



# Bala United Church

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Volume Two: Issue 38

Newsletter February, 2010

## Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

### Minister's Chat:

This is my first newsletter chat following recovery! Last week I had a small arthroscopic surgery on my left knee and ever since I can barely raise my head off the pillow. I knew I was in trouble when I walked through the white doors into the operating room. On the "You Tube" was playing Leonard Cohen's song, "Hallelujah," and the operating bed was in the shape of the cross. I guess it goes with the profession -- pearly gates, angels singing and arms outstretched!

One of the things I have missed the most with a very sore knee was outside activities -- skiing both cross country and downhill, walking through the woods with the dogs. Just being able to get outside during this season of winter, I know will help with my recuperation, and YES! listening to the nurse!

The season of Lent begins on February 17, known as Ash Wednesday, and continues for 40 days and 6 Sundays. Many give up something they love to do for this season of penitence. How about joining a study group for 6 mornings or evenings and learning more about ourselves, the church, and where we fit together? The study I have chosen is "through the woods." Through forest imagery drawn from literature, scripture, and life experience, readers are invited to examine the paths they've been on. Church-based groups will find this book an excellent resource for looking at spiritual issues in a non-threatening way that is relevant to people's lives. Each chapter begins with a real-life anecdote and ends with questions that encourage personal reflection or promote small group discussion.

The study will be offered twice a week, beginning Wednesday morning, February 17, at 10:00 a.m. at Bala United, and Thursday, February 18, 7:00 p.m. at Port Carling United. Topics will be reflected upon on Sunday and offer us a better awareness to living with respect with creation and our interconnection with the earth and each other. How can we bring this issue into our worship life? If the central task for human beings is to respect and care for the earth and each other, how can we make our worship earthly and inclusive? Together, then, through the season of Lent let's consider our footprints on the planet.

To live with respect with creation is the latest addition to the United Church creed. At first it was a mouthful to say. It stuck out and we stumbled over it. But it has provided a focal point from which churches can explore what living with creation might mean. We needed it when it first was added. We still do.

The nurse will soon be home and I am supposed to be resting. Thank you to all who helped out with the Sunday services.

Blessings, Rev. Sue

### Notes from Council

All members are encouraged that Rev. Sue is on the mend following recent knee surgery. Things are just not the same when she is not around. Hats off to Bill Niess and his Ministry and Personnel team for leading worship last Sunday.

Pictures for a Bala / Port Carling charge pictorial directory will be taken at Bala United Church on Thursday, August 5, 2010, from 2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and, at Port Carling United, on June 4, August 6, and August 7. Council encourages you to make an appointment at either church so that the directory can be as complete as possible. Keep in mind, you do not have to buy the photos.

On behalf of Council, Property Chair, Bill Niess, has hired Carol Hopkins to assist with church cleaning on a bi weekly basis. Thank you, women of the Gift Shop and UCW. Your contributions allow this to happen. Bill will also lead a small team to paint Rev. Sue's office. Kudos go to John Baird for his recent "touching up" of a water stain on the ceiling of the Jackson C. E. Wing. Sunday Services in the Jackson Wing are going forward well. A big thank you goes out to Neil Cameron and sons, Jordan, Matthew, and Kyle, for moving the piano there from the sanctuary.

Sound system fund raising moves steadily forward. Donations have come in each week since November with supportive and appreciative notes attached. Our treasurer, Leo Couture, has forwarded one half of the committed purchase to Gerry Grassby and Associates who, in turn, are confident that the system can be in place for Easter Sunday. If you wish to contribute to this very worthwhile venture, please forward your contribution to Bala United United Church, attention Marilyn Niess (Box 313, Bala, ON, POC 1A0). Marilyn ensures that contributions are tabulated and maintains a list of contributors for a plaque that will acknowledge donors.

Brian McDonald, Vice-chair

#### **Knitting Group**

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

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#### **Bala United Church Council Meeting**

**Thursday, February 4, 2010**  
9:30 am, Jackson C.E. Wing

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#### **"Mornings with Sue"**

Thursday, February 18, at 10 am  
Jackson C.E. Wing  
Everyone is Welcome

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#### **Who are Barb and Bob Bond?**

Bob and Barb were born and raised in Toronto. Bob attended North Toronto CI and then went on to U of T for Pharmacy, being the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of his family to do so. Barb attended Malvern CI and went on to Teachers' College. She taught full-time in Scarborough and then half time in Peterborough.

They were married in 1970 and moved to Oshawa for a brief time and then on to Peterborough. They have 2 boys; Brian, the elder born in Oshawa is married to Peggy. They were married at Bala United Church in 2002. Brian and Peggy have 3 children, Alex aged 5, Sami aged 4, and Michael, 7 months. They live in Orangeville.

Brad, their younger son, is married to Dawn and they have a son Owen aged 3 ½ yrs. They have recently moved to Calgary.

Barb retired from teaching 5 years ago and Bob gave up his own business, a Shoppers Drug Mart. He worked as a pharmacist for 2 years before deciding to move to the cottage.

Bob's family has been coming to Muskoka since the late 1890's. His family cottage will be 90 years old next summer. Barb and Bob built their own cottage in 1979 and Muskoka has always been considered their second home.

This is their third winter living in Muskoka. Bob still works part time at the IDA Pharmacy in Gravenhurst. Barb volunteers a couple of days a week at Glen Orchard P.S.

Bob's Dad will be 98 in June and still lives in a Retirement Home in Peterborough. They travel once a week there to visit and assist him to keep his appointments. The Bonds have many good friends there with whom they also keep in touch.

Barb and Bob are settling into life full time in Muskoka. The first two winters were certainly something to wonder why, but having only one place allows them to do a bit of travelling.

The Bonds get away for part of the winter to Florida. They are also taking a few more trips. Last spring they traveled to England, Copenhagen and then on to a Baltic Cruise. This spring they are taking an Alaskan Cruise.

Bob and Barb have met many new friends in Muskoka and enjoy the camaraderie at the Church. They are impressed with the commitment and tireless efforts of this small community and enjoy becoming a part of it.



**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.

**HOLD THIS DATE:**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2010.**



**What do Steeltoes, Sandals, and a Silent Auction have in common?**



### **A Valentine's Day Love Poem**

**How DO I Love Thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the end of Being an ideal Grace.  
I love thee to the level of everyday's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.**

**I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's  
faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints, -- I love thee with the  
Breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life! - and, if God  
choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.**

**Elizabeth Barret Browning**