

# Sudbury Manitoulin Deanery Digest

Deanery email:

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## Pentecost 2018

### Freedom

God created us in his image with the capacity to love, and love requires freedom. And with our freedom, we have the capacity to do great evil as well as great good. God took a tremendous risk in making us.

-Br. Robert L'Esperance

Society of Saint John the Evangelist

### Anglican Church of Canada: News from General Synod

### Understanding organizational structures in the church: Book offers resource for clergy and laity: **THE CHURCH AS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION**

By Matt Gardner

First published in 2016, *The Church as a Volunteer Organization: Common Sense Approaches to Creating Structure* is a small book that has had a big effect on at least one influential reader.

The book was written by Mary L. (Bunny) Stewart, a life-promised oblate of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine and a former consultant in volunteer services and pastoral services for the Ontario Hospital Association. An early draft was used by Dr. Walter Deller of Trinity College for his classes on congregational administration, and has since become required reading for the course.

This year, *The Church as a Volunteer Organization* will see its third printing.

Though the title of the book may suggest a work that is primarily about volunteers, its author is quick to correct that misconception.

Volunteers and organizational structures are “really two sides of the same coin, but I want to make sure that both sides of the coin get recognized,” Stewart said. “You can’t talk about organizational structure without the people who make up that structure, and for the most part, the people who make up that structure are volunteers.

“But I don’t want to risk the book being thought about as ‘the care and feeding of volunteers’. It isn’t. It’s a book about organizational structure in the church and how important that is for the clergy, especially, to understand and know about, as well as laity in leadership positions.”

Among many metaphors and analogies used in the book to describe organizational structures, Stewart at one point compares disconnected or uncoordinated church structures to a jigsaw puzzle.

In order to “solve the puzzle”, she outlines four major steps:

Identify the pieces already in place;

Imagine what the picture looks like;

Determine the missing pieces; and

Complete the picture.

Stewart is wary of suggesting any “one-size-fits-all” model for effective church structures, due to the fact that individual parishes will face different situations. However, she highlights one approach to organizing as rooting the church’s activities in baptismal vows or in the Marks of Mission. For example, in relation to each baptismal vow outlined in the Book of Alternative Services, such as “Seeking and serving Christ in all persons; loving our neighbours as ourselves”, clergy and laity might ask themselves which committees, groups, activities, or positions currently exist to help carry out that vow.

Another major aspect of enhancing community that Stewart highlights is communication. Through discussion and study groups, regular newsletters, social events and projects, and websites, members of parishes and congregations can find opportunities to share their own views on church life and how their involvements contribute to spiritual journeys.

The challenges of volunteer administration and management are a broad area of study—one that Stewart believes does not receive sufficient attention in seminary training.

“The phrase I’ve come to use is it seems like clergy are being trained far more for Sunday mornings than they are for handling the rest of the week,” she said.

“My concern is for the clergy [...] [W]ith so many demands [now] being made on churches, and especially on clergy, to do this and cover that and fill in this gap, it’s like sending them out to the wolves ill-prepared. [...] If churches are wondering how they should be structured especially in this day and age, where I think churches are trying or being asked to do far more than what they are resourced to do, I think that they have to focus more on what it is they really can do without burning themselves out, especially the clergy.”

In his foreword to *The Church as a Volunteer Organization*, Deller describes the book as an engaging work rooted in long personal experience that invites readers to “think beyond the box of [their] assumptions”, while offering practical tools for supporting the life of church communities with volunteers.

After his own students at Trinity College had read the book, Deller writes, “They told me they wished they had had a simple straightforward handbook like this in congregations where they had held leadership positions, in non-profit organizations they had been part of, and in their own previous professional work. This book will continue to enrich the thinking of future generations of students and clergy.”

Copies of *The Church as a Volunteer Organization* cost \$12. To order the book, contact:

The Hutch Publishing  
1093 Kingston Road #803  
Toronto, Ontario M1N 4E2  
416-694-9319

### **News and Events:**

#### 1) **Deanery Council News:**

##### a) Deanery Council Meeting

Mark your calendars: the next meeting of our Deanery Council is October 20 at St. John the Divine in Copper Cliff with a 9:30 AM start time.

#### 2) **Algoma News:**

##### a) Thorneloe University

Posted: July 19, 2018

Thorneloe University is advertising for the position of Assistant Chaplain

Please see the link below for details.

