



# Bala United Church

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Volume Two: Issue 31

Newsletter July, 2009

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

### Minister's Chat:

This summer as we celebrate the 129<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bala United Church have you wondered what makes a church? This is the question I asked at "Mornings with Sue" and the overwhelming response was "PEOPLE". Where would Bala United be without the people throughout the 129 years? Out of a small beginning this church grew and developed. It was a centre for the teaching of the faith. But there was another important side to the work of the church in those early years. The church, and particularly churchwomen, responded to the needs of the community. They fed the hungry, cared for the sick, comforted the mourning, and taught those eager to learn. In many places if there were no women there would have been no church. They raised a lot of the money. They fed the construction crews that built the church and helped clean the finished buildings. Women helped pay the bills, fill the pews, and uplift the work in prayers. They taught the children, furnished the manses, and supported the great overseas endeavours of the church.

But their partners were there too, working side by side with them. In the early years men generally staffed the pulpits, and they created structures and rules to help the growing institution function. Laymen hammered and sawed, painted and plastered; they kept the fires burning in winter and the grass cut in summer. Men also helped pay the bills, attended the services, and went to countless meetings. Dedicated men worked in towns and cities and hamlets all over the country.

And the children were there as well in the Sunday schools and midweek groups. They filled the buildings with laughter and hope. Their innocence was a source of inspiration to those who were older and perhaps a little jaded, and their development was one reason for all the work that was done.

The church has seen many changes over the 129 years as well as over the last few months, a new sign greets us, and the C.E. wing welcomes us with a fresh new colour on the walls and a new carpet under our feet. We are hosting our first ever Vacation Bible School in August and we are in the beginning stages of a new Pastoral Care Team.

Dr. George Woodward was a big part of Bala United, a church that meant so much to him and in his quiet way held the church together in some difficult times. George passed away on June 6 after a very brave struggle with

cancer. We mourn the loss of George but are so grateful for all that he brought to Bala United and the wider church circle.

Bala United has always been there and continues to welcome all who pass through the doors! Happy Birthday Bala United!

Blessings  
Rev. Sue



Dr. Edward "George" Woodward passed away quietly on June 6, 2009, at St. Peter's Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario, following a brave fight with cancer. George leaves behind his sons Bob and Bryan, and special friend, David. George was born in Long Island, New York, May 18, 1931.

In his years at Bala United, George contributed in many ways including formal roles, Chair of Council and Chair of the Joint Pastoral Charge. Through Presbytery George led as Chair of Finance / Building and, for many years, Chair of Ministry and Personnel. His wide and generous community involvement included working with the Bethlehem Trek and at Fenbrook Prison and the John Howard Society.

A very shy man, at coffee hour on Sunday he would wash and dry dishes rather than engage in animated conversations nearby. George went about his commitments in a very serious way. In his years at Bala his valued contributions "behind the scenes" are only now being discovered and celebrated. George is missed by his family, friends, and by his family at church.

We celebrated the life of Dr. George Woodward at a "Memory Tea" held on Saturday, June 27 in the Christian Education Wing of Bala United Church.

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

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**Bala Church Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, July 2**  
7:00 pm in the C.E. Wing

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**“Mornings with Sue”**  
**Thursday, July 16**  
10 am in the C.E. Wing  
Everyone is welcome!

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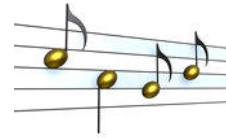
**August 11, 12, 13, 2009**  
at  
**BALA UNITED CHURCH**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009**  
9 am – 12 noon



Application forms available at the Church, on our website  
[www.bpcunitedchurch.com](http://www.bpcunitedchurch.com)  
or from Marian McDonald 762-5178



Bala United Church  
**Bazaar and Barbecue**  
Saturday, July 4, 2009  
8 am - noon



**Tuesday, July 21, 2009 - 7 pm**  
**“JUST 8”**

performs at Bala United Church sharing their unique vocal arrangements of gospel and jazz. You'll recognize old favourites like “*Standing on The Rock, Precious Lord, Embraceable You*” and “*On The Sunny Side of the Street*”  
Entrance by donation.



## 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



Celebrating the  
unveiling of our new  
Church sign.

  
**SUMMER TRAVELOGUES**  
**AT BALA UNITED CHURCH**  
**7 PM**

Wed. July 8 – Peru  
Marg Colmer and Larry Shantz

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Wed July 15 – Qatar  
Andrea Binkle

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Wed. August 5 – History of Muskoka  
In Bracebridge - Ken Veitch

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Wed. August 12 – Antarctica  
Pat & Jack Sinclair

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Wed. August 19 – Africa  
Sue and Jon Gurr

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Wed. August 26 - Russia  
John Jamieson  
Donations gratefully accepted!

A special thank you to members of the congregation and especially the “Welcoming Church Committee” for a delicious barbecued luncheon held on June 7. Despite the rain we celebrated our beautiful new church sign, a gift organ, and the renewal of the C.E. Wing.

Raffle tickets for the Christine Marshall print are selling very well, however, we have more tickets available!  
Please pick-up your tickets from Mary Patterson and if

you submit your stubs and money we would be grateful.  
Thank you!

**HAPPY CANADA DAY!**

