

**GILMORE PARK UNITED CHURCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2007**

Present: See attachments #1, 2, 3, 4.

Lunch and the Celebration of Ministry

Lunch was taken while the Celebration of Ministries were acknowledged:-
Project 21, The Community Meal Program, The Divorce
Care Ministry, The Fun for Free Services to name a few.

Rev. Anna called the meeting to order at 12:30p.m. and said a short prayer.

Esther (Council Chair) welcomed everyone and spoke at length about the various Ministries and the staff members who were no longer with us, and thanked everyone for all they had done and were doing to make these Ministries so very successful.

Carol presented the Enabling Motions:

- (a) That adherents be given voting privileges, except for the election of Council Members as per United Church polity.
- (b) That the Agenda, as printed be approved.
- (c) That the minutes of the April 30th, 2006 Congregational Meeting be approved as circulated.
- (d) That Carol Warner act as secretary of the Pastoral Charge until the Annual General; Meeting, 2008.
- (e) That the Chair if Council, Shelby Everitt, be elected as Congregational Meeting Chair for 2008.

These were seconded by Rita Francis. **Carried.**

Rev. Anna gave a power-point presentation on Congregational Governance, the Carver Model which we follow and a description on each Ministry or Group, which operates according to their gifts. She explained that Council sets direction and Monitors Accountability Governance not Management. Grant Smith moved a Motion to accept the Model. Thomas Forbes seconded the Motion. **Carried.**

The 2006 Financial Report was presented to the Congregation on April 30, 2006 at a Congregational meeting and after extensive discussion and amendments, and having undergone an independent review by the

accounting firm of *Evancic Perrault Robertson* and declared as being “being in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principals”, a Motion was made by Kim Sorrensen to accept if and Seconded by Thomas Forbes. **Carried.**

A Motion to accept the Congregational Budget for 2007 was made by Kim Sorrensen and Seconded by Thomas Forbes. **Carried.**

The election of the Finance Team followed. The team is as follows:

Ivor Barnbrook (Treasurer)

Thomas Forbes

Kim Sorrensen

Sandy Jolly

Rev. Anna - ex –officio.

A Motion to accept them was made by Petra Warland and Seconded by Maggie Wallace. **Carried.**

The Election of Council Members then took place:

The nominations committee of Bill Wallace, Rita Francis, Carol Warner and Rev. Anna Christie (ex-officio) received a number of nominations of gifted and skilled people who met all the requirements of Council membership. Every person was approached and asked to prayerfully consider serving on the Council. Several people declined for reasons of workload and other commitments and callings. *Joanne Dennill, Phil Newton and David Bowe* had their spiritual gift inventories assessed, and were interviewed by the nominations committee members. Each was found to be a person of “wisdom, caring spiritual discernment and other gifts of the Spirit;... committed to spiritual growth and active participation in the congregation and in worship and service” (United Church Manual, Section 130 & 135 - requirements for church eldership).

There is still one vacancy on Council, left by the early retirement of Sally Houston, In 2008 therefore, only 2 Council members will rotate off, but three will be sought for nomination, bringing the slate of Council members once again to 9.

Carol therefore made the following recommendation:

That Joanne Dennill, Phil Newton and David Bowe be elected to Council for a 3-year term. Seconded by Rita Francis. **Carried.**

Rev. Anna thanked the retiring Council members:

Bill Wallace, Ivor Barnbrook, and Nenita Bonifacio and

Chair – Esther Trasolini

For their hard work and dedication to the Council for the last 3 years.

Ruth Turnstal moved a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:05p.m. Seconded by Kim Sorensen. **Carried.**

Respectfully submitted

Carol Warner
Secretary

Esther Trasolini

Council Chair

A Jubilee Year Lived out in the Community and the World

During 50 years in this community Gilmore Park disciples have built a great community, a vision and mission that brings each of us closer to God and the world.

From the first service in RM Grauer school on October 7th, 1956, the congregation of Gilmore Park United Church has lived out our mission statement.

“People at every stage of their lives will experience the transforming love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and will commit to a life of discipleship.”

In the old Testament *The Books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther, all have a common thread. They teach “The building of Community Life”. In Ezra 1:1 -;22, Nehemiah tells of the trial and triumphs of those who were the first to return to Jerusalem to build the temple. The first group of returnees, like the Exodus from Egypt centuries before, the people made their way to the Promised Land, this time they came from the homeland of their ancestor Abraham. They completed the temple around 515 BC.

This was an important event in the history of God’s people. It affirmed once again God’s presence with His people. * reference Discovering the Old Testament by: Robert Branson , Jim Edelin, Tim Green

Every day at Gilmore Park United Church we affirm God’s presence with us by Living a life of discipleship reaching out to the community and the world.

