

FEBRUARY 2018

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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

40 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN THE INNER CITY

Our 40th anniversary year has arrived! It has been a privilege to have the opportunity to walk with the residents of the inner city in shared ministry since 1978. We give thanks to God for the spirit and vision that has made our ministry possible during these four decades. We have been blessed with amazing volunteers, supporters and staff over the years, and you have each helped to shape and sustain us. Simply but deeply we extend our thanks to all of you. There have been challenges along the way, but there have been countless moments of joy as well. The first pastor to serve with ICPM, the Rev. Barrett Scheske, perfectly summed up the focus of our ministry in a single sentence:

“Hope lies in the building of relationships and the small celebrations in daily living.”

We have rejoiced in building relationships over the last 40 years, and we have shared celebrations, both large and small, in the lives of the members of our inner city community.

ICPM's ministry has evolved in many ways since our founding. In *Our Story*, a history of ICPM published on the occasion of our 25th anniversary in 2003, it was noted that, when the Rev. Odette Perron was pastor in the early 1980s:

“Odette's ministry had meager and humble beginnings. She had an office downstairs in the Bissell Store. Her first service was in the corner of a dilapidated gymnasium, an area otherwise being used for storage. Her first congregation was 12 - 20 people from the streets who came in with the enticement of coffee and a sandwich after the service. Odette walked the streets, talked to people, invited them into her office, and reached out to them with love.”

Fast forward to the early 2000s, and things had changed considerably in the ministry of ICPM. By the time the Rev. Wendy Ainsworth became pastor in 2002, the attendance at the Sunday worship services had greatly increased, and the numbers at the lunches following the service had grown to an average of 245 people per meal, with some Sundays seeing as many as 370 coming in. Pastor Wendy reflected on what she experienced during her time in the ICPM ministry:

“There is joy in this ministry in the deep and abiding faith of the people through all that life—and in particular, God—offers to those who walk in faith. ... It is God's work that we do here—and it is only successful when held in the hands of God—and God works in wondrous ways.”

The last few years have been exciting ones for our ministry. Under the creative and visionary leadership of Pastor Rick Chapman, and through the commitment and dedication of our Board of Directors, we have developed in our ministry a special emphasis on reconciliation with the Indigenous community of the inner city. Initially this led us three years ago to hire Michelle Nieviadomy as an Oskapewis ("Helper" in Cree) to guide us in this important work, which responds to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. And in the past year, we have developed a partnership with Moving Forward With Reconciliation, a ministry of the Edmonton Presbytery of

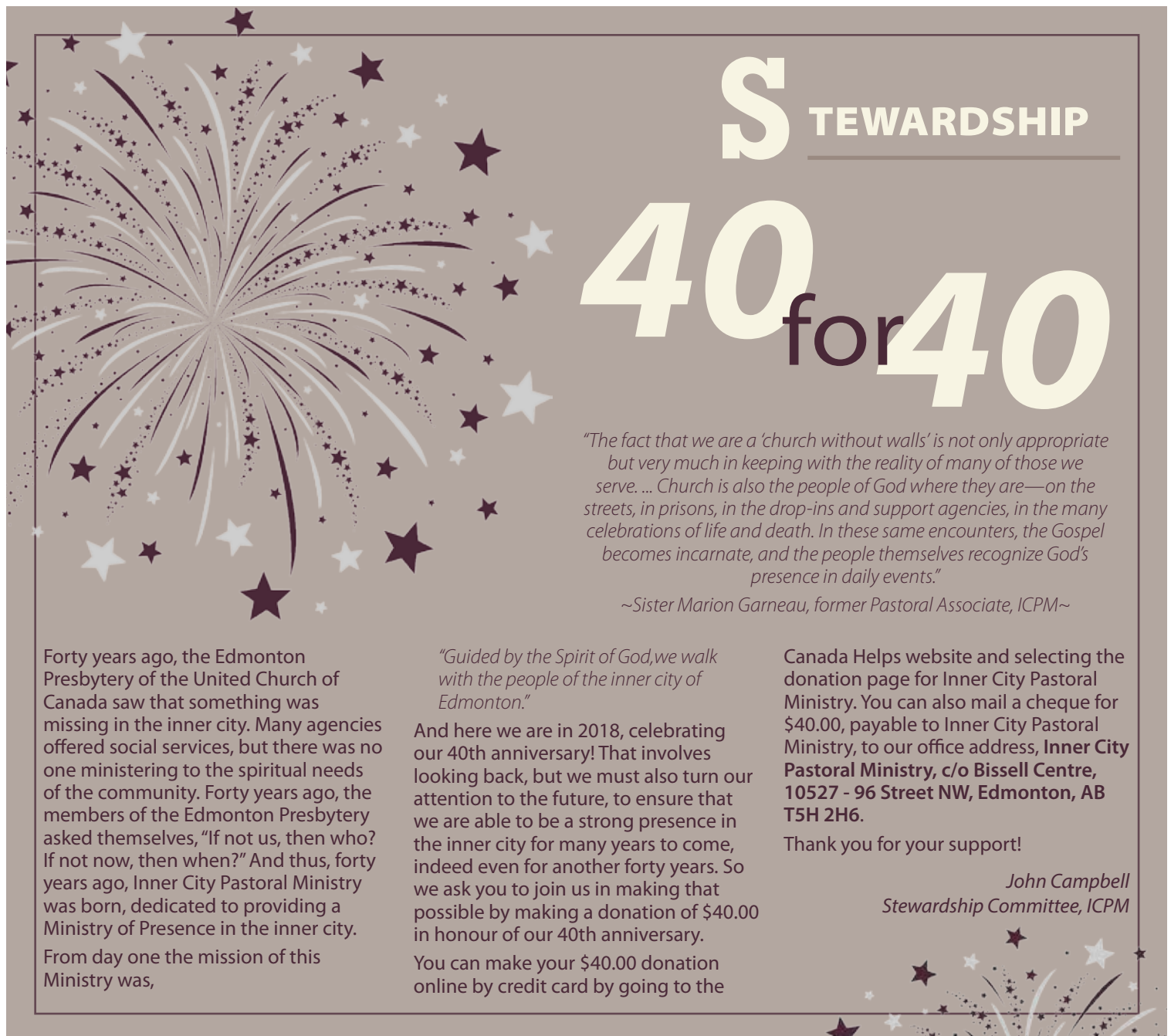
the United Church, to add an additional Oskapewis staff member, Evelyn Day. There is a lot of work yet to do in this area, but we are excited by the opportunities that lie ahead.

