



Port Carling United Church

One Armstrong Point, PO Box 456, Port Carling, ON P0B 1J0 • email: bpcunited@muskoka.com
• Tel: 705 765-5596 • Web: www.bpcunitedchurch.com

Volume Four Issue 42

Newsletter September 2010

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

Minister's Chat

Where has the summer gone? It seems I was chasing children at Vacation Bible School in early July and now it is time to write for the September's newsletter. But looking back what a summer it has been. Amazing weather, lots of invitations out for dinners, visits on docks and decks, a little golfing and celebrations of various kinds.

Being a cow girl in July with 12 volunteers and 55 little ones was a great plus to the summer. The enthusiasm and energy even though the temperature seems to get hotter each day, didn't stop the ranch hands from having a great VBS.



Putting my cow girl hat aside, I have officiated at wedding, memorial services, blessing of the animals, baptisms and renewal of wedding vows. My summer is anything but quiet!

The biggest celebration in my life has been turning the grand age of 50. I cannot believe in one sense how quickly time has gone by, but as I look back I wouldn't change a thing! Yes, there have been some very difficult moments and with time I have come to accept them and move on. I would love to lose 50 pounds – who's kidding who, but life is good and YES I have had some AWESOME moments and have learn to cherish each one.

Am I older and wiser at 50? I don't know but this is my prayer:

Jesus, help me to enter into the joyful dimensions of my work. Let me not be so involved and serious about my work that I miss the many pleasures and joys that are inherent in it. Lighten me up when I am feeling my work's heaviness. May I remember that I need balance in my life, that laughter and leisure are essential for my total health. Take me to sources of zest and enthusiasm without guilt or hesitation. May my work become one of the playgrounds of my life.

*Blessings
Rev. Sue*

“Over and Above” Update

At the beginning of the summer our church launched the “Over and Above Campaign” to raise funds and to create awareness of the major expenses that we have ahead of us – mainly the deterioration of the stained glass window in the chancel and the necessary repairs to the Good Shepherd window; replacing the church sign outside our building and the improvements essential for the Sunday school outside entrance.

Jan Douglas, our treasurer, reports that we have received two quotations for the stained glass windows in the vicinity of \$7,500 and one quotation for the church sign of approximately \$2,500. We are awaiting the estimate for the improvements for the property outside the Sunday school.

Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$15,000 and Jan is very pleased to report that as of August 15th we have raised \$7,239.50 (which includes \$270 from the golfless golf Tournament.- more to come on that)

We are delighted with your response to the “Over and Above” campaign and grateful to those who have generously donated to the above projects. We would like to encourage everyone to make a contribution.

If you prefer to designate your donation to a specific project, be assured that it will be directed to that cost.

To donate, place your contribution in the envelopes provided in the pews or send it directly to the church marked "Over and Above." Be sure to include your name and address. Every charitable donation you make is tax deductible.

Thank you for your generosity
Port Carling United Church Council

Every Tuesday 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Muskoka Lakes Quilting Group meet

in Port Carling United Church, Hanna Hall

All quilters are welcome beginners or experienced

Brown Bag Lunch

Contact Bette Clark at 765-5049

Wednesday, September 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Port Carling United Church Council
meet in Hanna Hall



**Anyone can Play
in the
Golfless Golf
Tournament**

in aid of the
"Over and Above"
Campaign

Course officials Perry
Bowker and Byron Coker

report that entries continue to come in for Port Carling United's "Golfless" Golf Tournament. The rules are simple, and anyone can play! Simply mark the number of shots you think you would have taken on each of the nine holes, and total up your score. Submit your score envelope, along with a donation to the 'Over and Above' campaign, to one of the officials

On September 5, a number from 1 to 9 will be drawn from a hat to represent the 'golfless' score for each hole, and thus a total 'golfless' score for the round. The tournament winner will be the golfer whose score is closest. (In case of a tie, the best number of correct hole scores will determine the winner)

There is still time to enter! Obtain a scorecard from one of the officials, or in Hanna Hall.

Less is More!