The council of Gilmore Park recognizes our wonderful ministry and meets 10 times a year to discern our congregational life and ministry in the World.

This is accomplished by:

Adhering to and monitoring our Policy Governance. As per our monitoring schedule 230 Council Policy Statement, “Minister and Other Monitoring Schedule”: this outlines the compliances to the policies that outline Financial Condition Reviewed monthly, Budgeting, Ministry Policies, Congregational Organization, Protection of Assets, Revisions of our member role, treatment of our beneficiaries and Vendor Relations, M & P and the finance team. These are monitored on a yearly schedule by month. This Policy will be found on page 12 of our Policy Governance document available on our website gilmoreparkunited.org.

Council also reviews Policy 480 “Council Policy”. This is not a monitoring process, but it ensures that all council policies are reviewed on a regular basis and may be changed if the need is there. These Policies include Ownership, Council’s Accountability, Council’s Calling, Disciplines and Practices, Governing Style, Members Code of conduct, Chairperson’s Role, Diversity and one voice, Council Committees and Council’s adherence to the Manual. This Policy can be found on page 36 of the Policy Statement,

*If you do not have access to the internet you may ask the office for a copy.

During the year the council spent time “Listening to the Ownership” of our congregation.

Our ministries have been met with full potential.

Our Model of Governance helped us reach our Ministry Goals of 2007 and also helped us to see that our “Business Needs” were not being met. By “business needs” we refer to the communication web of each of our groups. During the time of “Listening to the ownership” we learned that although each group was functioning, they were not in connection with each other.

This brought to the table a new discernment of “How will we get each group in touch with another”. For the business end it was proposed that the treasurer of Finance sit with council every month, to go over our financial need. The council also discerned that we need to have a meeting of all our group chairs and representatives at least 3 to 4 times a year to interconnect with each other. The ministry group proposed to send the meeting minutes to the chair of each group and has also asked each group if they would like to return the minutes of their meetings to each group chair. This, combined with council’s “listening to the ownership” (meeting a different group chair or representative as scheduled monthly) and quarterly meetings with all groups, would help stem the lack of “In the Know’ within the groups.

We also heard a call that some of our members did not feel “in the know”, communication needs to be information on “What’s going on” in our congregation. Although we have our announcement slides at Sunday service, our website and our weekly bulletin and monthly bulletin, our “Flock” needs more. The council will take this feedback and faithfully work on a more indepth, “Listening to the Ownership” moving forward in 2008.

The council also shares a time of reflection looking at questions that relate to scripture. These are:

Faith: What is it? How can we talk about it?
How do you experience God in your life?
Who is Jesus for you?
What does the bible mean to you?
Prayer: What does it mean to you?
How can we talk about God and suffering?
What is the community call the church?
How do we live out our faith in the world?
The journey continues, what is next?

Our faithful disciples that serve on council are spiritually gifted and have worked this year to help our congregation grow in their missions and visions. The council members are: Rita Francis, Carol Warner, Pat Heslop, Jodi Gilmore, Joanne Dennill, David Bowe and Phil Newton , Rev. Anna Christie and Shelby Everitt.

Council is thankful for the leadership of our Reverend Anna Christie, and the gifts brought to us by our Congregational Life Minister, Kerry Child, our staff, Amy Stevens, Anne Marie Kelly, Hans Stutz, Karen Dar Woon and the Lay leadership of all of our groups and teams. We are also thankful for our faithful members of the congregation. These are the people of God who strive to make this community and our world a better place.

These things can only be done with a team effort and the support of our members who turn out week after week to meet the needs of our congregation and community, and the world around us. Trust in God's presence and the Holy spirit also guides us along the way.

To live a life of discipleship serving God and the world among the people of Gilmore Park United Church has been fulfilling and a rewarding experience,

Peace be with you

Shelby Everitt
Chair 2007

Come in, come in and sit down. You are a part of the family. We are lost and we are found and we are part of the family. * songs for a gospel people *

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE REPORT

Kerry Child

2007 was another successful year of work and ministry at Gilmore Park and in my role as Congregational Life Minister for All Ages. I continued to work full-time, three quarters of the year and took time off during the summer months. The year has been one of **growth** within our infant & toddler program, of **creation** within our Children's Worship Godly Play Program and of **challenge** within our Youth Ministry Program. It's been yet another year filled with all sorts of opportunities for people of all ages.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Please read the wonderful report submitted by Tanya Martens. Tanya has been SO committed to ministry with children in our church. She has dedicated many hours organizing our team, preparing story materials, memorizing stories, connecting with families and offering up Sunday morning leadership. I also give God thanks for our Children's Ministry Team consisting of Kara & Lauren Martens, Laurie Baignee and Diane Newton. Jan Brady, Rita Francis and Margie Savigny has also offered up their ministry with youth on Sunday mornings. THANK-YOU!

