



Port Carling United Church

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♥ February 2010 Newsletter

Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Ministers Chat

This is my first newsletter chat coming from recovery! Last week I had a small arthroscopic surgery on my left knee and ever since I can barely raise my head off the pillow. I knew I was in trouble when I walked through the white doors into the operating room - on the "You Tube" was playing Leonard Cohen's song Hallelujah and the operating bed was in the shape of the cross. I guess it goes with the profession - pearly gates, angels singing and arms outstretched!

One of the things I miss the most with a very sore knee is outside activity - (skiing both cross country and downhill) and walking through the woods with the dogs. Just being outside during this season of winter, I know would help with the recuperation, and YES, listening to the nurse!

The season of Lent begins on February 17th (known as Ash Wednesday) and continues for 40 days and 6 Sundays. Many give up something they love to do for this season of penitence, but how about joining a study group for 6 mornings or evenings and learn more about ourselves, the church and where we fit together? The study I have chosen is "Through the Woods." Through forest imagery drawn from literature, scripture, and life experience, readers are invited to examine the paths they've been on. Church-based groups will find this book an excellent resource for looking at spiritual issues in a non-threatening way that is relevant to people's lives. Each chapter begins with a real-life anecdote and ends with questions for personal reflection or small group discussion.

The study will be offered twice a week, beginning Wednesday, February 17th morning at 10:00 a.m. at Bala United, and Thursday, February 18th evening at 7:00 p.m. at Port Carling United. This topic will continue to be reflected upon on Sunday and will offer us a better awareness to living with respect in Creation and our interconnection with the earth and each other. How can we bring this issue into our

worship life? If the central task for human beings is to respect and care for the earth and each other, how can we make our worship earthly and inclusive? So together through the season of Lent, let's consider our footprints on the planet.

To live with "respect in Creation is the latest addition to the United Church creed. At first it was a mouthful to say. It stuck out and we stumbled over it. But it provided a focal point from which churches could explore what living in creation might mean. We needed it when it first was added. We still do.

The "nurse" will soon be home and I am supposed to be resting. A big thank you to all who helped out with the Sunday services.

Blessings
Rev. Sue

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Shrove Tuesday

The night before Ash Wednesday, (when the season of Lent begins) is celebrated around the world in a variety of ways. Shrove is an old English word meaning "to confess" or "to repent." It is also known as Mardi Gras (literally, "Fat Tuesday" in French), Carnival (from the Latin for "farewell to the flesh"), and Fasnacht (the Germanic "night of the fast.")

Traditionally, Lent is a 40-day period of penitence, prayer, and fasting to symbolize the 40 days Jesus prayed and fasted in the wilderness before beginning his ministry. As people prepared for this solemn season when they would eat fewer rich foods, refrain from parties, and spend more time in serious reflection, they found it necessary to clean out their cupboards and rid their kitchens of rich foods like butter, milk, and eggs. In many parts of the world, feasts were held to eat all these foods before Lent began, so the night of celebration became popular. Pancakes became a favourite food because they used up many of the forbidden ingredients.

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

The season of Lent begins. Known as Ash Wednesday, continues for forty days and six Sundays.

Thursday, February 18 – 7:00 p.m.

Port Carling United Church
Study Group with Rev. Sue

Wednesday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Port Carling United Church
Council Meeting in Hanna Hall

Port Carling Lion's Club's

WinterFest 2010

February 5, 6 & 7 2010

Port Carling Memorial Community Centre and Arena

The festival begins Friday evening with a Figure Skating Demonstration at the arena. **FIREWORKS** free hot dogs and hot chocolate in Hanna Park and a **MUCH MUSIC Video Dance** (\$8 admission grades 6 – 10). Saturday is a full day of events for the whole family, including log sawing, **DOG SHOW**, kid's games, face painting, horse and wagon rides, **Jam Sandwich Children's Entertainers**, Roast Beef dinner and SO MUCH MORE!!! A DANCE featuring Jeff Young & The Muskoka Roads (\$10 per person, Cash Bar, ID required.) **SUNDAY'S EVENTS** include a pancake breakfast, **POLAR BEAR DIP** and the snow snake competition. Silent auction in the upper hall of the Community Center all weekend long! Telephone: Cathy at 765-6083 or on the web www.portcarlingwinterfest.ca All events require a passport or entry fee. \$5 Adults, Children 13 and under FREE. Available at local businesses and Winterfest events.

