

OCTOBER 2020

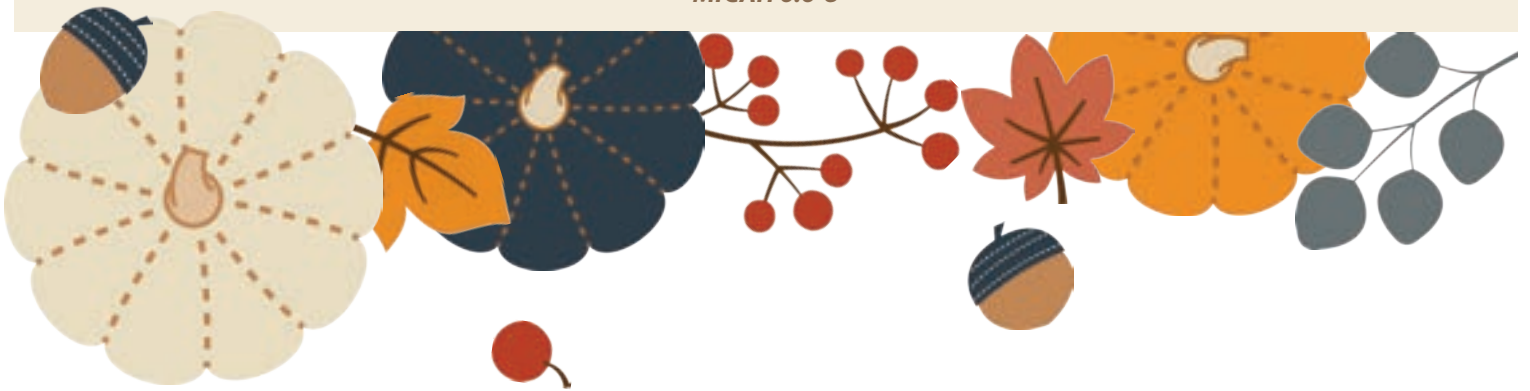
icpm

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 ~



PASTOR QUINN'S REPORT

When the pandemic lockdown began in March, and most downtown agencies, including the Bissell Centre, shut their doors, the city opened a temporary day use shelter at the Edmonton EXPO Centre. This was a place where people could come and get a meal, a shower, and access to services including housing, mental health, and addiction supports. The intrepid ICPM ministry team leaped into action! From day one Pastor Rick Chapman, Pastoral Associate Jim Gurnett, and Oskapewis Michelle Nieviadomy were present onsite Monday through Friday, providing smiles, listening ears, conversation, socks, underwear, knit slippers and homemade masks (courtesy of Coby Veeken), as well as snacks and drinks. Soon the team, joined by resident musician Farley McGee, were offering Standing Stones worship services every Sunday at EXPO as well.

Meanwhile, the number of people in the urban core in need of food had not lessened. The ministry team, along with Linda Heywood, Annie and Barb Johnson, Gord Holub, and Coby Veeken, continued to distribute a modified lunch with water and coffee out of the front door of the West

Bissell Centre. Many people came each Sunday between 10:30 am and noon to receive a pre-packaged snack bag generously made and supplied by ICPM's 80+ partner churches, mosques, and synagogues.

When the EXPO Centre closed as a day use shelter, many urban core agencies tentatively began to open their doors again to limited numbers of people. The Bissell Centre is currently open for mail pick up, drop in coffee and a meal, and clothing



**Pastor Quinn on September 6
First Service Back at
Bissell Centre**



Serving Lunch at Bissell



**Pastor Rick Reads
Sidewalk Scripture During
Lunch Distribution**

support Monday through Friday mornings. Pastor Quinn and Jim have office hours in the Centre two mornings a week.

On Sunday, September 6th we had our first in-person worship service at the Bissell Centre in nearly six months! We are permitted a maximum of 30 community members inside together with a small number of staff and volunteers. Many community members have expressed how good it is to be able to be together in worship again, and a spirit of joy infuses our time together. It looks like this will be the format for the foreseeable future. The past half year has really been a time of having to adapt and grow as a team and as a community. We have relied heavily on the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit as we have sought to remain present and move forward.

Looking ahead, we are glad that the Our Common Ground ministry (including our monthly men's and women's gatherings) is moving forward in interesting directions

as we consider Treaty and its implications for both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous treaty people. It's a delight to know that the Emmanuel Christmas Gift program will also be going ahead in a modified format. In these times of stress for so many people, a little Christmas cheer and generosity will go a long, long way! Thanks to everyone who, through prayer, generous gifts, and active ministry, continue to make ICPM shine the light of Christ into the world! God bless.

*Quinn Strikwerda +
Pastor, ICPM*



First Sunday Worship At EXPO Centre



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

*Rick Chapman +
Pastor (Retired), ICPM
Reprinted from Straight from the Street,
August 2019*

UPDATE: Our Common Ground, a response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, is a multifaceted, community-based engagement. It recognizes the need to educate, and to build a collaborative relationship between the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous communities, in order to move forward with an ongoing commitment to reconciliation and healing.

