



Bala United Church

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Newsletter November, 2010

Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat:

you are with me.....

Psalm 23:4

This morning I caught myself putting sour cream on my cereal instead of yoghurt. Yes, the containers are similar and side by side in the fridge but once again I ask myself "is this Alzheimer's disease that has taken complete control of my mother's body slowly creeping into mine?" My mom was a nurse and worked in various hospitals and nursing homes. She followed my father in his ministry and each place they moved to she embraced her work and loved being with the elderly. I can remember her saying, "Susan I hope that I never end up having to live in a nursing home with Alzheimer's. Life can be so ironic -- Mom is living in a nursing home in Charlottetown P.E.I. and lives in her own world, knowing no one.

Life can be so difficult when a loved one is fighting for his/her life and it seems lately at Bala Port Carling there are individuals who are fighting for their lives. We ask ourselves, "Why would God allow this to happen?" We are fearful. Fear, when it is our master, is our enemy. When we master fear, it is our friend. Then we can give our fears a seat at our inner table without putting them in charge of our lives.

The opposite of fear is faith, not courage. Faith is trusting our relationship with God -- not that God will fix things for us but that wherever life takes us, whatever happens, God is with us. We are not alone, thanks be to God!

Courage is important too, although it is about going ahead when our faith is fragile. The word

"courage" takes its root from the French word, *coeur*, which means heart. So then, to find your courage is to find your heart, to find the centre of your life and passion. When we *encourage* one another we *enhearten* one another.

Be in the moment as much as you can. Fears are always about what lies ahead. Make your walking mantra "Be still and know that I am God." This helps settle your anxious heart and lets you savour a little of the beauty of the present. Stay connected with God, community, and self. Here are some things that can be healing and encouraging: pet your dog if you have one. Go to church, and stay for potluck if there is one. Let people bring you Jell-o and custard and soup. Pray. Visit with your neighbours. Ask them how their lives are going, and listen. Call the church and say you need a pastoral visit. Nap if you are tired. Read the Bible. In the evening, sit on opposite ends of the couch from your beloved so you can hold each other's feet while you talk. At the table, hold hands and read a prayer from your favourite prayer book. Phone people who make you cry or laugh.

We need to find our courage, to hear the heart of God beating among us. We need to fashion our lives together and our gifts to the world not with anxious fear but with courageous love. REMEMBER: Faith is trusting our relationship with God. God will not fix things for us but wherever life takes us, whatever happens, God is with us. We are not alone, thanks be to God!

Peace

Rev. Sue

Chairman's Corner

The smell of chili slowly diminishes from the Jackson C.E. Wing and another successful "Chili at the Church" is in the record books. By all accounts, the Bala Cranberry Festival broke records in most venues. Congratulations to our ladies of the UCW!

Now our church moves into the peace and tranquility of winter. Of course, our Council and congregation will continue the life and activity of the church full speed ahead as with past winters.

Council welcomes Barb Bond as its newest member, and we look forward to having her insight and enthusiasm on Council.

Our Property director, Bill Niess, keeps our church running smoothly by having the furnace serviced, all smoke alarm batteries replaced, occupancy signs posted, and will also investigate the requirements for improving our basement. Many thanks to John Baird and Brian McDonald for painting the vestibule and installing a new light fixture. Our entrance has never looked better!

I have been in contact with the Ontario Government and Swift River regarding the potential for building damage, as well as liability, should the Bala Falls Project proceed and blasting occur. In correspondence received by the Ministry of Environment in conjunction with Swift River, we are assured that all appropriate precautions would be taken. Many thanks to Sandy Currie and Jim Gilmore for their interest and support in this dialogue.

Due to the considerable effort of Marilyn Niess, we will all receive our new church directories later this year. They will be mailed to those congregants not in Bala.

I hope you all have a wonderful winter and a happy holiday season in December. Although Andrea and I depart for Florida for the winter, our thoughts are never far from Bala United Church!

Hoping this finds you well and we are looking forward to seeing you in the spring!

Steve Burdick, Chairman

Coming Events:

Knitting Group

Every **Monday** 10 am - 12 noon

Jackson C.E. Wing - Everyone is welcome

Coffee is served!

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Bala United Church Council Meeting
NEW DAY --Tuesday, November 2, 9:30 am
Jackson CE Wing

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Sunday, November 7 - 11 am
Remembrance Day Service

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Next meeting: Friday, November 12
Where: The home of Barb Bond
1110 Keeler Rd, Torrance
762-3838
When: 10:30 am

Ladies, please plan to join us for a budget meeting followed by a lunch of "chili on the lake."

This is no longer a pot luck -- we have just one casserole of chili left from Cranberry Festival and thought we'd share it on the 12th. Please RSVP to Jo-Anne Baird, 762-1158.

A DIME A DAY FOR MISSION AND SERVICE



If each person in the congregation collected a dime a day for a year, \$36.50 from each person would go to Mission and Service. The jar will be in the back of the church!



An announcement on behalf of
South Muskoka Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

Christmas House Tour

Saturday, December 4, 2010

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tickets \$25.00

Tour of 5 unique homes, tour of Inn at the Falls
"Haunted Room," craft sale, and draw.
For more information call Donna Green
at 645-4038

An announcement on behalf of
Muskoka Lakes Christmas Market

Saturday, November 6

Port Carling Community Centre

10 am - 5 pm

Free admission

Complimentary hot chocolate and coffee, door
prizes every hour, live entertainment.
Come out and get a head start on Christmas
shopping!

Hold the Dates:

Thursday, December 9, 2010

ACW/UCW-- Ladies Annual

Christmas Dinner

Trinity St. Albans' Anglican Church

Information to follow

Saturday, December 4, 2010

Trek to Bethlehem

Bala Community Centre



Announcing the arrival of a very healthy baby
boy, **Grayson Gabriel Phoenix Roy**, born
September 26 at 1:09 am. weighing 9 lbs, 8 oz.
A son to Jana and Patrick Roy and a brother to
Shelby and Skylar! Congratulations!

Rev Sue will be on holidays from November 12
to November 26. Rev. Paul Dempsey will be
pulpit supply for November 14 and Tina Bax will
be the worship leader for November 21.
Anyone needing assistance when Rev Sue is
away, please call Brian McDonald at 762-5178



**Remembrance Day: Lest we
forget**

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th
month, Canadians are asked to pause in
memory of the thousands of men and women
who have sacrificed their lives in military
service.

A day set aside to honour sacrifice!