

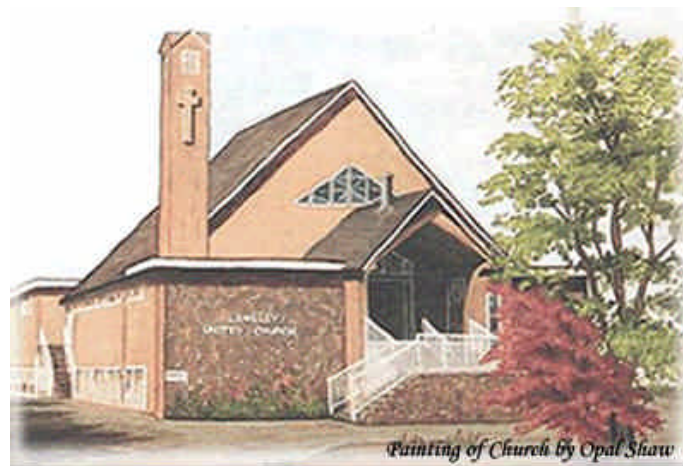
LANGLEY UNITED CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

2006

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 4, 2007



We are a part of the Body of Christ,
endeavouring as Christ's disciples
to continue His mission and ministry
in Langley and the world.

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Annual Congregational Meeting

Agenda

Call to Order

Opening Prayer – Rev. Scott Swanson

Mission Statement of Langley United Church

Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Motion to grant voting privileges to all present

Motion to adopt minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2006

Minister's Report

Annual Reports – Motion to Adopt

Financial Report – Motion to Adopt

Budget – Motion to Adopt

Nominations Committee Report and Elections

New Business

Adjournment and Benediction

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF LANGLEY UNITED CHURCH
HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2006

Meeting called to order by Chair, Jamie Nelson, with 52 people in attendance.

Worship by Reverend Scott Swanson

Mission Statement read in unison.

Agenda introduced. *M/S/C: Barb Nelson / Dave Manly that the agenda be adopted as circulated. Motion carried.*

Voting Privileges: *M/S/C: Larry Feuer / Peter North that voting privileges be granted to all who are present. Motion carried.*

Minutes: *M/S/C: Pat McEachern / Margaret Kerr that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of February 8, 2005 be accepted as circulated. Motion carried.*

Minister's Report: Rev. Scott Swanson indicated that his report was included in the annual report as circulated.

Annual Reports: *M/S/C: Matt Offer / Don Romero that the annual reports be accepted as circulated with the exception of the Financial Report and the 2006 Budget. Motion carried.*

Financial Report: Peter North & Barb Nelson presented the financial report, thanked the committee and responded to questions. *M/S/C: Jim Jordan-Knox / Bill Pike that the financial report be accepted as circulated. Motion carried.*

2006 Budget: Peter North & Barb Nelson presented the Budget and responded to questions. *M/S/C: Matt Offer / Rod Carter that the 2006 Budget be accepted as circulated. None opposed. Motion carried.*

Nomination Committee Report and Elections: Stacey Jordan-Knox presented the report of the nominating committee as follows:

The Nominations Committee wishes to thank the following people who have completed their terms of office and are now stepping down, or will assume other duties:

Chairperson: Jamie Nelson

Newsletter Editor: Marie Hindle

Their commitment of time and hard work in the promotion of the life and work of Langley United Church is appreciated by us all. Stacey offered thanks to Bill Pike for continuing to perform the duties of finance chairperson until Peter North took over the position.

The Nominations Committee presents the following slate of officers for the 2006-07 year for the consideration of the members of the Unified Board:

Elected Positions:

The following have two-year terms to complete:

Past Chairperson: Jamie Nelson

Chairperson: Kellie Warnock

Vice Chairperson: Vacant

Committee Chairpersons

Library Trish Carson, Erna Friesen

Stewardship Stacey Jordan-Knox

*Pastoral Care**Maureen Burgess**Outreach**Lynne Irvine/ Dana Timko**To be newly elected:**Vice Chairperson:**pending**Committee Chairpersons**Christian Development:**vacant**Presbytery Rep's:**1) Linda Boyd 2) vacant**Appointments to be made by the Executive of the Unified Board:**Board Secretary:**Joanne Feuer**Board Treasurer:**Barb Nelson with the assistance of Susan Abbott**Envelope Secretary:**Bill Pike**Chairperson of Ministry & Personnel:**Jennifer Purych (continuing)**Betty Hewitt**Wedding Hostess:**Maureen Burgess**Event Host:**Dave Manly**Those whose terms are not yet complete (one year remaining):**Finance Committee:**Property:**Bruce Timko**Worship**Linda Hodgins**Trustees (elected for indefinite terms):**Jim Jordan-Knox**Harvey Dusome**Queenie Carson**Matt Offer**One more trustee is needed as Jim Boyd has resigned.****New Business** - There was no new business.**Jamie handed the meeting over to the new chairperson, Kellie Warnock for adjournment.****Meeting Adjourned******Scott closed with a prayer******Jamie Nelson, Chair******Joanne Feuer, Secretary***

CLERGY REPORT - Rev. Scott Swanson

As I look back on 2006, I give thanks for what we have been able to achieve as a church family. I am thankful for the long dreamed of feeding ministry which finally came to be in 2006 and which continues to operate strongly. I am thankful for the ongoing ministry to and with youth, which has in turn nourished the congregation and been an entry for some new folk. I am thankful for Godly Play, the exciting new approach to children's church we have been using since September. I am thankful for the presence of Galen Smith, our student intern; after a number of years without an intern, Langley United has been able to return to our ministry to the wider church as a teaching congregation, and it has been an energizing and exciting time for the congregation and for me as supervisor. I am thankful for the music ministry we are able to offer through Greg Caisley and many volunteers that energizes worship and offers something a little different to the community. I am thankful for the worship life of Langley United, where we continue to offer good quality worship opportunities on Sunday mornings (and this winter on one Tuesday evening a month). I am thankful for the continuing benefits of Education for Ministry, and for the work of congregational leaders in articulating our mission and what we hold to as values as a congregation.