NURSERY MINISTRY

Since October 2006, the amazing Dena Williams has been our staff person working each and every Sunday in "*The Ark*" with our Nursery program. This is our fastest growing area of the church! Dena works two hours each Sunday and offers up a great playful and fun experience for our youngest members. An added bonus is that the children LOVE Dena and often name her when they think about church.

The Picnic Club continued for the full year in 2007 after a successful time in the fall of 2006. Each month, one Sunday during coffee hour, the Picnic Club meets for a snack & chat over yummy cookies and juice. This program was created in response to a request in the church offering up more of a connecting time for young children and families. It has been a great success and has been a fantastic way of introducing new young families to our church.

FAMILY MINISTRY

In September of 2007 Kerry began a process of visiting each family in our congregation with children up to 12. Family Ministry in general continues to be a challenge due to the busy lives that everybody leads. Sunday mornings are difficult for families to attend church due to sporting activities. The purpose of each visit is to simply check-in and see how everybody is doing and to name any pastoral care or Children's Ministry concerns that come about. Visits will continue in 2008.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry throughout 2007 continued to be challenging mainly because our youth are super-doooper busy all of the time! Attendance has often been low and parent involvement has been at the bare minimum; however we had a few incredible events that were fun and engaging:

Some highlights of the year:

- ❑ Various Joint Events with Tsawwassen United Church Youth Group. This included a Go-Karting trip, a skiing & snowboarding day at Seymour Mountain, a four day retreat to Saltspring Island.
- ❑ Presbytery-hosted events including the Youth Leadership Day, Walking the Talk and May Retreat
- ❑ Presbytery Youth Council with Hannah Jacobs & Lauren Martens representing our church
- ❑ BC Junior Youth Conference at Naramata Centre
- ❑ Youth Team at the Dream Auction where 20-30 teens volunteer for pre-events and on the actual day. This year Lisa Yap & Kara Martens co-led the youth team as I was in Toronto at meetings.

MINISTRY WITH SENIORS & RETIREES

Monthly teas (except in the July & August) for retirees & seniors in our church & community have been highly attended all year long. On average about 25 people come together monthly for a theme session, hymn sing, birthday celebration and of course tea! I have had the pleasure of sharing the theme time a few times throughout 2007.

I have also been one of the main people providing transportation for tea participants. Many thanks to Rev. Anna, Dorothy Dawson, Maggie Wallace, Stewart & Nadine Tait, Betty Coles for dedicating their time every month. Donna Treptow & Cynthia Sun are members of the community who volunteer their time too. Mary Francis also supplies us with yummy goodies. THANKS TO YOU ALL!

MINISTRY OF VOLUNTEERS

The SUPERGRID continued to be the main listing for this year for all the volunteer ministries in the church. As your Congregational Life Minister, I maintain this grid and have encouraged/invited many new folks to be a part of. The SUPERGRID includes everything that happens on Sunday mornings and evenings including Ushers, Greeters, Scripture Readers, Children's Ministry Leaders, Lock-Up people, counters and coffee makers. It continues to be a challenge to fill all of the gaps but the congregation has taken on the task of signing up which is fantastic! One coffee barista training session happened which brought a few new folks on board to make coffee for our special events.

MINISTRY WITHIN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Camp Outreach the 3rd happened in January 2007 and was a great success. About 50 children and adults participated in the 24 Social Justice Event for the

church family. Many projects were completed as way of giving participants hands-on experience of helping others. 2007 brought a new aspect to the event which included

two afternoon fieldtrips. Participants were split into groups and went off to the Richmond Nature Park to learn about birds and build bird houses and over to the Terra Nova Community Garden to plant garlic. In particular the Community Garden connections have been superb as many of the vegetables (including the garlic) were donated back to the church for use in the Community Meal.

Project Linus met in the spring for a day long quilting bee. 15 women came together and made blankets for needy children in our community.

Grad Sunday was celebrated in June. A number of graduates were recognized at this annual event.

Dorothy Dawson offered up monthly lunches for all to attend. A group of about 15 people met monthly at Correlis in Steveston on the first Friday of each month. It was a great pleasure attending many of these lunches.

Church Picnic at London Farms didn't happen but it did happen in the church hall! About 70

people attended on the really rainy afternoon which turned into a great time of fellowship and fun.

There were games, picnic chairs & blankets and skipping challenges. An even greater thing was that many members of the community joined us!

WIDER CHURCH WORK

Outside of Gilmore Park throughout 2007 I participated on BC Conference Interview Board and the National United Church Vision Fun Committee It was another year filled with all sorts of great blessings.

