



# Bala United Church

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## 1 Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

### Minister's Chat:

Go Canada Go! was shouted by 100,000's of Canadians throughout the Winter Olympics and the Paralympics and how proud we were of our athlete's. In our church we have been shouting, "Hosanna" then listening to scripture as the words "Crucify Him" leave us hollow and saddened. BUT on Easter morning with Christian voices around the world we shout "Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed!"

After the crucifixion, the followers of Jesus were a band of discouraged people. We have no record of where they went or what they did, but it appears that the disciples fled and went into hiding. The women stayed by the cross until the body was laid to rest but they, too, were feeling that their hope had come to an end.

How human their reaction was to the terrible tragedy that had taken place on that dark day. We might want to chastise them for their weakness and blame them for their lack of faith, but we know the end of the story. They did not. How do we react in the face of tragedy?

All during the long Saturday, the followers of Jesus were adjusting to the fact of his death. The word must have spread throughout the city: the troublemaker, the teacher, the healer, the rabbi -- by whatever name he had been called, he was dead and buried. It was the end of the story.

It wasn't until that Sabbath morning, when the night lifted and the women went to the tomb, that they got the whole story. It wasn't a message about the finality of death, but about God's never-ending love. Moving from despair to hope is easy to say and hard to do. But there are events from our own experience that retell the story. From the gloom of sadness of life we try to look for light, the hope, and the joy. We have received the entire message. We can say with confidence that "Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed!"

On Easter Sunday we are singing a wonderful hymn entitled, "In the Bulb There is a Flower." The first verse sums it all up:

In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

Thanks be to God, there can be new life and resurrection in the mornings of our lives!

Easter blessings, Rev. Sue



**Easter Church Services**

**March 28, 11 am**

Palm Sunday Service and Communion

**April 2, 10 am Pastoral Charge**

Good Friday Service at Port Carling U.C.

**April 4, 7 am Pastoral Charge**

Sunrise Service at Legris Park with breakfast to follow at Bala United Church

**April 4, 11 am**

Easter Service at Bala United Church



Saddle up for VBS 2010 where kids will be ridin' the range and roundin' up questions like, "What is God's plan for me?" and "How can I be like Jesus?" Come to Bala United (Saddle Ridge Ranch) August 10-12 from 9:00 a.m.

to 12: 00 noon for a great hoe down and check out the snacks at “Big Sky Grill,” music at “Campfire Creek”, stories at the “Bunkhouse,” crafts at “Blazing Star Stables” and games at “Mustang Mountain. “ It’s bound to be loads of fun so bring a friend! YE HAW!

**Notes from Council . . .**

Marg Couture has plans in hand for the planting of the Dr. George Woodward Memory Garden. Give her a call and let her know you’re ready to dig in! 762-1144

Following the 7 am Easter Sunrise Service at Legris Park (Divers’ Point) breakfast will be served in the Jackson C.E. Wing. Leo Couture, Sandy Currie, Sparky Bartlett, Anne Snowdon, and Brian and Marian McDonald look forward to preparing a tasty meal. Bacon ‘n eggs, anyone?

Brian McDonald, Vice-Chair

**Coming Events:**

**Knitting Group**

Every **Monday** 10 am – 12 noon  
Jackson C.E. Wing – Everyone is welcome  
Coffee is being served!

~

**Bala United Church Council Meeting**

April 1, 2010, 9:30 am  
JCE Wing



**The Bala United Church Gift Shop . . .**

The shop is open Mondays from 10 am to 12 noon or by appointment. Call Helen at 762-2625.



**Bala – Port Carling Pastoral Charge  
Pictorial Directory.**

IPC Canada will take photographs at Bala United Church on Thursday, August 5 from 2:30 to 8:30 pm.

I PC will also take pictures at Port Carling United church on Friday, June 4, Friday, August 6, and Saturday, August 7 from 2:30 to 8:30 pm.

**Members can make appointments  
at either location.**

In Bala, to schedule an appointment call Marian McDonald at 762-5178 during the month of April or Marilyn Niess at 762-2870 from May to August.

To schedule an appointment at Port Carling, call Lynne Schroth at 765-7394.

**In order to make this successful we need  
everyone to participate.**

You will be able to view your pictures immediately following. You are NOT obligated to purchase any portraits. Each couple/family that is photographed will receive a directory.

**Who are Margaret Bartlett and  
Sandy Currie? Part II**



We, Marg (Sparky) and Sandy, along with our 3 furry “girls,” Emma (age 11), Madeleine (age 9) and Lilly (age 4) love Moon River and Bala. Over the years, we have become good friends with “Balatians” through Moon River, the community and, now, Bala United Church. We are amazed with the dedication, energy and efforts of such a small but mighty BUC group.

