



Bala United Church

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Newsletter June, 2009

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

Minister's Chat:

It's the morning of the last Tuesday of the month and it begins like most mornings - answering emails and returning calls. But today at 2:00 p.m., unlike other Tuesdays I am off to a Retirement Home to lead a worship service. Individuals there for many years have gathered in their own churches to worship and now come together from various denominations to sing their favourite hymns and pray together. We sit in a circle sharing stories of past experiences; we laugh and we grieve together as one has just lost her husband. They are a family and like any family there are moments of joy and moments for time outs! I am honoured each month to be part of this family and part of this sacred space. How do we honour those who can't attend worship? Earlier in my ministry I will never forget a dear woman who was one of the first settlers in Nokomis, Saskatchewan. She sat in a wheelchair and for the most part did not know what was happening around her. When she was wheeled in for the service and the first hymn was sung, her lips would move and, when the Lord's Prayer was recited, her voice could be heard above the rest. Gladys sang because she was free to sing. It wasn't about the words; it was about the worship of God. It wasn't about everyone singing the same; it was about being free to move outside of what constricts us, and connect with something much greater than ourselves.

I will always remember Gladys beautiful voice and the smile on her face as she soared with the music and worshipped – free for a few minutes from the chains of the stroke.

I have learned over the years never to take these moments of grace for granted!

Faces and words and glimpses of souls.....

One by one we come.

We are many, and then one.

Precious faces, tender words, sweet glimpses into souls....

Just being here among you is a joy!

*Unending thank-yous rise within me
for these beloved ones
within your Church, O God.
Blessed be their lives!
Blessed be your Church*

Blessings

Rev. Sue

Coming attractions . . .

Knitting Group

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

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Bala Church Council Meeting

Thursday, June 4

7:00 pm in the C.E. Wing

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Sunday, June 7, 2009

Birthday Bala United Church

Please plan to join us after the service to celebrate Bala United Church's 129th birthday, the re-opening of the C.E. Wing, and the unveiling of the new Church Sign.

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UCW Meeting

Thursday, June 11 at 10:00 am

All Women of the church are welcome

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“Mornings with Sue”
Thursday, June 18
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



“Going on Safari”
Going on Safari
What do I hear?
I hear a lion’s roar
Very, very near.

Going on Safari
What do I eat?
Lots and lots of peanuts,
An elephant’s treat

Going to VBS

What do I see?
Lots and lots of children
Learning, playing and being free!

APPLICATIONS FORMS AVAILABLE AT THE
CHURCH OR OUR WEBSITE:
www.bpcunitedchurch.com



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
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!

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

Please consider donating books for adults and children, ladies clothing, electrical items, linens, glass, china, silver, crystal, puzzles, toys, dolls, small furniture and home baking. Please bring items to the church Sunday before church and/or June 29 – July 3, between 9 –11 am.



Tuesday, July 21, 2009
“JUST 8”

performs at Bala United Church under the direction of George Kadwell and 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”* to mention just a few.

Entrance by donation.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Help Wanted: Habitat has a new site in Bala and hopes to build this fall or early next year. They need a Construction Manager and a Project Manager. If you have knowledge of anyone who could fill either of these positions, please call Paul Dempsey at 645-1320

Save The Date:



It Must Have Been Moonglow!

Roast Beef Dinner and Dance
Saturday, August 22, 2009

The Last Word

Dance like nobody’s watching; love like you’ve never been hurt. Sing like nobody’s listening; live like it’s heaven on earth.”

Mark Twain