



Bala United Church

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Newsletter May, 2010

Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat:

I am still on a high from a wonderful holiday in the sunny south; walking the beach and just being able to plan the day as we go. I feel I have so much energy and am ready to embrace all the activities that you will be reading about in our May newsletter. It is great to see so many back from their winter away. Catching up in person is so much better than emails and phone calls.

Very soon each person and family in our congregations will be contacted to make an appointment for their picture to be taken. What a treasure it will be to have a photo directory of the people who call Bala and Port Carling United Church home on Sunday morning. See the dates in this newsletter and make sure to set up an appointment that fits your busy summer schedule!

The United Church of Canada celebrates its 85th Anniversary this June. The theme is "Remember, Renew, Rejoice!" Part of this journey is connecting with other churches. We have been partnered with Keswick Ridge United Church Pastoral Charge not far from Fredericton New Brunswick. It will be interesting to make connections with each other as we share our church and community history.

A "cowgirl" at heart, I asked the children and youth of the pastoral charge to pick a theme for VBS 2010. So saddle up and dust off the cowboy/girl hats and round up the kiddies because we will be "riding the range" and having loads of fun. These will be some of the questions we will be wrestling with: What is God's plan for me? How can I be more like Jesus? Application forms will soon be out and volunteers are needed!

This past Sunday from our new song book "More Voices" we sang a beautiful piece of music. It certainly can be a theme for our two churches this summer as we help with the Patty Parsons Habitat for Humanity build, Vacation Bible Schools, Anniversary Sundays and other special events:

What can I do?
What can I bring?
What can I say?
What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy.
I'll say a prayer
I'll bring my love.
I'll do my share.

Blessings, Rev. Sue

(P.S. It is really good to be back!)

Notes from your Treasurer

Seems like this is the right time to share information with you on our financial activities for the first three months of 2010. It is typical during the first quarter for us to experience a shortfall due to the lack of revenues. This year has been no different.

We have spent about twice the amount we brought in during this period. High utilities and heat costs, partial payment on our new sound system, and the usual monthly expenditures have all contributed to this situation. With Spring approaching and attendance increasing at our services, we anticipate a change in a positive direction. I will keep you posted at the end of our second quarter.

At the risk of sounding like I'm repeating myself . . . because I am . . . I encourage you to join others from our congregation and register for our very worthwhile Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) program. Think about it, no envelopes, no forgetting to contribute. It's a once a month withdrawal from your account. Without a doubt, it benefits you and the church.

If interested, please call me for additional information at 762-1144. I would be pleased to mail a registration form to you or you may pick one up near the side exit of the church.

Your council is very appreciative of your contributions and for this, we thank you.

Kindest regards, Leo Couture

Notes from the Chair, Official Board

All members of Bala and Port Carling United Churches are *welcome* to attend and observe the **Official Board meeting** to take place on May 11, 2010, at 7:30 pm at Bala United Church.

The focus will be on shared activities between the two churches of our pastoral charge.

Council members from both churches are *expected* to attend.

Kathy Hazlewood, Chair, Official Board

Notes from Council . . .

Members of Council continue to plan and to work on behalf of the congregation. Under Mary Patterson's capable direction, the planning for the joint Habitat for Humanity Muskoka and Bala United Church fundraiser for July 24 goes forward each week. "Steeltoes and Sandals" promises to be a very enjoyable and worthwhile

event. Spirited leader, Marg Couture, with hardy volunteers will initiate the preparation of the Dr. George Woodward Memory Garden. That "big dig" will occur May 1, Saturday, the same day as a general outside church clean-up. You are all invited! The new sound system is in place and working well. The sound system fundraising team will meet this week to plan a small summer recital series in the church. Proceeds from this will offset any expenses / shortfalls not already met for the sound system. You can look forward, for example, to listening to concert harpist, Maria Jacobsson, on August 21 at the Church. The contributions of the Gift Shop to the work of the Church cannot be overstated. The creative labour of Cecelia Colwell, Jean Cameron, and Helen Taylor to this endeavour has helped the Church in several quiet but generous ways including the renewal of the Jackson C. E. wing. One final note: kudos go to Susan Hemming and her Welcoming Church team for their very fine and helpful work over many months.

Brian McDonald, Vice-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

May 6, 7:00 pm
Jackson CE Wing

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"Mornings With Sue"

Thursday, May 20, 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.



**Vacation Bible
School
2010**

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 from 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! Applications are available at Bala United Church or on our church web-site bpcunitedchurch.com



**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
Potluck Luncheon & Spring Celebration
Thursday, May 13**

Social: 11:30 am

Luncheon: 12 noon

Jackson Christian Education Wing

All women of the church are invited as we share winter stories and discuss summer events!

Who are Beth and Ian Croft?



The Croft duo are commuters it seems...We commuted from Toronto to Ottawa in the 60s when dating; from Ottawa and Toronto to our first cottage for 20 years; and now from Toronto to Muskoka whenever we can!

Beth was born and raised in Ottawa and, following in her family's footsteps, pursued a career in teaching. Ian, born in Halifax, N.S., to a military family has had a more nomadic youth, with many military transfers in Canada and the U.K.

Ian holds a B. Comm. from Carleton University and is a Chartered Accountant. Beth with her Teaching Certificate and B.A. from York University has taught at schools in both Ottawa and Toronto. Ian is now semi-retired, having spent over 30 years working for the Thomson family of Toronto. Currently, he is a director of a Barbados hotel and chairman of a Toronto insurance company. When you don't see us in the dead of winter we are heading south for both work and sun.

Beth, while raising our family, volunteered at the oncology unit at Sick Children's Hospital.

For the last 20 years she has been a director and now a member of Ernestine's Women's Shelter fundraising team. She is also the convenor of her university book group. For Beth her retirement means spending more days reading and golfing at the cottage.

We both fell in love with cottage life on Pike Lake in the late 60s. After a 17 year commute from Toronto to Perth, sanity prevailed and we looked for a closer retreat. In 1984 we succumbed to the magic of Muskoka and bought our current cottage.

We have two married offspring, Angela and David. Our son's family and their young boys, spend most of the summer at our cabin adjacent to the family cottage. The path between places meanders through the forest and has been named "Pooh Bear's Hundred Acre Woods." May that Disney character and our Muskoka bear never cross paths!

The Colwells introduced us to Bala United Church and Ian and I immediately felt so very welcomed by all of you. BUC may have a small congregation but what a huge sense of spiritual joy lies inside its doors!!

Our cottage is located just off Highway 169 on Mortimer's Point Road. When aging limbs permit, we enjoy golfing and when the lake is calm we're on the water -- Ian in his kayak and Beth in her canoe. Life is good!



The **Bethlehem Trek Committee** invites members of the Bala community to join the Trek Board and ensure that the Trek will again take place in 2010 so that 400 - 500 people can continue to use this special event as a true beginning to marking the Christmas season.

The next meeting is May 10, 7 pm at the Chamber. Please contact Nan Allen at 762-5904 and tell her you want to help.



For days like today™

Thank you for placing your Canadian Tire Coupons on the Offering plate each Sunday. All proceeds of your coupons are applied to the expenses of Camp Bucko, a camp that accommodates children injured in fires.

We need your help to ensure the success of



a **Silent and Live Auction fundraiser** to take place on Saturday, July 24, 2010, at Bala Community Centre, 8 pm - 11 pm. on behalf of the Patty Parsons Habitat Build and Bala United Church building and maintenance.

Please call Mary Patterson at 762-5270 and tell her you want to get involved!