Early this year, the Our Common Ground advisory committee held a strategic planning meeting that resulted in some great plans for 2020! Alas, as the world came to a standstill due to COVID-19, so did our plans!

But this fall we are forging ahead with two events. The first, "Treaty Talk," takes place on Saturday November 7. We have two incredible guest speakers who will help us to understand Treaty, and what it means to be Treaty people. Dr. Mary-Ann Shantz teaches history at MacEwan University. She will provide context for the signing of Treaty 6 in August and September, 1876. The Ven. Travis Enright is Rector at St. Faith's Anglican Church, and Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministry in the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton.

He will speak about Treaty through his Indigenous worldview and perspective. You can participate in person or virtually; see "Coming Events" on page 6 for the details of date, time, and place, and for information about how to register.

During Advent this year, we invite you to join us as we reflect on the book *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act: Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a Reality* by Bob Joseph (Port Coquitlam, BC: Indigenous Relations Press, 2018). At 7 pm in the evening on each of the four Sundays in Advent, beginning on November 29, we will gather virtually (via Zoom) to hear a guest speaker and join in discussion. And on the intervening weekdays, there will be daily reflections on Facebook. Please see "Coming Events" on page 6 for information on how to participate!

*Michelle Nieviadomy
Indigenous Oskapewis-Iskwew, ICPM*



**Tipi Raising, Our Common Ground at Christ Church
June 2, 2018**



THANK-YOU COBY VEEKEN!

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Coby Receives a Dream Catcher from Dorothy Delorme

The final Sunday of May was a day for saying Goodbye and Farewell. Not only was it Pastor Rick's final day with ICPM, it was also Coby Veecken's last day making sure everyone was well served with coffee and a kind word.

Coby's work at the coffee station goes back to the last century. For over 20 years she has faithfully arrived each Sunday morning and set everything up, then served hundreds of cups of coffee and cleaned everything up afterwards. Her thousands of hours of volunteer time over the years have been a great contribution to making the Community of Emmanuel a welcoming space.

Not only did Coby ensure everyone had a warm drink, she was a friend to many, always having time to talk with community members about their lives, always demonstrating her care and affection for them. And in addition to all that, she regularly brought a wide variety

of clothing, jewellery and toiletries to share with people—small items that were always popular and helpful.

Coby's commitment to ICPM went beyond her generous sharing of time and work on Sundays at the Community of Emmanuel. For most of the same period she also served on the organization's Board of Directors—and made sure there was a tasty supper for meetings too! And she oversaw the support offered to ICPM by members of her own parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Sherwood Park, as they brought great lunches for 200 people twice a year.

Community of Emmanuel was a friendlier place each week over the years as Coby brought her sparkling smile and endless energy to the gatherings. She will be deeply missed—and warmly remembered!

*Jim Gurnett
Pastoral Associate, ICPM*



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ROCKY HILL



Rocky Hill was a familiar face to many in our community. He had a quick, bright smile that people say made everyone feel good. He was a talented artist. And he was happiest when he was helping others. So Rocky's last act on earth took place while he was in his happy place: in March, he was helping push a stranger's car that was stuck in the snow, and he had a massive, fatal heart attack.

A memorial service was held for Rocky at Giovanni Caboto Park in July. Many of Rocky's friends and people whose lives he had touched were in attendance. It was so good that those who were unable to attend his funeral due to COVID-19 were able to come and share stories and say goodbye Rocky's friend Dan brought lots of items that Rocky had created with his hands, such as earrings, sketches,

sculptures, and paintings. People were free to take any item they wanted as a memento.

Farewell Rocky! May you rest in peace.

*Quinn Strikwerda +
Pastor, ICPM*



Rocky Hill



Memorial Service for Rocky Hill



The support of Edmonton's faith communities has long been important to helping us make Christmas a better time for those who worship at Community of Emmanuel, and for other members of the inner city community. 2020 has been particularly stressful for that marginalized and vulnerable population, making it all the more important for ICPM to be able to distribute Emmanuel Christmas Gifts this December. So, while we recognize that it has been a difficult year for faith communities as well, we hope that you will nevertheless be able to support our needs this Christmas, as described below.

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions associated both with working in groups, and with gathering items to create a meaningful gift bag, ICPM is asking that all contributions towards Christmas gifts this year be in one of two forms, either gift cards, or cash in the form of a cheque payable to Inner City Pastoral Ministry.

- We would greatly appreciate Gift Cards from Superstore or Walmart. These are stores that are recommended by local recipients, and that are accessible by public transit. The cards could be in \$10 and \$25 denominations. Each Emmanuel Christmas Gift will include either \$25 or \$35 in gift cards, depending on the funds available. The cards will enable individuals to purchase what they feel they *really* need.
- If you wish to contribute cash, please do so by a cheque payable to Inner City Pastoral Ministry, and mail it by early December to our office in Bissell East: Main Floor, 10527 96 St NW, Edmonton AB T5H 2H6. We will purchase gift cards or other needed items on your behalf.

