



# Bala United Church

3115 Muskoka Road 169, P O Box 313, Bala, ON P0C 1A0 • 705-762-0116

email: [bpcunited@bell.net](mailto:bpcunited@bell.net) Web: [www.bpcunitedchurch.com](http://www.bpcunitedchurch.com)

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## Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

### Minister's Chat

Have you ever lived through renovations in your house? We are having our entire kitchen redone -- new cabinets, counter top, sink, lights, even new dry wall and insulation. Did you know that living without a kitchen is a real balancing act and a good lesson in patience!

Martha and Mary of the Bible found life similar to a balancing act and patience. Each had to try and balance her needs with the needs of the other. Martha was frustrated that Mary did not come and help her in the kitchen (at least she had a kitchen!) No doubt Mary could not understand why Martha did not join her and listen to the rabbi. Jesus teaches both Mary and Martha about patience and about the need for balance in their lives.

One day an old man saw a horse galloping toward him. The rider, who was being bounced about in the saddle, was desperately trying to hang on. As the horse sped past, the old man called out, "Where are you going in such a hurry?" The reply came back. "Ask the horse, I'm just hanging on." Some of us might feel like that unfortunate rider, trying to keep the balance and our patience while we ride a runaway horse.

For the rider on the runaway horse, the obvious answer might be, "Get off the horse!" Good advice, but how can we do it? If we "cannot get off the horse," perhaps the answer is to find ways to be at peace while we are still in the saddle. We need to learn to take the time to sip life's experiences, rather than gulp them down and hurry on to the next course.

There are moments in every day to quiet our inner turmoil, if only we could recognize and learn to use them. Some people adopt a passive exercise program that encourages its followers to do a simple tightening of the stomach muscles for 10 seconds every time they pass through a doorway -- no miracle abs in just 10 days, but a constant reminder of muscles and their need to be exercised. Surely the same technique could work in giving us the moments we need to be still and know God.

At every red traffic light, it is easy to sense the tension as drivers wait for the green light. Motors rev, eyes watch the opposite light for the change, and feet prepare to jump from the brake to the gas. Instead, we could use these moments to breathe deeply and to offer a simple prayer. Just a peaceful, thankful thought or two will start to change a stressful situation.

So, if your house is being torn apart and there is an inch a dust on every visible surface, breathe deeply, join in the fun, swing a hammer, and take pride in knowing that soon you will have the joy and contentment of a new kitchen!

*Amid the noise and dust of our lives, help us to make a space for quiet reflection. Give us the will to keep a balance in our lives; help us to slow down and seek your presence, O God.*

Blessings, Rev Sue

### Notes from Council

To accommodate Members of Council who are not easily available through the day, Council will meet, beginning this month (first Tuesday), at 7:30 p.m.

Pending Council approval of a budget for the Basement Renewal, demolition will begin in earnest next week. Architect, Terry Ledger, and husband / plumber, Dennis Cubberley, will provide plumbing at costs! Terry and Dennis own *Fixtures* in Port Carling. Several other contractors have also been very generous with their quotes for work to be done. As they are chosen, their names will be shared with you.

Barb Brown and Beth Croft who head up the fundraising for this project have their plans well in hand. Indeed, already the ladies of the Gift Shoppe and individual Members have contributed generously to the project. On the first night of Line Dancing—John and Jo-Anne Baird's project--\$510 was received and directed to the Basement Renewal.

Last week our Council and that of Port Carling United Church, who together constitute the Official Board, met at Port Carling. Newly appointed Chair, Steve Burdick, guided the meeting very well. Steve received reports from Rev Sue, UCW, Mission and Service, Ministry and Personnel, Chairs of Council, Communications, Trustees, and Sunday School and Christian Development. Treasurer, Leo Couture, presented a report and a proposed budget.

