



Bala United Church

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Issue 48

Newsletter February, 2011

Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat

How often have we spoken words that we later regretted! We respond without thinking, speaking words that wound and hurt. "Tell it like it is," is a phrase many of us have lived by in our daily encounters with family, friends, and strangers. No doubt there is a place for absolute honesty. But there are times when we need to think carefully before we speak and then speak with loving kindness.

An elderly woman lived her life and governed her conversation by three questions. Is it true? Is it helpful to say it? Is it necessary to say it? These questions no doubt saved the feelings and the dignity of those to whom she spoke. She was well respected and loved by those who knew her and worked for her and with her.

Peter, the disciple of Jesus that many of us can relate to, had a quick and ready tongue. At times he stood on solid ground, walking with confidence and faith. At times he was blown about like sand. Peter often stood knee deep in the waters of doubt and fear. He blurted things out with little thought to their consequences. Peter was an impulsive man who spoke without thinking. He was also faithful to Jesus and regretted it deeply when he made a mistake. But his enthusiasm made him one of the three disciples closest to Jesus.

Just like Peter, we are creatures of sand. Our lives are a mixture of that heartfelt response to follow Jesus and the frightened response of denying him. We speak words of comfort and healing in times of grief and sadness. But we also

speak words that can be hurtful and mean-spirited.

Our 21st century world at times is a very harsh place to live. Angry words come easily to the lips of too many people. Gestures that are meant to put people in their place - and that place is humiliation - are common. The noise of angry speech fills our ears almost every day. Is there a place in all of this noise for the still small voice of compassionate speech?

There is a prayer found in Psalm 19:14 that I whisper to myself as the choir sings their anthem each Sunday: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." If these words were our prayer to begin each day, they could become a part of our very natures. We would speak with gentle words!

Blessings, Rev. Sue

If you need to contact Rev. Sue
Home Office: 705-645-9266
Port Carling United - 705-765-5596
Bala United Church - 705-762-0116
(answering machines at all three
numbers; please leave a message)
email address: revsue@bell.net
I will try to reply as soon as I can,
Note: Mondays are my days off.

Notes from Council

For the winter months at Bala United our Sunday Service has moved to the Jackson C. E. Wing where there is more physical warmth, a greater intimacy, and indeed a very welcoming and engaging environment, led by Rev Sue. Last Sunday, January 23, about thirty-two attended! Robin Burns, Sue Gurr, and Leda Sutton work each Sunday to "punch up" the music through spirited hymn selections and a small impromptu choir that includes the sweet voices of Jo-Anne Baird, Sharon Morton, Marilyn Niess, and Leo Couture. Well, Leo's is a robust and "easy-listening" tenor.

In the Jackson C. E. Wing there is a handy new bulletin board. Thanks, Spike Burns! And thank you as well, Spike, for the new card holder that displays hymn selections. The new bulletin board sports sign-up sheets for ushers, coffee makers, and Sunday School teachers. As you can see, the order of their listing does not reflect the order of their importance.

At church last Sunday Sue Gurr thanked those who have assisted with Meals on Wheels. Sue welcomes any others who would like to have a small role in this important venture.

As regards Sunday service, if inclement weather and associated issues of individuals' safety take place in winter months, there is a process for closing the church and communicating with members. Following consultation with Rev Sue and Bill Niess, Brian McDonald or Marg Couture may make a decision to close. Brian or Marg then share this decision with call-out leaders, Mavis Legris, Marilyn Niess, Helen Taylor, and Marian McDonald who in turn telephone others.

Thanks go to Associate Vice-chair, Marg Couture, who chaired Council's January meeting. Correspondence received at that time included a note of appreciation from Dick and Cecelia Colwell re Council's December breakfast and a note from Leda Sutton recognizing those who have supported and continue to support her following her loss of her husband, Bob. A letter came from Habitat for Humanity Muskoka telling us that applications are now being received for the next Habitat Build—in Gravenhurst and the Salvation Army thanked Rev Sue and our congregation for their support of the Food Bank.

Leo Couture continues his capable attending to treasury. He shared new Fundraising Guidelines with Council at the same January meeting.

The Church Directory continues to go forward under Marilyn Niess' animated and capable leadership. Marilyn hopes that the Directory will be available for Easter.

