



# Bala United Church

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

### Minister's Chat:

This is another month of change, digging through our closets for our favourite warm sweater. "Where are those gloves that we bought last winter to replace the ones we lost" and "where is the snow shovel!" Colder days, going to work in the dark and coming home in the dark, yes, winter is right around the corner! It is November, a month where many of us take a moment to reflect on these words: "at the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them." In the past 3100 years of recorded history, only 286 years have been free of war. Some people believe that war is the normal human condition. If that is so, what a great and revolutionary message was brought to us by the one called the "Prince of Peace."

How do we bring about peace? There is a story about a devout rabbi who learned to come to terms with his own nature. When he was young, he was sure that he could and would convert the whole world to ways of peace. Soon he learned that it would be enough to convert the people in his village. As time passed, he tried to bring peace to all those in his synagogue, then his whole family, and finally just his own household. At last he realized that he could change only himself into a peace-loving and peace-making person.

Each of us is responsible for his/her own acts of peace. Our lives need to be filled with acts of loving kindness and thoughts of how to be a person of peace. It is a fascinating twist of history the way in which the significance of the two-fingered V has changed. Sir Winston Churchill made it famous to one generation as a sign of victory. A generation later we have turned it into a universal sign of peace.

*We come, O God of peace, to ask for your holy presence in this place. Give us a gentle spirit. Give us the soft answer that turns anger aside. Give us the courage to be a light of hope and peace in the darkness of fear. We ask in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen*

Blessings

Rev. Sue

### Chairman's Corner

It seems early but the signs of our "winter" season are here; the choir has dispersed, the leaves are past their peak; and the church furnace is in use on Sundays.

I hope you all had a chance to get in to the Jackson C.E. Wing for "Chili at the Church" on Cranberry Festival weekend. Our ladies of the UCW are to be congratulated for a fantastic weekend of Chili! The customer feedback has all been very complimentary. Thanks to all who helped from a grateful Council! It must also be noted that the Gift Shop had a highly successful weekend as well. The little shop that grew!

Council has worked hard to arrive at a decision on our new sound system. In the Spring, as we prepare to reenter our sanctuary, a wonderful new system will be installed. We have chosen a system that will provide high quality sound for many years to come. We have established a fund raising team and you are encouraged to help. Please speak to Brian McDonald, 762-5178, and support this vital church project.

As a choir member, I personally thank all of you who supported the Salute to Broadway presentation. Approximately \$1,200 was raised, and a portion of this will be used to establish a

much needed choir budget to help with the costs of music and the cleaning of gowns.

You may notice that work continues around the foundation of our Jackson C.E. Wing. Jon Gurr and our Property Manager Bill Niess, have coordinated this project, and we also thank Ed Smith, Larry Wines, and Don Elliott for their significant contributions!

Don't forget to get your regular and H1N1 flu shots. With all that we do this is a priority in life; we want to remember that our health and happiness come first.

See you in Church!

Steve Burdick, Council Chair

### Coming attractions . . .

#### Knitting Group

Every **Monday** 10 am - 12 noon

Jackson C.E. Wing - Everyone is welcome

Coffee is being served!

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#### Bala Church Council Meeting

**Thursday, November 12**

1:00 pm in the Jackson C.E. Wing

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#### "Mornings with Sue"

**Thursday, November 19**

10 am in the Jackson C.E. Wing

Everyone is welcome!

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#### Bala Curling Club Craft Sale

**Saturday, November 21**, Bala Community Centre

Ladies from the church will be serving lunch!

Start your Christmas shopping and relax with our soup and sandwich luncheon!



We had an October full of activity and are planning a busy November as well.

On October 3 we began our hectic month by catering a lunch for a group of bus tourists from Don Mills. We served a delicious meal of Velvety Carrot Ginger Soup, assorted sandwiches, Cranberry Apple Crisp with whipped cream and tea/coffee. Our patrons thoroughly enjoyed their lunch and thanked us profusely!

On October 8 we met at the home of Mary Patterson for a rollicking fun retreat with Rev. Sue and Marg Bartlett. One of our activities, designed to help us find our inner child, included painting a mural. One member, who will go

unnamed, entered our artistic endeavours in the Cranberry Festival Judged Exhibits. Evidently someone actually wanted to buy "Road Rage" by the "Group of Four." Who knew we had such talent among our Bala United Church Women! "Road Rage" won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in abstract painting and "October" won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in group painting. "Rebirth" came in 3<sup>rd</sup>!

At Cranberry Festival, we again served over 500 bowls of "Bala's Favourite Homemade Chili." We sold out Saturday and Sunday by 2:00 pm. Over 75 people took advantage of our "take-out" option as they sat on picnic tables in front of the church listening to the music from across the road. Under the leadership of Cecilia Colwell, our gift shop also did a brisk business. Cranberry Festival is an exciting and profitable time for our church and the success of our events falls squarely upon the shoulders of our many volunteers. We take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to everyone who helped out.

On Monday after Cranberry, the knitting group was back at it, building up an inventory to be ready for the Craft Show sponsored by the Bala Curling Club on November 21 at the Bala Community Centre. Please plan on visiting the show and, if you are able to help with the serving of lunches, please call Marilyn Niess at 762-2870.

On **Thursday, November 12**, our UCW will meet at **10:00 am in the Jackson C.E. Wing**. This is the meeting where we discuss donations to community groups, plans for our Bala Ladies Christmas Dinner, and next year's activities. Please join us. Andrea Burdick, President



### The Bala United Church Gift Shop . . .

Don't forget to come in and order your 2010 calendar. You will be proud to see our very own church on the September page.

To celebrate our good fortune we invite you to a **Potluck Luncheon on Monday, November 2, at 12 noon in the Jackson C.E. Wing**. Please bring your favourite dish. No dessert - there will be a surprise!

If you are able to join us please call Helen at 762-2625 or CeeCee, at 762-2323.