

St. Bernard Church

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Issue 4

June 29, 2003

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



Steering Committee

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Martha Dwyer
Arlene Gardiner
John Gibbons
Elizabeth McGrath
Walter Pannone
Raymond Vallee

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you especially for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and hold the promise for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight. Be present with us as we work together: make us responsive to your will and give to us a healthy pride in all we do that we may be good stewards of all things entrusted to us. May the prayers of our patron Bernard help us to keep in mind the wise counsel given long ago "whoever would climb to a lofty height must go by steps, not leaps."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

THE DAVIS FAMILY



Sarah McCall Davis



Virginia Davis



James C. Davis Sr.

James C. Davis, pictured above, never lived at the Davis farmhouse. Instead, at his death at the age of 48, his will provided a trust fund for his wife Sarah and their children. The trust enabled his oldest son, James to purchase the property on the corner of Ten Rod and Tower Hill Roads. The property included a fancy farmhouse, several rental cottages, a large barn and fertile fields for farming. The family farmed the land for decades. Sarah lived in the farmhouse until her death in 1947. James and his three sisters; Madeline, Helen and Virginia lived out their lives on the farm but never married. At some point, the siblings decided to establish a trust to ensure that the property would go partly to the Diocese of Providence and partly to their beloved St. Bernard's Parish. When Virginia, the youngest, died in 2001, the Diocese of Providence purchased the land making it possible for St. Bernard's to consider building a new church on the site. What a wonderful legacy to the Davis family to have a new St. Bernard Church on their beautiful homestead for future generations of parishioners to use and enjoy!

Question for Sunday, June 29, 2003

List the 3 things needed most at Parish Center (i.e. better social facilities, more storage, meeting space, exterior meeting space):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Please drop your response in the collection baskets or send an email to steering_committee@sbcwickford.org. Thanks for your response!

The Steering Committee has a new e-mail address: steering_committee@sbwickford.org Please make a note of it and keep sending your questions, thoughts and responses.

Please remember to return those questionnaires from the individual ministries as soon as possible.

The questionnaires are a very important part of the Master Plan phase of the project. The Steering Committee and the architects will utilize them in the early stage of planning.

The Church Building and the Sacred Rites Celebrated There

~46~ The church building houses the community of the baptized as it gathers to celebrate the sacred liturgy. By its practical design and beauty it fosters the full, dignified, and graceful celebration of these rites. The primary concern in the building or renovation of a space for worship must be its suitability for the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgical rites of the Church. Consequently, the fundamental prerequisite for those engaged in the building or renovation of a church is familiarity with the rites to be celebrated there.

From *Built of Living Stones* Guidelines of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops

Coming Up:

~ The Steering Committee and the Finance Committee are scheduled to meet with Brother William Dygert, and Bruce Daigle, officials from the Diocesan School Department.

~ The committee is planning a trip to visit the Cistercian Abbey of St. Joseph's in Spencer, Massachusetts. St. Bernard was a Cistercian monk.

~ Pumpkins were planted last week at the Davis Farm — will corn be next?

WEEKLY QUESTION: YOUR RESPONSES

Sunday, June 8th question: List 3 things you would like to change about the present Church building:

- ◆ 2 responses: needs air conditioning
- ◆ 9 responses: choir placement
- ◆ 3 responses: more organ music, less piano
- ◆ 1 response: fewer verses for each hymn
- ◆ 2 responses: dress code for the musicians
- ◆ 5 responses: return the wooden crucifix to sanctuary
- ◆ 4 responses: increase
 - ~area of meditation
 - ~statuary/icons
 - ~storage space
 - ~natural light
- ◆ 1 response: sound system
- ◆ 1 response: entrance into church (no stairs)
- ◆ 1 response: placement of tabernacle (should be in sanctuary)
- ◆ 1 response: anxious for new church to be built
- ◆ 1 response: new school would cause debt to parish
- ◆ 1 response: build a church like St. Veronica's *

* The committee will add St. Veronica's to the list of new churches to visit.

Note: You have the unique opportunity to incorporate your thoughts and ideas into the planning of the future of St. Bernard's. Please use this opportunity to make your opinion known. The Committee reviews all responses to each question.