We have two main events planned for 2018 to honour and celebrate this milestone in the history of ICPM. We will be having a special Community of Emmanuel barbecue in the early summer, to involve the members of our inner city community in celebrating the blessing of our shared experience. And we will be hosting a volunteers' barbecue later in the summer, as a way of thanking the many volunteers who have supported ICPM over the years, and who continue to do so. The dates

and locations of these events have not yet been completely arranged, so the proverbial "watch this space for further details" will apply. We are also providing an opportunity to all our supporters to commemorate this anniversary year by making a special "40 for 40" donation in support of our ministry. Please see the article on that fundraiser below.

Thank you for your support of Inner City Pastoral Ministry over the 40 years of our ministry. Happy Anniversary!

*John Campbell
Chair, Board of Directors, ICPM*



\$ STEWARDSHIP

40 for 40

"The fact that we are a 'church without walls' is not only appropriate but very much in keeping with the reality of many of those we serve... Church is also the people of God where they are—on the streets, in prisons, in the drop-ins and support agencies, in the many celebrations of life and death. In these same encounters, the Gospel becomes incarnate, and the people themselves recognize God's presence in daily events."

~Sister Marion Garneau, former Pastoral Associate, ICPM~

Forty years ago, the Edmonton Presbytery of the United Church of Canada saw that something was missing in the inner city. Many agencies offered social services, but there was no one ministering to the spiritual needs of the community. Forty years ago, the members of the Edmonton Presbytery asked themselves, "If not us, then who? If not now, then when?" And thus, forty years ago, Inner City Pastoral Ministry was born, dedicated to providing a Ministry of Presence in the inner city. From day one the mission of this Ministry was,

"Guided by the Spirit of God, we walk with the people of the inner city of Edmonton."

And here we are in 2018, celebrating our 40th anniversary! That involves looking back, but we must also turn our attention to the future, to ensure that we are able to be a strong presence in the inner city for many years to come, indeed even for another forty years. So we ask you to join us in making that possible by making a donation of \$40.00 in honour of our 40th anniversary. You can make your \$40.00 donation online by credit card by going to the

Canada Helps website and selecting the donation page for Inner City Pastoral Ministry. You can also mail a cheque for \$40.00, payable to Inner City Pastoral Ministry, to our office address, **Inner City Pastoral Ministry, c/o Bissell Centre, 10527 - 96 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5H 2H6.**

Thank you for your support!

*John Campbell
Stewardship Committee, ICPM*

As ICPM leaves 2017 and embraces a new season of opportunity in 2018, the Board, the Ministry Team, and the many, many volunteers who support our work all celebrate this Ministry of Presence in Edmonton's inner city. Sunday worship and lunch, the women's and men's spiritual wellness ministries, the recently-established Indigenous ministry, as well as the ICPM Office ministry that honours the countless men and women who come to visit and receive pastoral care—all these add up to a ministry well worth celebrating! So let's take a look at 2017, the year just past.

Sunday

SUNDAY WORSHIP takes place 52 Sundays of the year, a celebration of our life in the Spirit of our friend Jesus—or, as our Indigenous brothers and sisters would say, our life with the Creator—in whom we live and move and have our being. Three different services are offered in the course of any given month, Holy Communion, Standing Stones, and Service of the Word. The Ministry Team includes Pastor Rick, Pastoral Associate Jim (taking over from Billy, who transferred to prison ministry in mid-year), the Oskapewis ("Helpers" in Cree) Michelle, Evelyn, and Gord, and the musicians, Farley and Julie. Together we offer prayer, praise, scriptural reflection and breaking of bread to the people of the Community of Emmanuel. Attendance averages just over 100, including some 18 church or synagogue volunteers who offer the lunch that follows the service.

