



# Bala United Church

3115 Muskoka Road 169, PO Box 313, Bala, ON P0C 1A0 • Tel: 705 762-0116

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

Volume Two: Issue 33

Newsletter September, 2009

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

### Minister's Chat:

It has been said that the three major killers in today's culture are calendars, telephones and clocks – the difficulty of an accelerated life. What can we do about these adversaries? How do we cope? How do we celebrate life and not just endure or survive it? Is there life after stress? How do we withstand the pressures, and the demands? Here are three suggestions.

**Travel light.** Decide what is really important to you and focus your energy on those things. You cannot do everything, so you have to decide what really matters and weed out all the rest. So often we get uptight and stressed out over things that do not really matter that much. WHAT are the things that really matter? Love, honesty, integrity, fairness, truth, compassion, commitment, loyalty, forgiveness – these are things that really matter. Now wait a minute, where have we heard these words before? At church! Perhaps we've heard them at home as well, but even there their origins probably can be traced back to the church. The church, our faith community, by the grace of God shows us how to focus and travel light.

**Take one step at a time.** Do one thing at a time. Love one day at a time. Jesus talked about this concept in the Sermon on the Mount when he told us not to worry about health, food or the future (Matt 6: 25-34). We need to take one day at a time, one thing at a time, one step at a time. Did you know that the phrase "**do not fear**" appears in the Bible 365 times? That is one for each day of the year!

**Relax your soul in God.** Jesus' parable of the seed speaks to this concept (Mark 4: 1-9). The idea is to sow the seed the best you can and trust God to

water and harvest. It does not matter if the odds are against you. It does not matter if things may seem hopeless. It does not matter how bleak the outlook may be. Don't worry about that. Just plant the seed, do your best and trust in God for the rest.

I hope that September will be a month of slowing down and taking time to "smell the flowers!"

Blessings  
Rev. Sue

### Notes from Council

Through the summer many fine initiatives have contributed measurably to the vibrancy, joy, and welcoming nature of our Church—bazaar, dinner dance, travelogues, vacation bible school, the dedication of the Jackson Christian Education wing, and the joint charge picnic. Thanks go to all whose good ideas, dedication, and hard work have made these initiatives highly successful.

Bala United welcomes members of the Lions Club who will make use of the Jackson Christian Education Wing. Bill Niess and Bruce Patterson are developing a fire safety plan for submission to the Township of Muskoka Lakes.

At our next meeting, Council members will review and make decision re the purchase of a new sound system from proceeds donated by George Woodward. On the same basis, a garden in George's memory will be explored.

Brian McDonald

### Coming attractions . . .

#### Knitting Group

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

≈

**Bala Church Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 3**  
7:00 pm in the Jackson C.E. Wing

~  
**The Jackson Christian Education Wing**  
**Rededicated Sunday, August 16, 2009**



**Thank you, Frances,**  
**from the bottom of our hearts!**



**Thanks to all our children, volunteers, and**  
**parents for making this an exciting Safari.**  
**See you next year!**



~  
**“Mornings with Sue”**  
**Thursday, September 17**  
10 am in the Jackson C.E. Wing  
Everyone is welcome!

~



Please join us on **Saturday, September 19**, at  
7:30 pm as the Bala United Church Choir and  
Friends present many of your favourite tunes in their  
**“SALUTE TO BROADWAY!”**

Their special guests will be our own Bruce Patterson  
and his barbershop quartet, “SUREFIRE! Tickets  
are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.  
For tickets or information please call Robin at 762-  
3059 or Carolyn at 762-3391.

See you there!



**SUMMER TRAVELOGUES**  
**AT BALA UNITED CHURCH**

Thank you, Ken Veitch for your presentation on  
The History of Bracebridge in Muskoka; Pat and  
Jack Sinclair for your video on Antarctica; Jon and  
Sue Gurr for taking us on a safari in Africa and, last  
but not least, Marg and John Jamieson’s Imperial  
Russia,



Do you need some relaxation, rejuvenation and  
renewal?

Plan to join us, the ladies of Bala United  
Church, as we attend a mini retreat on Thursday,  
October 8 from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm.

Additional information will be available soon!  
Questions, please call Marian at 762-5178

***The Last Word***

We are all teachers and students. Ask yourself:  
“What did I come to learn and what did I come  
to teach?” - Louise Hay