[http://dioceseofalgoma.com/UploadedFiles/files/Job%20Postings/Asst\\_%20Chaplain%20Ad%202018.pdf](http://dioceseofalgoma.com/UploadedFiles/files/Job%20Postings/Asst_%20Chaplain%20Ad%202018.pdf)

b) Lay Readers Conference 2018

Information is now available for the 2018 Lay Readers' Conference in Thunder Bay. See the link to our Diocesan website below.

**Serving Christ with Hearts, Hands & Voices:**

<http://dioceseofalgoma.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=content&PageID=1094&PageCategory=117>

c) Algoma Anglican submission deadlines

Posted: August 14, 2018

Rev. Peter Simmons, Editor, Algoma Anglican, advises that submission deadlines for the paper are on the first of every month commencing September 1, 2018. Although there has been some flexibility with these deadlines, that is no longer the case and articles that are submitted past the deadline date will be held for the following edition. Should you have any questions, please contact Rev. Peter directly via e-mail [anglican@muskoka.com](mailto:anglican@muskoka.com) or via telephone at 705-732-4608.

3) Future Events to Mark on Your Calendars:

a) Church of the Ascension

Golf Tournament – Sept. 23rd

Join us for the annual golf classic on Sunday September 23rd at Cedar Green Golf Club. The cost is \$40 with a shot gun start at 2:30pm – this includes 9 holes, power cart, dinner and a chance to win prizes. If you cannot make the golf tournament consider joining us for dinner. For registration, please sign up at the Church of the Ascension or call Ken Winfield 705-566-3258.

Summer Worship Services

Summer hours are 10 Am from July 1 to Sept 2, 2018

b) Church of the Epiphany

Summer Worship Services

10 M through to Sept 2, 2018

c) Parish of Copper Cliff and Lively

Summer Worship Hours

10 AM: August in St. John the Divine Copper Cliff

September times: 10 AM for both Christ Church and St. John's

Bishop Anne Germond Appoints Honourary Deacon Associate to this Parish

Beginning September 1, we will be welcoming Rev. Dr. Patti Brice to our ministry team. Patti will also be teaching full-time at Laurentian University in the English Department as she has done for several years. We are privileged to have you, Patti

John Sands Concert: September 23 at 2 PM at St. John the Divine Anglican, Copper Cliff. Tickets \$20. To purchase in advance contact Vivian at 705-682-3360. John has given some fantastic music on his electronic organ for several years now. He hails from Nova Scotia. See attached poster for more details.

d) Parish of Elliot Lake/Massy

Summer Worship Hours

St. Peters Anglican Elliot Lake—9.30 am  
 Faith Lutheran Elliot Lake—11.00 am—1 ST.and 3.RD sunday  
 Zion Lutheran Massey 2nd. Sunday of the month at 1.00 pm  
 Gowan Gillmore Sagamok 2.00 pm at Harvey Owl house  
 every 4th Sunday

e) Lutheran Women's Social Monday, September 17:

Trinity Women are again extending our invitation to Anglican women to join us for a Women's Social. Hopefully no ice storms this time to cancel the day!

The date is Monday, September 17th at 12 noon at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church 189 Regent St. South, Sudbury.

We will be having a light lunch, followed by a "Six Word Memoir" program - just something kind of fun to get to know ourselves and each other a little better. Please mark the date and let Pam Radunsky know by September 10th how many are coming so we can be sure to be prepared. Pam's number is 705-587-2349, and email is bpradunsky@persona.ca.

We look forward to seeing you!  
 Blessings,

Trinity Lutheran Women

**We send the Deanery Digest weekly on Fridays, usually before 10 PM.**

Feel free to send me and Allison Cline-Dean (our Webmaster) any and all events and news. Articles are also very welcome. You can use either my personal email as above or the Deanery email address above.

**We would like to receive items by the Wednesday evening before Friday.**

Some items may be repeated due the date of the event. If you have some news and/or articles and miss the Sunday cut off, please send directly to either personal e-mail address above. We will gladly include parish events, special events, and worship times. Please make sure all info is as accurate as possible, and any poster type submissions are as camera ready as possible to be included as **PDF attachments** to the Digest.

Improvements: suggestions are always welcome.

Safe Unsubscribe lives here. If you want us to remove your name from our newsletter list, just send us an e-mail.

Dave Stamp  
Council Secretary/Digest Editor