



Port Carling United Church

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Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat



I love Christmas, I love all the preparations, decorating, visiting and eating..... It is truly a special time of the year that seems to begin earlier and earlier each year! I thought I would be very wise and hang the outdoor Christmas lights in October and now the hardest part is to leave them off! I try not to plug them in until the first

Sunday of Advent but each time I enter the garage some sort of Christmas decoration makes its way into the house. In amongst all the decorations there is an array of angels, all shapes and sizes...one of my favourite characters of the Christmas story. They are the messengers of the good news this Christmas season but sometimes too easily to turn them away in the rustle and bustle!

We may take Christmas for granted, our expectation is that this season will come, we will be merry, we will give and receive joy and laughter will fill our homes. But we could still miss the real purpose and meaning of Christmas. As we exhaust ourselves in activities, it is difficult to let the angels' message be a part of our preparations.

How do we hear the angels sing? We hear the bells ringing we hear the clang of cash registers and the taped music in the malls. Can we hear the angels' song of goodwill? It is not as loud as the rest of the Christmas sounds. We are not forced to hear it. We need to be ready to listen with our inner ear, with our hearts. We need to make the journey to the manger in order to find the peace the angels' song heralded. We must find and keep the spirit of Christmas alive in our hearts and in our actions. Hark the herald angels sing. Peace on earth, good will to all.

God of love, the angels sang on the hillside of Bethlehem. They sang in the stable and in the towns and villages and in our noisy cities. Help us to hear their song of new birth. Help us to live the spirit of peace and goodwill that comes at this season. Grant that we may find the way to live the message of the angel's song every day of this season. Amen

Blessings of peace and joy to each of you this Christmas season

Rev. Sue

Christmas Services

Sunday, December 13 – 9:30 a.m.

White Gift Service

Port Carling Sunday School Christmas Pageant
Gifts of food items wrapped in white tissue paper or money will be received. These will be given to the Christmas Food Drive for needy families in the area

Sunday, December 20 --9:30 a.m.

Christmas Communion

Port Carling United Church

Wednesday, December 24 – 7:00 p.m.

Family Christmas Eve Service

Port Carling United Church

Sunday, December 27 – 11:00 a.m.

“Relaxed and Fun” Sunday after Christmas Service for the Whole Family

Bala United Church

(no service at Port Carling)



Friday, November 27

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Kids Club Advent Party

at Port Carling United

Games, Christmas Crafts and more!

later that evening at 6:00 p.m.



Family Christmas Celebration

Everyone welcome!

A casual and informal dinner
will be served.

Bala's Annual Trek to Bethlehem.

December 5, 2009

anytime after 5:30 p.m. - 8:00
p.m.



Share the magic of the Christmas miracle. Bala's streets are transformed into a biblical village where visitors journey back in time to experience the first Christmas.

To begin your journey come to the 'gathering place' (Bala Community Centre on Maple Street) then after the journey on to the 'Jerusalem Inn' (arena) for warmth and nourishment.

You are all welcome!

Information: 762-5904 | nan@muskoka.com

Memorial Christmas Ice Candles

Celebrate Christmas with loved ones who have passed away by lighting an ice candle in their memory. The lighted candles will be placed on the front lawn of our church on Christmas Eve and hopefully burn through to Christmas Day. The brilliance of Christmas and the glow from memorial candles will give a true feeling of Christmas while remembering loved ones no longer with us.

Ice Candles are \$10 each and order forms are available in Hanna Hall. For information call Patti Irving at 765-6666.



Wednesday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Port Carling United Church, Hanna Hall

UCW Cookie Wrap & lunch

followed by our Business Meeting

All ladies of the church are invited to our Christmas Lunch and Cookie Wrap. Please bring two dozen cookies or squares suitable for packing in a cookie tin to give as gifts for individuals in our community. Lunch will be supplied. Please come with your cookies to begin packing for 10:30 a.m.

Coffee for Christmas

There is still time to order "Coffee" for Christmas. Each bag of coffee sold provides \$5.50 profit to our church. Orders must be in by Sunday, November 29th at the latest. Pick-up will be at the Church on Sunday, December 13th. Any questions contact Dawn Stephens at 765-3936.

Advent Choir in Muskoka

The Advent Choir is a non-denominational choir with 98 choir members from the area. Their Annual Christmas Concerts will be performed in Muskoka on

Tuesday, December 8th at 8:00 p.m.

Joseph's Catholic Church, Bracebridge

Sunday, December 13th at 8:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Catholic Church, Gravenhurst

Come and enjoy the music of Christmas!

Assisting in December:

Ushers: Marj Brown and Carol Dion

Kitchen Helpers:

December 6th Joan Wallace 13th Marg Buddo
20th Susan Dalglish

The Last Word:

I heard the bells on Christmas
Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to
men!

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

