

Report of the Deacons, for 2008

2008 brought with it a multitude of opportunities and challenges. This body endeavored to embrace its call *to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith... leading the people in worship through prayers of intercession, reading the Scriptures, presenting the gifts of the people and assisting with the Lord's Supper.*

From housekeeping tasks such as the dry cleaning of the curtains in the sanctuary to the effort put forth to frame and hang the pictures now decorating the ramp, the To Do list was always varied but there was always someone there to help. Celebrating birthdays and celebrating life. We coordinated 100 prayers for Elmo Godby's 100th birthday celebration at the Pioneer Home in Sitka. Not long after, both she and her husband Bill passed. In losing Connie Conard and Margaret Burnham, our entire congregation came together, in a deacon-like effort, to celebrate their lives and surround their families with comfort as well as food.

A concerted effort came forth from to help with Connie's estate, and several garage sales later, the house was ready for sale and the church and scholarship funds healthier for the family's generosity. Cookbook sales remain our core fundraiser and for that we are grateful. The monies raised are used to aid struggling families by providing relief from the cost of unexpected travel in the face of medical or family emergencies. We distributed over \$2,000 in this effort in 2008. We have contemplated updating the cookbooks, but that remains up for discussion in 2009. We were also bequeathed the account Connie had set up with Wanda Warner and others, to aid seniors in Distress. This \$3,000 shall be earmarked for just that purpose.

We reexamined our committee assignments and titles, exploring different ways of serving the unserved. Our ongoing duties, such as communion, coordination of fellowship hour and potlucks, keeping the kitchen stocked, serving during Sunday services, and joining Pastor Ryan with home visitation and the Lord's Supper remain cornerstone to the tasks we execute, in order to allow the session and pastor to focus more on the overall church needs.

The prayer chain was updated, but used seemingly less. This may be because we are meeting together one on one more often, and praying together then. It may be in part because prayers are being sent to the Women's Prayer Group that meets at Dirce's every Thursday. Regardless, it is always available. Just call one name on the list and the chain of calling begins.

With servants' hearts, we are steadfast in our desire to serve this church and are open to suggestions and beckon those in distress to come forward.