As I look forward to 2007, I see all these good things continuing, along with the relocation of the Fraser Resource Centre to Langley United Church, and a plan to make our governance more effective and efficient. Also continuing into 2007 is our plan to visit every family in the congregation who would welcome a visit. One of the goals for these visits is to offer more opportunities for feedback from the congregation. (The Ministry and Personnel committee has also initiated new methods for feedback.) More than all this, I am grateful for what I believe has made all of these things and many others possible: the abundant grace of God, and the time, talent and money of so many people in this community. Thank you.

The rest of my report is intended as an accountability tool to you, so that you can see some of the things I was up to in 2006. I welcome your comments or questions on it. God's blessings to all of you in 2007. I look forward to our work continuing.

Some of Scott's involvements in 2006

Pastoral Charge

Worship preparation and leadership

Regular Sunday services; special services in Advent, Lent and other occasions; weddings, funerals and memorial services; monthly services at Langley Lodge; worship committee meetings.

Pastoral Care and Outreach

Pastoral visits in homes and hospitals; phone calls and emails; church events, dinners, concerts, etc; homelessness strategy meetings; 2 weeks as on-call chaplain at LMH

Education

Bible studies; 2 book studies; congregational retreat; baptism preparation; membership classes; Education For Ministry, ministry of supervision (internship)

Administration & Leadership

Unified Board meetings, congregational and other special meetings, M&P meetings; stewardship meetings; visioning process; development of new web site; support to ministries/initiatives (hot meal programme, marriage policy, stewardship, etc.)

Other

Langley Cooperative Ministries and Langley Association of Christian Churches meetings.

Other Courts of the Church

Presbytery meetings, BC Conference General Meeting, Convening a Presbytery Oversight visit, Fraser Presbytery M&S Convenor, Conference Interview Board member, member of Vancouver Impact Team for National "Emerging Spirit" programme.

Self care & Professional Development

Monthly spiritual direction, clergy support group lunches

"Epiphany Explorations," Enneagram workshops, Enneagram Retreat, Clergy retreat, reading time.

STUDENT INTERN

Galen Smith

I have been "your intern" for four months and the time has been incredibly full, grace filled, and transforming. The openness of the congregation and the various committees to my inclusion in the life of Langley United has been wonderful. Your expression of interest and concern in this ministry is heart warming.

So, you may be wondering, what has she been doing, actually? The answer is, most things involved in ministry and then some! I have participated in most worship services in the church, including preparing seven sermons, and observed several age levels in Sunday School. I was pleased to be invited to read at an ecumenical Christmas service at the Anglican Church. Every week I meet with Rev. Scott for theological reflection. We discuss other aspects of ministry outside of this dedicated time. I have attended most committee meetings of the church: the unified board, the every person visitation committee, stewardship, and worship committees. This has broadened my experience of different church governances and procedures. I have gone to 'fun' things too, such as movie night with the JAM session, and twice with Mothers and Others, and the United Church Women, and choir practice, church dinners, and to three musical evenings at the church. The lay supervision team has met six times with me and I wish to warmly thank them for their dedication, time, and the thought they have invested in this process. I have accompanied Scott to the Association of Christian churches meetings, to Education for ministry (EFM), and to Langley Lodge. I have conducted services at Langley and Highland Lodges. I attended a ten session hospice training workshop, and spent time with the chaplain at Langley Hospital. I attended two seminars, one in Victoria and another at Naramata. I have attended a book study that is ongoing. I assisted at three memorial ser-

have made pastoral visits and enjoyed time of fellowship with various members of the church community, for which I am very appreciative.

I am looking forward to the next four months of service to God and the community. I trust that you will hold this internship in your prayers, as you are in mine, as we journey together.

UNIFIED BOARD

Kellie Warnock

Greetings to all,

My first year as Chair of the Unified Board has been a year of growth for myself and I have all of you to thank for that. My wishes are that all of you have experienced growth as well and I know that as we work together in our common goals for Langley United we can help one another throughout our life journeys. The most significant role the board participated in the beginning of this past year was around the area of Marriage. Attending workshops and meetings, listening to others and speaking for ourselves, we as a congregation voted to accept same-sex marriage as a policy for our Church. Wedding decisions seemed to pop up continuously throughout the year as well and we worked at updating our policy to what it is now. I would like to thank Scott for all his hard work in those areas.

In addition, we welcomed our Student Minister, Galen Smith and have enjoyed having her in our Church family for the past few months. Our Feeding Ministry has been very active doing quite well and we welcome the other Churches in Langley who have participated at our location in this much needed mission. After participating in the Asset Mapping workshop that was offered a few weeks back I am excited about the future for Langley United. There are many people with wonderful ideas and energy to continue the growth of our Church.

The Board has approved a task force to

explore our governance model and see what may be available out there to make us a more efficient body and I look forward to their report in the near future. We will of course explore this together as a congregation to find out what will be the best course for all of us at Langley United Church.

Thank you for your support and God Bless you all.



WORSHIP

Linda Hodgins

When I look back over the past year I see that the congregation of Langley United is still as busy as ever!

