

Highland Hills Pastoral Charge
WORSHIP – C.E. REPORT 2019

The Worship-Christian Education Committee members have worked closely with the minister, Rev. Max Ward, to provide meaningful worship on our Pastoral Charge and to plan and coordinate special services and educational events.

With additional Pulpit Supply required for the minister's sabbatical time, we appreciated the worship leadership of LLWL Debbie Sherwin, Rev. John Patterson and Rev. Doug Norris. In the fall, Doug Norris became a Volunteer Associate Minister with Highland Hills PC, along with Rev. Peter Walford-Davis.

There were a number of memorable services in 2019. In a Good Friday drama, music director, Melissa Stephens, the choir, a few actors and soloists, brought the Easter week story to life. The Sunday following Easter was a joint service, "Celebrating Zion - Looking Back and Giving Thanks". The final service at Zion was carefully planned and well attended with great music and memories shared, followed by lunch and social time afterward. Later in August, Highland Hills UC hosted an ecumenical community Pride Service which was well attended. Nearly 100 people attended the charge Christmas Eve Service. We tried a couple of new things, namely a 4pm service time and the use of battery-operated candles for safety's sake.

Joining of Zion and Minden congregations led to duplication of worship related resources. We are currently using some items from each location and others have been donated to Maple Lake UC, Algonquin Highlands Museum and Minden Hills Museum's "Wee Kirk".

Highland Hills UC's sanctuary has a new appearance with the pews removed and replaced with comfortable chairs. Thanks to Don Pflug for arranging the sale and removal of the oak pews.

We are grateful to Eric Casper who is trying to move us into the future with a social media presence on Facebook.

Concerning Christian Education, we appreciate the dedication of Barbara Braker who prepares stories and activities for any children attending the services. A Lenten study, based on the UCC booklet "Everyday Skeptics - Devotions for Spiritual Growth" provided material for individual reading and a group discussion led by Rev. Norm Thomas with assistance from Debbie Sherwin. During the summer children had the opportunity to attend the VIBE program for a week centred on the theme "We love our Earth... God loves all creation... Do you?" In September, a day long workshop was offered, "Transforming your Community: How Churches can Engage Their Neighbourhoods", facilitated by Christian Harvey. All area churches were invited but only two people from Haliburton UC attended for a total attendance of 24 at the event.

Many thanks to our minister, Max Ward, for providing relevant messages, support and encouragement. We appreciate the dedication of our musical directors, musicians and choir members, who add so much to our worship services. We are grateful too for those who decorate and care for our churches, inside and out. Finally, thank you to the committee members for their contributions and support.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Heffer