Sadly, Leo will not continue in his role as Treasurer of the Official Board and of Bala United Church beyond the end of December, 2011. Leo has performed in an outstanding way to the welfare both of the Joint Charge and of Bala United Church in his role as Treasurer. He will not be easily replaced in either venue. Leo will be missed, most certainly.

Next Council's agenda will include consideration of Swift River's intent to build a hydro-generation plant closer to our church.

Respectfully submitted, Brian McDonald

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**Ice Luminaries**

On Christmas Eve the pathway into the church will be lined with candle/ice luminaries. They will be lit "in memory" and "in honour" of people who have special places in our hearts.

If you would like us to light luminaries on your behalf, please send \$10 for each to Bala United Church Women, at P O Box 313, Bala ON POC 1A0 or give the money directly to Marian McDonald or Barb Bond.



### **The Retreat - LOSS, LOVE, LEGACY**

On Wednesday September 28, eleven women from our church went to the Port Carling United church and joined their ladies for a day of friendship, fellowship, and laughter.

The theme for the day was Love, Loss, and Legacy as demonstrated by the book of Ruth, one of the only two books in the bible named after a woman.

Rev. Sue led the group in games and songs so that both groups could get to know each other. After delicious muffins, coffee and tea, the women broke into 4 groups to discuss the 4 chapters of Ruth, a story that highlights strength, loyalty, tolerance towards people of other nations, relationships, love, caring, respect, unselfishness, valuing of traditions, and lineage.

At lunch time, the ladies were treated to a delicious soup made by Susan Daghish from Port Carling. Sounds of laughter and lively chatter filled the room. All the women had a chance to express their own views on friendship, relationships with family members, love, and the legacy that has been passed on to them and which they are passing onto their families.

It was a delightful way to spend a rainy autumn day and a great way to get to know the ladies of Rev. Sue's other charge. As a bonus, Joanne Baird has kindly agreed to compile the recipes, each lady submitted. A copy of those recipes can be found in the JCE Wing.

Mary Patterson

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## Modern Line Dancing



A huge thank you to John and Jo-Anne Baird as they continue to teach 20 of us the electric slide to "boot Scootin' Boogie," the Texas Waltz to "You Light Up My Life," and the Slow Swing to "Having a Party!"

Watch for pictures in the December newsletter!

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## A note to Snowbirds and Others

Across the River from Marian and me Gwen Thomas' light has not burned these last few days. Gwen has returned to her winter home in Sudbury. We miss her already. As we walked along Centre Avenue today, we noticed that Steve and Andrea Burdick's recycling bin was not out as they too have left us for a while for the sunnier climes of Florida. We feel a certain emptiness. Jake and Marilyn Cambridge have followed as have Bruce and Mary Patterson and as will Peter and Susan Hemming, Jon and Sue Gurr, Chet and Diana Trusler, and Dick and Beth Deakin in their turn. Dan Lillycropp and Carol Holmes have readied their cottage for a winter absence and returned to Perrysburg, Ohio. As I write, ironically, Bill and Marilyn Niess are *en route* from Florida to home in Bala.

Hamilton, Ancaster, and Waterloo welcome home Ruth Allan, Irene Brownlow, Marg Colmer, Larry Shantz, and Marilyn Truemner respectively. Toronto, including North York and Etobicoke, hold the winter homes for Bette Hanmer, Jocelyn and Peter Cowern, Alma Lynd, Lorraine Dormer, Wesley Lynd, Sue McNay, Bob and Mary Crawford, and Bert and Lois Lynd. Jim and Elinor Gilmore have travelled back to Wasaga Beach. Bill and Aileen Jamieson, Betty Johnston, John and Margie Jamieson, and Sue Rumsey have returned to Mississauga, Agincourt, and Oakville while Bramalea has greeted Jack and Carolyn Sullivan in their turn. We miss them all.

