



Bala United Church

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Issue 40

Newsletter June, 2010

Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat:



Happy 85th Anniversary/ Happy 85th Birthday to The United Church of Canada. Celebrating an anniversary/birthday is often an opportunity to make connections, renew friendships, and sometimes even build new relationships. How many times have we gathered at family events where distant relatives meet for the first time and discovered a bond, an interconnectedness? This is also true for the family we call The United Church of Canada. Congregations and diverse community ministries span this country from coast to coast to coast. Our global partners and overseas personnel extend our family ties around the world. From urban centres to small towns to rural and remote communities, we are all connected!

How it all began - In the early 20th century Canada's population was growing as waves of immigrants expanded into the west. The "social gospel" was a powerful movement for the Protestants of the day, calling the church to play a role in the building of a just society. The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Methodist Church, and Congregational Union of Canada all had a desire to do more effective global mission

and to be a unifying religious force in Canada. "Union churches" were a practical solution for prairie communities that were growing too fast for the individual denominations to keep up. After much prayer and sharing, the Methodists, the Congregationalists, the Local Union Churches and 70 percent of the Presbyterians decided to join together into one United Church. In 1925 the Basis of Union was finalized, describing the new denomination's structure and beliefs. The Parliament of Canada made the new denomination official through the United Church of Canada Act. On June 10, 1925, the United Church was inaugurated in a mass worship service at Mutual Street Arena in Toronto, making it one of the few religious denominations to be born in a hockey rink! How much more Canadian can you get? On June 6 Port Carling and Bala United will celebrate together the 85th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada an outdoor service at Hanna Park beginning at 10: 30 a.m. We will begin by going all the way back to 1925 and sing the first hymn of the inaugural service of The United Church of Canada. Our service will continue with stories of 85 years ago and continue up until this day as we remember, renew, and rejoice! One very special moment in our service will be when we break bread(bannock). Every United Church in Canada will be sharing in the same loaf. In early May each congregation received a small starter package of dry ingredients that was gathered from each of the 13 Conferences of the United Church. Our communion bannock (a simple unleavened bread is very much a part of our Canadian heritage from

First Nations to early settlers and fur traders to today's wilderness campers) is a fitting symbol of unity with the Christian church, and of our oneness with God.

Come and celebrate on June 6.

Rev. Sue



Chairman's Corner

Most of the snowbirds have returned to a beautiful spring in Muskoka; temperatures soaring and lots of clear sky above.

Our spring Pastoral Charge official board meeting was conducted on Tuesday, May 11, in Bala. Many joint issues were discussed including upcoming governmental "accessibility" requirements, proposals for a Charge information brochure, photo directory, joint services this summer, and the Habitat for Humanity home build in Bala. Stay tuned for details on these, and many other, activities as we move through the spring and summer.

Many of you are experiencing our beautiful new sound system for the first time, and isn't it wonderful! We can all hear all that is said now, and even I am learning to speak in quieter tones! As you approach the church, linger a moment and enjoy our beautiful new Dr. George Woodward Memorial Gardens. Thanks to Marg Couture and her team for this wonderful enhancement to the exterior of our church.

Many choir members have returned and it is good to have their familiar sound coming from the front of the church each Sunday.

Our annual Congregational meeting is Sunday, May 31, after service. Bring your lunch and enjoy networking with your peers.

See you in Church!

Steve Burdick, Council Chair

Coming Events:

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, June 3, 7:00 pm

Jackson CE Wing

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"Mornings With Sue"

Thursday, June 17, 10 am

Jackson C.E. Wing

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 or Cecilia at 762-2323.



Saddle up for VBS 2010 where kids will be ridin' the range and roundin' up questions like, "What is God's plan for me?" and "How can I be like Jesus?" Come to Bala United (Saddle Ridge Ranch) August 10-12, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for a great hoe down and check out the snacks at "Big Sky Grill", music at "Campfire Creek", stories at the "Bunkhouse," crafts at Blazing Star Stables and games at Mustang Mountain. It bound to be loads of fun so bring a friend! YE HAW! **Hurry and sign up. Applications are at the church and on the website.**

BALA UNITED CHURCH

ANNUAL BAZAAR & BARBECUE

Saturday, July 3, 2010

8 a.m. to 12 noon



Congregation members, please help us make this bazaar another successful event for Bala's United Church Women.

We need items that are **re-saleable**. If you wouldn't buy it, we can't sell it!

We need items that are gently used, complete with all their parts, and definitely in good working order. We cannot sell mattresses, baby furniture, life jackets, stained linens, radios without knobs or last year's broken lounge chair.

Please place appropriate items in the church basement on Sundays before the service or from June 29 - July 1 in the C.E. Wing from 9 am - 11 am.



**Bala - Port Carling Pastoral Charge
Pictorial Directory.**

IPC Canada will take photographs at Bala United Church on Thursday, August 5, from 2:30 to 8:30 pm and at Port Carling United Church on Friday, June 4, Friday, August 6, and Saturday, August 7, from 2:30 to 8:30 pm.

**Members can make appointments
at either location.**

In Bala, to schedule an appointment call Marilyn Niess at 762-2870. To schedule an appointment at Port Carling, call Lynne Schroth at 765-7394.

**In order to make this successful we need
everyone to participate.**

You will be able to view your pictures immediately following. You are NOT obligated to purchase any portraits. Each couple/family that is photographed will receive a directory.



**Bala United Church Women
Thursday June 10, 2010
Jackson Christian Education Wing**

10:00 Planning Meeting for Summer Activities
11:00 Speaker : Glen Hill of "Hills of Muskoka."
Do you remember a year ago, that wonderful presentation that Glen presented about hors d'oeuvres? Well, Glen is returning to share with the women of our church "the scoop" about his new shop and his plans for it in the future.

Afterwards, we'll be sharing some of his homemade treats. In order to plan accordingly, please let Marilyn (762 -2870) know by June 7 if you plan to attend. *Donations to cover the cost will be appreciated.*

On fifteen Tuesdays during the months of June through September, we the congregation of Bala United Church will be serving food to the Habitat for Humanity, Muskoka build volunteers on Burgess Street. A plan is in place but we will need manpower. If you can help please call Marian at 762-5178 or email marianmcdonald@yahoo.com

Andrea Burdick



**Saturday, July 24
8:00 to 11:00 pm
Bala Community Centre**

STEELTOES AND SANDALS FUNDRAISER for [Habitat for Humanity](#) (Patty Parsons Build) and the [Bala United Church Building Fund](#).

This live and silent auction event will include hot and cold hors d'oeuvres followed by dessert trays, a cash bar featuring the Signature Cocktail (Cranberry Construction Cocktail or CCC) as well as wine, beer, and live music. Come out for a fun evening and check out the numerous items presented for sale and help raise money for two worthy causes.

Tickets are \$25, available at the General Store, the Muskoka Lakes Chamber of Commerce and Glen Orchard General Store.

Anne Snowdon, Publicity Cte.