



Bala United Church

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Issue 41

Newsletter Summer, 2010

Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat:

A voice from behind me on the airplane called everything he saw on his first flight "awesome" -- the view, the food, the movie, and the people. During the whole flight, from Toronto to Orlando, a 5 year old was mesmerized and just loving life. When was the last time you felt like a kid looking at the world for the first time?

When was the last time you have used the word "awesome?"

Awesome /adj. inspiring awe; marvelous, excellent. (Oxford Dictionary.)

I short time later I came across a book and loved the title. I had to buy it (in honour of my little friend on the flight to Orlando), "The Book of Awesome" by Neil Pasricha. Sometimes it's easy to forget the things that make us smile. With news 24 hours a day 7 days a week reporting that the polar caps are melting, hurricanes are swirling in the seas, wars are heating up around the world, and the job market is in a deep freeze, it's tempting to feel that the world is falling apart. Nonetheless, awesome things are all around us - sometimes we just need to point them out.

Have these things ever happened to you so that they made you smile and made your steps a little lighter:

- a cashier opens up new checkout lane at the grocery store and waves you over

- a police officer on the side of the road reminds you that you're going the speed limit anyway
- getting the milk-to-cereal ratio just right
- high-fiving babies
- bubble wrap popping
- someone landing on the hotel you just built in Monopoly
- electronics working better by your smacking them
- a number of green lights in a row

To all of these and many many others that put a smile on our face we say, "AWESOME." This little book has helped me to laugh and to enjoy the simple things in life. All too often we dwell on the negatives and I receive my share, soooooo when I get overwhelmed I look for ways that will put a spring back into my step. This book is one; others are enjoying the smell of fresh cut grass, walking with the dogs, seeing a smile, or embracing a love one. Spending time alone and listening for that still small voice that lifts me up and like the morning sun, warms me all over.

This summer I want you to use the word "AWESOME" and why not make a list and you too can have 1000 awesomethings.com

Have a great summer!

Rev. Sue

Coming Events:

Chairman's Corner

Welcome to summer in Bala! Activity levels at BUC swing into full gear this time of year and 2010 is no exception.

Many of us are involved in the Habitat for Humanity build on a personal level. The UCW will prepare and serve food for the site workers each Tuesday during the project and Church Council is organizing a wonderful summer evening; "Steeltoes and Sandals". We are all eagerly looking forward to our annual Bazaar on July 3 as well! Further information on all of our activities is detailed throughout this Newsletter.

Having our church professionally cleaned leaves our church sparkling and we will continue with this service as well as have our carpeting professionally cleaned in the near future. We certainly have a beautiful church, both inside and out!

Our Property Chair, Bill Niess, continues his excellent work around the church. Most recently he and John Baird started resurfacing our front steps, and they will look terrific upon completion! Thank you Bill and John.

Many thanks to Sandy Currie and Bill and Marilyn Niess for leading the barbecue team in support of the Moon River Property Owners Annual Regatta this year, thus maintaining the traditions of the BUC Wiener Convenor!

May I remind you that we will celebrate the 130th anniversary of Bala United Church on Sunday, August 22, at a Joint Charge Service and Potluck luncheon in the church. Please note that the evening before, on August 21, we will host a "Music for a Summer's Evening" concert featuring Concert Harpist Maria Jacobsson and Soprano Kim Sartor. Please reserve these dates, and look for more information in the next few weeks.

On behalf of the Church Council, we appreciate your continued support and remain in the service of the church on your behalf. I invite any interested member of the church to join Council and reap the benefits of serving our wonderful church and congregation.

See you in church!

Steve Burdick, Council Chair

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, July 8, 7:00 pm
Jackson CE Wing

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"Mornings With Sue"

Thursday, July 15, 10 am
Jackson C.E. Wing

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Vacation
Bible School
August 10-12
2010



We have hitched up the wagon and it is pulling into Bala United with lots of cowboys and cowgirls and volunteers ready for an exciting week of games, music, stories, crafts and tasty treats. The fun will happen August 10-12 and let's fill the wagon and enjoy three mornings of VBS!!!! **Hurry and sign up.** Applications are at the church and on the website.

