



Bala United Church

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Issue 43

Newsletter September, 2010

1 Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat:

This is the month Bala United is the centerfold in the United Church calendar -- a calendar that is sold all across Canada and our little church made it. We just celebrated our 130th Anniversary and what a proud moment! Can you remember back to your earliest memories of attending Bala United? Yes, there have been changes, very proud moments, and other moments to learn from.

A very proud moment was VBS 2010. We hosted 24 little ones, with 3 youth as helpers and 10 volunteers who made sure there were enough snacks, that glue went on the craft not in the hair. There was fun running around outside and enough stories and music to keep everyone excited. We shared our learning on Sunday, August 15, and everyone enjoyed being part of VBS.

As the weather seems to be changing, our thoughts turn towards the fall and the many activities that will be taking place. Eat, Pray and Love is our theme for the Women's Retreat on September 16. It will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Jackson C.E. Wing.

Anne Lamott on "Eat, Pray, Love" by Elizabeth Gilbert

"This is a wonderful book, brilliant and personal, rich in spiritual insight, filled with sorrow and a great sense of humour. Elizabeth Gilbert is everything you would love in a tour guide, of magical places she has traveled to both deep inside and across the oceans: she's wise, jaunty, human, ethereal, hilarious,

heartbreaking, and does she pay great attention to the things that really matter."

This is an invitation to all women of the church (I know you love to eat; I saw you on August 19 at Bala Bay Inn.) Through meditation and a few surprises share in stories and enjoy just being together! We hope that many women will attend. and please RSVP to let me know you are coming. Come and find out the things that really matter!

Blessings Rev. Sue

Chairman's Corner

Well, it's hard to believe that Labour Day is upon us and the summer is about to pass into history for 2010.

Speaking of history, a large crowd, old and young, from near and far, attended our service on Sunday, August 22, to celebrate our 130th anniversary. Many memories and great music filled the sanctuary during the service, and we shared a wonderful pot-luck luncheon in the Jackson C.E. Wing after service. As this was a joint service with Port Carling United we enjoyed sharing in the festivities with our co-charge friends.

Work around the church continues under the leadership of our Property Chair, Bill Niess. Thank you John and Jo-Anne Baird for painting the doors at the entrance to the church and the railings.

Your devoted chairperson and his equally devoted supervisor, Andrea, continue the battle with the

stairs and hallway to the basement. Anyone interested in helping out around the church is invited to contact Bill Niess or myself.

Many thanks to those of you who have signed up to perform duties such as garden watering and ushering! These jobs are critical to the beauty of the church and the success of our services each week. The sign-up lists for these rewarding contributions to the church are located at the back of the sanctuary. Please take a moment to find a space for your contribution.

In case you haven't heard, Rev. Sue turned 50 in August! Congratulations to our minister, and best wishes for many more birthdays at Bala United! God Bless you, Sue, for all that you give to our church and to all of us as individuals.

Vacation Bible School, Saddle Ridge Ranch, was a terrific success, as we all witnessed in a wonderful service August 15. The children benefit from these programs put on by Rev. Sue as do her many helpers. Bravo everyone!

Council has sent a letter to all involved parties in the Bala Falls power generation project. Our primary concern is that, if the project is approved to proceed, our church may be negatively impacted by blasting. More will follow as information on the project regarding this issue becomes available.

Our church continues to be involved at many levels in the Habitat build in Bala. Thanks to all of you who have and continue to participate in this very worthwhile project. Best wishes go out to Howard Ruttan for a speedy recovery after an on-site mishap.

Thanks to all of those who contributed to another successful partnership with M.R.P.O.A. at the Annual Regatta this summer. Congratulations to Sandy Currie and the Niesses, who led the "B.B.Q. Brigade."

Hope this newsletter finds you happy and well.
See you in church!

Steve Burdick, Chairperson

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
Thursday, September 2, 7:00 pm
Jackson CE Wing



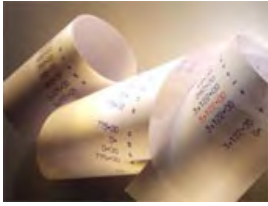
Bala/Port Carling UCW Retreat
Thursday, September 16
9:30 am

JCE Wing, Bala United Church
"Eat Love Pray"
Additional information will be available soon!
Questions, please call Marian at 762-5178.

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Tuesday, September 21, 2010
Double Quartet "JUST 8"



. . . returns and will perform many of your favourite jazz, swing, and gospel songs. This exciting group sings everything from Blue Skies to Sleepytime Bach to Shelter From The Storm. Join us at **7:30 pm** for a toe-tapping, fun evening. Admission will be by donation to the church building fund.



Treasurer's Request

To assure I have correct Winter mailing addresses on file, please provide me with the address you prefer I mailed your Income Tax receipt to in January, 2011. If your Summer mailing address and your Winter mailing addresses are the same, there is no need to comply with this request. Including this information in a Sunday offering envelope will be quite satisfactory.

