

# St. Bernard Church

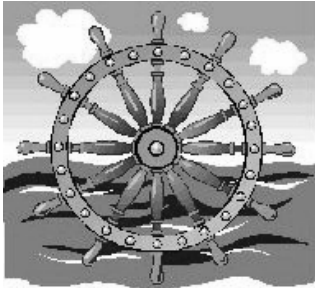
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Issue 6

July 20, 2003

## STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



### Steering Committee

**Tom Orsi, Chair**  
**Jane Allen**  
**Francis Dwyer**  
**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*

## THIS WEEK

This past week the Steering Committee met with Michael Viveiros from Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels (DBVW), George Staples, the Director of Facilities from the Diocese and Carol Ann Nelson, Diocesan Facilities Manager and an architect with several years experience in building new churches. Carol will be attending most of our meetings now that we are considering design aspects of the project.

We reviewed the questionnaires that had dutifully been completed and returned to the Committee by the various Parish ministries. We are very grateful for the time that the ministries put into completing these questionnaires. It is often hard during the summer months to pull people together to get things done. We appreciate the extra effort it took to get these questionnaires done so quickly! DBVW will sort through these questionnaires and incorporate them into their programmatic and space needs analyses for the facilities. The Committee is in the process of setting up meetings between some of the ministries and the architects for more in-depth analysis of their program needs.

The Committee authorized Northeast Engineers to proceed to the State for approval for the necessary soil evaluations of the land. State approval is a process that can take six to eight weeks. Soil evaluations done now will help to determine where to place the septic system.

Michael Viveiros expects that now that DBVW has received the questionnaires they will be able to complete the programming portion of the plan by early August. By mid August DBVW will begin the schematic design for the location and layout of the new facilities. Rendered drawings that will outline the character and layout of the design should begin development during September. Boy, summer goes by quickly around here!

### Question for Sunday, July 20, 2003

Do you believe that a Cry Room is necessary and where should it be located; or are there other ways to offer assistance to parents during Mass?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Why/How? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please drop your response in the collection baskets or send an email to [steering\\_committee@sbcwickford.org](mailto:steering_committee@sbcwickford.org). Thanks for your response!

## June Weekly Questions – Your responses

### **June 1 – Things you like most about the Church building:**

- ◆ Stained glass windows, especially the one behind the altar. (12) *Ans: In any new church construction we would attempt to save and use any item considered dear to parishioners.*
- ◆ Small, quaint, simple traditional look of Church. (9) *Ans: We will try to be true to the teachings of St. Bernard who embraced all of the above characteristics.*
- ◆ Cry room for parish families. (4) *Ans: Jury still out on this one! Should we have a cry room? Should it be in the front or the back of the church? For your opinion complete this week's question.*
- ◆ No mortgage on current facility. (2) *Ans: More than likely there will be some amount of long term debt associated with the construction of the new Church. In all of our decisions, we will attempt to minimize this burden.*

### **June 8 – What would you like to change about the Church building:**

- ◆ Placement of the choir. (12) *Ans: There are fairly well defined guidelines that will determine where the choir can go. Handicap access is an issue if choir loft is considered.*
- ◆ Return of wooden crucifix to Sanctuary. (10) *Ans: There is no current plan to return the crucifix to the Sanctuary. Any new construction will certainly take this into consideration.*
- ◆ Air conditioning is needed. (8) *Ans: This one's a given!*
- ◆ Areas for wheelchairs and better seating for handicapped parishioners and their families. (5) *Ans: Much of this will be mandated by Federal and State building regulations. The Church should certainly be accessible to all.*
- ◆ Tabernacle restored to Sanctuary. (4) *Church building regulations require that the tabernacle be carefully placed so as not to draw the attention of the faithful away from the eucharistic celebration, but also allow for a focus on the tabernacle for quiet times of prayer outside of the Mass. Care will be taken to place the tabernacle in an appropriate place within the new facility.*
- ◆ Do not want a new church, love the simplicity of old church. (4) *Ans: We love the old church too, but the cost to bring it up to reasonable standards (i.e. air conditioning, upgrade stairs and other structural issues) would be quite significant. Also, we will always have to deal with the dangers of Route 1.*
- ◆ Anxious for a new Church to be built. (2) *Ans: So are we, but it is a long process that will need much input from our parish family.*
- ◆ Other responses included: increased areas for meditation, more statues of Mary and Joseph, more natural light, and a better sound system.

### **June 21 – Characteristics of other church facilities that you like:**

- ◆ No steps, better parking, areas for Fellowship-Coffee after Mass, pews in sanctuary for servers, church bells, larger altar, kneeling rail in front of tabernacle.
- ◆ Places to visit: St. Mary's Star of the Sea, St. Veronica's, St. Andrew's in Colchester, CT.

### **June 29—Suggestions for Parish Center:**

- ◆ Bigger, more convenient kitchen, both small & large meeting rooms, coat racks, more storage space.

*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.*

*This week the Committee plans to visit several facilities on Aquidneck Island and one in Tiverton. We also will be heading down to St. Veronica's in Narragansett for a look at the significant renovations that transformed that Church in recent years.*

**Thank you all for your responses! Keep them coming!**