Many hands make light work and many hands participated in our worship services! Thank you to our candle lighters, scripture readers and those who read for our special services, Communion servers, Baptism sponsors, pulpit supply and those offering Prayers of the People, soloists, bell ringers and Friends of Fire. The list is endless. Your gift of time is greatly appreciated.

Still so much to do but so much has been done. We enjoyed many special worship services this year: Communion Services, services to welcome members into the body of Christ by Baptism, services to welcome new members by Confirmation or Reaffirmation of Faith, Theological Sunday, Scouting Sunday, Maundy Thursday Service, an Easter Vigil, a Remembrance Day Service and a Pet Blessing Service and a Blue Christmas Service. This year the 4th Sunday in Advent was also Christmas Eve. Three services took place that day: our regular Sunday morning service with Communion, a Christmas Eve service for families at 5:00 pm and a candlelight service also with Communion at 10:00 pm.

We were blessed by the gifts of Merv Lutes, Blake Field, Ken Dean, Kim Brandt, Clayton Arkestyn-Vogler and Gabrielle Suedfeld who provided pulpit supply. A very special thanks to Jennifer Purych for leading us in a time of reflection. Amy Collins, Jen Rozander, Kim Brandt and David Rushton provided music supply and many others shared their gift of music.

The Worship Committee is currently comprised of Rev. Scott Swanson, Greg Caisley (Music Director), Gabrielle Suedfeld, Judy Chang, Judy Doyharcabal, Lydia Hibbs (Scripture readers), Linda Hodgins (Chair), and Wendie Switzer (Secretary). Again I would like to say a special thank you to Pat Thebaud, Arlene Pike and Betty Smith for insuring the banners and the adependia are changed for the seasons of the church year, to Lisa Garland for her hard work in decorating our sanctuary and Judy Chang, Pat Thebaud and Janice Ellinthorpe for preparing the bread and juice for Communion. Thank you to all the members of the Worship Committee for their dedication and hard work over this past year.

In 2007 we will continue to be "Guided by the Holy Spirit" as we do the work of Langley United Church. Thanks be to God.

MUSIC Greg Caisley

Well- another year end report! It has been a very interesting year for me personally, and I have been very lucky to have such a fantastic crew of hard working people surrounding me. This year, many of the things that I started doing in the fall of 2004 were either completed or are now well underway. The biggest things which we developed you may never see- Maureen Burgess, Linda Hodgins and I did a huge renovation of my new office, and the entire music library was updated and organised anew. We can now find things! We have also really got a great system for organising services that everyone understands- and



we have a great method for organising the music so we are sure what hymns we are doing from week to week, and how often they have been performed. Since I arrived here in the fall of 2004, the choir has performed over 100 new anthems, and produced over 20 events to raise money for this church. I am very happy with all that has been done, and look forward to more exciting events this coming year. Of course, one of the big areas of growth over the past year has been the concert series itself, which really got underway this past year. We started the concert pass system, brought in professional groups like the Wyndham Brass and the Lyric Singers, and I did a couple of different concerts with local musicians who mostly donated their time. The choir members did all the arranging, cooking, cleaning, and advertising, and the monies raised were all given back to the church through a completely reorganised budgeting process. I want to thank the all the people who helped make the series thus far so successful. We are now in the planning stages for concerts in the fall of 2007, and you can watch the LUC web site for new changes this year to the way we at the church deliver events and information.

A Recap of CONCERTS & 'CHURCH' events in 2006

Jan. 14 Robbie Burns Night
Feb. 25 Swing into Spring Dance At Clayton Park Community Centre

Apr. 8 FVGSS Variety Show
Jun. 10 Rockin' Around the Clock
KDR - 50's dance
Sept. 24 Recital of French songs
Oct. 1 Thanksgiving Song Evening
Oct. 22 RiverCity Gospel Jazz Group led the service
Oct. 28 UCW Fall Ham Dinner
"Pretenders" presented 3 one-act plays.
Oct. 29 Wyndham Brass participated in the worship service
Nov. 4 Wyndham Brass Wows Crowd
Dec. 8 Mistletoe with choir and Friends of Fire
Dec. 10 LACC - Ecumenical service
Choir and Youth Group

Our next concert will feature the Lyric Singers on March 10 at 7:30 p.m. I expect that this concert will sell out, so please get your tickets as soon as possible.



We have also been blessed with having a number of people in the choir who have regularly

performed in solo or chamber works for the church- and the church is so much richer for their contributions. I would love to thank you all- but there are too many! I thoroughly enjoy the efforts of all the people who assist in the preparations and presentations we do every Sunday. I could not do it without you.

And- as usual- I want to plead with those of you out in the congregation who see us having so much fun every week- please ask any choir member about what would be involved in joining us, and give us a try. You do not have to have a voice, sound good, or even read music. (!) You do have to be ready to have fun and make beautiful music. As always, I am so happy to hear from you, and I hope you will tell your friends. If you have any requests for music or something you do or do not like, please let me know. I would be happy to talk to you or see if we can accommodate

your requests. And thanks for all the support that comes every week from the greater church. It is a blessing.

FRIENDS OF FIRE David Nelson

The Friends of Fire had an excellent 2006 and is looking forward to what 2007 brings. We started early on in the year working on A Charlie Brown Christmas. We took the summer months off, but come this past fall, we were rehearsing like crazy. The group performed at the second half of Under the Mistletoe, and as many can attest to, it was a real treat. The Friends of Fire meets Sunday afternoons, once or twice a month. It is run by Thomas Dennett and myself, and is open for youth ages 10-18 who have a strong passion for acting.