Property Chair, Bill Niess, remains ever vigilant about the physical needs of the property. This has included his overseeing the November installation of eave troughs on the west side of the Jackson C. E. Wing and the imminent replacement of a fire egress door. In the near future he and Brian will begin to remove panelling in the basement of the Jackson C.E. Wing to see what work will be required to upgrade insulation and moisture barriers.

Other "new business" at the Council table included the following: there was great appreciation of Rev Sue's liturgical leadership throughout the Advent and Christmas season; next year's Council Christmas Breakfast will include all members of congregation who are in Bala that day; Marg and Leo Couture invite the congregation to a Christmas Open House on December 21, 2011 -- now that's forward planning! Barb Bond, Marg Couture, Anne Snowdon and Marian McDonald have formed a committee that may re-establish the "old fashioned ham dinner;" Lastly, Leo Couture, Marilyn Niess, and Marian will revisit Rental Agreements in this New Year. On Sunday, February 6, immediately following the service, breakfast will be served! Please join us.

Brian McDonald, Vice-Chair



Friendship, Food and Fun

What better way to warm up a day in Bala's winter wonderland than to get together with friends and create a little fun. The women from Trinity St. Albans' Anglican Church, Whata

United Church, and Bala United Church did just that on Thursday, January 20.

Twenty four of us met at Bala United Church to enjoy some friendship while we shared a delicious pot luck luncheon. Some of us marveled at how this many women could get together creating such yummy treats with no repeats. We all left with very full and satisfied tummies.

Each of us also brought an item for our silent auction table. Lots of laughter was heard as we "egged" each other on in our bidding. Our quarters, loonies and toonies added up to \$108.25 as we gathered up our new found treasures. The proceeds will go towards the BUC Coffee Fund. Thanks to all participants for this memorable event.

Jo-Anne Baird



News from the Treasurer

Hello Everyone. A belated Happy New Year to all of you.

As I prepare the closing Financial Statements for 2010, it seems appropriate for me to provide you with a brief report of our financial position for the year.

Our Mission and Service budget for the year was \$5000. We surpassed this by contributing close to \$6000 to this very worthy cause.

In addition to your generous Sunday contributions of \$54,000, we were fortunate to have received approximately \$9000 through the various fundraising activities. Congratulations to all who 'made this happen'. Every effort has been made to keep our facilities in good order. Upgrades have occurred on a priority basis,

Details of our financial position will be revealed at our annual meeting later this year. You will be interested in knowing our assets at the end of 2010 were \$114,000. This compares to assets of \$126,000 at the end of 2009. However, you will recall we were quite fortunate to have received a substantial donation from one of our donors during 2009. Keeping this in mind, our financial

position at the end of 2010 is somewhat reassuring.

You must know by now....I am a strong believer in the Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) Program. Please pick up a pamphlet at the church and consider becoming involved. It is a simple procedure to join and if not satisfied, it is just as simple to withdraw from the program. It is a Win-Win situation. To those of you who have made the choice....Thank You!

On behalf of your church council, may I express a sincere word of gratitude for your support during 2010, Wishing all of you the very best during 2011.

Leo L. Couture, Treasurer

Upcoming Events:

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

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Knitting Group

Every **Monday** 10 am - 12 noon

Jackson C.E. Wing - Everyone is welcome
Coffee is served.

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Bala United Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

9:30 am Jackson C E Wing

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Hold the Dates:

Sunday, February 6, 2011

Congregation Breakfast

Immediately following the
church service



The sign-up sheet is in the Jackson C.E. Wing

Saturday, March 26, 2011
Movie Night



MOVIE NIGHT
In The
Jackson CE Wing
7:00 pm

Details to Follow!

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
PATTY PARSONS BUILD**



**The houses are complete and two
families move in TODAY!**

Thank you, Volunteers!

A DIME A DAY FOR



MISSION AND SERVICE

Don't forget to collect those dimes!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2011

Friday, March 4, 2011

2:00 pm



at

**MUSKOKA CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

1852 Muskoka Road 169

Please join us to enter into a process
that draws us into the Bible, into the
context of Chile, and into the real
situations of our lives and community.

Everyone is welcome!



Valentine's Day Reminds Me

Valentine's Day reminds me
of the smile I smile
every time I think of you,
the emotional lift I feel
at the sound of your name.
Valentine's Day reminds me
of the strength and comfort I get
from knowing
there are people like you in my life.
Everything good about Valentine's Day
reminds me of you.
Happy Valentine's Day!

J. Fuchs