

SESSION REPORT TO CONGREGATION

Looking back upon the past year at Skagway First Presbyterian Church, this congregation does so much, for so many, with so little. Though we lost two of our precious friends, Connie and Margaret, we continue to walk our faith. With less than forty members, these open doors continue to welcome new groups, seasonal employees, and visitors as well as to those of us who call Skagway home. This is so important with doors closing on the Assembly of God and Baptist churches this past year. Thanks be to God for each of you!

Pastor Ryan has settled in nicely amongst the community. Stories tell us that he is comfortable in this setting and most people can approach him with ease. With the cyclical nature of attendance through the year, it is difficult to determine how many people we are reaching. Providing daycare with Sunday services, a bible study regularly, home visitation, movie nights, office hours and a general availability within the community attest to the depth of Ryan's faith. He is a shining light helping people to see God's path and will.

Spirituality, increasing our outreach and support of God's children are priorities to us. As we begin this new year optimism and opportunity are once again at our doorstep. Spring is just around the corner and with it the blossoming of fellowship and new friends. May we all reach out in love and support to each new and old face that we encounter.

This past year brought an experiment within our Presbytery on conducting business. We had the spring meeting one Saturday communicating over the telephone. While attendance and logistics made the meeting good, challenges in communication and lack of physical gathering created an unusual atmosphere. The fall meetings in Sitka were attended by Pastor Ryan, Elder Jackson and Sheryl Dennis.

The financial status of our church is included within this report and we continue to be self supporting. If you look through the budget and actual income for the past couple of years, we have been responsible. The session was hoping to be able to reduce costs this year and would also like to spend more on mission and outreach. With that being said, we don't have much "wiggle" room and that is why the budget is as presented. We shall see what the Lord has in store for us.

The parsonage has been rented to White Pass for a year. The sanctuary and our other properties, are solid and yet we have many improvements we would like to see. We will continue to work with the Rasmuson Foundation and others to accomplish some of these projects. Our fellowship hall continues to provide a place for seniors, day care, Boy Scouts, school needs, meeting space, dinners and movies. The manse was painted this past summer and Pastor Ryan continues to improve the interior.

Thank you to all for all that you do. Sunday school, newsletter, special music, home visitation, pulpit supply, devotion, decorations, prayer meetings, holidays, fellowship, maintenance, keeping the doors open and warm! May God bless you all through out this New Year!

John Tronrud/Session clerk