



# Bala United Church

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

### Minister's Chat:

Pentecost is a feast of the mysterious movement of God. On our church calendar the date to celebrate this feast is May 31, with symbols of fire, wind, and the colour red. Each year it is an invitation to be attentive once more to God's presence in our lives.

Have you ever gone for a walk in the forest and enjoyed the stillness and silence until a sudden whoosh of wind sways the trees and whispers across the tree tops. Growing up on the East coast I loved to walk along the shoreline on a windy day to feel the spray from the ocean and the force of the wind. It was a sense of freedom, a presence that was hard to explain. I felt close to God.

The Spirit of God came as unexpectedly as the wind on the shoreline upon the followers of Jesus. A rushing wind created life-changing effects on them. In that Upper Room, people who had been terrorized with their own fears suddenly experienced an immense freedom and a deep sense of God's life within them. It was uncontrolled and unplanned, the last thing their sad and fearful hearts ever expected. With the rushing wind came a surge of courageous energy that hadn't been there before. In the chaos, the Spirit of God came with energy beyond their wildest imaginations. This coming changed their attitudes and motivated them with enthusiasm and hope. They moved from being weak and discouraged to being people with inner vitality. They discovered a dynamic

power of love and a new determination to live what Jesus had proclaimed to them.

We need to stay attuned to the movement of the Spirit if we are to hear the call for deeper growth. My Pentecosts are rarely large, powerful gales, like one feels walking on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. My special moments are little gusts that change my life a little at a time.

Enjoy this season of new growth and special moments of little gusts!

Blessings  
Rev. Sue

### Coming attractions . . .

#### Knitting Group

Every **Monday** 10 am – 12 noon  
Call Helen for location: 762-2625

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#### Bala Church Council Meeting

**Thursday, May 7**

7:00 pm in the C.E. Wing

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#### Bala - Port Carling Official Board Meeting

**Tuesday, May 12**

7:00 pm in the C.E. Wing

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#### UCW Annual Potluck Luncheon

**Thursday, May 14 at 11:30 am**

Come and see the changes to the C.E. Wing

C.E. Wing, Bala United Church

All Women of the church are welcome

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**“Mornings with Sue”**  
**Thursday, May 21**  
10 am in the C.E. Wing  
Everyone is welcome!

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**Bala United Church Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, May 24**  
Following an abbreviated Service  
(Please bring a “Brown Bag” Lunch)

### Notes from Council:

There is always a need for new faces at the table. Think about it! The work of Council provides important support to your Church. Come, sit with us, share your thoughts, and participate in a very essential part of Bala United Church. You need not be a Member of the United Church to serve on Council.

Our application for a raffle licence has been approved. Proceeds of the raffle of Christine Marshall’s limited edition painting will support children’s programs and local charities.

Because of George Woodward’s illness and limitations of time, there will not be a spring plant sale this year.

The C.E. Wing Renewal goes forward quickly. On April 28, painters, Jon Gurr, Sue Gurr, Peter Hemming, Susan Hemming, Marian McDonald, Bill Niess, Marilyn Niess, Mary Patterson, John Vellinga, and Rev. Sue Wood undercoated ceiling and walls while Jo-Anne Baird, Barb Bond, Marilyn Niess, Helen Taylor, Diane Trusler and Maggie Vellinga provided sandwiches, cookies! and coffee. John Baird and Bruce Patterson joined in the project the following day. Kudos go to all for their generosity and talent!

Oh, and not to forget Bill Purkis of Purks Place who provided, at no charge to our church, the scaffolding that ensured the safety of our volunteers. When you see Bill, be sure to thank him for his generous gesture.

Brian McDonald



### C.E. Wing Renewal

The work continues and the C.E. Wing looks more beautiful with each shift of volunteers.  
Thank you everyone.

**August 11, 12, 13, 2009**  
at  
**BALA UNITED CHURCH**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009**



Take a walk on the wild side at Kingdom of the Son VBS! During your spectacular prayer safari you will journey into the Serengeti -- the magnificent grassland region of Tanzania and Kenya. You’ll discover exotic animals, create safari crafts, play exciting games, sing upbeat songs and enjoy delicious safari snacks!

And while you are having safari fun, you’ll also learn to talk to God as you explore the Lord’s Prayer. Come on an unforgettable adventure this summer! It’s the wildest VBS ever! It’s the Kingdom of the Son Prayer Safari

### The Last Word:

*How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.*

*George Washington Carver*



### Mother’s Day

A day where we take some time to thank the person that brought us into this world and/or cared for us when we were young and now when we are grownups.