The challenge of 2017 was the need to move worship and lunch to the Bissell East reception area while the Drop-In space in Bissell West was being renovated. This work began in October, and will not be complete until mid-March, 2018. With a capacity of some 100 people, the gathering space was tight! But we soldiered on, adapting to the new surroundings. Plans are already underway to return to Bissell West when the renewal project is finished. We offer many thanks to the members of the Bissell staff who assisted us week by week in converting a multi-use area to accommodate the ICPM presence on Sunday!

SUNDAY LUNCH follows quickly on the "heals" of the Sunday Worship. More than 75 churches, synagogues and families are involved in preparing and serving a nutritious lunch each and every Sunday! With the excellent guidance of Linda and

Ann-Marie, the Food Coordinators, ICPM adapted to serving the lunch in a much more crowded space. Let's not forget to mention the volunteers who week by week assist Linda and Ann-Marie—Patrick, Alf, Ken, Karena, and Dale—as well as the dishwashers, Anne, Colleen, Olga and Hazel!

Emmanuel Christmas Sacks filled with "in kind" donations, and Easter Gift Bags donated by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Parish were distributed at Christmas and Easter in the Community of Emmanuel. Special thanks to volunteers from Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and Father Leduc Catholic School for contributions to individual families, and gifts of backpacks, respectively. And to the volunteers from Glory Lutheran Church and the Southwest Oil Kings Hockey Team, thanks for filling the Christmas Sacks again this year!

Ministry Team

PASTOR RICK entered his twelfth year of ministry with ICPM in 2017! Amazing! The year offered Pastor Rick the opportunity of a sabbatical leave: he and his spouse Bernadene travelled throughout India in November and December. See the article on page 8 for an account of this adventure.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES

Billy Isenor served with ICPM for the first half of the year, and then transferred to a full-time chaplaincy ministry with Corrections Canada. God bless you Billy in your future ministry!

Jim Gurnett joined the Ministry Team in September of 2017. He picks up the work Billy began as he ministers amongst the men. Special consideration is given to men reintegrating into the community from longer term rehab Centres like the McCullough Centre near Gunn. Jim has

a lengthy experience in social justice ministry. At present he is a member of the Social Justice Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, and treasurer of the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. He is often called upon by faith groups and community organizations to speak about the need for action on social justice issues, particularly in the area of housing and homelessness.

OSKAPEWIS ("HELPER" IN CREE)

Michelle Nieviadomy has served with ICPM since early 2015, advancing the ministry of reconciliation and healing within the inner city community and the wider faith community. As a Cree woman, she is widely called upon to offer a unique sense of her culture, and to engage with the struggles of Indigenous people who come from families that are suffering the effects of residential school attendance and community marginalization. In 2017 she participated in the Standing Stones liturgy at the Community of Emmanuel, and served as an educator by hosting Blanket Exercises and fulfilling speaking engagements. Her central focus for the year was to develop and implement the Our Common Ground series of four gatherings, held on Saturdays near the equinoxes and solstices, on the themes of Prayer, Wisdom, Healing, and Thanksgiving. This ministry of reconciliation will continue in 2018. With the assistance of Linda Heywood, Michelle also facilitates the Women's Spiritual Wellness Group, which meets once a month. Here she offers reflections on spiritual themes, the women engage in craft work, and together they prepare and enjoy a delicious meal—the beginnings of a community kitchen. The Group's program also includes an annual spring retreat held at the Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert.

Evelyn Day. In the late fall of 2017, working in partnership with ICPM,



Community Members Looking Forward to Sunday Lunch

Moving Forward With Reconciliation (a ministry of the United Church offered by seven congregations in the Edmonton Presbytery) hired Evelyn Day as an Oskapewis. Evelyn is an Indigenous person with roots in Canada's North, and brings with her the perspectives of an Elder and the teachings of the grandfathers and grandmothers. Like Michelle, she offers her ministry both in the inner city and in the wider faith community. Working with her partner David, Evelyn's mandate is to minister to individuals within the inner city who are experiencing the effects of poverty and marginalization, and to bring the message of reconciliation and healing to the churches of the Edmonton region.

Gord Holub's family comes from an Indigenous Community in British Columbia. Gord himself is currently studying at NorQuest College in the area of community care and counselling. Pastor Rick first met him at the McCullough Centre, and reconnected with him when he returned to Edmonton to take up his studies. Gord likes to call himself the ICPM Smudge Man. He offers the smudge at the beginning of each of the Sunday Services; he meets and greets as well, and provides encouragement to those attending the Sunday worship and lunch. Gord also facilitates the monthly Men's Spirituality Group, where he contributes reflective readings from the book *Breathing Under Water* by Richard Rohr. Pizza and pop are shared by the group as we talk about healthy lifestyles and living well on the land. And Gord assists Pastor Rick, Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, and the ICPM Ministry Team in planning and implementing the Men's Spiritual Wellness Retreat held each May at the Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert.

Mid-Week Ministry

ICPM is first and foremost a Ministry of Presence in the inner city of Edmonton. The Pastor, Pastoral Associate, and Oskapewis meet with and offer pastoral care to the many individuals who come each day to the ICPM office. Other aspects of this ministry include visits to community members at home or in hospitals or rehab communities, as well as the quarterly memorial services offered in partnership with the Bissell Centre to commemorate members of the community who have died.

