



THE PULSE

Fall 2007

InerChurch Health Ministries 157 Florence Avenue, Toronto, ON M2N 1G5
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ICHM Parish Nursing Education Program – Then and Now

The first group of pioneer parish nurse candidates, clergy and health committee members began their education in the fall of 1995. ICHM went on to deliver its education program in three levels, first at Durham College, then at the Toronto School of Theology. In 1998 a partnership with the International Parish Nurse Resource Centre was established and a partnership with Emmanuel College, Victoria University in the University of Toronto established in 2003.

The ICHM Parish Nursing Education Program is now a component of Emmanuel College continuing education. This year ICHM was proud to present Certificates of Achievement jointly with Emmanuel College, which were signed by ICHM staff and Emmanuel Principal, Rev. Prof. Peter Wyatt. This agreement is the first instance of granting of a certificate jointly between Emmanuel College and another institution that delivers the program.



Registering for 2007 Education Program



A Word to the Caregivers

As we approach the season of Christmas, for many, there are plans being made for family celebrations. Christmas conjures up images of warmth, joy and hope, as family gathers around the turkey and enjoys the rituals of gift-giving and carol-singing. Unfortunately, the caregivers in our midst know only too well that the Christmas season can be filled with just the opposite for some, especially those who have experienced a significant loss in the last year. Not only death, these losses can include significant changes in life such as an illness, a move, the loss of employment, a parent moving into a nursing home - the list is endless. So, for many, the usual joy of the season can be replaced with a measure of sadness.

God bless the caregivers in our midst who, in their ministry, touch the pain of others, walking in their shoes. Indeed, the deepest message of Christmas is that God is in our midst, sharing intimately with us in all of our moments. So God bless the caregivers, who through this Christmas will share in the pain of others. Indeed, in their caring ways, God takes on flesh once again. A blessed Christmas to each and everyone!!

ICHM Ontario Parish Nursing Education Program 2007

Over 80 people registered for three levels of education held in the fall of 2007. ICHM was proud to welcome participants from new partner congregations and new participants from continuing partners, as well as those who are returning to participate in levels two and three. An exceptionally rich educational experience was provided by the wide variety of student denominations and backgrounds as well as excellent teachers who create the desire to come back to learn more! All members of partner congregations are welcome and we hope to see you next year!

This program could not occur without the tireless efforts of the Education Committee: Gail Brimbecom, Iain Buchanan, Mary Drummond, Myra Kreck, Beth Lettner, Lucy Page and Jackie Tanton. Thanks for weekly attendance to Iain (hospitality), Lucy (sale of books and compilation of feedback forms) and Gail (teaching and assistance with coordination). Thanks to Jackie for arranging for parish nurses for the day: Ruth Ann Fraser, Marlene Ronson, Cynthia Roberts, Cathy Winn, Joanne Shadgett and Heddi Gregor. We are grateful for these role models.



Class with Beth Wagschal



Networking and Sharing



The labyrinth - a unique teaching tool

ICHM New Brunswick Graduates First Class of Parish Nurses and Health Committee Members!!

A history making event for parish nursing ministry in New Brunswick took place in Bathurst, N.B. on Saturday, November 17th when the first graduating class of parish nurses and health committee members



completed the basic parish nursing education program delivered by New Brunswick Parish Nursing Ministries in partnership with InterChurch Health Ministries and the International Parish Nurse Resource Center. Pictured to the left are the six graduating parish nurses long with Sister Ernestine LaPlante, ICHM regional director and Nancy Wiggins, ICHM regional education coordinator, New Brunswick Parish Nursing Ministries, Rev. Wesley Wade, officiant and Gail Brimbecom, ICHM national education director. Six health committee members also successfully completed the program. ICHM congratulates our colleagues and partners in parish nursing ministry in New Brunswick.

ICHM Graduation – November 17, 2007

ICHM congratulates all our graduates for their persistence and pray that God continues to bless them and inspire them to foster healthy communities through Christ's healing ministry.

