

## **Klukwan, Klukwan Assembly of God**

Mission outstation in 1923

Officially open on March 13, 1981 by Gary Davidson

Pastors in 2018: Jami and Jason Campbell



Klukwan is on the banks of the Chilkat River about twenty-two miles north of Haines. The earliest inhabitants were the Chilkats who subsisted on food found in the area and traded with neighboring interior Indians (Chilkat Indian Village). Klukwan was also known as “Chilcat of Klukquan” which means “the old town” and was one of five Chilkat villages (Explore North). The people and area were “profoundly affected” by the “outsiders brought in

by the Alaska Gold Rush in the late 1800s” (Chilkat Indian Village). Today, “Klukwan enjoys a multi-layered cultural history that is preserved through the Tlingit language, rituals, stories, oral histories, and subsistence activities practiced by the Chilkat Tlingits, a federally recognized tribe known as the Chilkat Indian Village (CIV)” (Chilkat Indian Village). Klukwan had ninety-five residents recorded in the 2010 census (City Data).

### **Early Assembly of God ministry in Klukwan**

Supt. B. P. Wilson provides a wealth of information on the early ministry of the Assemblies of God in Klukwan.

“...the first time the Assemblies of God was involved (in Klukwan) was when the people of Klukwan requested the Personesuses to minister to them. They responded in 1923 and spent two winters there. Many Assemblies of God ministers have ministered at Klukwan, but it has usually been an outstation of Haines.

At one time the C. V. Malcoms ministered there, but the records do not show in what way or when. Leonard and Genevieve Olson ministered

there in connection with the work at Haines for several years, until 1960. Ruth Anderson, Wesley Hansen, and the Charles O. Hirschys ministered in Klukwan out of Haines. Roy L. Randall took the Haines pastorate in 1965 and took a special interest in Klukwan in not only ministering to them but attempting to get proper missionaries to devote themselves to Klukwan.

Robert and Alavene Lantz became the pastors in Haines in 1976, also accepting the Klukwan mission until 1978 when Weldyn and Barbara Houser took the responsibility of the work in Klukwan” (Wilson, 136-137).

### **Gary and Bonnie Davidson – January 1980 – 1985**

In a letter to his supporters, Pastor Davidson noted that five people had already accepted the Lord within their first month. In May 1980, the Assemblies of God formally began leasing the Presbyterian Church even though they had been using the building since Pastor Davidson had arrived. According to documents, the Klukwan Assembly of God was officially opened on March 13, 1981, by Gary Davidson.

In 1983 Pastor Davidson reported the average Sunday school attendance was twenty-four people and the average Sunday morning worship attendance was twenty-six people.

### **Donald and Doris Peck – June 1985 – 1996**

On the 1985 Annual Church Ministries Report (ACMR), there were thirty-five in regular attendance on Sunday morning, ten conversions, and thirteen people baptized in water. In 1986, Pastor Peck remodeled the sanctuary and noted, “We are seeing remarkable growth in some of our Christians.” Also, that year, the church family began an outreach to Mosquito Lake once a month. Sister Peck was a great help in leading Bible studies, providing ministry to the women, and maintaining the financial records.

In October 1989, Pastor Peck reported that they had just completed their first mission convention and that the Klukwan Assembly was able to “departmentalize the Sunday school.” The church family was so thrilled to have opening exercises for the smaller children, two teen classes, and an adult Sunday school class.

During the Peck’s tenure, there were approximately thirty people in regular attendance.

The church family enjoyed Sunday school, Bible studies, women's ministries, children's ministries, Royal Rangers, Missionettes, and youth services. The members of the congregation were also active in providing resources for missions outreach endeavors.

In 1996, the Peck's expressed a desire to retire.

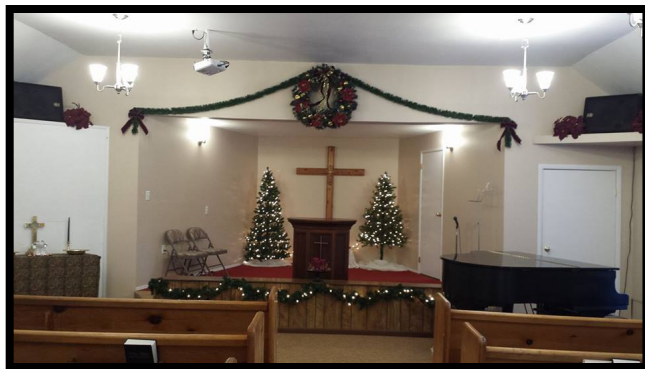
### **Odis and Debra Ganey – 1996 – 2000**

The Ganey family arrived in Klukwan on August 14, 1996. Some of their first projects included painting the interior of the building and making miscellaneous improvements. In August 1997, Klukwan enjoyed a children's ministries team from Muldoon Community Assembly. The children's crusade packed out the church and was well-received by everyone. Attendance during the Ganey tenure was about thirty people.

