



THE PULSE

June 2007

InerChurch Health Ministries 157 Florence Avenue, Toronto, ON M2N 1G5

Web site address www.ichm.on.ca E-mail address info@ichm.on.ca Phone number 1-888-433-9422 or 416-225-7231

Remembering Val Jenkins August 7, 1948 to March 26, 2007

On March 31st we celebrated Val's life at Augsburg Lutheran Church in Brampton, where Val served as Parish Nurse for many years. It was a wonderful service, with approximately 400 people in attendance. Tom Doherty and Gail Brimbecom delivered a very emotional eulogy on behalf of ICHM, and many members of the ICHM family were in attendance.

Val's husband Allan spoke of her love for us all, and her desire that we not be downcast as we continue our work on this earth. He concluded with a wonderful slide presentation set to Celtic music. After the service, the Georgetown Pipe Band played in the parking lot. Val was a member of this band for many years.

Many memorial gifts for ICHM were received at Val's funeral. We will always remember her dedication to ICHM and Parish Nursing, and we will miss her!

Education Day & Annual General Meeting 2007

On Saturday, June 2nd, we held our annual Education Day at Melville Presbyterian Church in Scarborough. The event was very well attended, with 57 people registered for the day's events. At noon the ladies of Melville treated everyone to a wonderful lunch, where we had an opportunity to visit with each other.

At 12:30 PM we went to the sanctuary for a memorial prayer service for Valerie Jenkins. Valerie's husband Allan joined us for this service, which was led by our executive director, Tom Doherty. In celebration of Val's Celtic roots, Tom led us in the "Prayer to the Four Winds".

At 1:00 PM, our 10th Annual General Meeting was called to order by Ruth Ann Fraser, the Chair of the ICHM Board. In her report, Ruth Ann noted that we're very grateful that Gail Brimbecom has stepped into the role of National Education Director. Reports were also presented by: Tom Doherty, Ed Nelimarkka (ICHM's Treasurer), Karen Marks (ICHM's new Ontario Regional Parish Nurse Coordinator) and Margaret Grepe (Nominating Committee).



Tom Doherty leading memorial service for Valerie Jenkins

Annual Meeting (cont. from p.1)



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Margaret Grepe presenting Nominating Committee Report

Gail Brimbecom – New National Education Director

We are pleased to announce that Gail Brimbecom is our new National Education Director. Gail's roots in ICHM run deep, and we are grateful that she has taken on this role. Her experience will ensure a smooth transition.

Karen Marks – New Ontario Regional Parish Nurse



On May 1st, Karen Marks became ICHM's new Ontario Regional Parish Nurse and Education Coordinator. With the rest of us, Karen has been grieving Val's death, while at the same time working hard at the transition to her new job. Karen continues to serve as President of CAPNM for one more year, and her commitment to ICHM is very strong.

CONSIDER "PAR"

ICHM has been set up for "PAR", or Pre-Authorized Remittance. This is an opportunity for you to support the work of ICHM on an ongoing basis. Simply request a form, and we will see that you get set up.

Dr. Harry Sanderson acknowledged for contributions to

Reflections by Tom Doherty

The last occasion I had to work with Dr. Sanderson was less than two years ago on an ICHM Funding Committee. This involvement was another sign of his deep commitment to ICHM that began when he and his wife, Joan, sat around a breakfast room table with a group of ICHM Founders including Maureen MacLeod, and pastors Audrey Fischer and Henry Fischer, as they considered the future of parish nursing ministry in Canada.

Harry served on the first Health Cabinet at Westminster United Church (one of ICHM's five original pilot projects). He helped to install one of ICHM's first parish nurses, Gail Brimbecom. Harry was a member of ICHM's first interim Board, played a role on various committees and was instrumental in laying the groundwork for ICHM's early Visioning Days. Harry wore almost every ICHM hat imaginable. He has always been there for ICHM.

Asked where his passion for ICHM has come from, Harry would tell us that as a preacher's kid, his father used to take him to visit the sick. This led him to his call to medicine - a call that

always knew that a person's faith and spirituality was intrinsic to the care of their health. With this in mind, Harry has always helped ICHM see parish nursing ministry as a unique calling in reference to other nursing professions.

Our deep and heartfelt thanks to you, Dr. Harry Sanderson, for the many ways in which you have supported the ministry of Interchurch Health Ministries.



Tom Doherty presenting certificate to Dr. Harry Sanderson at Annual General Meeting

New Brunswick and Ontario Affiliate Gathering

From May 28-31 we had our gathering and training with our New Brunswick and Ontario Affiliates in Toronto. The purpose of the training is to enable New Brunswick to independently deliver their education program and to help Karen Marks as she transitions into her new role, and it went very well.

ICHM Fundraising Concerts

Two of our partner congregations recently held fundraising concerts: St. Matthews United Church in Richmond Hill on April 22nd and Grace United Church in Peterborough on May 6th. Both of these concerts were very successful.

Two more concerts are already scheduled for this year: Knox United Church in Sutton on November 11th and Trinity Anglican Church on November 25th.

We encourage you to contact us about arranging a fundraising concert in 2008 in your congregation. The proceeds will be split 50-50 between ICHM and your congregation, so everyone wins!

Candid Shots at the Annual General Meeting

