



Bala United Church

3115 Muskoka Road 169, PO Box 313, Bala, ON P0C 1A0 • Tel: 705 762-0116
email: bpcunited@muskoka.com • Web: www.bpcunitedchurch.com

Volume Two: Issue 34

Newsletter October, 2009

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

Minister's Chat:

In mid September my sermon title was "Thank God." A more secular term might be "don't forget to smell the roses." Here is a story that was sent to me and puts it all in perspective!

In a Washington, DC Metro Station on a cold January morning in 2007 a man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time about 2 thousand people passed through the station, most of them on their way to work. After 3 minutes, a middle aged man noticed that there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried to meet his schedule. Four minutes later the violinist received his first dollar: a woman threw the money in the hat and, without stopping, continued to walk. After six minutes, A young man leaned against the wall to listen to him, then looked at his watch and started to walk again.

Ten minutes later a 3-year old boy stopped but his mother tugged him along hurriedly. The child stopped to look at the violinist again, but the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk, turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All parents, without exception, forced their children to move on quickly.

After forty-five minutes, the musician played continuously. Only 6 people stopped and listened for a short while. About 20 gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32. After one hour, he finished playing and silence took over. No one noticed. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars. Two days before, Joshua Bell sold out a theatre in Boston where the

seats averaged \$100. This is a true story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about **perception, taste, and**

people's priorities. The questions raised: in a common place environment at an inappropriate hour, do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context? One conclusion reached from this experiment could be this: if we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made . . . how many other things are we missing?

In this month of October take time to "Thank God."
Blessings,
Rev. Sue

Chairman's Corner

The leaves are turning and our town has become much quieter during the week; welcome to Fall in Muskoka, how beautiful it is.

If you were not at the choir's presentation of a "Salute to Broadway" you missed the musical event of the year in Bala. Our choir and friends, featuring our very own Bruce Patterson and his group, "Surefire," presented a highly entertaining and enjoyable program. A special word of thanks must go to our wonderful choir director, Bill Day. His leadership and direction was inspirational to all the performers. We also extend our sincere congratulations and thanks to all of those who joined us in the choir from Port Carling, Mactier and Trinity St. Albans' Anglican Church here in Bala. Congratulations on a wonderful presentation!

Many thanks to all who contributed to the George Woodward Fund. You will be pleased to know that \$1700. Was received, and it will be used to create the George Woodward Memory Garden at Bala United Church. Work on the garden will commence in the Spring of 2010.

Those of you who have attended church recently have noticed that a microphone and speakers have been used, courtesy of Jon Gurr. Council is currently researching several approaches to a permanent system that will

enhance both our speakers and listeners experience at Bala United. More to follow; stay tuned!

We are currently digging a trench around the east corner of the Jackson C.E.Wing. This is the beginning of our project to reduce/eliminate the moisture in the lower level. Thanks to Don Elliott for arranging a work crew from Beaver Creek to get us started. The project will continue through the fall.

Wow, Cranberry Festival is almost here! I'm looking forward to Chili at the Church again on all three days of the festival. See you all there!

As the next few weeks pass many of you will be preparing to begin your Winter in places other than Bala, and we wish you all a very rewarding and enjoyable time away.

I hope this Newsletter finds you healthy and happy.

See you in church.
Steve Burdick, Chair

Coming attractions . . .

Knitting Group

Every **Monday** 10 am – 12 noon
Jackson C.E. Wing – Everyone is welcome
Come and visit the gift shop!

≈

Bala Church Council Meeting Thursday, October 1

7:00 pm in the Jackson C.E. Wing

≈

**Bala/Port Carling
Ministry and Personnel Committee Mtg.
October 15, 2009 at 7 pm
Port Carling United Church**

≈

**“Mornings with Sue”
Thursday, October 15**
10 am in the Jackson C.E. Wing
Everyone is welcome!

≈

The **Official Board of our
Pastoral Charge
Meeting**
October 27 at 7:15 pm
Port Carling United Church

≈



October will be a very busy month for our UCW! On **October 3** we will host our first **“Bus Luncheon”** in collaboration with Trinity St. Alban's ACW! Sixty people will go to the Anglican Church for lunch and another 60 to our Church. The ACW and the UCW will serve the same meal. We will prepare “Velvety Carrot-

Ginger Soup” for both churches and the ACW will bake “Apple Cranberry Crisp” for both churches. Each Women's group will prepare their own sandwiches and pickle and relish trays. We anticipate a very successful shared activity. We'll let you know!

On **October 8** from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm we will have a **Women's Retreat** at 1250 Acton Island Road. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Please contact Marian McDonald at 762-5178 by October 3 if you would like to attend.

On **October 16, 17, 18**, our UCW will again present **“Chili at the Church”** during Cranberry Festival. We will be open every day of the festival from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm. We hope that you will stop by to enjoy a bowl of Bala's Favourite Chili! Be sure and browse through our Woolens and Gift Shop. Our “Knitting Group” has been busy preparing some new and beautiful items for our shop – come see!

Our next UCW meeting will be November 12 in the Jackson C. E. Wing at 10:am!

Andrea Burdick, President



The Bala United Church Gift Shop . . .

thanks all who have knitted, donated items, or made purchases to support our Gift Shop. Because of all of you it has become a wonderful success! We have beautiful knitted items, treasures, and even marmalade for your gift giving.

Don't forget to come in and order your 2010 calendar. You will be proud to see our very own church that was selected for the month of September. You will want to keep it as a memento and give one to friends.

We are beginning our second year of operation! Without Helen Taylor's special talent this would not have come together. To celebrate our good fortune we invite you to a Pot Luck Luncheon on Monday, November 2, at 12 noon in our Jackson C.E. Wing at Bala United Church. If you are able to join us please call Helen at 762-2625 or myself, CeeCee, at 762-2323.

Knitting is 10 am Monday's. Coffee is being served and everyone is welcome!

Cecilia Colwell

Please ensure that your **Christine Marshall raffle tickets** have been sold and stubs and proceeds returned to Mary Patterson or Marian McDonald by October 9, 2009 for the Cranberry Festival Draw.