PASTORAL CARE Maureen Burgess

Before I began to write this report for 2006 I looked back at reports for the last several years, and find a continuing theme – we need help. We still need help. Please think about something small that you might do – all the small things add up to getting everything done.



Under the umbrella of pastoral care are: greeting and welcoming, driving, coffee hour, clean-

ing and re-stocking the pews, visiting, the casserole program, our website, our history books, The Observer and special events.

During 2006 we had two newcomers' lunches – our next one is coming up in February. In June our annual picnic was held at Clayton Park and despite the inclement weather, 100 people gathered in the hall for our Pentecost worship service and the Sunday School promotions. Rain or not, all who gathered had a good time and a great lunch. We tried

Back Corn Roast in September. So many things happen in Langley during the early part of this month that we decided to have this event following our worship service instead of a Friday or Saturday evening. Rev. Sam and the Korean congregation joined us for our corn and pot luck lunch, we were entertained by some of our ukulele specialists, and there was a cake to welcome Galen Smith, our new intern from Nova Scotia. We celebrated Langley United's 79th anniversary in November with twelve birthday cakes. Hazel Harrower attended this year, and presented us with the History Books she had prepared over many years. Thank you Hazel.



We ask that you give prayerful consideration to any request that may be made of you to help. My sincere thanks to all the greeters and welcomees, the drivers, those who bring casseroles, Andrea Hammond and the coffee hour team, to Arlene Pike for our wonderful history books, and to Judy Chang for taking care of The Observer subscriptions. Thank you to all of you who visit and care for members of our church family and also those at the Seniors' Lodges in Langley. And last but not least, to Kathleen in the office for all she does for us: sending get well and sympathy cards when needed, editing our Newsletter three times a year, and especially for all her work on setting up and maintaining the website (www.langleyunited.org) and for her timely emails keeping us up to date with everything happening at Langley United.

We thank God as we look forward to all the blessings and fellowship we know will be ours in 2007.

SENIOR YOUTH David Nelson

Another year has come and gone, but the Senior Youth is still going strong. We've hiked up mountains, dressed up in ghoulish costumes, had wonderful games nights, and that is to name just a

few of the exciting things this group has done this past year. We've volunteered for the feeding ministry, as well as several fundraisers held at the church. The Senior Youth is a great bunch of teens that get together to have a good time with people that share the faith. The group meets every second Friday and is always accepting new members. Sandi Takasaki, Stephen Rowell, and I love working these kids, and look forward to 2007!

JUNIOR YOUTH David Nelson

The Junior Youth Group has enjoyed a full year of exciting events. From going swimming, to getting lost in a corn maze, or choosing the perfect pumpkin, we are an active group who likes to get out there and have fun. The group is always accepting new members, and currently has 8 members that attend regularly. We meet Sunday afternoons, and welcome all youth grades 5-7. I lead the group, and I can speak on all behalf of all of us, we always enjoy seeing a new face.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH Rev. Gabrielle Suedfeld

From January to mid-June, the Sunday School Programme was coordinated by Jan Miscich and Lisa Garland. Worship was held in the hall alcove, with music supplied by Sarah Boundy. Pre-school activities were led by Heather Rattai, Tanya Swanson and Rachel Murray. The Primary grades followed the "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum with Dana Timko and Corinna Johnson. Junior Sunday School, (grades 4-5), did Bible study under the direction of Kathy St. Louis and Teresa LaBounty. Lisa Garland and Kellie Warnock led the Senior Sunday class, and Kellie Warnock and Jennifer Purych worked with high school students in the J.A.M. session.

The first part of the year focused on Jesus' call to the disciples and his early

part of the Easter story and everyone came together to share in a dramatic presentation on Palm Sunday.

The church picnic was a time for promotions and teacher recognition, with a highlight being an original production of "Disciple Idol" by the youth. We recognized Jan for her many contributions and faithful service to the programme, as she prepared to hand over the mantle of responsibility to Gabrielle Suedfeld, the new coordinator of Children and Family Ministries.



Summer Sunday School was held each week, with two to four children attending.

A full session was planned, using the Godly Play method. Leaders were Dana Timko, Diane Frew, Gabrielle Suedfeld, Barb Nelson, Linda Hodgins and several of the youth. Our thanks to all of them, and to Margaret Kerr and Norma Caruthers, who also made themselves available. The sessions included a series of classes on King David, and a unit on friendship.

When classes began after Labour day, there was a change in the worship format. Children stayed in the service for the first hymn and then received a blessing from the minister before going to their classes. The story time for children ages 3-8 was presented in the class group as part of the new Godly Play method.

Drena Vanjoff served in the toddler room when needed. Our thanks to her for keeping it well organized.

The classes were led by:

Godly Play	Gabrielle Suedfeld and Dawna Hodgins
Grade 5	Teresa LaBounty
Grades 6/7	Lisa Garland
J.A.M.	Jennifer Purych and Kellie Warnock

The new Children and Family Ministry position provides for coordination of

intergenerational services. In September, we celebrated with a Homecoming Service, welcoming everyone back from summer activities. There was an emphasis on the many ways in which we participate in church life. In October, we held a Thanksgiving service for all ages. During the Christmas season, the Children's Church and the Retreat planning group with help from Maureen Burgess and many excellent cooks, coordinated a lunch to involve everyone in a Mexican tradition of Posadas, to experience the search of Joseph and Mary for shelter in Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve, the early service included angels, shepherds, sheep and Holy Family as part of the festive atmosphere.