The monthly meetings of the Men's and Women's Spiritual Wellness groups and their annual retreats have already been mentioned in the discussion of the



Common Ground

activities of the Ministry Team. In addition, Bruce Thompson offers an Art As Healing program that ran for several weeks in 2017 and is in the planning stages for 2018. Bruce also facilitated an Art as Healing workshop during the Men's Retreat.

Ministry to the Wider Faith Community; Social Justice Issues

Pastor Rick is a member of several church, faith group, and community committees. These include the Anglican Executive Council, the Anglican Social Justice Committee, the Anglican Diocesan Synod, the Edmonton Presbytery of the United Church, the United Church Outreach Ministries Committee, the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative, and the Outdoor Way of the Cross.

ICPM, along with Jellinek House, the George Spady Centre, E4C, and the Bissell Centre, is supported by the Edmonton Presbytery of the United Church through its Outreach Ministries Committee. These supported organizations meet with each other and with the Committee to share reports on their activities and plans.

The Anglican Social Justice Committee completed an ambitious project in 2017, offering a series of "1+1=3" roundtable discussions, attended by interested individuals mainly from Anglican parishes, on the topics of food security, Indigenous reconciliation, poverty and homelessness, refugee relocation and support, global justice, youth, and seniors. Building on the outcomes of those discussions, two significant gatherings are planned for 2018, intended to open dialogue about the church's need for a balanced approach to the ministry of human care, and the social justice need for the transformation of the unjust social structures that hold people in poverty.

The Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative is re-charting its course in

response to the update to Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness that was released in 2017. A forward-looking Steering Committee is working with interfaith and city leaders to continue the important work of achieving justice for the many persons who find themselves either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The ICPM Board is a busy group of people. All Board members take on roles to further the ministry of ICPM and support the Ministry Team. Board meetings are held regularly on the third Thursday of each month at Bissell Centre East. Subcommittees include Finance, Stewardship, Education and Communication, and Ministry and Personnel. Because 2018 is ICPM's 40th Anniversary, the Board is active in hosting events that celebrate our 40 years of Ministry of Presence within the inner city of Edmonton.

Looking Ahead

Three central areas of ministry are envisioned for 2018. First, the continuing presence of ICPM in the lives of the people of the inner city community, through Sunday worship and lunch, and the mid-week spiritual wellness programs. Second, the continuing development of the Oskapewis ministry of reconciliation and healing, implemented by Michelle Nieviadomy and Evelyn Day. And third, the 40th anniversary celebrations that will highlight significant moments in ICPM's ministry within the inner city and the wider community. May God bless and prosper this unique Ministry of Presence!

God's Peace!

Rick Chapman +
Pastor, ICPM

I CPM'S PASTORAL ASSOCIATE - JIM GURNETT

ANNUAL REPORT

On a warm autumn Sunday in early September, I began my new journey with ICPM at the Sunday service for Community of Emmanuel. The weeks since then have been a rich experience for me.

I worked at Bissell Centre nearly 20 years ago, and always appreciated the partnership we had with ICPM, but I had little direct contact with the ministry. Now, day by day, I am discovering how valuable this organization is in the lives of people living in the urban core. And I feel blessed by God to have this privilege of being a part of the little team serving here.

Much of my time in these early months has been spent getting to know people. The process was speeded up a little because Pastor Rick left on sabbatical soon after I started, so often I was the only person available when someone wanted to talk. Many times I am reminded, as I make a beginning in this work, of a statement a friend shared: "Empathy has no script. There's no right or wrong way to do it. It's simply listening, holding space, withholding judgment, emotionally connecting, and communicating the healing message of "You're not alone." I am not a social worker, but I *am* present and interested.

The Christmas season also reminded me that caring can be expressed without having to do anything extravagant. Many people expressed joy at the Christmas sacks we gave them, a plastic bag with a dozen or so everyday items—socks,

a chocolate bar, a notebook, a package of cough drops—both because of the immediate practical value of the items in the sack, and because someone had cared enough to assemble it and pass it along.

As I am getting more settled in, my focus is increasingly on spending time with some of the older people, especially men who are returning to the community after spending time in treatment facilities. We have a men's group that meets monthly, and each time we meet we focus on one of the seven teachings that embody the values held by many Indigenous peoples, teachings remarkably similar to the Beatitudes that Matthew tells us Jesus taught. And we are getting underway with a weekly group for those who want to do some painting as they spend time together. It is easy to slide back into old habits and relationships, but I hope we can offer folks an alternative, times to be with others who are seeking to stay on a path that is more healthy.

I also go out once a month to offer a Standing Stones service at the McCullough Centre at Gunn, where men can spend months as they deal with issues of substance abuse. Going to the Centre creates an opportunity to get to know some of these men, so that if they return to Edmonton they know someone they can connect with. I am beginning to talk to a few of those who have returned to Edmonton about how I can be helpful in their lives.