BEAVER TAILS

Don't Forget to visit Port Carling United's "Beaver Tail" Booth at Winterfest! Our Beavertails are crispy on the outside, chewy on the inside. With a dusting of cinnamon and sugar and a squeeze of lemon – "delicious"

Thank you to Andy Wallace for mixing the dough; to "Oliver's Coffee" for the generous donation of coffee and hot chocolate and to all the volunteers who helped shape the beaver tails, cook them, sell them and eat them.

CHURCH SIGN CONTEST

Ted Daghish

As part of Port Carling's Streetscape, the side property of the Church is going to change. We thought it was time we designed a new sign that would be in keeping with the character of our Church and with Streetscape design.

- **We are asking you to design a sign for us.**
- **A PRIZE IS BEING OFFERED**
- **The winner will be announced by the**
- **end of March.**

One design has been submitted and is on display in Hanna Hall.

The Property Committee thought it would be in keeping with the Streetscape if we could find a smaller version of the light standards already up on the street and place it at the top of the front steps. The sign could be a part of this. It could be of a similar design. It could be something quite different. Use your imagination.

Questions, and your completed designs can be handled by any member of the Property Committee - Byron Coker, Ted Daghish or Ron Sarjeant.

Planning for St. Patrick's Day Celebrations



Work has begun planning for our St. Patrick's Day Celebration – a major fundraising event for our Church. Much to our surprise, last year 170 people from our community purchased tickets and it was wonderful to see everyone together in an atmosphere of fun and laughter. The Traditional Irish Food was delicious the entertainment/music superb.

Because of the unexpected large turnout, the kitchen was a bit chaotic - not enough volunteers to help clear tables, scraping and washing dishes. So we are starting early seeking your help. If you could volunteer a few hours of your time please indicate on the sign-sheet in Hanna Hall. We also need many hands to help on the day before to assist in the preparation of the food.

Or contact one of the St. Patrick's Day Committee Members - Catherine Dedrick, Joan Wallace, Jan Douglas, Hylda Coker or Ron Sarjeant. We look forward to hearing from you!

February 14

Happy Valentine's Day



Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Port Carling United Church
The Quilting Group
meets in Hanna Hall
Beginners and Experienced Quilters Welcome
“Bring a Brown Bag Lunch”
For further information call Bette Clark
at 756-5049.

Friday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m.
The Rene M. Caisse Memorial Theatre
in Bracebridge



Join us for Port Carling
United Church's
Annual Theatre Night.
We'll be meeting for
dinner at 5:30 p.m. at
the Swiss Chalet in
Bracebridge then on to

the show. Tickets are \$18 per person and
available from Ruth Veitch at (705) 645-6854;

The Rotary Club of Bracebridge is proud to
present its 33rd annual musical production
Disney's Beauty and the Beast. This tale “as
old as time” is filled with lovely music,
spectacular costumes, magical sets and
wonderful singing, dancing and acting by an
extremely talented cast.

Our Church on Christmas Eve
in the glow of Candlelight



To those that contributed to the “Ice Candles” for
Christmas Eve thank you! And a “big thank you” to Patti
Irving who made it happen. Patti was the force behind the
project – making all the candles, running down to Morley
Stephen's “walk-in freezer” to store them and more.....

The Church was never more beautiful inside and out.

Volunteer Helpers for February

Ushers:	Catherine and Bill Dedrick
Kitchen:	February 7 Judy Sargeant
	February 14 Sue Daghish
	February 21 Joan Wallace
	February 28` Dawn Stephen

The Last Word is from Jeff Buddo

FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST
HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist created a case against the
upcoming Easter and Passover Holy days. He
hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case
against Christians and Jews and observances of
their holy days.... The argument was that it was
unfair that atheists had no such recognized
days.

The case was brought before a judge. After
listening to the passionate presentation by the
lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring,
"Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the
ruling saying, "Your honor, How can you
possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have
Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have
Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my
client and all other atheists have no such
holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying,
"But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully
ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware
of any special observance or holiday for
atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is
April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool
says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the
opinion of this court, that, if your client says
there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore,
April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."

You gotta love a Judge that knows his
scripture!