



Port Carling United Church

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

Minister's Chat

Go Canada Go was shouted by 100,000's of Canadians throughout the Winter Olympics and the Paralympics and how proud we were of our athletes. In Port Carling we have been shouting Go Thunder Go as our atoms ages 9-10 represented us in the All Ontario Finals Division E for their age group, and how proud we are of them.

In our church we have been shouting, "Hosanna" then listening to scripture as the words "Crucify Him" leave us hollow and sadden. BUT on Easter morning with Christian voices around the world we shout "Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed."

After the crucifixion, the followers of Jesus were a band of discouraged people. We have no record of where they went or what they did, but it appears that the disciples fled and went into hiding. The women stayed by the cross until the body was laid to rest, but they, too, were feeling that their hope had come to an end.

How human their reaction was to the terrible tragedy that had taken place on that dark day. We might want to chastise them for their weakness and blame them for their lack of faith, but we know the end of the story. They did not. How do we react in the face of tragedy?

All during the long Saturday, the followers of Jesus were adjusting to the fact of his death. The word must have spread throughout the city: the troublemaker, the teacher, the healer, the rabbi – by whatever name he had been called, he was dead and buried. It was the end of the story.

It wasn't until that Sabbath morning, when the night lifted and the women went to the tomb, that they got the whole story. It wasn't a message about the finality of death, but about God's never-ending love. Moving from despair to hope is easy to say and hard to do. But there are events from our own experience that retell the story. From the gloom of sadness of life we try to look for light, the hope, and the joy.

We have received the entire message. We can say with confidence that "Christ is Risen He is Risen indeed."

On Easter Sunday we are singing a wonderful hymn entitled "In the Bulb There is a Flower." The first verse sums it all up:

In the bulb there is a flower;
In the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.

Thanks be to God, there can be new life and resurrection in the mornings of our lives!

Easter blessings
Rev. Sue

Holy Week Services

Sunday, March 28 – 9:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday

Drama and Communion
Port Carling United Church

Friday, April 2 – 10 :00 a.m.
Pastoral Charge Good Friday Service
Port Carling United Church

Sunday, April 4 – 7:00 a.m.
Pastoral Charge Sunrise Service
Legris' Park (Diver's Point) in Bala
If you need directions meet at the church
and we will walk together. Breakfast to follow at
Bala United Church

9:30 a.m. Easter Service
Port Carling United Church

April 1st is April Fool's Day: For People Who Need to Laugh April Fools' Day may not be considered as an official holiday in any country, but it is celebrated with fun and excitement in most parts of the world.

Wednesday, April 7 – 7:00 p.m.
Church Council Meeting in Hanna Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010
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 | 1-877-478-2262

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.

Wednesday, April 21 – 6:00 p.m.
UCW Pot Luck Supper and Meeting
Program to be announced
Port Carling United Church



GO THUNDER GO!

We are very proud of our hockey players from Port Carling United - Jesse McLeod, Tannor Nairn, Keaton Denstedt, Mitchell Wallace, and Andy Baker, who attended the Vacation Bible School camp in the summer. Their division is Atoms age 9 & 10 year olds, but the team has a couple of younger players this year that moved up from Novice.

The team is playing for the Division "E" OMHA (Ontario Minor Hockey Association) All Ontario Championship. They played Brussels, Ontario in the Semi-Finals and beat them in 5 games. They are playing Manvers in the finals and were down 2-1 games last weekend but came back to tie the series 2-2. At the time of this newsletter they are travelling to Manvers for game 5 of the series. Every game has ended in only a one goal difference so the excitement level is high.

When returning to Port Carling from a road trip, it is tradition that a championship team is escorted into town by a fire truck and there is a warm reception at the arena by very proud fans.

Living Water Presbytery

Did you know!

This past year there was a major change in the structure and work of Toronto Conference. This resulted in a realignment of the nine Presbyteries in Toronto Conference to four. Muskoka Presbytery joined with a portion of York and Simcoe to form the "**New Living Waters Presbytery.**" The office for Living Waters Presbytery is in the basement of the church that was formerly Guthrie United Church located on Hwy 11 south of Orillia.

What is a Presbytery? United Church policy (the way we are organized) divides responsibility for running the United Church among **four Courts of the Church.** These are:

- *The Session of the Pastoral Charge* (or local counterpart e.g., Unified Board Official Board, Church Council, etc.)
- *The Presbytery* (we are in the Living Waters Presbytery)
- *The Conference* (the Living Waters Presbytery is in Toronto Conference)
- *The General Council* (this is the national level)

The purpose of Presbytery is to work together to support and oversee *the* Ministry of the United Churches within its boundaries.

Living Waters Presbytery will meet **up to five times each year** (September, November, February, April, and June). The meetings will be held on **Saturdays**. They will consist of worship, educational opportunities, commission meetings, and plenary session. Commissions are empowered to meet at other times as they see fit.

Executive Meetings

The Executive will meet **up to five times each year** (October, December, January, March, and May), **or at the call of the Chairperson** when necessary.

Ted Daghish and Rev. Sue represent our church at these meetings

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.

JULY 5 – 9TH

Vacation Bible School 2010

SADDLE UP FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010 WHERE KIDS WILL BE RIDIN' THE RANGE AND ROUNDIN' UP QUESTIONS LIKE, "WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR ME?" AND "HOW CAN I BE LIKE JESUS?" COME TO THE PORT CARLING UNITED (SADDLE RIDGE RANCH) JULY 5 TO 9 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON FOR A GREAT HOE DOWN AND CHECK OUT THE SNACKS AT "BIG SKY GRILL", MUSIC AT "CAMPFIRE CREEK", STORIES AT THE "BUNKHOUSE," CRAFTS AT BLAZING STAR STABLES AND GAMES AT MUSTANG MOUNTAIN. IT BOUND TO BE LOADS OF FUN SO BRING A FRIEND! YE HAW!



St. Patrick's Day shenanigans

There is still time to 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 75-6268.

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, March 29 it would be appreciated.



Volunteer Helpers

Greeters: April 4th Patty and Gary Irving
April 11th Barb Ennis and Dave Hewitt
April 18 & 25th Karen & Perry Bowker

Kitchen:

April 4th Joan Wallace
11th Joanne Wilson
19th Gayle Mitchell Shantz
25th Patti Irving

The Last Word

The fasts are done; the Aves said;
The moon has filled her horn
And in the solemn night I watch
Before the Easter morn.
So pure, so still the starry heaven,
So hushed the brooding air,
I could hear the sweep of an angel's wings
If one should earthward fare.

~Edna Dean Proctor, "Easter Morning"



March 17, 2010 Get Your Irish Up!

It was "brilliant" as the Irish would say and for the second year in a row "we sold out!" We actually oversold our tickets and set-up extra places so not to turn anyone away. What an wonderful evening – food, entertainment - everything!

Of course it was you, our guests, that made the evening so successful, not to mention all the volunteers that helped – story telling, decorating, table setting, ticket sellers, cooks and workers in the kitchen, set-up volunteers, servers, Lions Club, bartenders, clearing, dish washers, dismantling, Port Carling Community Centre, and on and on.

Thank you so much!

We are also grateful to the Muskoka Men of Song and our guest pianist Dan Brooks who led us in the sing-a-long. And to the Apothecary Shop in Port Carling who so willingly provided a ticket outlet to sell tickets.

We have had "rave" reviews and hope that everyone that attended the evening will be back again next year – same time, same place!