At all points in the year we are happy to see Bill Day, Poul Larsen, Alice Chisholm, Frances Brown, Bob McGavin, Kerry Adams, Evelyn McAdam, Dorothy Griffith, and Michael Kinsey. We look forward to the return of Margaret Story from Orillia, Bob Tole from Oshawa, Hugh and Carol Tupker from Sharon, Ontario, and Bob and Helen Wright from Mount Hope. Through the Winter, some of us -- like Jean Cameron, Ian and Beth Croft, and Sandy Currie and Marg Bartlett—come and go to and from Toronto and Oakville. John and Joanne Baird look forward to a holiday away-- Panama in December!

As with many transitions, there is a little sadness as so many go away. Know that, in your absence, we still think of you. In a real way, however, you are still with us as we are family!--Bala United Church. At home or away, each of you has immeasurable value and, on your return, will complete our circle in meaningful, fulfilling ways. So, be safe, as you travel or spend time at home, and come back to us when you can, renewed, energized, and ready to pick up again your life in Muskoka and at Bala United Church.

Brian McDonald

## Announcements:

**Next UCW Meeting:** Thursday, November 10, 11 am, Budget meeting & potluck luncheon, home of Marian McDonald, 1037 River St. Bala 762-5178 All women of the church are welcome!

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**Monday, November 14, 2011** Living Waters Presbytery will be making a **Pastoral Oversight Visit** to our Bala Port Carling Pastoral Charge.

Statement of Purpose: Ministry in a Pastoral Charge is constituted by a covenant made between the Presbytery, the Pastoral Charge, and the Minister. In honouring this covenant the Pastoral Oversight Visit is intended to foster a positive relationship between the three parties to the Covenant in which joys and strengths may be celebrated and the resources of the wider church made available to meet challenges.

The entire congregation is welcome to attend and their presence and input are needed and valued at this important meeting. The meeting takes place at 3:00 pm at Port Carling United Church.



Hold The Date!  
**Hot Dog &  
 Movie Night**  
 Saturday,  
 November 19  
 6:30 pm

**Mark November 19 on your calendar** and get ready to be entertained. It's movie night at the church and we'll soon be warming up the popcorn makers!

"**The Great Debaters**" is a Golden Globe award-winning movie, starring Denzel Washington and Forrest Whitaker. Just as in any good team sports story, there is adversity and a goal on the horizon. "We shall overcome . . ." takes on real intensity in this journey to victory.

Based upon a true story of an inspirational English professor at Wiley College, the movie is set in the American South during the 30's. Tracing the evolution of an underdog debating team we see challenges against adversity, some threatening.

Film Critic Roger Ebert called this very inspirational movie, ". . . one of the year's (2007) best films!"

Hot dogs, popcorn, candy and drinks will be available at 6:30 pm. Showtime is 7 pm.



**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 Cecelia Colwell at 762-2323.



**Knitting Group**

Every **Monday** 10 am – 12 noon  
 Jackson C.E. Wing – Everyone is welcome.  
 Coffee is served.



**Bala United Church Council Meeting**

Tuesday, November 1 , 2011  
 7:30 pm , Jackson C E Wing



In Loving Memory of  
**Nancy Jeane Perkins**

April 27, 1953 - October 12, 2011  
 beloved wife of David, dear mother of Brendan  
 and loving sister of Judy Racz and Mike Racz

In Loving Memory of  
**Frederick William "Bill" Bond**

October 23, 2011 in his 100<sup>th</sup> year  
 dear father of Bob and Barbara Bond

In Loving Memory of  
**Donna Maureen Magrath**

July 6, 1963 - October 22, 2011  
 Canada Post employee, Bala Office  
 Beloved wife of David Young of Port Carling  
 Funeral Saturday, Nov 5, 2 pm  
 Reynolds Funeral Home, Bracebridge



Rev. Sue will be on holidays from November 21 to  
 November 28. Jen Dennis will be pulpit supply  
 for Nov. 27th. Anyone needing assistance when  
 Rev Sue is away, call Brian McDonald 762-5178



**REMEMBRANCE DAY IN CANADA**

Friday, November 11, 2011  
 Wahta Cenotaph