Another focus for the children was an increased awareness of social issues. Older children and some of the Godly Play group learned about the new Feeding Ministry programme, and made table decorations to brighten the lunch area. Congregational involvement also included handing out bookmarks with

the lectionary readings for each season, and, in Godly Play, an at-home pack with suggestions for family activities connected to the readings.

There are about 40 children registered for Children's Church and J.A.M. This is a lively group who are growing in faith and enthusiasm under the guidance of so many loving members of our congregation. We continue to find new ways to experience God's love, in story, Bible study, drama, song and craft activities

May our blessings continue as we work together.

LAY SUPERVISION TEAM

Jan Miscich

Members of the lay supervision team were contacted by Scott Swanson in early 2006 to determine our willingness to participate in overseeing and supporting our new student intern. The Lay Supervision Team members are a diverse group of people representing various parts in the congregation - youth, young family, mid age, and senior (Erik Rowell, Rosa Flinton-Brown, Jan Miscich, Jamie Nelson & Isabelle Densem). We have met with Galen 7 times so far, approximately every 2 to 3 weeks. Perhaps one of the best ways to describe our involvement with Galen is to provide an excerpt from the recently completed mid-term evaluation which stated in part . . .

"It is gratifying to feel that we have contributed to our Intern's learning and growth, and we have learned so much from her as well. This would have been a difficult task to accomplish on one's own, but as a group, we can act as a net supporting our intern and each other.

We have met regularly with committed attendance. We generally spend a little more than half the time discussing Galen's goals and her progress, providing feedback on her sermons and worship leadership and discussing the lay supervision team's goals. We have, except on one occasion, been able to leave substantial time for theological reflection.

Statistics of our Church Life in 2006

Weddings - 8

Memorials - 11

Baptisms - 4

Average attendance - 122

Members removed by death - 4

Members removed by request - 2

Joined by transfer - 3

Members as of Dec. 31, 2006 - 231

Families under Pastoral Care - 267



tion, covering such wide ranging subjects as "distance from loved ones", "how does God see us?", "clergy visits" & "Inclusive language". We have also discussed a variety of topics related to the cultural differences between Galen's home presbytery and Langley." It has indeed been a privilege and a pleasure to have worked with Galen over the last 4 months, and we look forward to her final 4 months with us. We are confident that Galen's placement charge will be fortunate to have her working with them.

OUTREACH

Lynn Irvine

We started off this year focusing on the "Water: Life Before Profit" campaign. A gift of God, water is essential to life—of plants, animals, and ourselves. Yet in today's world, access to water and water quality are both at risk. In 2006, thousands of people across Canada educated themselves, the public, and their municipal governments. They called on all levels of government to keep water access public here and around the world, and to safeguard our watersheds here at home. Many people made personal changes to their use of household water or quit buying bottled water.

Use of fair trade products is encouraged at Langley United. Fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate may be ordered through the church by emailing or speaking to Dana (timko@shaw.ca) Fair Trade organizations are actively engaged in supporting producers, raising awareness, and campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of conventional international trade. It contributes to ending hunger by offering better trading conditions to farmers and farm workers — especially in developing countries.

This year we began a Feeding Ministry. In partnership with Sharon United, we have a free hot lunch twice a month on Saturday. We are all welcome to take a

turn at preparing or serving the food. Rod Carter has a sign up sheet. These meals are much appreciated. As well, bags of groceries are available at the office.

We also participated in the "Make Poverty History" month (Sept. 16 to Oct. 17) when some of us wore white wrist bands joining a worldwide effort to do just that. Letters and emails were sent to our Canadian government calling for more and better aid, trade justice, debt cancellation, and an end to child poverty in Canada. Six years ago, 189 world leaders sat down and agreed to end poverty and achieve the Millennium Development goals by 2015. On October 15 and 16th, over 23 million people across the world stood up to remind them of this promise. (23,542,614 to be exact!)



We at Langley United stood up to be counted. This "Stand Up" campaign resulted in a Guinness World Record. Our voices were heard. Canada's better aid bill (Bill C-293) passed a key

hurdle before MPs headed off for the holidays. The next step for the Bill will be third and final reading and vote in the House of Commons, hopefully soon after the House reconvenes at the end of January. The Bill will then be referred to the Senate for final approval.

In December seven Christmas Hampers were assembled and delivered and the "Giving Tree" was adorned with our offerings of hats, scarves, socks, mittens, toiletries, etc. which were given to Nicomekl School, Ishtar House and First United Mission for distribution. Items of clothing and some household goods are collected all year long for First United (see the list of items needed on their website).

Through our weekly offerings we also sent cash donations to; the Nicomekl Breakfast Programme, First United Mission, Langley Food Bank, Crescent United Refugee fund, Langley Shelter Project, Cultus Lake Camp, and Naramata Centre.

In 2006 these are some of the ways we have endeavoured as Christ's disciples to continue his mission and ministry in Langley and the world.

STEWARDSHIP

Stacey Jordan-Knox

The Stewardship Committee remained very active during 2006. Our main focus this year was to conduct an Every Home Visitation. With the use of material supplied by the National Church, and support from Jane Harding from BC Conference and Rev. Scott Swanson, we began planning an ambitious program to begin in the fall of 2006.

Our thanks go out to those members who accepted the task of visiting 5 or more members of our congregation through the fall. They included Bill and Arlene Pike, Norma Carruthers, Gabrielle Suedfeld, Larry Feuer, Stephen Rowell, Eileen Anderson, Maureen Burgess and Judy Chang. Together, we visited or made contact with many members of our congregation.

