

1) Healthy Congregational Development:

- Developing benchmarks for a healthy parish -- not just about numbers; it also means focus on mission and engagement with the community. Ultimately this is expected to lead to rationalizing buildings and resources, in consultation with parishes.
- Hiring a Congregation Development Officer (Rev. Dr. Jay Koyle, who has facilitated 2 sessions at St. John's and other sessions in the Thunder Bay Deanery)

2) Dynamic Communication:

- Mission, vision and core values are posted in every church in Algoma: We have them and I encourage you to look at them from time to time. Posted mission and vision statements are only effective when people know what is in them;
- The effective use of the internet, and social media (ie Facebook and Twitter) to reach a younger demographic, seekers, and visitors: The Diocese has recently re-designed its' website. I encourage you to visit the site along with our own.
<http://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/>
<http://stjohnsthunderbay.ca/>
- Establishing electronic classrooms: Each deanery will have an electronic classroom and each church in the deanery will be provided opportunities to utilize it;
- We had an interesting dialogue about what constitutes dynamic communication. There are many people who are not tech-savvy and have no desire to access websites. Many prefer the printed and spoken word. It was agreed that technological means of communication is not meant to replace more traditional forms of communication, but to supplement and enhance. The reality is that churches must learn to communicate well in all formats in order to reach as many people as possible.

A.C.W. News

Although our dinner in June was enjoyed by many, some faces were missing. Gloria talked about our meetings with our Lutheran Sisters and Liz gave us a brief account of her travels in the Yukon.

Hopefully everyone had a relaxing summer and are refreshed as we begin our fall season. We will hold our meeting on Tuesday, September 13th at 2:00p.m. After our business meeting, stories of summer adventures will be shared. Our dues will be paid at this meeting also.

Here is a thought to ponder,

“Beware of spending too much time on matters of too little importance.”

A.C.W. President:

Barbara Williams