My early months with ICPM have been enriched by the fellowship of my colleagues in the ministry team, Pastor Rick, Michelle, Evelyn, Gord, Linda, Annie, and others. And by the love and energy of the many volunteers who come and show by their actions the love of the Creator. Jesus lives in his followers, and it's a joy to have a job that lets me spend so much time with a wonderful variety of those followers, each expressing something that helps me in my own journey.

*Jim Gurnett
Pastoral Associate, ICPM*



Jim Gurnett

I CPM'S OSKAPEWIS - MICHELLE NIEVIADOMY

ANNUAL REPORT

Our final Common Ground event of 2017 was a mini round dance! That was the Thanksgiving gathering, on Saturday evening December 16. It started with prayers from the Elders, a smudge ceremony, and a feast. The drummers offered songs and welcomed the community to dance together. It was beautiful, bringing our community together to celebrate in an Indigenous way!

We plan to bring this energy into the New Year, 2018, creating space, opportunity and gatherings for our Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. We welcome our wider ecumenical community to join us on

this journey of reconciliation, friendship and continued sharing of knowledge, as we host more Common Ground events on a bigger scale. We will also be planning smaller monthly gatherings for our Indigenous families, to connect them with their culture and community. The work of reconciliation within the Inner City Pastoral Ministry continues to evolve and grow!

*Michelle Nieviadomy
Oskapewis, ICPM*



Michelle Nieviadomy

I CPM'S SMUDGE MAN - GORDON HOLUB

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ANNUAL REPORT

Since I met Pastor Rick Chapman back in February 2012 at a Standing Stones ceremony in Gunn, Alberta, I have been helping at the ceremonies every time they come to the McCullough Centre at Gunn. Over the years, Pastor Rick has been asking me to join ICPM, and I finally did in 2015.

At first it was the men's group on the fourth Sunday of the month. In that group this past year we were talking about the 12 steps from the big book of AA, as well as passages from the book Pastor Rick provided. We had all the men talking; we would go around the table and each man would share his thoughts on the topic. Bringing Indigenous spirituality to the topics we were discussing had the men sharing their feelings as well, which I believe was a big breakthrough, getting the men to open up. It had taken a couple of meetings, but then it happened. We had our regular group of men from the inner city, with a mixture of cultures, so we were able to get the Bible side of teachings as well as Indigenous spirituality. That's what Pastor Rick and I were trying to do—bring the two together.

Then I also was asked to start Smudging at the Sunday service, when the Standing Stones ceremony was being offered. I started that almost a year ago. That is when I was introduced to Michelle. We started to introduce Smudging at this service; then I asked Pastor Rick if we could make it every Sunday. We tried that a few times to see what would happen. I believe it was the second time we did Smudging it set off the fire alarm. Then I was able to get the right amount of Smudge, so it would not set the alarm off. Overall, after introducing Smudging, I have seen a change in the behaviour of the clientele at the service. The Indigenous clientele seemed to respect our sacred space. In this past year I have only witnessed two outbreaks of bad behaviour, and they were drunk or high on drugs. Neither of the incidents was violent! As well, we had it under control in seconds: one sat back down and was quiet for the rest of the service; the other we escorted the person out.

Overall, after the start of the Smudging, we have a very pleasant service; the people have come to have even more respect for

the sacred space. The people have come to accept me as a Smudge Man at Pastor Rick's services. As well, I have come to respect the people from the inner city. I love what I do for the ICPM, and I hope we can expand the growth of the ICPM.

*Gordon Holub
Indigenous Helper, ICPM*



Gordon Holub

MORE THAN WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE

VOLUNTEERING AT SUNDAY LUNCH

On the Tuesday before All Saints' Cathedral's scheduled ICPM Sunday Lunch, I realized that there was a significant shortfall of volunteers! One of the names that came to mind as a possibility was Susie Mayeku. She accepted my invitation, and joined our All Saints' team at the Bissell East location in January.



Susie Mayeku

Susie is a 30-year member of our All Saints' congregation, and raised her three children in the church. As a working mom with children, she did not have time to participate actively. But, once the children were grown, that changed, and she has now been a Server for fifteen years. Luckily her son stepped in to serve in her place on that Sunday in January, so she could volunteer at the ICPM Lunch.

Susie would say that the day she agreed to volunteer for this experience was truly a "Holy Spirit moment." She told me that, from the time she arrived to prepare for the lunch, everyone was welcoming and encouraging. She quickly learned the systems, and appreciated the coaching on the preparation assembly line! As a Social Worker, she felt comfortable worshipping with the Community of Emmanuel, and sharing communion.

When Susie talked with me about her experience, she said she felt that she had received a gift. One of the community members had said, "I haven't seen you

before. Good to see you!", and this interaction touched her heart. She spoke about serving the lunch, and remarked that everyone was thankful and kind. She told me that she especially loved the fact that Gift Bags of essential items were available for every guest to take away. She had felt the warmth of the community as they received these essential supplies.

As she reflected on her experience—this gift—Susie said she felt it opened the door to volunteering regularly, and even to serving as an advocate for our church community and the community at large. Thanks to the ICPM Lunch, Susie has seen and knows the power of being with and walking alongside our brothers and sisters in the inner city.