ICHM applauds the dedicated effort made to complete the program by two Health Committee graduates, **Diane Nofle**, Westminster United Church, Whitby and **Doris Hilliard**, Aurora United Church, and **Rev. Kevin McLeod**, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hamilton who became the second clergy to complete the program.



All ICHM Ontario Graduates 2007



ICHM Ontario Parish Nursing Graduates, 2007

Left to right:

*Janice Buck, Cobourg Alliance Church;
Hether Deans, St. Andrew's United Church, Niagara Falls;
Glennis Harris, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Thornhill;
Carol Rose-Kudelka, Aurora United Church;
Luciene Bailey, Holy Trinity Anglican, Scarborough;
Vicky Baxter, Christ Church Anglican, Bobcaygeon;
Gloria Pfeffer, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Owen Sound;
Bonnie Hofer, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hamilton.*

Thank You Gail Brimbecom!!

The Board of Directors of ICHM is proud to announce that Gail Brimbecom will continue to serve as our National Education Director for 2008. Congratulations Gail! This is especially exciting because ICHM has received a grant from the Congregational, Educational and Community Ministries Unit of the United Church of Canada to the tune of \$10,000. Through our partnership with the International Parish Nurse Resource Centre, we will use this money to develop our curriculum so that it fully engages our Canadian context for Parish Nursing Ministry. Gail will be involved with this project as we continue to envision the possibility of extending our Education program to remote areas in Ontario and across Canada.

ICHM Fundraising Concerts

This is a great fundraising idea for both your congregation and ICHM. Pastor Tom Doherty and Father Paul Massel have been stirring the hearts of many who come to their concerts. Here's the deal - Tom and Paul sing half of the concert and the host congregation provides music for the other half, either through members of the congregation and/or guest artists, the church choir or a guest flautist. As well, the congregation advertises the concert in their community and looks after selling tickets. ICHM is now booking concerts for the Spring and Fall of 2008. Please call if you would like to host one.

Information Forums – Telling the Story

One of the ways that InterChurch Health Ministries spreads the word about our support of a congregation's health and healing ministry through Parish Nursing Ministry is through the Information Forum. Usually these forums happen on a Saturday morning, but an abbreviated format can also take place on a weeknight. A Saturday morning schedule would see us beginning at 8:30 am with registration and coffee, beginning the program at 9:00 and finishing at 12:30. We review questions like: Why is the Church involved in health and healing ministry? What is Parish Nursing Ministry? What is the role of ICHM? How can a congregation prepare itself for this ministry?

Would you consider hosting such an event as a congregation? We want to plan several Information Forums for the Spring of the year in 2008. Can you help? If you would like to host an Information Forum, or have questions about hosting one, please contact the ICHM office.

Please Think of ICHM Through Your Gift-Giving

Many people at this time of the year consider special organizations, ministries or projects to which they would like to devote some of their hard-earned cash as a gift. Would you consider contributing something to InterChurch Health Ministries? These are exciting times for Parish Nursing Ministry. Still, people are being introduced to the concept of this ministry for the first time, and our vision is to continue in the task of building a solid financial base for ICHM. We are not yet at a point in which we can say that ICHM is financially healthy. We have no savings in the bank collecting GIC interest, and each year, God's grace seems to enable us to hold our own. There are many unmet needs; still, we are thankful for what has been accomplished with the help of so many.

So, we are asking - would you consider a gift to ICHM? ICHM would be most grateful if you did. Please mail your cheque to ICHM and we will mail a charitable tax receipt to you.

InterChurch Health Ministries - 157 Florence Avenue - Toronto, Ontario - M2N 1G5

ICHM Supports Parish Nurses

Parish Nurses enjoy each others company, especially at our annual Parish Nurse Retreat, being held at the Queen of the Apostles Retreat Centre in Mississauga, February 15 - 17. The food is great, and the fellowship even better.

Under the banner *Connecting Story with Faith ... reflecting with God*, Karen Marks and Tom Doherty will jointly support the parish nurses as they spend time with each other theologically reflecting on their own life stories. Frederick Buechner in *Listening to Your Life* writes: "Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and the pain of it no less than the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace." **Encourage your parish nurse to attend...offer to pay her registration.**