



Port Carling United Church

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

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Celebrating the life and work of our Church

Rev. Sue Woods, Minister

Minister's Chat

Twitter, Goggle, iphone, Facebook - T.G.I.F! How do you communicate? According to Kevin Spurgaitis who has written an article for The Observer in May's edition writes: *"within a single generation, social networking on the Internet has reshaped modern culture and revolutionized how we relate to each other. For many people under the age of 50, online social networks have replaced television, newspaper and radio as their primary sources of entertainment and information. Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter are the first places they go to find love and ask spiritual questions."*

One of the defining characteristics of our time is the centrality of relationships. People seek and want connection. In a society where relationships are becoming so desirable and necessary for life, the key skill is conversation, the ability to listen and to offer. On Sunday on the May long weekend each person who came to church was given in one hand the Sunday bulletin and in the other a shiny small stone. The scriptures for that service called us "living stone, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." How do we communicate, how do we relate our faith to others. The word is witness but for many that is as scary as this new technology.

How do we become a living stone? Sometimes in self-help books the question is put: what would you most like people to say about you at your funeral? This question shifts the focus from the day-to-day tasks that can swarm us like Muskoka black flies and mosquitoes to deeper questions of longer term. What do we stand for?

What do we want our lives to reflect? And our lives do reflect something. Make no mistake; this

is not an option. Witness, it may be the greatest challenge and opportunity of our time for those who would be known as disciples of the Christ. Each person who attended church that Sunday, took home their stones and were asked to place it where you will see it from time to time.....and them pause for a moment "how can I be a living stone" What will my life reflect?

Facebook and Twitter are here to stay in one way or another, you may be the one giving it a thumbs up or you have left it far behind BUT one thing we all can do is communicate with the love and grace we are each given by the Loving Creator who asks us to reach out to others and be a living stone Blessings,

Rev. Sue



**Wednesday, June 15th at
5:30 p.m.
Port Carling United Church
Women Meeting
& Pot Luck Dinner,
12 Silver Lake Lane, Pt Carling**

The term "potluck party" has an old-fashioned ring to it. Picture ladies in their Sunday bonnets and June Cleaver dresses, teetering in high heels, while carrying a large dish covered in a checkered cloth. But in reality you don't have to teeter in high heels nor do you have to wear a Sunday bonnet – just come, bring a friend and a dish to share.

We also invite members to bring one of your favourite items and be prepared to tell a story about it.

If you are willing to drive let Dawn Stephen know and people could car pool from the community Centre. Anyone needing a ride or information contact Dawn at 705 765-3936.

The UCW advises they will not be taking orders for the **MACMILLAN FROZEN FOODS** fundraiser this year. The event has not been completely cancelled and possible that the program could start up again next year.

Wednesday, June 1st – 7:00 p.m.
Port Carling United Church Council
Meeting in Hanna Hall

Port Carling United Church



Young Teens Ages 9 and Up!

Wednesdays

June 8th and 22nd

after School in Hanna Hall

Tuesday, July 19th

Beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Movie Night and Sleep Over
at Port Carling United Church

Wednesday, August 17th

Party at Hanna Park
beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Muskoka Lakes Quilters

“Come Quilt with Us”

Every Tuesday

Continues throughout the summer

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(bring your own brown bag lunch)

in Hanna Hall

Port Carling United Church

One Armstrong Point
Port Carling, ON

We warmly welcome

New Members and Visitors

Information call Bette Clark 705 765-5049

Sunday, June 12th at 10:30 a.m.

In Hanna Park

(at the foot of Bailey Street)

Port Carling United Church

**Bala-Port Carling Pastoral Charge
Combined Outdoor Worship Service**

following the service

A Pot Luck Church Picnic

Please bring a dish to share along with your own
dishes, cutlery plus a chair to sit

Everyone Welcome!

Port Carling United Church

Vacation Bible School 2011

SonTreasure Island

July 4th to July 8th

HURRY AND SIGN UP!