*Mary-Lou Cleveland
Member of the Board of Directors, ICPM*

SUNDAY LUNCH AT THE COMMUNITY OF EMMANUEL

The Sunday Lunch Program has withstood the test of time, as this is the 40th anniversary of serving lunch to 150 to 300 people every Sunday, after the Worship Service of the Community of Emmanuel. We started out much smaller, with just coffee, tea and desserts, and then moved on to a full lunch of sandwiches, desserts, fruit, veggies and pickles, coffee, tea and juice for everyone that came. Each Sunday, volunteers buy, prepare and bring 600 sandwiches, 600 desserts, 300 pieces of fruit, veggies washed and cut, pickles, and drinks enough for everyone. They prepare plates for the crowd inside and those walking through, and then fix bagged lunches for those who need them.

The Lunch Coordinator's job is to book one large group or two smaller groups to

come every Sunday of the year to supply and serve the food. Ideally, bookings are planned a year in advance. Groups from small communities like Westlock, Devon and Tofield may consist of volunteers from several churches of different



Post Lunch Entertainment at Community of Emmanuel

denominations working together. At about 9 am each Sunday, 18 to 20 volunteers arrive to prepare the plates and bagged lunches. They participate in the Worship Service that begins at 11 am, then serve lunch and look after the cleanup, finishing about 1:30 pm. This program could not be offered without the help of all the congregations and families that participate.

So thanks to you all! And thanks to the Lord for planting in you the seeds of compassion and service. With God's help and yours, we will continue to feed the less fortunate in our community.

*Sharon Webb
Sunday Lunch Coordinator, ICPM*

CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES & FAMILIES OFFERING SUNDAY LUNCH

- All Saints' Anglican Cathedral
- Annunciation RC
- Ascension Lutheran
- Assumption RC
- Bardo Lutheran, Tofield
- Beverly United
- Calvary Lutheran
- Christ Church Anglican
- Christ the King Anglican
- Devon United
- Fellowship Christian Reformed
- Fort Saskatchewan United
- Glory Lutheran, Sherwood Park
- Good Shepherd Anglican
- Good Shepherd Lutheran
- Highlands United
- Holden United
- Holy Trinity Anglican, Edmonton
- Holy Trinity Anglican, Tofield
- Holy Trinity RC, Spruce Grove
- Hope Lutheran
- Hosanna Lutheran
- Austin Odina Family
- Jewish Community Synagogues
- Lord of Life Lutheran
- McClure United
- McDougall United
- Millwoods United
- Mount Olivet Lutheran
- Mount Zion Lutheran
- Ottewell United
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help RC, Sherwood Park
- Our Saviour Lutheran
- Rainbow Pastoral Charge (United)
- Resurrection RC
- Riverbend United
- Robertson-Wesley United
- Salem Mennonite
- Sherwood Park United
- Southminster-Steinhauer United
- Spirit West United
- St. Albert Evangelical Lutheran
- St. Albert RC
- St. Albert United
- St. Andrew's United, Spruce Grove
- St. Andrew's United, Edmonton
- St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican
- St. Charles RC
- St. David's Anglican
- St. George's Anglican, Edmonton
- St. John the Evangelist Anglican
- St. John's Lutheran, Ardrossan
- St. Luke's Anglican
- St. Margaret's Anglican
- St. Mary's Anglican
- St. Matthew's Anglican, St. Albert
- St. Matthew's Lutheran, Spruce Grove
- St. Matthias Anglican
- St. Michael and All Angels Anglican
- St. Paul's Anglican, Leduc
- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran
- St. Peter's Lutheran, Millet
- St. Philip's Anglican, Westlock
- St. Thomas More RC
- St. Timothy's Anglican
- Strathearn United
- Tofield United
- Trinity United
- United on Whyte
- Westlock United



Sandwich Prep at Community of Emmanuel

INDIA SABBATICAL - TEMPLE TOUR 2017

Sabbatical Leaves can be both refreshing and challenging. My recent Sabbatical took my wife Bernadene and me on a tour of North and South India. It was breathtaking, awe-inspiring, and filled with mystery. Why India? Some 40 years ago, Bernadene lived there for three years, involved in Christian mission. It was time to return to a land she loves, a land I had heard about, but never seen.

In the North, immense walled fortresses and beautifully ornate temples and palaces, the Taj Mahal amongst them, were the sights that filled our days of touring from city to city. As our train left each city, we saw a landscape filled with rice fields and farms cluttered with animals. Wild peacocks, brightly adorned, foraged freely in the fields. Lighting the dusk at evening, fires of burning rice chaff dotted the freshly harvested fields, smoke billowing skyward. Once, while we were touring fields along muddy foot paths, our guides asked us not to linger, as they watched nervously for the marauding wild elephants they had noticed in the nearby forest.

South India, mountainous and steamy hot, is a land of tea and coffee plantations, and spice farms that grow ginger, cumin, cardamom, nutmeg, cloves, oregano, and peppers. The hillsides are painted green with low lying tea bushes, systematically gleaned by women labourers whom we saw carrying great bundles of tea leaves on their backs. Did you know that the tea we purchase daily in our stores is handpicked?

