



Port Carling United Church

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Volume Two Issue 30

Newsletter May 2009

Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat

Pentecost is a feast of the mysterious movement of God. On our church calendar the date to celebrate this feast is May 31, with symbols of fire, wind and the colour red. Each year it is an invitation to be attentive once more to God's presence in our lives.

Have you ever gone for a walk and felt the wind, the forest can be so still and silent; then suddenly a whoosh of wind sways the trees and whispers across the hills. Growing up on the East coast I loved to walk along the shoreline on a windy day to feel the spray from the ocean and the force of the wind. It was a sense of freedom, a presence that was hard to explain. I felt close to God.

The Spirit of God came as unexpectedly as the wind on the shoreline upon the followers of Jesus. A rushing wind created life-changing effects on them. In that Upper Room, people who had been terrorized with their own fears suddenly experienced an immense freedom and a deep sense of God's life within them. It was uncontrolled and unplanned, the last thing their sad and fearful hearts ever expected. With the rushing wind came a surge of courageous energy that hadn't been there before. In the chaos, the Spirit of God came with energy beyond their wildest imaginations. This coming changed their attitudes and motivated them with enthusiasm and hope. They moved from being weak and discouraged to being people with inner vitality. They discovered a dynamic power of love and a new determination to live what Jesus had proclaimed to them.

We need to stay attuned to the movement of the Spirit if we are to hear the call for deeper growth. My Pentecost's are rarely large, powerful gales, like one feels walking on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. My special moments are little gusts that change my life a little at a time.

Enjoy this season of new growth and special moments of little gusts!

Blessings, Rev. Sue

The Light of the World

If you get a chance to visit the Art Gallery of Ontario before May 10th, be sure to look in on the Holman Hunt exhibit. If you do, you'll see a famous painting, *The Light of the World*, and think "Hey, that painting looks familiar." You'll be right, because a stained glass window in our church is based on it.

William Holman Hunt (1827 – 1910) led a group of artists who specialized in colourful, detailed works based on literary, mythological, or religious subjects. Their paintings include many symbolic elements, which, although unfamiliar today, would have been understood by the educated and pious viewers of 150 years ago.

Holman's work *The Light of the World* illustrates Revelation 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me". (There are several other "Light of the World" references in the Bible.) Jesus is preparing to knock on the long-unopened door, overgrown with weeds and vines. It has no handle, so it can only be opened from the inside - representing "the obstinately shut mind".

The original painting hangs in a chapel at Oxford, and a later copy by the artist is in St. Paul's Cathedral. Many churches, including Timothy Eaton United in Toronto, have reproduced the painting in stained glass. Our window was donated by the Stephen family in 1988, in memory of their parents Arnold and Gretta. According to the family, the artist modified the style of the image to match other windows in the church, but most of the symbolic elements remain.

Perry Bowker

Wednesday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m.
Port Carling United Council Meeting

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**7:30 p.m. Dessert/Coffee and
Congregational Annual Meeting**
“All are Welcome to Attend”

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Jan Douglas and Joan Wallace have agreed to be the nominating committee for church council. They may be calling you asking that you put your name forward to serve on church council. Hopefully you will be receptive to this call. If you have not been called, and would like to volunteer to serve on council, or nominate someone else, please give either Joan (765-6268) or Jan (765-0085) a call.

Although we have a strong Church Council, we always need new people with new ideas to come forward and help run the affairs of our Church. Please give it your consideration.



THE UNITED CHURCH OBSERVER

It is time once again to renew the subscriptions for the coming year or add any new subscribers. For current subscribers, please let Karen Bowker know if there are any changes required to your mailing address. For new subscribers, Karen will require your full mailing address.

The annual subscription fee is \$15 which includes GST. Monies can be paid directly to Karen Bowker or Jan Douglas. The deadline date is May 1, 2009.

Sweep! Sweep!

and sweep we did (or some did!) We would like to thank Bill Dedrick, Hylda and Byron Coker for organizing our afternoon of curling and games at the Port Carling Curling Club. It was a fun time with beginners and advanced curlers taking part. Thank you also to Jamie Nairn, Joanne Wilson and Bill Dedrick for their expert instruction on, not only how to throw those rocks, but also on how to stay on your feet! Food was great too!



Registration forms are now available for Vacation Bible School 2009 at Port Carling United Church and on our website www.bpcunitedchurch.com
DATES ARE JULY 6TH TO 10TH DEADLINE IS JUNE 1 TO REGISTER. **SO HURRY AND JOIN THE SAFARI!**

We need lots of help! If you could volunteer and be part of this experience please contact Rev. Sue. You will be glad that you did! Volunteers are needed for story telling, crafts, sports, singing and many other activities. So come and you too can be part of the Safari"

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The UCW held their regular meeting on April 22 with twenty four women in attendance. The pot luck dinner was extraordinary – a wonderful selection for the first course and an even more wonderful assortment of desserts.

Our speaker for the evening, Hazel Stewart, speaking of her time as a missionary in Papua New Guinea, mentioned that our church had sponsored her 31 years ago. Someone asked “why she never visited the church to talk about her experiences before” and she replied “I’ve never had been asked.” So, after the laughter, we viewed a stunning power point presentation on Papua New Guinea in the 70’s and Hazel spoke of her experiences living amongst the natives and their way of life.

Assisting this month:

Ushers: Family Month

Kitchen Helpers: May 3rd Joan Wallace
10th Susan Daghish 17th Kathy Hazelwood
24th Helen Brown 31st Karen Bowker

The Last Word

[The lily of the valley](#) - Solomon 2:1 "I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys."

May Symbols: The hawthorn and the lily of the valley are considered the flowers for the month of May - the birthstone is the emerald.