Any gift cards not distributed prior to Christmas will be held in the ICPM office to help those in need through the cold winter months. If you have any questions, please

call Sue at 780-974-2525, or Pastor Quinn at 780-719-1548.

We hope that you will also help us restock our Community Cupboard, so that again this winter we are able to assist community members who are in need of warm clothing. We are asking for donations of the following items, which can be brought to Bissell Centre East on the delivery dates listed below:

- Waterproof ski gloves (M, L, XL)
- Toques
- Scarves
- Cotton Socks
- Underwear for Men and Women (M, L, XL)
- Long underwear for Men and Women (M, L, XL)
- Bus tickets
- Tim Hortons Cards
- McDonald's Cards

Delivery of Items for the Community Cupboard:

Please plan to deliver your donations during the second week of December, that is:

Monday to Friday, December 7 to 11.

For delivery instructions, please phone ahead to Pastor Quinn or Pastoral Associate Jim:

Pastor Quinn Strikwerda: 780-719-1548

Pastoral Associate Jim Gurnett: 780-218-6989

Please mark all deliveries clearly:

- For ICPM
- Church, group, or individual donating
- Contact person
- Address or email contact (so that ICPM can send a thank-you note)

Questions: Contact Sue, 780-974-2525

Thank you for helping us support members of the inner city community during the Christmas season and through the winter months!



STEWARDSHIP

Annie is a 10 year old with a heart for helping others. She heard her parents, Jeff and Ruth, talking about the work their uncle, Jim Gurnett, was doing at ICPM, and in particular about the need for socks and underwear for people contacting ICPM during its sojourn at the EXPO Centre. She asked if she could give ICPM all the change she had been collecting for doing "something good," funds she had slowly gathered by asking her siblings for their spare change. Her plan to help didn't end there. She knew that her Sunday School

class at Millcreek Christian Fellowship had a small fund as well, and she suggested adding that to her own savings of \$50. The result? Along with books, bags of snacks, and decks of cards from her parents, she delivered a crisp \$100 bill to ICPM to help ensure the people at EXPO Centre could have a supply of new socks and underwear. Way to go, Annie!!

*Jim Gurnett
Pastoral Associate, ICPM*



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The beginning of the fall season is a time to reflect upon our work as the Board of Directors for Inner City Pastoral Ministry. We have experienced significant changes with the retirement of Pastor Rick Chapman after fourteen years of leadership. The Board continues to recognize and appreciate all of the gifts that he shared, both in building ICPM and the Community of Emmanuel, and in bringing those we serve in the community to be followers of Jesus. Rick touched many people in the inner city, and gathered a group of supporters so that the ministry will continue. He remains in the hearts and minds of Board members and the people of our community.

We have welcomed our new Pastor, the Rev. Quinn Strikwerda, and look forward to growth as we begin to journey with him. On two Saturdays in September, Board members participated in a Zoom

retreat. In the first, we reviewed the Board's policies and expectations. In the second, led by our Pastoral Assistant Jim Gurnett, we looked to the future and the development of a strategic plan.

It is no surprise that COVID-19 has affected every aspect of our Ministry. In September it was heart-warming to resume Sunday services at the Community of Emmanuel. Relationships and sharing the love of Christ are amongst our cornerstones.

Thank you to our donors! By your gifts, both through Canada Helps and by cheque, you continue to support our work for those who are most marginalized. Every donation is appreciated; every donation makes a difference!

Blessings and joy,

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



Pastor Rick Leads Worship at the EXPO Centre on May 10

COMING EVENTS

Our Common Ground – Treaty Talk

with guest speakers Dr. Mary-Ann Shantz and The Ven. Travis Enright.

Saturday November 7

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

10014 – 81 Avenue NW

You may participate in person, or virtually via Zoom.

Registration is required; see below.

21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act

Reflections on the book by Bob Joseph.

Guest speaker and discussion (via Zoom) at 7 pm on each of the four Sundays of Advent:

November 29, December 6, 13, and 20.

Daily reflections on Facebook on each of the intervening weekdays:

November 30 – December 5,

December 7 – 12 and 14 – 19.

Registration is required; see below.



For more information, or to register for these events, send an email message to Michelle Nieviadomy, michelle.iskwew@gmail.com.

Zoom links will be emailed to those participating virtually a day or two before the event.

See also the article "Our Common Ground – Update" on page 3 of this issue of the Newsletter.



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 \$ _____

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
 Rev. Linda Whittle Anglican
 Sue Pasker Lutheran
 Colleen Smith Roman Catholic
 Lucas Stone At Large
 Andrea Wilhelm Lutheran
 Julie Lloyd Roman Catholic
 Fred Matthews Anglican

ICPM Ministry Team

Rev. Quinn Strikwerda Anglican - Pastor
 Jim Gurnett Anglican - Pastoral Associate
 Michelle Nieviadomy Indigenous Oskapewis-Iskwew
 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

INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY

Straight From The Street

c/o Bissell Centre

10527 96 St. NW

Edmonton, AB T5H 2H6

www.icpmedmonton.ca | info@icpmedmonton.ca

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