India's more than 1.3 billion people have an immediate impact on the visitor. Cities like Delhi and Mumbai have a population of more than 10 million; yet 70% of the population lives in rural areas. The vast numbers of people become evident as soon as you leave the airport. Taxiing to overnight accommodation, you're plunged into the teeming, bustling, honking, shouting crowds on roadways where three lanes of traffic soon become seven. Vehicles of every kind, motorized or animal driven, like a runaway tsunami, gush through the tormented streets. OMG! Watch out for that truck; watch out for the pedestrian; watch out for that cow! Watch out!! Amazing!!!

Throughout India, the religious life of the people is multidimensional, and practiced with great devotion. Hindu temples dominate the landscape. On every street corner, in every village, on the hillsides, under tall trees, in local parks, temples to the many gods are numerous. We are told two things about Hinduism. First, it is a philosophy, rather than a religion. Second, Hindus have one God, of whom there are three principal manifestations: Brahma, who creates the universe, Vishnu, who preserves the universe, and Shiva, who destroys and recreates the universe. The multitude of gods that adorn the temples are further manifestations of these three, which have evolved over the centuries.

My introduction to the gods of India was a visit to a temple dedicated to Hanuman, the Monkey God, in Delhi. Thousands of

temples devoted to Hanuman are scattered throughout the country. Hanuman's strength "is so great as to lift a mountain," noted the floor manager of our local hotel. Upon entering the temple through the mouth of a fanged monkey, one is immediately immersed in the rhythmic sounds of ancient Hindu text being chanted by a priest. Devotees, on wicker mats, bow in reverence before an elevated, multicoloured image of the god, mouthing silently passages of ancient verse from their hand-held prayer books. A priest beckons you forward, places a reddish orange spot on your forehead, then wraps brightly coloured thread round and round your wrist. Next, ancient words of blessing are pronounced over you, as the holy man rests a brightly coloured peacock feather upon your head. Nice!

My favourite, Ganesh, the elephant god, is believed by some to be the offspring of Parvati, she who is the mother goddess derived from Brahma, and the consort of Shiva, Ganesh's father. Ganesh frolics with joy throughout creation, either removing obstacles, or placing obstacles in the path of those who need to be checked. Needless to say, he flavours and challenges the lives of all those he touches. The elephant god is worshipped widely throughout India in many of the religious traditions.

The highlight of our tour was a visit to the Sisters of Charity's convent in Calcutta, where Mother Teresa, now Saint Teresa of Calcutta, began her work amongst



Ganges River – Varanasi



Monkey Temple

the poor, and where she is buried. Off the bustling street, we walked through a narrow, dusty, littered alleyway to gain entrance to the convent compound's interior. Once inside, shoes off, we were met by a number of the sisters, adorned in the now famous white habit with blue trim. Several nuns gathered in a small huddle as they planned the events of the day. Conversation continued as they hustled off on their missions of mercy.

I turned my attention to the sights of this internal courtyard. I noticed the chapel, and made my way into a small room that contained the tomb of Mother Teresa, held in sacred memory. Several nuns prayed on wooden benches at the rear of the chapel. Seeking a moment of inspiration,

I thought I might sit for a time and absorb something of the atmosphere. As I sat before the burial site, my eye was drawn to the large crucifix on the wall, upon which hung the tormented body of the crucified Christ. Beneath the cross, painted on the wall, were images of men and women in need, each reaching up to our Saviour in a gesture that signified a plea for care. In the midst of the images, two words were written: "I Thirst." Immediately I understood the meaning of this message. Mother Teresa answered the call of the destitute who cried to her Lord, "I thirst." As Mother Teresa herself said, those who experience poverty thirst not simply for drink, do not hunger simply for bread, but hunger and thirst for a measure of dignity,

respect, recognition, and love. Christ's call to the church is to the care for his little ones, and to minister in love amongst the poor.

There is so much more to reflect upon, as thoughts of India flow through my mind and memory! But to finish up, I note two central things I discovered while on Sabbatical in India. We, the Western World, are not the only people on the face of the earth! And India fascinates, welcoming the visitor into its multicultural, multi-religious, multi-dimensional matrix. Amazing! God's Peace!

*Rick Chapman +
Pastor, ICPM*



Palaces of India



Mother Teresa's Convent



Tuk Tuk Riders – Cheaper by the Dozen

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

One of my favourite things about Christmas is the chance to see the colourful lights that people put up on their homes. I think it's a beautiful sight, going around the neighbourhood and looking at the displays. Several years ago we started putting lights on a tree in our back yard and along the eaves of the garage, in addition to the more traditional strings at the front of the house. Our home is in a somewhat older neighbourhood, so we have back lane access to our garage. When we drive down the lane coming from the east, we go down a slight hill towards the garage. From the top of the lane we can just see the lights on the tree, shining in the distance. It creates a welcoming feeling, getting our first glimpse of the lights from far up the lane, and watching

them grow larger and brighter as we near the garage. My wife Lorelei and I always turn the lights on when we get home, so it's a bit of a disappointment to arrive first, and face a dark lane with no cheery sight at the far end.