Kerry Child

WORSHIP TEAM OF GILMORE PARK UNITED CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007

The Worship Team meets about three times a year to plan the Worship Activities.

Our responsibilities not only include the Sunday Services but Pulpit Supply, Music and Choir, Hymn Books and Bibles, Communion arrangements, Baptism and Reception of new members, the decoration of the Church for the different Seasons of the Church, and we also help with the arrangements for Weddings and Funerals.

The members are: Rev. Anna, Dorothy Dawson, Kerry Child, Amy Stephen, Laurie Baignee, Nadine and Stewart Tait, John Carter, Merrylin Moody and Carol Warner (Chair).

This team works very well together and supports each other.

The celebration of Communion has been very well received as we continue to use the method of Intinction (breaking a piece of bread and dipping it into the grape juice), the Congregation is served at the front. The results of our Communion Service Survey showed that the Congregation would like to be served in the pews more often, and the team decided that this would be done when it was Liturgically appropriate, and it would be served in January on Epiphany, in March during Lent, on Maundy Thursday, in May on Pentecost, in September at the Joint Service with St. Anne's, in October on World Wide Communion Sunday, in December on Christmas Eve, and on the Sunday after Christmas at the joint Service with St. Anne's.

All of us continue to enjoy the energy and music of our Music Director, Amy Stephen; she continues to bring us much joy and has added new life into the choir and the Congregation.

We continue to enjoy very exciting Services during the year. Epiphany starts our Church year, The Lenten Services are very special and meaningful harp music by Amy during these Services is exceptional. We celebrate Maundy Thursday dinner and Communion, Good Friday Service is always very moving, on Palm Sunday our parade of Palms is a tradition and Easter Sunday Worship is as usual a very happy and uplifting Service. We celebrate World Wide Communion Sunday on the first Sunday in October and Thanksgiving Sunday on the second Sunday. All Saints Sunday reminds us of all the departed Saints who have left their mark on our lives. Our Intergenerational Services are always exciting as the young members of our Congregation conduct the Service. We continue to enjoy joint Services with St. Anne's Anglican Church twice during the year.

We extend our thanks to those members of the Congregation who continue to support us as readers, ushers and Communion servers.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my team for their support and tolerance during the past year. I do appreciate your help. I know that with God's help we will continue to serve Him and one another.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Warner
(Chair)

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

We are a team of twelve plus Rev. Anna and Kerry. Meetings are held as needed but we are in constant touch by email.

The purpose of the Pastoral Care Team is to provide help and support to the Minister, as set down in Policy 400M, ensuring that people experience “tangible loving care, acceptance and help with living”. People of all ages will be included although Pastoral Care of children and youth is the responsibility of Kerry as the Minister of Congregational Life. Our specific ministry will normally be those who are elderly, sick, shut-in, or the bereaved. We offer compassion, phone calls, home visits, food, transportation and empathetic listening also meet new people who come in to our church and make them feel welcome over a cup of tea or coffee. This is the expectation of each of us and not to be just a name on a list.

Kerry has in her office a small resource library on information re. Seniors Programs and Benefits in B.C. Health Together Linking Health Services with the people of Richmond, plus other interesting articles. Richmond Public Library offers resources for Seniors, Kids, Teens and Parents which is available on-line. Please speak to Kerry for additional information.

The PRAYER GROUP is part of our mandate with nine members. Personal prayer requests must be made by a family member to the staff or the undersigned.

This team is responsible for sending cards on behalf of our church whether as an expression of sympathy, celebrating a birth or marriage or a just thinking of you at this time. Mary Francis does this job so well for us.

The Sunday Pink Sheets are used to add new names to the Caring Group List of those wishing to share in the work of our church.

Each of us has to have a Criminal Records Check which is valid for three years.

All information received and imparted is done in the strictest confidence per our Pastoral Care Team Policy 400M.

If you have the gift of caring and wish to join this team, please contact Rev. Anna or the undersigned for more information.

We rely on YOU to inform us of someone who might use our assistance. Remember we are here for you.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy Dawson
Team Leader

Gilmore Park United Church

Annual Report of Ministry and Personnel Committee - 2007

(submitted on January 24, 2008)

Members of the Committee: Maggie Wallace, Sandy VanOstrand, Cathy Martin, Susan Johnsen (chairperson) *(Note that due to work commitments, Cathy Martin will be an inactive member for the first six months of 2008)*

The *Ministry and Personnel Committee* is a mandatory committee required by the bylaws of the *United Church of Canada* in every Pastoral Charge. The M&P committee is a confidential, consultative body that supports the relationship of professional and support staff with the congregation. In the United Church we describe ourselves as "being in ministry together", recognizing that the work of the paid Ministry Personnel is only a part of the work of ministry that takes place in the life of each church. M&P committees function both in a supportive and a supervisory role. The work of this committee must be handled with tact, thoughtfulness and largely in confidence.