### **Dasie Daugherty – 2000 - 2004**

Dasie was elected the new pastor of Klukwan Assembly in October 2000. In the 2001 ACMR, Joanne Spud is listed as the church treasurer, and twenty-two people were attending the main worship services.

Pastor Dasie noted on a report in 2003, "Our people have been stepping forward and preaching and teaching on Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings." She also mentioned that they were looking into getting new carpet for the parsonage. The roof was repaired in 2004 with the help of Odis Ganey.



Thinking back over her ministry, Pastor Dasie wrote, "Sometimes it feels like nothing happened out here because I get looking at the numbers, but then I think about the people that called me for prayer and just to check up on me (because they have not heard from me) and I know some progress

has been made. She concluded about the importance of a church in Klukwan, “to have a church here does make a difference in this village.”

### **Jones and Lani Hotch – April 2004 – 2015**

Jones Hotch (a local man) was left in charge while the congregation waited for a new pastor. In 2005 Lattis Campbell went to Klukwan to help in the leadership development and training of Jones. Joanne Elsie Spud continued to serve as church treasurer during this season.

In 2010 Joanne Elsie Spud, Patricia Warren, and Genevieve Stevens were listed as Klukwan Assembly Board Members. Ministry occurring during 2010 included Sunday school (three classes), Sunday morning service, Sunday evening service, Wednesday evening Bible study, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Day service, Easter Service and Brunch, birthday ministry, youth ministry, New Years Eve service, and Sunday evening home ministry when requested. The church was renovated in 2012.



In a September 23, 2014 meeting, Pastor Jones Hotch reported,

“Attendance is running between 8-18 people. Sister Peck is still attending church. She lives in the parsonage and maintains an apartment in Haines. Jones does the preaching, and his wife leads worship....”

### **Odis and Debra Ganey – October 11, 2015 – 2017**

Four ministry teams came to Klukwan in 2015 to help with the building upkeep and repairs. The improvements helped to generate excitement among the people.



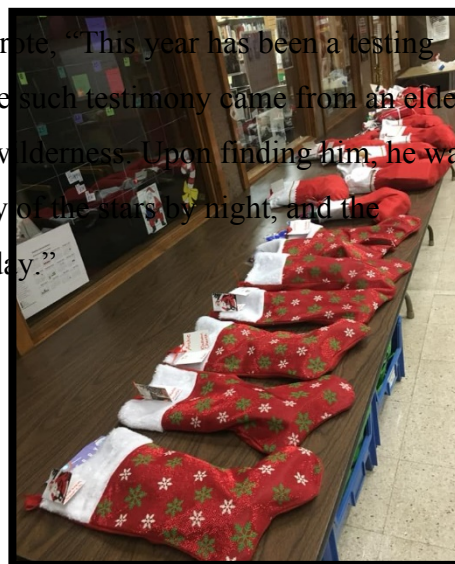


## **Jami and Jason Campbell – 2017 to present**

In a report to the Alaska Ministry Network, it was noted, “The end of 2018 marks Jami and Jason Campbell’s first full year at Klukwan Assembly. They moved to Klukwan in September of 2017.”

Speaking of the ministry in Klukwan, Pastor Jami wrote, “This year has been a testing year but has yielded many beautiful testimonies. One such testimony came from an elder of 80+ years, after getting lost for three days in the wilderness. Upon finding him, he was singing of the joy of the Lord’s provision; the beauty of the stars by night, and the abundance of berries, which kept him hydrated, by day.”

Noting the importance of reaching out into the community, Pastor Campbell shared, “The greater Klukwan community has experienced a number of



deaths in a short period of time. However, our hope in Jesus has been a light in our community. Church members testify to the community about laying their yoke of grief on the altar for God to carry, and the hope of turning their life over to God.”

Pastor Jami also noted that the Klukwan church gained a couple of new members (which is a big deal for a small congregation). One new member is now playing the drums regularly for worship. Excited about the growing hunger for godliness, Pastor Campbell stated, “We are so proud of another church member who just graduated from a six-month Christian twelve step program. The struggle with alcohol is a common struggle in our community. However, seeing God move in her life has encouraged our congregation. A few members have been exploring the codependent side of addiction, in hopes of seeking God’s guidance with how to love family and community rather than enabling them.”



Thinking about the future, Pastor Campbell declared, “With all the struggle and hardship 2018 has brought, it has also brought a deeper reliance on God and His providence. We are encouraged as we move into 2019.”

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