



Bala United Church

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Newsletter August, 2009

Celebrating the life and work of our Church Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat:

What is your favourite hymn? What is your favourite type of music? Music is the language of the soul. It speaks the words that we are often unable to express and touches chords that are deep and personal. Music enables us to bare our souls in ways that spoken words cannot accomplish. In worship, music enables us to give expression to our spiritual feelings and hopes. Music is the language of praise and adoration as well as the language of our sufferings and our hopes.

Our church at Bala is blessed with a choir who each week makes our service richer and more meaningful. Under the leadership of Bill Day and accompanied by Leda Sutton, we wait each week to tap our toes or sit quietly as the music lifts our spirits. The words are only part of a musical work: there is also the melody. Unison singing can be beautiful, but when each sings his or her own part the sound is richer, fuller, and more beautiful. When all the parts of a choir sing in balance, though there are many voices, they sound as if they are one magnificent voice. With each voice – alto, bass, tenor, and soprano – offering its own sound, it creates a glorious anthem of praise.

The congregation too is like a choir as we each sing our own song, our own melody. Our backgrounds, personalities, experiences, and abilities are all different. We are unique, individual, and special, but we all have a voice; each has a song, each has a gift. Together we make up a beautiful harmony in our Creator's world.

When these gifts, these songs, these lives work together, the world hears our soul music. God's

song is sung throughout the earth through our lives and actions. Each finds a way to sing the song, to tell the story. Some are busy with tasks of administration, others with teaching, some preach and some pray. All are singing God's song of love to humankind, all are part of the body, the church, and all are part of the choir!

August is a very busy and exciting month at Bala United. We hope to see you at our services on Sunday morning where music fills our church and souls.

Make some music!

Rev. Sue

Chairman's Corner

It's hard to believe that our summer is half over, but here we are with a month until Labour Day.

In our continuing endeavor to enhance our community involvement as a welcoming church, we have numerous activities on the go this summer highlighted by weekly Travelogues, and our annual support of the MRPOA Regatta where we serve hotdogs, sausage and beverages on Sunday of the long weekend.

The Bala United Church Women had their annual Bazaar on July 4 and it was another great success. The quality of sale items has certainly improved over the years. Well done, ladies!

We were treated to a wonderful musical performance by "Just 8" on July 21. Please note our August 22 "Dinner Dance" on your calendar.

We hope you will attend the rededication of the "Jackson Christian Education Wing" on Sunday, August 16. Come and meet Francis Brown who

represents the Jackson family. Luncheon will be served.

Get your picnic baskets ready for our annual joint service with Port Carling United on Sunday, August 23, at 11 am at the Lions' Pavilion in Jaspén Park.

Your Council is hard at work on your behalf and we hope to continue our efforts to touch you in a positive way. I invite you to contact me any time you have a question or comment.

Stay tuned for all the coming events, and we hope you are able to join us in the fun!

See you in church!

Steve Burdick
Council Chair

Coming attractions . . .

Knitting Group

Every **Monday** 10 am – 12 noon
C.E. Wing – Everyone welcome

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Bala Church Council Meeting

Thursday, August 6
7:00 pm in the C.E. Wing

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Communion Sunday

August 9

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The rededication of the C.E. Wing

Sunday, August 16

12 noon, immediately following the service
Please, join us for lunch as we receive a wonderful gift from a church member.

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“Mornings with Sue”

Thursday, August 20

10 am in the C.E. Wing
Everyone is welcome!

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Bala – Port Carling Joint Charge Outdoor Service and Potluck Luncheon Sunday, August 23 Jaspén Park, 11 am

Special Guests - Old Tyme Gospel Band
Don't forget your potluck dish, folding chairs,
cutlery, plates, and beverage.

August 11, 12, 13, 2009

at

**BALA UNITED CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009**

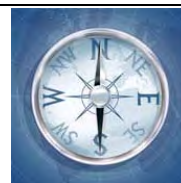
9 am – 12 noon



Application forms available at the Church, on our website

www.bpcunitedchurch.com

or from Marian McDonald 762-5178.



SUMMER TRAVELOGUES AT BALA UNITED CHURCH 7:00 pm

Many thanks to Marg Colmer and Larry Shantz who shared the video of their trip to Peru. Wow! Machu Picchu, the Nasca Lines, and the Amazon Rainforest...what amazing places. Once Andrea Binkle established the location of the tiny country of Qatar next to Saudi Arabia, her pictures and commentary on Qatar made viewers want to go there to see the camel herder in the desert, the amazing architecture, and possibly glimpse the royal family. What an adventure to live there for three years! Thank you so much for sharing your experiences and love of travel.

Up-coming travelogues:

Wednesday, August 5 we have Ken Veitch's presentation of The History of Bracebridge in Muskoka.

Wednesday, August 12 is Pat and Jack Sinclair's video of their cruise to Antarctica.

Wednesday, August 19 we will be going on a safari in Africa with Jon and Sue Gurr. We complete our summer travelogues series on **Wednesday, August 26** a presentation by Marg and John Jamieson's Imperial Russia, Cruise with the Czars! Hope you can join us.

Donations gratefully accepted!



It Must Have Been Moonglow!

Roast Beef Dinner and Dance

Saturday, August 22, 2009

Bala Community Centre

Dinner 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Dance 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm

Cash Bar Tickets \$25 Dance only \$10

For tickets: call Sue Gurr 762-2454

News from the Choir Loft:



Sometimes when I sit in the choir loft I recognize people in the congregation who are there week after week but I have never actually met. By the time I hang up my choir gown they are long gone. Come to think of it, they don't likely know who we are either so here goes...

