

Sunday December 24, during worship and lunch

Christmas Services at the Community of Emmanuel

Lessons and Carols:

Sunday December 17, 11 am - Noon; lunch to follow

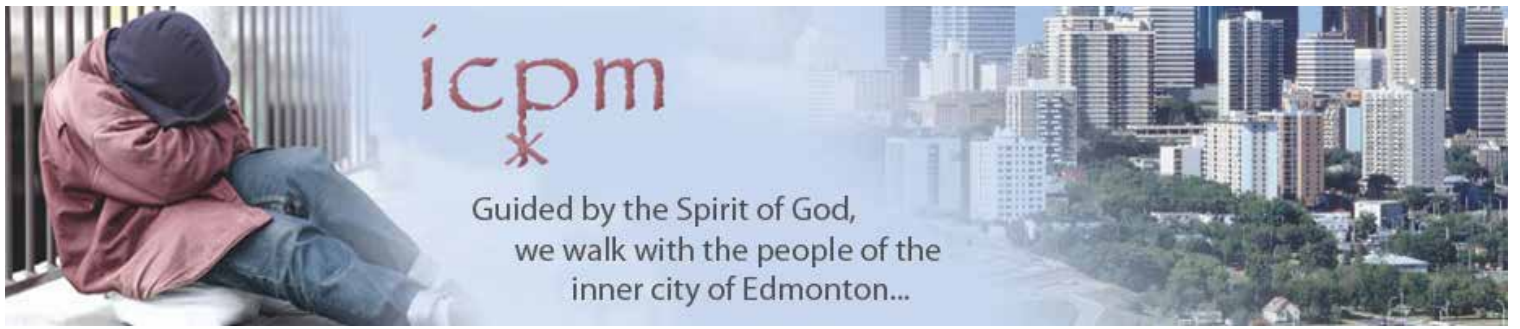
Christmas Service:

Sunday December 24, 11 am - Noon; lunch to follow



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
 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 \$ _____

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- Linda Boire Roman Catholic - Board Vice-Chair
- Pastor Philip Penrod Lutheran - Secretary
- Ann Matheson Anglican - Treasurer
- Dr. Nancy Kerr United - Past Board Chair
- Sharon Webb Anglican - Sunday Lunch Coordinator
- Sue Pasker Lutheran - Emmanuel Christmas Sack Coordinator
- Coby Veeken Roman Catholic
- Rev. Linda Whittle Anglican
- Brittney Nurse Roman Catholic
- Kim Armstrong United
- Mary-Lou Cleveland Anglican

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 Musician in Residence
- Linda Heywood Food Coordinator
- Annie Johnson Food Coordinator
- Neil Kennedy Community Care and Safety
- Tanya Eckenswiler United - Admin Assistant
- Nicole Wiebe Evangelical Free - Graphic Design
- Jim Whittle Anglican - Newsletter Copy Editor

INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY

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