(more or less)

By Ron Brown

The concept of inaction is nothing very new
It is one however endorsed by quite a few
The Bakeless Bake Sale was started
And tradition was departed
Success is very hard for any to deny
Even if you can't put a finger in the pie.
It's hard to understand if the oven isn't hot
How many people will throw money in the pot
The aroma and appearance never to behold.
And yet the local coffers overflow with gold.
"Enough is Enough" was the traditional cry
But our avid golfers refused to die.
So it's golf without golf at the local links
A brand new venue from the kitchen sinks
No clubs required, no balls, and no tees
The total score is whatever you please
If you aren't a golfer, not need to mutter
Fact is you won't even need a putter
For those unable to play in any sport
The cause is worth of your full support.



"Blessing of the Pets"

It was a dogs day afternoon on Sunday, July 18 at the Pastoral Charge "Blessing of the Pets" at Bala United Church. Here we see Hylda and Byron Coker with their dog "Puddin," being blessed by Rev. Sue. Puddin is a Poodle/Yorkshire Terrier mix. Her name is derived from Yorkshire pudding where Hylda and Bryon dropped the "g" and called her Puddin.

United Church Symbols

We are live in a world of symbols: logos, trademarks, traffic signs, pictographs, computer icons. Each is intended to convey at a single glance some idea that could take many words to express.



In the early days of the church, worshippers were surrounded by symbols. They were important, since most people could not read or write, and were being addressed in a foreign language (i.e. Latin). As well, they were often persecuted and resorted to coded symbols to share their faith.

Nowadays, we don't need to go to the same lengths, but our own church still displays many of the ancient symbols. I wonder how many of us know what they mean?

The United Church crest is one example. The book, dove, and burning bush represent the three founding churches, but what is the curious figure at the bottom? It vaguely suggests someone lifting a heavy barbell, but in fact it is a combination of the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet – A and Ω – reminding us of Jesus' words in Revelations - "I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last".

Alpha and Omega appear around our church in several other places: on the side panels of the main window, and on the labarum decorating the lectern. There we see another strange pictogram, which looks like a six-pointed cross with a loop on top. It is actually the combined Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (ρ), the first letters of "Christ".



Also visible on the bookmark of the bible (as well as on the cross on the altar) are the letters 'ihs', which apparently has several possible meanings. It is the first letters of 'Jesus' (in Greek, IHSOVS). But it also said to be an acronym for "In Hoc Signo vinces", meaning "with this sign you shall conquer" which came to Emperor Constantine in a vision before he went into battle. There are quite a number of additional theories which, if you want to spend a few pleasant hours, you can find with Google and Wikipedia.

Perry Bowker

To all the women of Port Carling United
an Invitation to Join Bala United Women
for their

Women's Retreat on
September 16 beginning at 9:30 a.m
Bala United Church in the Jackson CE Wing
Presenting

Anne Lamott on

"eat pray love"

by Elizabeth Gilbert

"This is a wonderful book, brilliant and personal, rich in spiritual insight, filled with sorrow and a great sense of humour. Elizabeth Gilbert is everything you would love in a tour guide, of magical places she has traveled to both deep inside and across the oceans: she's wise, jaunty, human, ethereal, hilarious, heartbreaking, and does she pay great attention to the things that really matter."

This is an invitation to all women of both churches to come and bring a friend. Through meditation, prayer, food and a few surprises share in stories and just being together! We hope that many women will attend and please RSVP Rev Sue to let her know who is coming. Together we will find out the things that really matter!

Volunteers for September

Kitchen Helpers:

September 5 Pat Varty
12 Helen Brown
19 Liz Curran
26 Catherine Dedrick

Greeters:

September 5th Neil and Dianne Paton
and family
September 12th, 19th and 26th TBA

The Last Word:

I've got hope, I've got dreams and I have aspirations.
I don't need to climb mountains;
I don't need to build nations.
What I do need is the courage to look deep inside,
Cos I'm me and from me I know I can't hide.
I don't wish to fly, I'm quite happy to glide.
I am who I am and I'll be me with pride.

Patrick Kelly