



Bala United Church

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Issue 52

Newsletter June, 2011

Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat

Twitter, Goggle, iphone, Facebook - T.G.I.F! How do you communicate? According to Kevin Spurgaitis who has written an article for The Observer in May's edition writes: *"within a single generation, social networking on the Internet has reshaped modern culture and revolutionized how we relate to each other. For many people under the age of 50, online social networks have replaced television, newspaper and radio at their primary sources of entertainment and information. Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter are the first places they go to find love and ask spiritual questions."*

One of the defining characteristics of our time is the centrality of relationships. People seek and want connection. In a society where relationships are becoming so desirable and necessary for life, the key skill is conversation, the ability to listen and to offer. On Sunday on the May long weekend each person who came to church was given in one hand the Sunday bulletin and in the other a shiny small stone. The scriptures for that service called us "living stone, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." How do we communicate; how do we relate our faith to others? The Word is witness but for many that is as scary as this new technology.

How do we become a living stone? Sometimes in self-help books the question is put: What would you most like people to say about you at your funeral? This question shifts the focus from the day-to-day tasks that can swarm us like Muskoka black flies and mosquitoes to deeper questions of longer term. What do we stand for? What do we

want our lives to reflect? And our lives do reflect something. Make no mistake; this is not an option. Witness, it may be the greatest challenge and opportunity of our time for those who would be known as disciples of the Christ. Each person who attended church that Sunday, took home his/her stones and were asked to place it where they will see it from time to time.....and then pause for a moment to ask: "How can I be a living stone? What will my life reflect?"

Facebook and Twitter are here to stay in one way or another. You may be the one giving it a thumbs up or you have left it far behind BUT one thing we all can do is communicate with the love and grace we are each given by the Loving Creator who asks us to reach out to others and be a living stone.

Blessings, Rev. Sue

Chairman's Corner

Spring certainly has arrived for 2011. The pews fill out more and more each Sunday and the voices from the choir loft sound more robust as many of us return for the summer season.

Work at the church continues with Spring cleanup now completed under the leadership of Bill Niess and Dick Colwell, who has recently accepted the leadership role responsible for our church gardens. Thank you, Dick!

Our basement project remains on hold while we determine uses, next steps, and costs. Your council reiterates that all are welcome to provide ideas for the utilization of this space. Committee

members include Brian McDonald, Bill Niess, Beth Croft, Anne Snowden and Leo Couture.

Council shared their reflections on the Easter weekend services and agreed that Rev. Sue led a magnificent trio of services, highlighted by the sunrise service on Sunday. Those who attended were truly moved by the experience, and the decision was made to host it again next year.

Open your calenders and highlight Wednesday, August 3! Bala United will host "an old fashioned ham dinner." Stay tuned as further information and details will follow in the next couple of months.

As we prepare for another year of service to the church I wish to thank all those currently on council and those who have declared a desire to join council for their positive responses to our nominating committee.

Looking forward to seeing you in church!

Steve Burdick, Chair

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Announcements:



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.

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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

Tuesday, June 7, 2011
9:30 am Jackson C E Wing

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Coming Events:



Thursday, June 9, 2011

Social: 11:30 am

Pot Luck Luncheon: 12 noon



All women of the church are invited to join us as we discuss summer activities and share winter stories.

Please bring your favourite recipe to share on the buffet table.

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Sunday June 12, 2011

**Bala-Port Carling Pastoral Charge
Outdoor Service and pot luck lunch.**

10:30 am Hanna Park

Please bring a dish to share, your own dishes, utensils, and a chair to sit and enjoy what the day has to offer.

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**BALA UNITED
CHURCH**

**ANNUAL BAZAAR &
BARBECUE**

Saturday, July 2, 2011

8 am to 12 noon

Congregation members, please help us make this bazaar another successful event for Bala's United Church Women.

We need items that are re-saleable. If you wouldn't buy an item or an object we can't sell it. We need gently used items, complete with all their parts. We cannot sell mattresses, baby furniture, life jackets, old books, old movie/tape cassettes or lamps that are missing parts.

Please place appropriate items in the church basement on Sundays before the service or in the Jackson Christian Education Wing from Monday, June 27 to Thursday, June 30 between the hours of 9 - 11 am. The church will be closed July 1.

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Hold these dates:

Wednesday, August 3, 2011

Old Fashioned Ham Dinner

Bala United Church
Jackson C.E. Wing



and

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17,
2011**

**THE OTTAWA VALLEY
MEN'S CHOIR**

will perform at Bala United Church on



Don't forget !

A DIME A DAY FOR



MISSION AND SERVICE

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V.B.S.2011

Set Sail for SonTreasure Island!
Join the Treasure-Hunting Adventure at
Bala United Church
August 9 to 11 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Registration forms are available on line or
in the blue pail by the decorated bulletin
board in the church.

Hurry and set sail for SonTreasure Island!



To contact Rev. Sue

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(There are answering machines at all three
numbers; please leave a message.)

email address: revsue@bell.net

Note: Monday is Rev Sue's day off.