FORMS AVAILABLE

at Port Carling United Church in Hanna Hall or
online at www.bpcunitedchurch.com

Port Carling United Church
Council and UCW present
Treasures, Treats & Tea!

aka “Rummage Sale”

Saturday, July 23, 2011

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Treasures will feature
gently used clothing, trinkets, furniture,
flea market finds galore taking place on
the front lawn of our church.

Treats – bake sale, an array of
mouthwatering home baking by the
ladies of our church in Hanna Hall

Tea – visit our Sunday School on the
lower level and enjoy a refreshing cup of
tea along with a variety of home baked
tea breads.

Sunday, July 24 – 9:30 a.m.
Port Carling United Church
Celebrates the
142 ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH

Sunday, August 21st – 10:30 a.m.
Combined Bala-Port Carling Outdoor
Service at Bala United Church
in Jasper Park, Bala
followed by a
POT LUCK LUNCHEON
Bring a dish to share plus your own plate,
cutlery and a chair to sit.

Stories of unique adventures from our church members:

A Sea Voyage to Rome
by Jim Haller

We boarded the Azamara Journey in Miami Florida, and were welcomed with a glass of wine. (The first of many I might add!).

We bid adieu to the U.S.A., toasted sunset and land for the next nine days at sea. The seas were generally calm (apparently calmer than normal), and we soon settled into the ship's routine.

A typical day was breakfast, partake in an activity, lunch, nap, get ready for dinner, have dinner, and then go to the show. Bed followed shortly thereafter. Next day repeat. Of course variations to the day included different wines, different meals, and different companions. Staples included lobster, shrimp and steak. By the way did I mention we both put on more than a few pounds? However, one must endure hardship!

Gibraltar loomed on the horizon on a clear and sunny morning. It truly is a big rock, with a lot of history, but little else to do. It was on my "bucket list", and I enjoyed the visit, but would not purposely visit again.

After thirteen days at sea, Palm Sunday found us docking in Civitavecchia, the nearest port to Rome. We opted to take an organized tour so that our luggage would be looked after, and we also had a way to the city center. Our first tour stop was the Vatican.

We were given an olive branch to wave and be blessed. Our tour guide said the Pope would not arrive for more than an hour after we had left. We were obviously disappointed, until Kathy asked our guide who the fellow in the gold hat was, riding in the "Pope-mobile"? It was indeed Benedict XVI. We

had an excellent view of the Pope, and of the entire entourage.

We toured Rome for the rest of the day and boarded a train for Florence.

The next week we toured Florence and the Adriatic Coast, visited the town where Kathy's grandparents were born. We thoroughly enjoyed our week.

Easter Saturday we were back at the Vatican to pick up our tickets for Easter Sunday Mass. St. Peter's Square was packed with people lined up for the 5:00 Mass. Only one person was allowed through security to pick up the tickets. The letter we had received told us to go through the "Bronze Doors" to enter. These doors must have been twenty feet high, and guarded by the Swiss Guards. Tickets in hand, we then explored Rome.

Easter Sunday came early, and we were again at the Vatican. It was hot, very crowded, and tiring, but spectacular! Again, we had very good views of the Pope, received Communion, and were humbled by the pageantry and the tradition of the occasion.

The next day we flew home to Canada, and finally arrived in Muskoka. It's great to get away, but to truly appreciate what we have here, we must visit other countries.



Kathy waving her Olive branch



Benedict XVI

A One Week Medical Mission to Peru
by Lynda Appleby

On April 9th I once again volunteered on a medical mission, this time to southern Peru. We flew to Lima from Toronto then into the mountainous area to the city of Ariquepa. By van we then went to the site where our team was based high up in the Andean Mountains in the district of Chivay. At one stage we were at 15,000 feet. We did take medication for altitude sickness and after a couple of days the breathing was easier but, I still had breathing problems if we had to climb even a small hill.

