

2018: A YEAR IN REVIEW

It has been an exciting and challenging year, but we have made remarkable progress in becoming a combined, stronger congregation! Amalgamation done well takes a lot of hard work, and we continue to move forward, endeavouring to remain sustainable for many years to come.

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED:

- As of January 1st, **Highland Hills United Church** (HHUC) has worshipped jointly at each of the two church buildings, while we carefully evaluated the buildings and locations for several months.
- Every effort was made to keep everyone fully informed on a regular basis including: congregational letters and emails, announcements, information and discussion sessions, and the church website. (**highlandhillspc.ca**).
- Our worship services have seen increased participation from lay readers for Scripture and Minute for Mission.
- We are blessed with a dynamic music program that includes the choir, the Joyful Noisemakers, and the Joyful Ringers. Their ministry of music is enjoyed by all.
- The organ in Minden has recently been refurbished.
- The choir held a very successful FUNdraiser for new anthem music.
- Several new choir members have made the commitment to join the choir.
- The Kawartha Highlands Presbytery provided funds to purchase another 25 copies of **More Voices** hymn books to enhance our worship music.
- HHUC welcomed 17 new members!
- The building selection vote determined our permanent location to be in Minden.
- There has been a concerted effort to work together, as we managed the changes in progress. Collaboration between the Unified Board, UCW, and all committees was essential to the success of this venture.
- Pastoral Care hosted a “**Coping With Change**” session.
- **Holy Manners** was approved by the Unified Board. It is important that we hold each other to account for following them, so that this is a safe place for all.
- The name on the sign in Minden has been updated to read Highland Hills United Church.
- Critical upgrades have been completed: the cost to remove the bat guano (**\$ 39,734.00**) and to re-insulate the attic (**\$ 7,297.54**) was covered by the insurance company!
- The HHUC congregation has continued to generously support the ongoing work of its church. Our weekly givings have been matching the 2017 givings of the former Minden and Zion congregations. Our Mission and Service givings have exceeded those of 2017 by 19%!
- Painting (**\$ 490.00**) and new flooring (**\$ 2973.47**) in the lower hall is in progress. The former Minden UCW has generously contributed **\$ 7609.29** to the cost of this renovation.

- A strategic property plan will occur for future repairs and upgrades at HHUC in Minden. New choir loft lighting, insulation of the back wall, storage for Christian Education and Knitting for Warmth supplies, improved outside lighting, and a lift for accessibility have all been identified as priorities.
- As of December 2nd, **\$ 3955.00** has been donated to the **Rev. Kim Chair Fund**.
- Don Pflug has graciously offered to assist with the sale of HHUC pews from the Minden building.
- Ongoing visioning continues to identify ways we can support and strengthen our community outreach. There are plans to develop HHUC Mission and Vision statements.
- With its mandate fulfilled, the Integration Committee was disbanded at the November 28th Unified Board meeting.
- The HHUC Trustees are mindfully exploring options for the disposition of the Zion United Church building, property and heritage assets. All recommendations must be approved by the Unified Board, and the congregation will be informed of decisions made.
- Plans for the Zion United Church celebration service to be held on **Sunday, April 28, 2019** are underway.

We move forward into 2019 with continued faith, joy, and hope for HHUC.