



# Port Carling United Church

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## Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

### Minister's Chat

I am still on a high from a wonderful holiday in the sunny south; walking the beach and just being able to plan the day as we go. I feel I have so much energy and ready to embrace all the activities that you will be reading about in our May newsletter. It is great to see so many back from their winter away in other places, catching up in person is so much better than emails and phone calls.

- Very soon each person and family in our congregations will be contacted to make an appointment for their picture to be taken. What a treasure it will be to have a photo directory of the people who call Bala and Port Carling United Church home on Sunday morning. See the dates in this newsletter and make sure to set up an appointment that fits your busy summer schedule!
- The United Church of Canada celebrates its 85th Anniversary this June. The theme is "Remember, Renew, and Rejoice!" Part of this journey is connecting with other churches. We have been partnered with Keswick Ridge United Church Pastoral Charge not far from Fredericton New Brunswick. It will be interesting to make connections with each other as we share our church and community history.
- A "cowgirl" at heart, I asked the children and youth of the pastoral charge to pick a theme for VBS 2010. So saddle up and dust off the cowboy/girl hats and round up the kiddies because we will be "ridin the range" and having loads of fun. These will be some of the questions we will be wrestling with: What is God's plan for me, how can I be more like Jesus?

Application forms will soon be out and volunteers are needed!

This past Sunday from our new song book "More Voices" we sang a beautiful piece of music, it certainly can be a theme for our two churches this summer as we help with building Habitat for Humanity, Vacation Bible Schools, Anniversary Sunday and other special events:

What can I do?  
What can I bring?  
What can I say?  
What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy.  
I'll say a prayer  
I'll bring my love.  
I'll do my share.

Blessings  
Rev. Sue (P.S. It is really good to be back!)

**PHOTO DIRECTORY:** Port Carling's first photo day for our pictorial directory will be Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 8:30 p.m. We will begin booking photo time slots on May 9<sup>th</sup> following our Church service.

**Wednesday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Port Carling United Church Annual Meeting**  
7:00 p.m. – Dessert and Coffee  
7:30 p.m. – Congregational Annual Meeting  
(Church Council will meet briefly in the Sunday School at 7:00 p.m.) All are welcome to attend!



**Tuesday, May 11, 2010**  
**OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING**

All members of the Official Board are asked to attend the spring meeting on **Tuesday, May 11, 2010**. (Members include any Council members of Bala or Port Carling United Churches.) **The meeting will be held at Bala United Church at 7:30 p.m. All other members of either church may attend and observe the meeting.**

*The focus will be on shared activities between the two churches of our pastoral charge. Please come prepared to make a verbal report on highlights of the activities within your area of responsibility and on any relevant shared activities between the two churches.*

A week before the meeting, the church secretaries will distribute the agenda to Official Board members. Input on agenda items may be sent to [klmcfarlane@sympatico.ca](mailto:klmcfarlane@sympatico.ca) by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Kathy Hazlewood

Chair, Official Board

**Let's Celebrate!**

June 10, 2010 marks the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. To celebrate this special day, we are asking all individuals and/or families to make up a special envelope that will be put into a "time capsule."

This envelope can include a history of your family and your church involvement, pictures or anything special that you would like to include.

On Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> the envelopes will be blessed and put into the capsule.

Keep tuned for more information and share your story with members of the future!



The UCW held their regular meeting on Wednesday, April 21 with twenty women in attendance. Along with a delicious pot luck dinner, Shannon Briese was the guest speaker and presented a wonderful slide presentation and talk of her work in Africa.

During the course of the evening, the UCW members agreed to donate \$300 to our Church's Vacation Bible School.

**Christians Feed the Lions!**

It was thought to be a bit different for the Christians and lions in Roman times!

Since its founding in 1945, the Port Carling Lions Club has held regular dinner meetings. Initially, they met at Bartwood Manor (formerly on the corner of Stephen Road and Hyw 118 in Port Carling.) Almeda Brown claimed to have provided the first dinner. Later the dinners were served by the ladies of the Women's Institute. Then, as the Women's Institute faded away, the job was taken on by Port Carling United Church Women. (UCW)

Twice each month, except in summer, one of five UCW teams takes over the kitchen at the Community Centre and prepares a full-course meal that is the start (and often the highlight) of every Lions meeting.