We have a strong team of staff at Gilmore Park United Church.

Reverend Anna Christie is our full time ordained minister. In addition to pastoral activities, she largely oversees the business aspect of running the church, under the direction of church council. Rev. Anna has very strong gifts in preaching and teaching and these have been much appreciated by our congregation. Under her leadership our small group ministries, as well as short term groups for book studies and theological discussions have flourished. This has resulted in faith growth and maturation for many of us. A highlight for 2007 for Rev. Anna was the publication of her book, "Evoking Change", which is partially the result of several years work with leadership groups at our church. Rev. Anna has found it necessary to take an indefinite bereavement and medical leave commencing January 22, 2008. We pray that God will continue to bless her and heal her.

Kerry Child is a lay person and is our minister of congregational life (all ages). She works for our congregation 80% of the calendar year. She is equally gifted with children, teens, young adults, older adults and the elderly. Kerry keeps the programs of our church community running, aided by many congregational volunteers. A major focus of hers is to support families and individuals as they strive to live a Christian life, in community and in service to others. Kerry has recently informed the congregation that she is in the process of adopting a child. We look forward to welcoming her little one and supporting them as a family among us.

Amy Stephen is contracted as our Minister of Music. She is a talented performer, teacher and music director. Amy's love of music and worship do so much to draw us all into the spirit of worship both on Sundays and as we carry that spirit forward into the week. This year Amy is also pursuing her B.Ed degree at UBC getting the formal credentials for teaching. Amy continues to provide excellent musical leadership to our choir, for special occasions and is a source of joy in our services. Amy works for our congregation on the basis of approximately a 12 hour week.

Anne Marie Kelly is our full time church administrator. Her tasks are varied and include everything you can think of in terms of running a "one woman" office. An important statement in her contract refers to this position as "*the voice, face and personality of Gilmore Park United Church*". Setting a tone of welcome, inclusion, respect and a business-like manner are important parts of this job and we appreciate that Anne Marie does this well.

Hans Stutz has a business called "*Waterworks Cleaning*" and he is under contract with us to keep our facilities clean and in good repair. Clearly he does an exceptional job of this. It means a great deal to us as members of the church that our facilities are clean and fresh and provide an "oasis" for those who regularly worship with us or those who may visit. Our Thursday night dinner guests do appreciate that our multi-purpose room is clean, bright and welcoming. Hans is paid an hourly wage based on the services provided.

Karen Dar Woon started with us in the spring of 2007 as the Chef for our Thursday Night Community Meal. This has been a very successful outreach ministry and Karen not only prepares a beautiful and nutritious meal, she also works with the volunteers to ensure that we do our jobs correctly, setting, serving and cleaning up. Karen has made a point of using local programs such as the neighborhood gardens and this connection is both economical, healthy and serves to build community connections. Karen's meals, although economical NEVER taste "institutional". Karen has a real heart for our clients and friends from the community. She is paid a weekly sum which includes responsibility for meal planning, shopping, preparation and supervision of the service and cleanup.

Dena Williams is our weekly Nursery Caregiver. Her work is about as "behind the scenes" as you can get. Dena provides a safe place for babies and toddlers so that their parents can enjoy the worship service.

Kara Martens has recently taken on our audio visual responsibilities, particularly the running of the sound system and the power point during our worship services. This requires a great deal of attention to accuracy and details and we appreciate that Kara has taken on this important responsibility.

Submitted by: Susan Johnsen

Presbytery Report 2007

Gilmore Park United is one of 21 churches in the Vancouver South Presbytery. The presbytery met as a whole 5 times in 2007. In addition, the executive held monthly meetings. Rev. Anna Christie took over as Presbytery Chair last June. Kerry Child attends meetings as a ministry representative; Betty Coles and Alex Bois attend as lay representatives. One highlight at our Sept. meeting was a covenanting service with Alex Bois.

The work of Presbytery is to provide support among pastoral charges, to provide oversight of the life of each pastoral charge, to provide oversight of all paid ministry and students, to provide oversight of church property and finances, and to be a major method of communication between pastoral charges and also between those pastoral charges and B.C. Conference.

Vancouver South Presbytery has a number of committees meeting separately to do the detailed work which cannot be done by a larger group. In the last year a problem has emerged. There are not enough volunteers to serve on some of these committees, and it has fallen to the presbytery executive to discuss and make decisions on behalf of all of us. This has proven to put a considerable strain on the members of the executive and some have had to resign. Discussions are ongoing as to how to resolve this dilemma.

