



Port Carling United Church

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Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat

Easter is a time of new life, a time of resurrection. The date falls in spring in the northern hemisphere. All around are signs of birth, regeneration and growth. The sun warms the land and fills the days with light. All is new and vibrant. The once brown grass gives way to green little buds. This process of the earth's greening after a long winter reminds me of our spiritual "eastering," the inner transformation and rebirthing that comes after we've had a long winter spell of the spirit. The dead, brown grass is there for eons in our hearts, or so it seems. No amount of hurry, or push, or desire can make the green happen any sooner. There are those who are in the throes of spiritual winter: sad news of a loved one, coping with the news your boss is letting you go, finding a lump and crying out "Oh no." Each one needs an "eastering," a bright greening and soon.

It may be a painstakingly slow process, a tiny bit of life gradually weaving through the pain and questions. "Eastering" isn't always a quick step out of the tomb. Sometimes rising from the dead takes a long, slowly-greening time. It can't be hurried.

It is my hope this Easter season that you will trust the resurrection of your spirit, believe that joy and new life will come for you, even though it may not be there for you now. If you are one of the fortunate ones whose soul sings with happy alleluias this Easter, may you turn often to those who are still awaiting their greening and walk with them.

Every year it happens:
earth shakes her sleepy head,
still a bit wintered and dull,
and feels new life stirring.

Every year cocoons give up their treasures,
fresh shoots push through brown leaves,
seemingly dead branches shine with green,
and singing birds find their way home.

Every year we hear the stories
empty tomb, surprised grievers,
runners with news and revelation,
unexpected encounters,
conversations on the road,
tales of nets filling with fish,
and breakfast on a seashore

And every year
the dull and dead in us
meets our Easter challenge:

to be open to the unexpected,
to believe beyond our security,
to welcome God in every form,
and trust in our own greening.
.....Joyce Rupp

Blessings during this season of greening!
Rev. Sue



Holy Week and Easter Services

April 5th 9:30 a.m.

**Palm Sunday and Communion
Port Carling United Church**

April 10th , 10:00 a.m.

Good Friday Service at Bala United Church

April 12th 7:00 a.m.

Sunrise Service at Legris Park, Bala
(park at the church where you will be guided to the park)
Breakfast to follow at Bala United Church

April 12th 9:30 a.m.

Easter Service at Port Carling United

Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m.

**Lenten Study with Rev. Sue
in Hanna Hall**

Port Carling United Church
Everyone is welcome to attend!

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009
12 NOON TO 2:00 P.M.
The Canadian Cancer Society's
'DAFFODIL TEA'
in Hanna Hall, Port Carling United Church



We fight all cancers.

Canadian Cancer Society | Let's Make Cancer History | 1-800-387-5628

Admission by Donation. Monies raised stays in our area to assist in local good works. An income tax receipt will be issued for the amount of the donation.

Tuesday, April 21 – 6:00 p.m.
UCW Meeting and Pot Luck Supper
Guest Speaker: Hazel Stewart
 on the topic of “Papua New Guinea”
 All ladies welcome!



Remember when “environmentalist” meant....recycling!
 It's not so simple anymore. Being an environmentalist today calls for a whole new level of **greener thinking** – from what you choose at the grocery store to how you commute to work every day

Saturday, April 25 – 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
The Township of Muskoka Lakes
Community Clean-up Day

On this day, residents may take large objects to the Eveleigh transfer station from 9 am to 6 pm. Tipping fees are waived for one vehicle load of acceptable items per property. Household Hazardous Waste can be disposed of between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Get Your Irish Up!

It's “no Blarney” that our St. Patrick's Day Celebration was “sold out!” It was the hottest ticket in town! We had a wonderful evening of music, song, fellowship and fun along with traditional Irish food. We are so thankful to the many volunteers that came out to help both Friday and Saturday along with the committee that worked so hard to make things happen. We are also grateful to The Apothecary Shop who made their store available for our ticket outlet; and to Mavis Hall our fiddler and pianist; Ron Sarjeant and his friends from Muskoka Men of Song who came out and led the sing-a-long.

The estimated proceeds from the event will come in around the \$1,500 mark. All and all a very successful undertaking for our Church

Help Decorate our Church for Easter!

Easter morning the chancel will be brightened by flowering plants donated by individuals and families in memory or in honour of loved ones. If you would like to purchase a pot of Spring Flowers for this purpose please **contact Joan Wallace at 765-6268.**

If you would prefer to make a donation towards purchasing the plants we encourage you to do so.

Joan will be purchasing the flowers all at one time so if she could have your commitment by Monday, April 6 it would be appreciated

Names of the donors and memorials will be published with our Easter Order of Service. Following the service, flowers may be picked up and taken home.

Other ways to honour friends or families:

- In Loving Memory of... Best Wishes to...
- Best Wishes and Blessings to... In Honour of...
- In Appreciation of... In Celebration of...
- With Gratitude to... With Love to...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! JULY 6 to 10
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009
PORT CARLING UNITED CHURCH



Take a walk on the wild side at Kingdom of the Son VBS! During your spectacular prayer safari you will journey into the Serengeti- the magnificent grassland region of Tanzania and Kenya. You'll discover exotic animals, create safari crafts, play exciting games, sing upbeat songs and enjoy delicious safari snacks!

And while you are having safari fun, you'll also learn to talk to God as you explore the Lord's Prayer. Come on an unforgettable adventure this summer! It's the wildest VBS ever! It's the Kingdom of the Son Prayer Safari

Helpers for April:

Ushers: Patti and Gary Irving

Kitchen: April 2nd Lynne Schroth 12th Dawn Stephen
 19th Gayle Mitchell Shantz 26th Kathryn Hazlewood

The Last Word: “Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime”.....Martin Luther