However, because the number of our visitors was few, and our time limited, we did not make contact with each family. To that end, we have decided to continue to contact those with whom we have not yet met through the spring of 2006. We plan to tell you the story of Langley United Church and to hear your comments.

We were encouraged with the results of our visiting in the fall. We heard many good things about our church, and in turn, delivered "Estimate of Givings" forms to many in the congregation. Those we did not meet with had information mailed to them. We thank those members of the congregation, who returned their forms, and the many who decided, through prayerful consideration, to increase their annual offerings. This way, we can assist the finance committee in their preparation of the annual budget and plan for more successful programs in our Church.

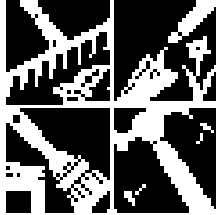
The Stewardship Committee and I are grateful to be able to serve our church community in this way.

Blessings,

Larry Feuer
Stephen Rowell
Judy Chang
Stacey Jordan-Knox, Chairperson.

PROPERTY Bruce Timko

Four years ago I took over as chair of the Property Committee and now it is time to say goodbye and thank you for all of the help over that time. I have had to call on almost half the congregation to help out on different projects, so thanks to all of those who helped. Some specific thanks go to Bill Pike, Maureen Burgess, Dinty Moore, Sadley Shindruk, Les and Bev Clay, Jamie Nelson and of course, Kathleen.



Some of the projects that we accomplished this year were a new roof over the choir loft, pruning the trees, cleaning the downspout drains, getting the elevator reinstated, grinding down the stumps at the house, stripping off the top soil at the house, putting down topsoil, renovating Greg's new office (most of which was done by the choir).

One major project still in the works is the new sign. I had planned on building and installing it in August or September, then found out that we needed a city permit. Because it is classified as a free standing sign, it has to be engineered. I asked Rod Carter to engineer it for us. We started by digging a 2 1/2 foot hole in the flower bed so we could do a soil structure inspection. Rod ran the numbers and informed me that the way I had planned to build it wouldn't be strong enough and considering the storms we had this year, I believed him! So we redesigned it for stronger wind which

doubled the cost and gave the engineered specs to Jamie Nelson to draw so we could pass it on to the city. At the same time, I had discussions with Scott about what it needed to say and what fonts to use. Then I started dealing with the sign writer to get a quote which was easy enough to do except that we want to put the United Church of Canada emblem on it and the jpeg file I emailed to him was the wrong format. So Kathleen sent some files she had of the emblem but they were too small. Then she emailed the head office of the United Church of Canada to see what they had and that's when we found out that the emblem is copyrighted and we needed to get permission to use it! which they gave us. However, even their file was too small for the sign writer and he will have to draw up the logo one dot at a time. So far, between the eight people involved in this sign we have probably spent about 50 hours on it and we still haven't even started to build anything! So, in the coming year, although I won't be the chair of property anymore, I will still continue to make the sign a reality.

For this coming year, we have budgeted to strip, seal and wax the floor, purchase and install new blinds for the green room, the new sound system and the sign. As well, we have set aside money to do some more work on the drains and for snow removal.

Once again, thank you to everyone who helped me over the year and although I will no longer be the chair I still intend on staying on the property committee. Good luck to all of the people who step forward this year to help do the work of our church.

FINANCE Peter North

Budget-2006

For their 2006 budgets the various committees and groups sought a total of \$267,078 in their submissions: the Finance Committee recommended this be cut by \$26,420 resulting in the approval of \$240,658 against forecast revenue of \$214,810. The resulting Budget-2006's deficit was (\$25,848).

REGULAR USER GROUPS AT LANGLEY UNITED

Monday	U4iA Dance Group
Tuesday	TOPS
Wednesday	TOPS (morning), AA Group, Saebyuk Korean Presbyterian Church, TOPS (evening), Rhododendron Society (3rd of the month)
Thursday	TOPS Barony of Lion's Gate Medieval Dance (1st and 3rd of month) Southgate Baptist / South Langley Mennonite Feeding Ministry (parking lot)
Sunday	Saebyuk Korean Church

Other groups that use our building throughout the year include: All Canadian Driving School, Canwest Directories, Fraser Presbytery Youth and Young Adults, Alison Nystrom Voice Studio, Pat Leroux Piano Studio, Foundation for International Understanding (Japanese student programme), Intrax (Japanese student programme), Weekend to End Breast Cancer seminar, Nishi Nihon Homestay,

Unlike the previous year, 2006 did not bring any unforeseen, major property expenses. As a result we hoped to concentrate on absorbing some of the deficit with additional fundraisers and by meeting any remaining needs by resorting to the overdraft, which was available to a maximum of \$35,000.

An overdraft is always needed to meet cash needs during the summer months and to help average out monthly our income in anticipation of the traditional times of increased giving i.e. Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. It is not until close to year's-end that the Treasurer knows how much of the overdraft will be carried forward to the following year.

There is some discomfort in relying on additional fund raisers and an overdraft, however small, to meet our normal operating expenses but by November, 2006, the overdraft's \$35,000 had been fully expended. Then as of 31 December 2006 your Christmas Season's extra offerings allowed us to meet most of our year-end obligations. Even so a fair question now might be, "If there is a reduced amount of overdraft available to start 2007, how can we cope with the deficit for Budget-2007?" For unexpected major expenses we will have to rely on making a special request to the congregation for additional offerings to meet a specified need. Even so, it will be necessary to consider raising the ceiling on the approved overdraft to fully cover future deficit positions.

In the best of circumstances, normal operating expenses should match our normal revenues – we should not have to rely on more than the sum of your weekly offering and the monthly rental income from: the house, \$1,000; the Korean Church Group, \$650; and, from fourteen other groups that use our facilities either monthly (8) or occasionally (6).