My own involvement within presbytery has been with the Pastoral Relations Committee. We work with churches requesting a presbytery presence, such as Joint Needs Assessments, and Joint Search Committees. Each church in our presbytery has unique characteristics; each has its own joys and concerns. For me, this extra involvement in our wider church has provided an opportunity to meet so many interesting people and to learn more about our church.

Betty Coles

Ministry Group 2007

The Ministry Group has overseen and/or supported a number of new ministry initiatives this year, including:

- The production of the “Suddenly Separate” DVD-based program written by Rev. Anna Christie to support people who have experienced divorce or separation;
- Application and receipt of a grant from the National Church in order to equip the Youth Centre to provide a welcoming space for our youth, eventually to be offered up for the use of other, particularly marginalized, youth in the community;
- The MomCare program, which offers up personal care and baby items to marginalized, low income expectant mothers;
- A blessing of the animals service, to be offered up on Earth Day, 2008
- That the congregation consider and vote on membership in Affirm United
- A quarterly “Spirit Reflections” journal to share the reflections; meditations, prayers, stories and other sharing form congregational members;
- A Yoga and Breakfast program to be offered before church on a monthly basis, beginning February, 2008;
- A monthly donation of \$2000 to the work of First United on a continuing basis;
- A donation of \$4000 to Families with Children and Navajeevanam – organizations directly connected to congregational members.

Ongoing ministries overseen and supported either directly or indirectly by the Ministry Group this year include:

- The community meal
- DivorceCare
- Dream Auction
- Children’s Ministry and congregational events
- Social Justice Centre and fair trade coffee sales.

Respectfully submitted
Diane Newton
Meaghan Grant
Co-Chairs, Ministry Group

Community Meal Report January 2007

The Community Meal was deemed to be a success in 2007 and we feel that it will continue to be in 2008.

Chef Karen Dar Woon has been instrumental in the success of the meal. Her food is delicious and well planned out, and her involvement in the community shines through in what is served. We have connections with the Food Bank, the Sharing Farm, Cob's Bread, and other charitable entities who donate food to our worthy cause. Karen is dependable, friendly, and skilled. She is a leader in her kitchen, and is great at galvanizing the volunteers before the start of each meal, and telling them what needs to be done in order to serve her food successfully. Her commitment to Food Safety is evident and has rubbed off on the volunteers.

Weekly meals continue to wrap up by 7:30pm, with all dishes done, the kitchen cleaned, and the lights turned off.

The volunteering groups have been a win so far, with adequate volunteers showing up for their monthly times. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Job's Daughters and the Richmond Scouting Group who are pitching in to volunteer in times of need. The Scouts are working to get set up on a regular revolving weekly schedule which will add at least one Scout and their parent to the weekly teams throughout the month. I have started to coordinate this with Scout Leader, Judi Merrill recently in January '08.

Average weekly turnout has continued to be 85-90, but often we swell up to 110+ guests on a given week. We have always served sufficient amounts of food as Karen cooks enough to serve 120 guests each week. Any leftover food is sent home in containers for any guests that want it.

We continue to get praise from our guests about how well-run the meal is, how tasty the food is, and how calm and orderly the process is at Gilmore Park in order to feed everybody in a relaxing, family-friendly environment. This makes me proudest of all.

Volunteers continue to come and go, and it will continue to be my goal to staff each week with adequate volunteers.

Regards,

Geoff Ireland

DREAM AUCTION 2007

The sixth annual Dream Auction was held on Saturday, November the 24th at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel and once more it was a great Richmond Community event raising \$36, 500 for poverty initiatives as well as raising awareness of the child poverty situation in Richmond.

Gail Nichols and Sally Houston were the Dream Auction Team Leaders along with a very hard working committee consisting of Jan Brady, Kerry Child, Mary Francis, Maggie Wallace, Nadine and Stuart Tait. We were also supported by a valuable team from St. Alban's Anglican Church led by Tia Moras and a working crew from the Food Bank led by Margaret Hewitt. Live Auctioneer Bill McNulty cheered on the bidders for the sixth year. A terrific Auctioneer.

Our Dream Auction enjoyed such prestigious sponsorship and endorsement as Air Canada, our M.P., Raymond Chan, M.L.A. John Yap, and Linda Reid, our Mayor, Malcolm Brodie, Richmond Councilors and School Board Members.

Over three hundred silent auction items and fifteen live auction items were sold. Our balloon sales by Gilmore Park Youth and our empty lunch bag donations added to our total income.

An important aspect of the event which has grown into a community pre-Christmas happening is the involvement of other community organizations. We appreciate all the contributions of Air Canada led by Karl Sorenson. Our Airplane Flying Contest is a highlight of the day. Prior to the Auction date the Rotary Club of Steveston held a garage sale in October donating all the proceeds to the Auction. And the Richmond Orchestra and Chorus Association held their second annual Richmond Sings Concert featuring nine choirs on Friday, November the 16th raising over \$3,500 for our initiatives.