We were a small team of eight with a few Peruvians to round out our team. We ate in a communal dining room in a conference centre. The food was prepared by our team cook. Lots of creamed soup with potatoes

and quinoa - a very healthy grain grown widely in Peru. Meat was scarce and so was fruit with the exception of bananas.



Each day of this short mission we travelled out to villages in the Colca Valley which is one of the most spectacular landscapes in the world. In fact, outside of the Himalayas it is impossible to find more peaks over 20,000 feet in such a concentrated location. The Colca River was carved out of a dizzying canyon in a geographic fault that plunges down to 3,400 m. in depth, which is twice as deep as the Grand Canyon, and runs for over 200 kms in total. Some of the area along the edge of the valley has truly spectacular terracing that crisscrosses the landscape. This Colca Valley terracing is considered among the most extensive in southern Peru and some goes back to the ninth and fourteenth century AD. Today the inhabitants of the Colca still use some of the terraces as their ancestors for the cultivation of corn, potatoes, broad beans, alfalfa, quinoa, barley and wheat. It is said that they grow between 200 and 400 types of potatoes depending on who is telling you this fact!

The visitors to our clinic were quite different from Honduras. There were a lot of men and some women but very few children which was unusual. The people seemed quite healthy and their major complaint was "pain." They may have three or four different plots of land to farm which can be miles apart causing them to walk many miles. Women work along side their men, carrying their young child on their back, held there by a blanket tied quite ingeniously! This frees their hands to do chores.

In one village there was a "daycare" sponsored by the government because nearby there was a knitting co-op and the women were knitting articles out of the alpaca wool. When we visited they had orders for fifty beautiful knit capes for a customer in Russia.

One evening when we were returning to our base camp we had to wait on the road because a large truck was being loaded with "huge" bags of potatoes. No wonder the men complained of pain as they carried these heavy bags up a hill to be loaded on the truck. I kept thinking that these poor families that grew the potatoes, bagged them and hauled them up the hills, probably did not get paid very much for either their produce or for their labour.

The pharmacy dispensed many vitamins, pain and arthritis medications but very few antibiotics or even heart medications. After their educational talk most people were given a tooth brush before receiving their prescriptions. We tried to see everyone before 4 p.m. as we had to pack up the clinic and get on the bus that was our transportation and return to the base camp before dark. As well, the people had to walk many miles home and we tried to get them on their way so they would do most of their travelling in daylight.

It got quite chilly in the evening, and homes have no heat, but the days were sunny and warm and when you are up at that altitude you are so much closer to the sun that the sun is pretty powerful and sunburns for us fair skinned folks are common. I enjoyed seeing some different and beautiful scenery but the needs were nothing like those I have experienced in Honduras and so perhaps I will return there in 2012.

Annual Report 2010

The Annual Report for Bala Port Carling Pastoral Charge is available on our web site www.bpcunitedchurch.com should you wish to read or print out a copy.

Volunteers for Summertime Services

Greeters for June: Kathy and Jim Haller
July & August TBA

Kitchen Helpers: June 5th Kathy Hazelwood
12th Hylda Coker 19th Erika Harris 26th Pat Barty
July 3rd Helen Brown 10th Karen Bowker
17th Liz Curran 24th Marg Buddo 31st Bette Clark
August 7th Hilda Brown 14th Helen Foreman
21st Ruth Veitch 28th Patti Irving

Church News: This issue of our newsletter covers events for June, July and August. Our next issue will be the September issue and available August 31st. If you have material for publication contact Catherine Dedrick at 705-765-0536 or by email at www.catd1@sympatico.ca

The Last Word

Canada Day – Friday, July 1st



Since the earliest days of our nation's history, Canada has been a land of promise. We have built a society that celebrates achievement and excellence while, at the same time, maintaining a strong respect for human rights. Our participation in Celebrate Canada activities brings us together, strengthens our communities and helps us to understand the significance of the citizenship we all share.