It seems to me that in many ways the ministry of ICPM is like a welcoming display of Christmas lights. We all have times in our lives when it seems that what lies ahead is in darkness. We are unsure of the way forward, and we worry about dangers and distractions. What an amazing difference it makes when we can see a light—perhaps far off, but bright and visible nonetheless—towards which we can move. That light could be a kind word from a stranger, or a reassuring hug from a friend. It might be a quiet time of conversation over a cup of coffee, or a prayer offered by the bedside

during a hospital visit. It doesn't matter in which of the many possible ways we share God's love with each other, the end result is the same: we are providing a welcoming glow that says, "You are coming home. Here is where life and love can be found."

We look forward to sharing our special 40th anniversary year with all the members of our inner city community, and with our many friends, volunteers, and supporters. Thank you for everything you do! It makes our ministry possible.

*John Campbell
Chair, Board of Directors, ICPM*



EMMANUEL CHRISTMAS SACKS 2017

Thank You!

In 2017, ICPM received 366 sacks, as well as gift cards, backpacks, 53 family gifts, 15 family gift boxes, many boxes of much-needed items, and \$350 in cash.

There were 20 contributors, some of whom partnered with businesses and other groups. A heartfelt thanks is sent to the following groups and their amazing organizers: Annunciation Roman Catholic Parish, Christ Church Anglican, Dr. Kathy Flood, Mount Zion Lutheran, First United Church, Fortis Alberta (Sherwood Park), George P. Nicholson School, Glory Lutheran, Hope Lutheran, Kirk United, Mount Olivet Lutheran (with the Strathcona Child Development Centre and the Lions Breakfast Club), Affinity Dental

(Kingsway), Father Leduc Catholic School, Nicola Hayden, St. Albert Evangelical Lutheran, St. George's Anglican, St. Mary's Anglican, St. Matthias Anglican, and St. Michael and All Angels Anglican. I believe that if more churches partnered with businesses or organizations, it would help us in future to continue to meet our goal of 300 to 400 gift sacks.

I would like to thank Jim Gurnett for all he did, especially in meeting the challenges presented by the changes to Bissell West, and the need to keep ICPM gifts separated from Bissell items. Pastor Rick left good instructions that helped us to carry on until he returned! The volunteers from Glory Lutheran and from the Southwest

Oil Kings hockey team, along with all our ICPM volunteers, made the sorting go very smoothly. Thank you! Our sincere appreciation is also extended to the Bissell Centre for their support and provision of space and storage containers.

Please keep this ministry in prayer as many are finding it difficult to continue. God bless all who were able to take up the challenge and helped us bless our friends in the inner city! And be blessed yourselves as we continue to share together in 2018.

Sue Pasker
Gift Sack Ministry Coordinator, ICPM

COMING EVENTS

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS KICKOFF

40th Anniversary celebrations begin with the **ICPM Dessert and Coffee Evening and Annual General Meeting**

You are invited to celebrate with us Wednesday March 21 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
at the Robertson-Wesley United Church (10209 – 123 Street NW)

Our guest speaker will be Harold Robinson, who adjudicated Indian Residential School Claims for many years. He will speak on reconciliation issues and the Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

ICPM Supper and AGM

Wednesday March 21
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Robertson-Wesley United Church,
10209 – 123 Street NW

Art as Healing

Hosted by Bruce Thompson, Artist in Residence, Jim Gurnett, Pastoral Associate and Michelle Nieveiadomy, Oskapewis.

Join the art program and learn to paint in watercolours!

Thursdays February 8 – March 29
9:30 am – Noon

Bissell Centre East, Board Room

Spiritual Wellness Groups

Women's Group

3rd Friday of each month
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Men's Group

2nd Wednesday of each month
12:00 noon – 1:30 pm

Bissell Centre East, Board Room

Spiritual Retreats

Women's Retreat

April 20 – 22, 2018

Men's Retreat

May 18 – 20, 2018

Star of the North Retreat Centre, St. Albert

Watch for Dates and Times for the Following:

- The church, synagogue and family groups supporting the ICPM Sunday lunch ministry will meet for a 40th Anniversary celebration and BBQ.
- The Community of Emmanuel will celebrate its continuing fellowship with a midsummer BBQ.
- Our Common Ground will offer a series of four events in the course of the year, honouring the ministry of reconciliation and healing that is led by the Oskapewis ("Helpers" in Cree), Michelle, Evelyn and Gord.
- Family Gatherings: Once each month Michelle and Pastor Rick will bring together families who live within the inner city to share and celebrate "living well on the land."

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 _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Gift Amount \$ _____

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- John Campbell Lutheran - Board Chair
- Linda Boire (on leave) 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, Acting Board Vice-Chair
- Mary-Lou Cleveland Anglican

ICPM Ministry Team

- Rev. Rick Chapman Anglican - Pastor
- Jim Gurnett Anglican - Pastoral Associate
- Michelle Nieviadomy Indigenous Oskapewis
- Evelyn and David Day United - Indigenous Oskapewis
- Bruce Thompson Anglican - Artist in Residence
- Gord Holub Indigenous Helper
- Farley Magee Musician in Residence
- Linda Heywood Food Coordinator
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