Gilmore Park United is the backbone of this event with so many people donating their time, talents and auction items. This year many bids came in well over the valued price. Our bidders listened to our M.C., Rev. Anna Christie, when she told them you are here for a cause, not a bargain. Our children need your help.

The funds from the Dream Auction have been distributed in the following manner:

1. Richmond Poverty Task Force – to fund breakfast programs in Richmond Schools (First \$5,000).
2. Richmond Food Bank – for children's necessities (baby food, formula, diapers, snack packs, etc.) (Goal: \$12,000).
3. Community Meal at St. Alban's Hall – serving a full meal to over 100 needy people every Tuesday evening. In the last seven years over 30,000 people have been served (Goal: \$8,000)

4. Community Meal at Gilmore Park United – serving a full meal to over 100 needy people every Thursday evening. (Goal: \$8,000).
5. Nova House – a transition home that provides a safe environment for women and children who are in transition from an abusive relationship. (Goal:\$2,000).

Our dream is that no child in Richmond will suffer from poverty.

Respectfully Submitted
Sally Houston

A Gilmore Park Jubilee Year New Ministry Initiative

Gilmore Park United's Youth Center

At the January 2007 Jubilee Brainstorming, a youth center was identified as a Jubilee year project priority. The purpose of the center is to provide a culturally relevant environment for youth within our church while also one day opening the space to marginalized adolescents in the community, such as those dealing with sexuality issues or youth with autism spectrum disorders.

The youth center is not a dedicated room. It will still be available for other church uses and rentals.

The Ministry Group approved this new ministry initiative and the decision was made to apply for funding through the United Church of Canada's youth and young adults Vision Fund. The application was made in November and we learned that we were successful in our application for \$2,250.00 just before Christmas!

This money will be used to paint the youth room and purchase sports and gaming equipment for the church. Check out the youth room at the top of the stairs! Ten youth had a sleepover near the end of January and had a great time giving the youth room a new look with a mural of the seasons.

Further purchases of floor hockey and volleyball equipment, along with table tennis and air hockey and a video gaming system will be made in the near future. It is hoped that the church will be a place to which youth look forward to coming, knowing there is something there especially for them!

After six months, we are responsible to evaluate the project and report back to the Vision Fund.

Submitted by Tanya Martens for the Ministry Group

Social Justice Centre 2007-08

The Social Justice Centre is a response to Gilmore Park's commitment to social justice found in our mission statement and core values. The purposes of the Social Justice Centre are education, advocacy and fundraising.

Educational resources are made available at the SJ Centre, and include materials on such topics as water issues, genetically modified foods, corporate responsibility, poverty and homelessness and human rights.

Advocacy is carried out in the form of letters written to governments and authorities worldwide. Initiatives come from the United Church of Canada and its justice group, KAIROS, from Amnesty International and, on occasion, other organizations, such as Make Poverty History. All members of the Gilmore Park congregation, and any other interested people are invited to sign these letters, to maximize their impact and effectiveness. Letters have typically been sent with 60-90 signatures, a very good reflection of our commitment to justice.

Justice issues that have been addressed through letter-writing campaigns have included:

- The raising of the federal minimum wage to \$10/hour
- Raising income assistance rates in BC
- Urging government compliance with the Kelowna Accord, made with First Nations leaders in Canada
- Advocating a strong stance against honour killings of women by the leadership of Iraq
- Release of peaceful protesters arrested in Myanmar
- Respect for human rights in Zimbabwe
- Advocating a strong justice response to killings of church and labour leaders in the Philippines
- An end to secret detention and enforced disappearances in the United States

Fundraising as well as education is done through fair trade coffee sales. In 2007-08, profits from the fair trade coffee sales were offered to the work of Families For Children in Bangladesh.

Respectfully submitted
Diane Newton

Children's Ministry Annual Report 2008

The children are offered many faith-enriching and learning opportunities here at Gilmore Park!

Children's Worship on Sunday morning continues to be the main focus of Children's Ministry. We worship together with a Godly Play story as the focus each week. After worship time together, we engage the story with drawing, crafts, reading, games and discussions (older ones).

This past year, we have been especially grateful for the support, gifts and leadership of Kerry Child, Rita Francis, Lauren Martens, Laurie Baignee and Diane Newton, Kara Martens, Jan Brady and Margie Savigny.

