



Bala United Church

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Issue 47

Newsletter January, 2011

Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister



Minister's Chat

It is a brand new year and again I think, what promises can I make myself that will benefit me and all those I come in contact with. I just happened to find my 2010 resolutions (in the sock drawer) and, sadly, out of 5 I did not have a very good grade. Then I happened to find this reading: Life's Little Instruction for 2011. I hope that I can make the grade; how about you?

Sing in the shower • Treat everyone you meet like you want to be treated • Watch a sunrise at least once this year • Leave the toilet seat in the down position • Never refuse homemade brownies • Strive for excellence, not perfection • Plant a tree on your birthday • Learn three clean jokes • Return borrowed vehicles with the gas tank full • Compliment three people every day • Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them • Leave everything a little better than you found it • Keep it simple • Think big thoughts but relish small pleasures • Become the most positive and enthusiastic person you know • Floss your teeth • Ask for a raise when you feel you've earned it • Be forgiving of yourself and others • Over tip breakfast waitresses • Say "thank you" a lot

• Say "please" a lot • Avoid negative people • Buy whatever kids are selling on card tables in their front yards • Wear polished shoes • Remember other people's birthdays • Commit yourself to constant improvement • Carry jumper cables in your trunk • Have a firm handshake • Send lots of Valentine cards. Sign them. "Someone will think you're terrific." • Look people in the eye • Be the first to say hello • Use the good silver • Return all things you borrow • Make new friends but cherish the old ones • Keep secrets • Sing in a choir • Plant flowers every spring • Have an animal • Always accept an outstretched hand • Stop blaming others • Take responsibility for every area of your life • Wave at kids on school buses • Be there when people need you • Feed a stranger's expired parking meter • Don't expect life to be fair • Never underestimate the power of love • Drink champagne for no reason at all • Live your life as an exclamation, not an explanation • Don't be afraid to say, "I made a mistake." • Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know." • Compliment every small improvement • Keep your promises (no matter what) • Marry for love • Rekindle old friendships • Count your blessings.

Lou and I thank you for your overwhelming kindness in gifts and cards this past Christmas season. May 2011 be all that you want it to be!

Rev. Sue

Notes from Council

December and Christmas season initiatives have been full and fruitful. Mavis Legris, Jean Cameron, Cecilia Colwell, and Dick Colwell decorated the sanctuary beautifully, with the highlight being a gorgeous Christmas tree. Another tree graced the Jackson Community Education Wing to complement activities there. On Christmas Eve, luminaries in ice lit the paths to the Church to honour and commemorate individuals loved and respected by Church members.

The ladies of the Gift Shoppe, Jean Cameron, Cecelia Colwell, and Helen Taylor, packed home baking in Christmas tins and gathered poinsettias for distribution to our shut-ins. Several of our members worked with Rev Sue at the First Congregational Church to prepare food hampers for needy families.

Members of Council hosted a tasty brunch with *piece de resistance* omelettes prepared by Leo Couture. Indeed Leo and Marg Couture opened their new home -- condo on Steamship Bay! --to all Members of the Church for a very generous cocktail party. As you can see, there has been a focus around food at many of the Church's initiatives. These have included the Habitat dedication reception in the Jackson C.E. Wing, sandwiches for the Bethlehem Trek, and the celebration of Bob Sutton's life -- all led by and prepared by the ladies of UCW.

Soon Council will ask Jean Cameron's grandsons to move the piano from the sanctuary and Sunday morning service will move to the Jackson C .E. Wing where a greater intimacy is welcomed. At every turn, through this special season, our Minister, Rev Sue Woods, has been our constant-- our animator, driver, inspired faith leader. Thank you, Rev Sue.

Council wishes each reader joy, hope, and a quiet centre in the New Year.

Brian McDonald, Vice-Chair

A DIME A DAY FOR



MISSION AND SERVICE
Don't forget to collect those dimes!

Upcoming Events:



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

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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, January 4, 2011
9:30 am Jackson C E Wing

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Potluck Luncheon & Silent Auction

Thursday, January 20, 2011
Jackson C.E. Wing
11:30 am

Please bring with you a favourite dish for the buffet table and a new or gently used item for the silent auction!



HELP WANTED:

- ❖ Ushers
- ❖ Sunday School Teachers
- ❖ Coffee makers, and a
- ❖ Newsletter Editor & Publisher

Please contact Brian McDonald (762-5178) and let him know you are ready to take on one of these jobs!



On Christmas Eve 34 luminaries
shone brightly.

Thank you for donating to the Ice
Luminaries that honoured and
remembered special family
members and friends.



Happy New Year's

Here's to the new year...
May it bring more joy and success
And less grief and regret.

To our dreams...
May we never stop believing in them
And taking the actions that will make them a
reality.

To our friends, loved ones,
May we take the time to let them know
How much it means to us
To have them in our lives.

Let us encourage more and criticize less,
Give more and need less.

And whenever we can,
Let us create harmony and peace.
To new beginnings...
Let us start fresh, right now,
To make this the very best year ever.
A very Happy New Year to all of us!

By Joanna Fuchs