Much appreciated, Leo Couture



Togs and Toys Sale

Saturday, September 25th, 2009

8:30 am to 12:00 noon at Bala United Church

Bala United Church is hosting a Togs and Toys Sale of gently used clothing, furniture and gear for babies, toddlers and kids. Tables can be rented at a cost of \$20.00 for individuals to make their own sales or you can bring in gently used items for your UCW to sell during the sale. Proceeds will go to Church Outreach and children's programs.

This is an opportunity for local families to restock on items children grow out of so quickly,

meet new parents and turn a few neglected items into profit.



BALA UNITED CHURCH celebrated its 130th Anniversary on the weekend of August 22, 2010. Many reflections were shared including this presentation from Council Chair, Steve Burdick.

In 1934, Lorne Jackson led and oversaw the building of the new church, the building we are now in.

We all have memories that go back to our individual beginnings here. These memories are our history.

There is a rich history within these walls that represents our church culture.

Over the years we have sadly said goodbye to many friends of Bala United Church and we have said welcome to many new friends of Bala United.

Many wonderful events have been celebrated within our church. The construction of a new kitchen, the painting and carpeting of the JCE Christian Education Wing, the new Dr. George Woodward Memorial Gardens, our new church sign, a state-of-the art sound system, a new furnace and many significant additional changes.

The Bell has been a summons for worshippers, a toll for weddings and funerals, and also has served for many years as Bala's fire alarm.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the incredible ways our Church is involved in the community:

Habitat for Humanity- People from this church are involved as the site supervisor, the volunteer co-ordinator, the materials co-ordinator, and everyday workers. The UCW prepares lunches every Tuesday from May to October. Steeltoes and Sandals was a highly

successful auction and fundraiser that resulted in the presentation of a cheque for \$7,000 to Habitat.

Trek to Bethlehem- The congregants involved included: the prophet, members of the angel choir, head Roman soldier, decorators, family guides, organizers of the Trek, and many others.

Cranberry Festival- At one time on the Cranberry Festival Executive, Bala United Church was represented by the Chair, the Treasurer, the Marketing and Sponsorship Director, the Volunteer Co-ordinator and the Entertainment Director. For many years, the Cranberry Festival board met on a monthly basis in our CE Wing. Our UCW presents an excellent Chili Lunch for three days every year during the festival.

Open Doors Muskoka: Like Port Carling United our Bala United Church participated in the Open Doors Muskoka program.

Bala United Church has been home to the Bala Seniors and is still home to our local chapter of AA and has taken in the Bala and District Lions when they were homeless!

Our Creativeness and Strength

How many churches do you know that have members set up a Gift Shop that donates over \$1500 for church use and to the rest of the community each year.

How many UCW's serve over 500 bowls of chili and make over \$2,400 selling other people's stuff at an annual bazaar?

How many United Churches have Burger Brigades and have had a "Weiner Convenor?"

How many church choirs do you know who have put on a "Salute to Broadway" that had standing room only?

Just as for all of those who came before us, the spirit and sense of community continues in us and in you! 130 years of incredible people and a history we are proud to share!



Labour Day in Canada

The origins of Labour Day can be traced back to April 15, 1872 when the Toronto Trades Assembly organized Canada's first significant demonstration for worker's rights. The aim of the demonstration was to release the 24 leaders of the Toronto Typographical Union who were imprisoned for striking to campaign for a nine hour working day. At this time, trade unions were still illegal and striking was seen as a criminal conspiracy to disrupt trade. In spite of this, the Toronto Trades Assembly was already a significant organization and encouraged workers to form trade unions, mediated in disputes between employers and employees and signaled the mistreatment of workers.

There was enormous public support for the parade and the authorities could no longer deny the important role that trade unions had to play in the emerging Canadian society. A few months later, a similar parade was organized in Ottawa and passed the house of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John Macdonald. Later in the day, he appeared before the gathering and promised to repeal all Canadian laws against trade unions. This happened in the same year and eventually led to the founding of the Canadian Labour Congress in 1883.

Labour Day was originally celebrated in the spring but it was moved to the fall after 1894. A similar holiday, Labour Day is held on the same day in the United States of America. Canadian trade unions are proud that this holiday was inspired by their efforts to improve workers' rights. Many countries have a holiday to celebrate workers' rights on or around May 1.

Traditionally, Labour Day was an occasion to campaign for and celebrate workers' rights during parades and picnics organized by trade unions. These still play a role in Labour Day for some Canadians, but many people see the first Monday in September as an opportunity to take a late summer trip, perhaps to their country cottage, or enjoy the company of family or friends at picnics, fairs, festivals and fireworks displays.



To Howard Ruttan we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery after a recent mishap at the Habitat worksite, and to Sparky Bartlett we extend our hope for a quick recovery following knee surgery. For you both, Sparky and Howard, we look forward to your return to our circle.