This past year we have enjoyed several special events together as well:

- A "**Birthday of the Church**" party with Jan Brady during Children's Worship to celebrate Pentecost.
- This year saw the largest group ever from Gilmore Park attend **Vacation Bible School** at South Arm United. I (Tanya) co-coordinated the program and was the story-teller this year and Kerry, Lauren and Kara were leaders. Several youth were in the Leader-in-Training program along with 6 GPUC children who were participants. Amy was the music leader. We all enjoyed being "God Detectives" based on the book by Linnea Good and Nancy Reeves. Lauren Martens and Heather Booker even wrote the theme song for the week! VBS is always a fun, faith-filled week for children and leaders both!
- This **summer**, worship activity packs were provided most weeks in lieu of a Sunday morning program due to difficulty finding leadership. Thanks to Zachary, Jason and their parents for stepping up!
- In November we celebrated **Children's Sunday** for the second time. All the power point slides, welcoming, readings, prayers and the theme presentations were led by the children. For many, reading in church was a first-time experience and they did very well. Unfortunately, we were disappointed that there was very poor congregational attendance at the service.
- Following tradition, on the first Sunday of Advent, we made **Advent wreaths** with rolled beeswax candles for families to enjoy at home throughout Advent.
- On Christmas Eve, Amy led the children in their **Christmas Pageant** presentation.
- The **Camp Outreach** children's component was cancelled this year (2008) due to very low registration. The youth sleepover did go ahead and soup making took place with the children during Children's worship time instead.
- At the end of February, Kerry will be accompanying 9! GPUC children to the first-ever **Children's Retreat** at the Chehalis Retreat Center in Agassiz.

Our Godly Play story collection continues to grow! Godly Play has published a new volume of enrichment stories, mainly focused on "Key figures among the People of God". I have been gathering and making the materials for the stories of (for example), Jacob, Joseph, Samuel, Ruth, King David and several of the prophets. In addition there are new stories of "Paul's Journey", "Jesus and the Twelve" and "The Faces of Easter".

Many thanks to **Rob Stredulinsky** for his gift of woodworking! We are especially enjoying the Jonah story and the "Books of the Bible" library which Rob made and Uli decorated.

And, Children's Ministry is very grateful for the support we receive from **Kerry!** Thank you so much for your enthusiasm and energy, Kerry!

Submitted by Tanya Martens on behalf of Children's Ministry; Laurie Baignee, Kerry Child, Lauren Martens and Diane Newton.

Steward Team 2007

There are two people on the Steward team – Rob Stredulinsky and Betty Coles. We are responsible for the upkeep and repairs in the building. In the last year, Rob has spent numerous hours fixing things. We held one clean-up day last fall and have more planned for this year.

We work with Anne Marie Kelly to coordinate needed repairs (and repairmen). Kerry Child has been helpful in finding volunteers and organizing the clean-up day. We greatly appreciate the work of Hans Stutz who not only keeps the building clean but goes beyond and does numerous small jobs in the building.

We would welcome any volunteers who wish to enlist with us.

Betty Coles

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 2007

Rentals have been active as usual this year with weddings and many regular customers: BC Conference, Music for Young Children, Richmond Orchestra and Chorus and the Vancouver Orpheus Choir. In October Amnesty International's Richmond chapter held its 25th anniversary celebration with workshops and a dinner. A new renter, Music Bee Academy, which teaches music to young children, started renting from us every Saturday in September.

In October we were approached by a high school student who represented her fellow musicians from several Richmond high schools were wanted to put on a 'Music from the Heart' benefit concert. In November they put on a very successful set of concerts over two nights which raised over \$1,500 which went to Covenant House among other charities. Their enthusiasm and delight in their success was great to see.

Other administrative areas have gone smoothly this year and I look forward to another successful year.

Submitted by: Anne Marie Kelly

Gilmore Park United Church RRSP Report for 2007

January 1, 2007 opening Market Value \$ 933,346.80

RIF paid \$ 3,786.72

Administration Fee paid 300.00

Fees paid 5,577.45

Members transferred/
cashed out (5) 104,684.33

Fees collected \$ 5,593.81

Market Value as of December 31, 2007 \$ 882,682.94

Report submitted by Gail Nichols & Rob Ogden
Gilmore Park United Church RSP Trustees

Finance & Stewards Team Report – 2007 to 2008

Team Members: Sandy Jolly, Kim Sorensen, Ivor Barnbrook, Thomas Forbes and Rev Anna Christie (by virtue of office)

The past year has not been one to note in terms of much if any excitement and should be described as of one as or been one of ' steady as it goes ' with our churches finances. There were no significant developments or changes to report. As forecasted this time last year, we continued to pay down and amend the structure of some of our liabilities, please see more information in the financial statements on this. We did commence a plan to make regular contributions to our sister Church at the 1st United Church in Vancouver.

As usual we note the amount of the annual givings are not at a point where the church can be considered self-sufficient and we do rely heavily on the funds coming from Gilmore Gardens to fund our activities. We do ask each member of the congregation to consider the level of their own contributions.

Submitted by: Thomas Forbes