Budget-2007

For the coming year, until early-

summer the intent is to pay down our overdraft position sufficiently to have it act as a cushion for the summer months, when those of you who are not on PAR are absent during part of the school holidays, thus reducing our weekly offering totals. It will be the last three months of 2007 that will be most challenging and will once again see the overdraft fully expended. (We know this from last year when, by October, 2006, we had to delay writing cheques until the weekly offerings had been deposited.) So, in late 2007 we must be prepared to somehow increase our income or curtail our expenses for those fall months.

We know the total offerings promised for 2007 and we have a reasonable idea of what other incomes to expect; indeed, our forecast total income for 2007 is \$224,256. As for forecast expenses, they have been trimmed by the various committee chairpersons though still leaving a Budget 2007 with Total Expenses of \$251,189 - a Deficit of (\$26,933). These figures represent the best attainable situation. Finance does not yet recommend the cutting of whole activities because the few that would assist in significantly in reducing total expenses could prove counterproductive, in that they are part of our income sources.

“...our church is still growing in it's work.”

Needless to say, your Finance Committee is open to suggestions, either directly or through the various chairpersons. You can sense that our church is still growing in its work: supporting a trainee minister; establishing the Feeding Ministry in June, 2006; our enhanced music program; and, developing a wonderful new program for our children, which started in September, 2006 but was being developed in the preceding three or four months.

Just how many years we can stay running with annual deficits and relying on

large overdrafts is a key concern but we should remind ourselves that our current worth includes: a house that is increasing in value, albeit still subject to a mortgage of \$51,696, this being locked-in for 43 more months at 5.75%; we have the church building and its land that are mortgage-free; we have a steady size of congregation (198 families in 2005 and 193 families in 2006) that despite the small reduction resulted in our congregation giving \$15,827 more in 2006, for a total offering of \$167,305. All these factors indicate that while our financial resources are strained, we are able to continue over the next few years to carry the yearly deficits provided that the congregation adjusts its weekly offering year-by-year, in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and keeping a zero mortgage debt in sight.

We are not out of options. It is just that it would be a welcome situation to be able to report to you on a balanced budget, since that would allow LUC to set funds aside for major property repairs that we all know will come, as well as to have the financial resources to increase the scope of activities that illustrate God's work through us.

In closing, permit me to express my thanks to all of my committee members for their willingness to be part of a team that has worked well and in harmony: Barb Nelson, Treasurer; Bruce Timko, Property Manager; Bill Pike, Envelope Secretary; Stacey Jordan-Knox, Stewardship; Linda Boyd and Rod Carter, Members-at-Large; and to Eilleen Anderson, Count Team Co-ordinator.

Respectfully yours in faith and the love of God,

Peter J. North, Chairperson Finance

MINISTRY &
PERSONNEL
Jennifer Purych &
Betty Hewitt

Our Ministry and Personnel Committee met over the past year with the five

cerns they may have had regarding working conditions, salaries, vacation and time off, and plans for their various ministries. We made recommendations to the Board as a result of our meetings. We also met with congregation members and communicated their concerns back to staff and/or the Board, as part of what the M&P is mandated to do is to act as a liaison between you (the congregation) and our paid staff members. In order to improve communication this year, we instituted an email address, (feedback.luc@gmail.com) as a method of receiving feedback, and we thank those who have made use of this system. Other methods of communication are also always welcome: letters, phone calls and in-person conversation. Confidentiality will be maintained! The M&P committee welcomes all feedback, suggestions as well as celebrations of success, and continues to encourage everyone in our church family to practice constructive communication in the spirit of Christ.

Peace and Love to all for 2007.

TRUSTEES

Jim Jordan-Knox

Your trustees are Jim Jordan-Knox, Chair, Harvey Dusome, Secretary, Queenie Carson and Matt Offer. Since Jim Boyd's resignation after many years of faithful service, we have been looking for a new trustee. We are pleased to announce that Diane Frew has agreed to let her name stand for nomination as a trustee. Your Board of Trustees wholeheartedly recommends that Diane be elected at the Annual Congregational General Meeting on February 4/07.

Some of you will have noticed that our sanctuary is now locked when not in use. The decision to do this was taken by the Unified Board upon recommendation of the Trustees, due to concern over our vulnerability to vandalism of the valuable assets in this part of the church. Committees or individuals that require access to the sanctuary have keys or have access through the church office.

Emergency Plan for our church. This will include location of fire extinguishers, an evacuation plan with posted charts (like those found in hotels etc.), and a plan for medical emergencies of all types.

HISTORIAN

Arlene Pike

Great News!

On our anniversary Sunday this year, our friend and former historian Hazel Harrower delivered ten history books to us. We thank her for her hard work and generous donation of the albums and all the other materials she used to make them interesting and attractive. We are looking for a lockable cabinet to keep all the history books in. I will be putting a couple of the older albums out each week at coffee hour so do have a look.

It's fun to look back at our history here at Langley United!



The 2006 book is just about complete. I am still looking for pictures from Under the Mistletoe. We had a very busy year with many inspiring activities (like the retreat last spring) and fun events (like the UCW Fall Dinner). I hope you enjoy looking through this album.

May 2007 be a happy year for all of us and may we help accomplish God's work as individuals and as a community of faith.