BALA UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL BAZAAR & BARBECUE

Saturday, July 3, 2010
8 a.m. to 12 noon



We look forward to seeing you there!



A Memorial Service will be held
to celebrate the life of
Bunty Jewitt
at Bala United Church on
Saturday, July 10, at 11 am.
Refreshments will follow.



Paws, Claws, Feathers & Fins

Sunday July 18, 1:00 p.m. outside on the lawn
next to Bala United Church
BLESSING OF THE PETS

We love all God's creatures, great and small. Celebrate the love and life and learning our pets bring to us, and the many ways they can open us to the world of the Spirit. Bring your Golden retriever, German shepherd, Guinea pig, or your Gold Fish -- any of God's creatures that share your home and your heart. For safety's sake, please make sure your pet is securely leashed.



Bala - Port Carling Pastoral Charge
Pictorial Directory.

In order to make this successful we need everyone to participate. Each individual, couple, or family that is photographed will receive a directory.

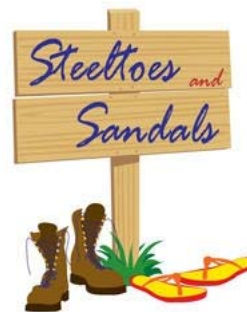
For more information call Marilyn Niess at 762-2870.



Leo's
GOURMET
WORLD

You are invited to attend a Potluck Luncheon
at the home of
Marg and Leo Couture
1094 Hurling Point Road, Bala
on **Sunday, July 11, 2010** after church.

Marg and Leo will provide the
sausages, buns, and fixings.
Please bring a salad or dessert.
Coffee, tea, and water will be provided.



Saturday, July 24

8:00 to 11:00 pm

Bala Community Centre

STEELTOES AND SANDALS FUNDRAISER for
[Habitat for Humanity](#) (Patty Parsons Build) and
the [Bala United Church Building Fund](#).

We are one month away from the big day and everything is coming together:

- ticket sales are hot,
- we have lots of auction items large and small, and

- the entire Muskoka food community has pitched in to contribute to amazing food stations.

Come and see the auction items, sample the Cranberry Construction Cocktail (only \$5), taste the appetizers and desserts (free), and bid on your special item.

Come and help us get these two homes built and add to the Church Building Fund.

The \$25 tickets are available at the Bala General Store, the Glen Orchard Store and the Chamber of Commerce office.

The Bala Community Centre is the place to be on July 24. Plan to be part of the excitement!

Anne Snowdon, Publicity



Bala United Church Women

The women of UCW elected their new slate of Officers for 2010-2011.

President - Marian McDonald

Vice Presidents - Andrea Burdick & Barb Bond

Secretary - Marilyn Niess

Treasurer - Sue Gurr & Anne Snowdon

Our next meeting: "Ladies do Lunch"

Thursday, August 19, at 12:15 pm

Bala Bay Inn

Details to follow.



In celebration of our
130th anniversary

A concert entitled,
"Music for a Summer's Evening,"

at

Bala United Church

Saturday August 21

7:30 pm

Featuring

Concert Harpist Maria Jacobsson,

and

Soprano Soloist, Kim Sartor

Tickets \$15 available through Marian at 762-5178, Marg at 762-1144 or the Muskoka Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

Refreshments will follow.

and

on Sunday, August 22

A further opportunity to celebrate the 130th Anniversary of Bala United church

A Bala/Port Carling Joint Charge Church Service and Potluck Picnic at the church!



GRANDPARENT
ANNOUNCEMENT

Welcoming a new Grand Daughter for
Jack and Carolyn Sullivan.

Baby Morgan was born on June 2 weighing in at 6 lbs 11 oz. A baby sister for 2 yr old Chas. Congratulations, parents -- Tim and Christina Sullivan!



Canada Day is celebrated on July 1 across the country. This date marks the anniversary of the formation of the union of the British North American provinces into a federation under the name of Canada.

In what year did Canada finally have a flag of her own?