The Lions meals provide an important fundraiser for the UCW, and many good works are supported as a result. There is no question that the Lions appreciate the invariably great dinners that set the stage for their business meetings. And since many of the Lions meet with their UCW partners on a daily basis, there is certainly little likelihood of complaint!

**(Lion) Perry Bowker**



**Vacation Bible School!**

Saddle up for VBS 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's bound to be loads of fun so bring a friend! YE HAW! Applications are available at Port Carling United Church or on our church web-site [bpcunitedchurch.com](http://bpcunitedchurch.com)

**Assisting this month:**

**Ushers:** May is family month

2<sup>nd</sup> Annette McLeod and Jesse

9<sup>th</sup> Kelly Coker and Jamie Nairn and family

16<sup>th</sup> Leann and Brad Wallace and family

23<sup>rd</sup> Neil and Dianne Paton and family

30<sup>th</sup> Brian Moyes and Pat Barty

**Kitchen Helpers:** May 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Barty

9<sup>th</sup> Kathy Hazlewood 16<sup>th</sup> Gayle Mitchell Shantz

23<sup>rd</sup> Erika Harris

## The Story of our Chancel Window

by Perry Bowker

Since joining the church, I have become interested in the wonderful stained glass windows we have.

I know I could be accused of daydreaming while Sue is speaking, but that's not true. If you've travelled in Europe, you can't have avoided touring cathedrals. So you'll know that one purpose of the stained glass windows was to tell the stories of the bible to people who were mainly illiterate and also were preached to in a foreign language. That's what our stained glass does too; in a more modern way (since I think we can all read and listen). (That's my story and I'm sticking to it!)

So I became fascinated by the window behind our altar. To me, the image of Jesus seems odd – the arms are too long, or the head too small, and the feet are awkwardly positioned under the body. So I started to wonder. Obviously, the window was installed to give thanks for the end of World War I. Was the glass possibly assembled from different stock pieces which were miss-matched? Or was it put together by a less skilled amateur? And how did it come to be? A mystery to be sure!

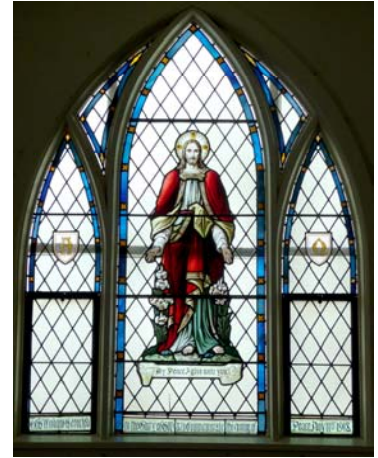
Anyway, I discovered that the window is signed – just under Jesus' left foot is written

“R. McCausland, Toronto, 1920”. Google led me to Robert McCausland Limited, which has the longest continuous history of any stained-glass firm in North America. I e-mailed a query to Andrew McCausland, the current president and great-great-grandson of the founder.



In reply, Andrew told me that he had searched his firm's records, but did not find any mention of this particular commission. However, he felt that the window was probably created by Fred Norman, who was an in-house designer at the time. He also told me that this motif is known in the trade as “Come Unto Me,” a once-popular theme for chancel windows

(from Matthew 11: 28: “Come unto me all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I shall give you rest.”), Stained glass artists often borrowed from earlier artists for their work and Andrew assured me that the design would have been quite intentional. Sure enough, more goggling turned up several 19<sup>th</sup>-century paintings showing Jesus in the same somewhat awkward stance. So the design of our window was likely a reflection of earlier images which would have been familiar to our congregation of 90 years ago.



The next stop on the trail was the “*Port Carling Ripple*”, published by the Young People's Union of Port Carling in 1921. In the section on the history of the Methodist Church, it says:

“During April 1920 the church was redecorated, a gift from Mr. Wm. Hanna, and on Easter Sunday of the same year [April 4, 1920] a beautiful Memorial Window was unveiled, to commemorate the signing of Peace, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1918. This window was the gift of Mrs. Wm. Hanna.”

So now we know more of the important contributions made by the Hanna family, who became members of the church in 1881. And our window celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary unnoticed, on Sunday April 4, 2010, which was also an Easter Sunday. What a coincidence!

### Postscript:

*Early in the past century, the Port Carling charge included about six villages throughout what is now Muskoka Lakes. The Ripple mentions “In 1918 a motor boat was purchased by the circuit for the use of the pastor”. What do you think, Sue – are you still happy with a car allowance, or would you rather have a nice Donzi?*

**Perry**