



Bala United Church

3115 Muskoka Road 169, PO Box 313, Bala, ON P0C 1A0 • Tel: 705 762-0116

email: bpcunited@muskoka.com • Web: www.bpcunitedchurch.com

Volume Two: Issue 28

Newsletter April, 2009

Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat:

Easter is a time of new life, a time of resurrection. The date falls in the spring in the northern hemisphere. All around are signs of birth, regeneration and growth. The sun warms the land and fills the days with light. All is new and vibrant. The once brown grass gives way to little green buds. This process of the earth's greening after a long winter reminds me of our spiritual "eastering," the inner transformation and rebirthing that come after we've had a long winter spell of the spirit. The dormant, brown grass is there for eons in our hearts, or so it seems. No amount of hurry, or push, or desire can make the green arrive any sooner. There are those who are in the throes of spiritual winter: sad news of a loved one, coping with the news that your boss is letting you go, finding a lump and crying out "oh no." Each one needs an "eastering," a bright greening and each one needs it soon.

It may be a painstakingly slow process, a tiny bit of life gradually weaving through the pain and questions. Eastering isn't always a quick step out of the tomb. Sometimes rising from the dead takes a long, slowly-greening time. It can't be hurried.

It is my hope this Easter season that you will trust the resurrection of your spirit, believe that joy and new life will come for you, even though it may not be there for you now. If you are one of the fortunate ones whose soul sings with happy alleluias this Easter, may you turn often to those who are still awaiting their greening and walk with them.

Every year it happens:
earth shakes her sleepy head,
still a bit wintered and dull,
and feels new life stirring.

Every year cocoons give up their treasures,
fresh shoots push through brown leaves,

seemingly dead branches shine with green,

and singing birds find their way home.

Every year we hear the stories
empty tomb, surprised grievers,
runners with news and revelation,
unexpected encounters,
conversations on the road,

tales of nets filling with fish,
and breakfast on a seashore

And every year
the dull and dead in us
meet our Easter challenge:

to be open to the unexpected,
to believe beyond our security,
to welcome God in every form,
and trust in our own greening.

Joyce Rupp

Blessings during this season of greening!
Rev. Sue



Holy Week and Easter Services

April 5 - 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday and Baptism

April 10 - 10:00 a.m.

Good Friday Service at BUC

April 12 - 7:00 a.m.

**Sunrise Service at Legris Park/Divers'
Point behind Purk's Place
with breakfast to follow at BUC**

April 12 - 11:00 a.m.

Easter Service at BUC

Coming attractions . . .

Knitting Group

Every Monday 10 am – 12 noon
Everyone is welcome to join us!
Call Helen for location: 762-2625

≈

Bala Church Council Meeting

April 2
9:30 am in the C.E. Wing

≈

Spring Cleaning inside Bala United Church

Thursday, **April 9**, 9:30 am
Everyone is welcome!

≈

“Mornings with Sue” – April 16

C.E. Wing at Bala United Church, 10 am.
Everyone is welcome!

A NEW CHURCH SIGN

We excitedly await the arrival of our new church sign and we are happy to note that we have already received about one-half of the cost of the sign. Additional contributions are welcomed.



If you would like to contribute, please send a cheque payable to Bala United Church and marked “church sign.”

Donors’ names will be inscribed on a plaque and tax receipts will be issued.

Thank you
Bill Niess, Property Chair



C.E. Wing Renewal

A special word of thanks to JoAnne and John Baird for painting the walls and ceiling in the hallway that connects the Choir Room with the C.E. Wing. Renewal work continues.

If you can help make sandwiches and snacks for the painting crews in late April and early May, please call Marian at 762-5178.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



UCW ANNUAL POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 14, 2009

11:30 am
location to be determined

August 11, 12, 13, 2009

at

BALA UNITED CHURCH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009



Take a walk on the wild side at Kingdom of the Son VBS! During your spectacular prayer safari you will journey into the Serengeti -- the magnificent grassland region of Tanzania and Kenya. You'll discover exotic animals, create safari crafts, play exciting games, sing upbeat songs and enjoy delicious safari snacks!

And while you are having safari fun, you'll also learn to talk to God as you explore the Lord's Prayer. Come on an unforgettable adventure this summer! It's the wildest VBS ever! It's the Kingdom of the Son Prayer Safari

Our congregation continues to grow!

Volunteers are needed to usher, host coffee time, and help with Sunday School. Please sign-up in the C.E. Wing.

The Last Word:

People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost. – Dalai Lama