LIBRARY

Tricia Carson

Erna Friesen and I added 35 new and donated books and videos in 2006. After many years of helping in the library and being co-chairperson, Erna has had to step down from this job. I miss her very much on the Library Committee and thank her for all her hard work. Many people, adults and children, have also told me how much they miss seeing her in the library. Emily Rowell has offered to help work in the library. I look forward to work-

By the time you get your Annual Report, either the Library will have moved again, across the alcove and into the Green Room next to the stage, or is going to move there as the Fraser Resource Centre is moving into the former library. We welcome the Fraser Resource Centre to Langley United. So watch for big changes soon.

PRESBYTERY

Linda Boyd

All United Church pastoral charges in Canada are divided into local areas called Presbyteries. Our pastoral charge is part of Fraser Presbytery that extends from Whiterock/Crescent Beach to Hope and includes Mission and Whonnock/Webster's Corner.

On the 4th Tuesday of each month (excepting July, August and December) the clergy and lay representatives meet at a different church to discuss "church matters", have fellowship and worship together.

Presbytery is responsible for oversight of congregations and clergy. It acts as a supervisor ensuring that all the procedures found in the United Church Manual are followed. It promotes the work of the whole church and provides education. It also oversees the administration of property. Presbytery provides information about M & S work and Global Concerns. As representatives to Presbytery, we bring back information regarding these matters and as well we sit as members on a team committee to help make decisions.

A snapshot of the work done in 2006:

The Fraser Presbytery Needs Assessment Report indicated that there is a definite need for a Youth and Young Adult (YAYA) Staff Person and a committee was struck to define the terms of reference for the position and to work on hiring an individual. To date there has been no successful applicant.

There was much discussion surrounding The Report on The Future of Camping Ministry in B. C. Conference completed

UCW FINANCIAL

ser Presbytery Court was to retain Camp Kwomais property. In November/06, B. C. Conference issued a memo indicating that Camp Kwomais would be sold. Funds from the sale of camping properties will, in part, be used to upgrade Camp Fircom, Camp Pringle and Camp Grafton. Funds will also be made available for a large endowment to generate income for staff leadership, camp boards and board training. The measures have been taken to improve the quality of camping and to maintain a high standard of quality.

It was reported that First United Vancouver is struggling with a \$100,000.00 deficit.

First United – White Rock was approved a student intern site.

The Fraser Resource Center is looking for a new home and is working on ways to generate more income for their ministry.

Mission Support Grant Applications were approved for Jubilee United, Oak Avenue United and Amazing Grace Japanese pastoral charges for the year 2007.

Jane Harding was hired as the Stewardship Education Contract Person for Fraser Presbytery. This is a 3 – 4 month contract. She will be conducting workshops on Asset Mapping in various congregations.

Linda Boyd
Lay Representative
To Presbytery

UCW
Judy Doyharcabal

Our group had a very profitable year both spiritually and financially. At the beginning of each month, except in July and August, and usually on the first Monday in the afternoon, we met for business followed by a program, refreshments and a social time. Both in the

spring and the fall, various of our ladies attended the Presbyterial meetings for UCW groups located between Delta and Hope.

Thanks to your support of our fundraisers (Beef Dinner in February, Strawberry Tea in June, Fall Ham Dinner in October, and Holly Tea in December, along with the sale of Mark-Crest Pastries and Church Calendars), we were able to assist our own church by donating \$2,500 to the General Operating Fund, \$2,500 towards a new Sound System, \$250 to the Church School program and \$200 for the Christmas Hampers. We also purchased new chairs and tables for general use at a cost of approximately \$1,100. In addition, we donated \$800 to the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church of Canada, provided entertainment and refreshments at both Langley Lodge and Highland Lodge on a monthly basis and remembered some shut-in's associated with our congregation at Christmas time. Along with this we supported our favourite charities financially. As required, our ladies hosted Memorial Teas in the church hall.

We invite all women of our congregation to join us for our meetings and activities and to enjoy the fellowship of other ladies as we work towards furthering the mission of Langley United Church.

The 2007 Executive is as follows:

President - Judy Doyharcabal
Vice President: - Vacant
Secretary - Edna Giesbrecht
Treasurer - Linda Boyd



Bank Balance as of Dec 31.05	\$7,477.23
Income:	
Bank Interest	7.93
Mission Money	319.42
Membership	60.00
Beef Dinner	1538.00
Birthday Money	23.91
Funeral Teas	2350.00
Recycling	18.55
Fall (Ham) Dinner	1628.00
Strawberry Tea	679.45
Holly Tea	1960.20
Holly Tea Float Recovered	505.00
Calendars	132.00
Mark Crest	2483.00
Donation	110.00
	\$11,815.46
Expenses:	
Langley United-General Fund	2500.00
United Church -M & S Fund	800.00
Langley United - Sound System	2500.00
Outreach - Lodges	1050.00
Access	400.00
Project Fund	150.00
Beef Dinner	374.36
Strawberry Tea	0.00
Fall (Ham) Dinner	255.45
Mark Crest	2027.91
Presbyterial	200.00
Langley United - Xmas Hampers	200.00
First United Church Vancouver	150.00
Vanc. School Theology	200.00
Memorial Tea	350.19
Calendars	116.02
Holly Tea Float	505.00
Holly Tea	42.67
Ishtar House	200.00
LifeMember Pin-Judy Doyharcabal	55.00
Tables for Lower Hall	790.82
Kitchen Items	47.95
Sunday School	250.00
Birthday Cake	29.99
LHM Foundation - In Memoriam	25.00
Crescent United - Donation	25.00
Miscellaneous	23.02
	13268.38
Bank Balance Dec. 31.06	\$6,066.31
General Fund	1945.04
Outreach Fund	2726.93
Memorial Fund	1394.34
Total	\$6,066.31