Oakville has been home base for 25 years, after having been “bred” and totally indoctrinated since youth by the joie de vivre of “les francais” de Montreal. We are at least “3/4 French” in spirit; for us, that is a really positive thing!

Our dream is to create a way to spend more time in charming Bala and Muskoka. The “R” word is not yet on our horizon...we are still young (at least, young at heart) and self-employed entrepreneurs tend to have to work until about age 85 (80 if we’re lucky)!

Life with our playful, loving canine spirits is heavenly. It is true that “all we ever needed to know we learned from our dogs!” (How significant is it that there appears to be a strong connection between “D-O-G” and “G-O-D”?)

The “big picture” and social responsibility are what matter most in life. We both wish to contribute to making the world a better place, and helping those less fortunate. We in Canada are so blessed and it is up to us to share our love, peace and joy with the rest of the world. Globally, people struggle to cope with daily life while trying to feed, clothe and house their loved ones.

Volunteering is close to our hearts: Oakville Literacy Council and free tutoring for adults; The Heart and Stroke Foundation-Halton; The Arthritis Society; CNIB; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton and being a “big sister”, tutoring kids at “The Club” after school, and special events; The Women’s Centre in Oakville and creative play workshops; and, supporting some AIDS orphans and child-headed households in Uganda.

After an initial visit to Uganda in March 2007, Marg is very excited to be visiting the orphans again from March 4 to 18, 2010. These innocent kids need love, hope and inspiration for the future. Basic daily nutrition, school fees and medical treatments (some kids have HIV or AIDS) are prime issues. Art, music, sports and random play are essential, even in Africa, for a chance to achieve healthy body-mind-spirit connections!

Marg has thrived over the years developing/managing her own printing business, PMS (Print Management Solutions), starting in 1987. She has passion and energy, leading workshops exploring creativity and various forms of random play. Sparky had so much fun and greatly appreciated helping Rev. Sue with Bala United’s 1<sup>st</sup> Women’s Retreat in October 2009.

A former competitive varsity athlete in 7 different sports, Marg now enjoys outdoor sports with family and friends “for fun.” She and Sandy share the serenity of nature: the woods, the water and the snow (swimming or paddling with “the girls,” all types of boating-especially kayaking) and X-Country/downhill skiing, snowshoeing and... tobogganing!

Currently, Sandy is the President of the Moon River Property Owners Association. Sandy enjoys being actively involved in community and public affairs. These are similar duties to those he performed while Executive Director of the Canadian Marine Manufacturers Association (CMMA). The CMMA serves as an advocate, market promotion and research organization for Canadian

manufacturers of recreational boats and boating products.

Boating Safety is also a passion for Sandy, and he devotes considerable time to it via his volunteer role as a Director of The Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC). For the CSBC, he is in charge of communications and the launch events for National Safe Boating Week held each May.

When not in or on the water, Sandy can be found enjoying the Muskoka area while flying at 4,000 feet. Holding a private pilot’s license since 1999 has enabled Sandy and Marg (but not yet “the girls”) to enjoy another form of freedom - flying over Bala and area!

Sandy also shares countless hours training and racing their “3 girls,” Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers in canine Agility events. This is a newer sport for us, and Sandy has done well with all three girls. Our veteran, Emma, has excelled at both the provincial and national levels in 2009.

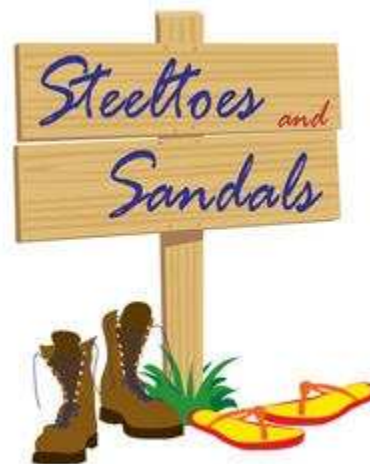
Sandy and Sparky do their best to live life to the fullest while “doing unto others as you’d have done to you”.

Everything is possible with God, Spirit, love, courage, joy and humour on earth say Sparky and Sandy. Carpe diem!

Live, Love and Laugh...with everyone, everywhere!

Sparky and Sandy

**We need your help to ensure the success of**



a **Silent Auction fundraiser** to take place on July 24, 2010, at Bala Community Centre, 8 pm – 11 pm. on behalf of the Bala Habitat Build, and Bala United Church

Please call:

Barb Bond, 762-3838

Beth Croft, 762-765-6427

Mary Patterson 762-5270