Presenting Bala United Church Choir!

Starting with the sopranos in the front row we have Elaine Meek (usually next to the organ) who sang with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the Elmer Isler Singers and was soloist at Kingsway Lambton United Church for many years. Then we have Aileen Jamieson who has been a cottager on Lake Muskoka since 1956. Summers she sang in the Bala Choir and winters she sang in her Toronto church choir. Margie Jamieson is Aileen's sister-in-law and also a cottager on Lake Muskoka when she is not in Scarborough where she is an active member of the Scarborough Artist Guild. Jo-Anne Baird has a cottage/home on the Moon River and teaches special education for the Peel Board of Education. She enjoys canoeing and hiking with her husband and four grandchildren. Sandi Burdick lives in Kilworthy and works for Sun Life Financial. She is also a member "in training" of the Bracebridge Bell Choir! Nora Fountain is a long time resident of Bala and a former school trustee. She writes in the Gravenhurst *What's Up?* (Did you see the

article and picture about our church sign dedication?) Gemma Hagerman has recently joined our choir. She cottages on the Moon River, sings in her church choir in Oakville and has two daughters Lauren and Kate.

The altos occupy the second row. Mavis Legris retired from nursing in the cardiac unit in Sudbury Hospital and has lived in Bala for 50 years. She is an avid gardener and x-country skier. Robin Burns is a retired bank manager. She continues to give piano lessons and sing with the Elderberry Choir and the Muskoka Advent Choir. Carolyn Sullivan has a cottage on the Moon River and is very proud of her four young grandchildren who frequently join us at church and Vacation Bible School. Sue Gurr has lived in Bala for eight years and sings with a double quartet, Just 8, based in Gravenhurst.

And now to the men! Bill Jamieson and Steve Burdick hold down the bass section. Bill spends summers on Lake Muskoka and during the winter leads a vocal group in Florida called The Happy Notes. Steve has been a cottager on the Moon River all his life and made it his permanent home 10 years ago. He spends winters in Florida swinging a golf club! He is also chair for our Church Council from May to October. Leo Couture, Brian McDonald, Bob Tole, and Mike Kinsey are the four tenors. (They'll be putting out a CD soon.) Leo and Brian are both retired school principals who live on the Moon River. Leo was treasurer of our church for a few years and is now provincial treasurer of RTO (Retired Teachers of Ontario). Brian enjoys playing piano. He organized the entertainment for the Cranberry Festival for five years and is President of the Moon River Property Owners' Association. He is our November to April Church Council Chair Person. Bob Tole has spent summers on the Moon River since 1964. A former barber shop singer, he still sings with his Oshawa church choir in the winter and organizes all our choir music during the summer. Mike Kinsey is attending Emanuel College at University of Toronto to become a United Church minister. He attends Bala United Church during the summer.

Let's not forget Bill Day! Where would we be without him? He chooses the music and does

his best to keep us singing together. When he's not attending musicals in Stratford or Mendelssohn concerts in Toronto, Bill is very busy socializing at his cottage on Gibson Lake.

Leda Sutton is the lady who sprints between the organ and the piano on Sundays. She grew up on a farm near Chatham and has been coming to Bala since 1953.

What do all these people have in common? They love music. Their commitment to attending choir practices on Friday mornings and coming out to sing on Sundays proves that. So now you know the people in the choir loft! Come say "Hi!" some time.

Sue Gurr
Choir Member

family, much fundraising is done. It costs approximately \$1500 per camper for this one week in August each year. At present over 70 campers enjoy this camp.

The Canadian Tire money collected is used to purchase games, prizes, kitchen and cabin essentials, camp activity supplies, etc.

On behalf of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Ladies' Auxiliary, I personally thank you all for your consideration and participation in this rewarding outreach.

Nora Goltz
Ladies Auxiliary of the
Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs

CAMP BUCKO

BURN CAMP FOR KIDS IN ONTARIO

Camp Bucko, the Burn Camp for Kids in Ontario, is located near Minden at the Kinark Outdoor Centre Facility. This camp provides a fun, safe and caring program free to kids ages 7 – 17 with burn injuries. The residential setting encourages campers to participate in a variety of social, recreational and therapeutic activities that promote self esteem, the development of leadership skills and personal growth. At Camp Bucko kids have a place where they can be themselves without feeling different or alone.

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Ladies' Auxiliary (Fire Chiefs' Wives) is a non-profit organization that raises money for burn victims and for Muscular Dystrophy.

As the wife of an Ontario Fire Chief, I am asking all of you to help, by collecting your Canadian Tire money and donating it to Camp Bucko.

We will collect the Canadian Tire money during our regular church offering. In turn it will be presented with all other Canadian Tire money collected throughout Ontario, to Camp Bucko's representative.

As Camp Bucko is offered to its campers with absolutely no charge to the camper or their



All women of Bala United Church are invited to attend a luncheon at the Bala Bay Inn on Thursday, August 20, at 12:00 noon.

A menu chosen by Chef Winston includes an appetizer, a choice of entrée (Bala Burger, Quesadilla or Steak Sandwich) and a delicious dessert for \$13.50 including tax and gratuity.

Please call Marilyn Niess (762-2870) by August 7 if you are able to attend.

Thank you. Hope to see everyone there!

The Last Word

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

Lady Dorothy Nevill