

“**H**AIL to another year,
The year that now begins !
All hail to Him who lead us here
Through dangers and through sins.”

“Hail to another year!
A year of peace and love
Oh, may it prove a foretaste here
Of endless years above.”

We wish all our readers a “Happy New Year;” and in doing so the thought arises—what a short time it seems since we last expressed the same wish. It seems but as yesterday that we were speaking of the old year now gone as the new one, and were looking forward to its possibilities and probabilities as among the hidden things of the future. And now they are among the things of the past and have become a part of our life’s history. Let us hope that with our readers it is a history of which they are not ashamed. Doubtless we all have to say concerning the part we have taken in it, that “we have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.” But it is now too late to remedy one defect, or correct a single error. All we can do is to ask forgiveness for the past, and profiting by the experience of previous years, seek for grace to enable us to do better during the present one.

We are thankful to say that the year just gone has been one of general peace and harmony with us as a church. Good will has prevailed throughout the congregation, and we enter upon the present year, as upon all previous ones since the writer has had the spiritual charge, in a state of harmony. But we fear the past year has not been one of much progress. Our attendance has not visibly increased. Our communicants have not multiplied to any extent. Our Sunday School has done little more than hold its own. And what shall we say of the spiritual life of the individual members? We must leave this with themselves, hoping that they have grown in grace. With respect to the other matters, which we would have liked to record progress, we are thankful that there has been no retrogression.

May God grant us an abundant blessing during the year just begun. May it be a year of increasing holiness with us all.