

# St. Bernard Church

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Issue 9

August 10, 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*

The Steering Committee completed another round of visits this past week. On Tuesday evening, we visited a new parish center in Middletown. St. Columba's Chapel is an Episcopalian church located in beautiful rural setting. The parish center seems to be an extension of the outdoors with lots of tall windows and doors leading to outside.



St. Columba's Parish Center



Altar at St. George's

The next stop was St. Barnabas Church in Portsmouth which is in the process of building a new parish center as an extension of the church building. The building is designed to house office and classroom space. Lastly, our group viewed the majestic chapel at St. George's School in Middletown. It is a lovely example of a traditional gothic church. Afterwards the committee was treated to dinner in the dining hall at St. George's, reminiscent of the dining room at "Hogwarts" in the Harry Potter books.



St. Barnabas Parish Center

### Question for Sunday, August 10, 2003

Considering that our new church will be much larger than the current one, what type of layout do you prefer for the nave of the church - the traditional central aisle or the semi-circle layout? Explain.

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!

*The Steering Committee's e-mail address is :*

*steering\_committee@sbwickford.org  
Please make a note of it and keep sending your questions, thoughts and responses.*

*Thanks to everyone who responded to the questions posed during the month of July. Next week's issue will have a summary of all the questionnaire responses.*

## **The Congregation's Area**

~51~ The space within the church building for the faithful other than the priest celebrant and the ministers is sometimes called the *nave*. The space is critical in the overall plan because it accommodates a variety of ritual actions: processions during the Eucharist, the singing of the prayers, movement during baptismal rites.... This area is not comparable to the audience's space in a theater or public arena because in the liturgical assembly, there is no audience. Rather, the entire congregation acts. The ministers of music could also be located in the body of the church since they lead the entire assembly in song as well as by the example of their reverent attention and prayer.

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

## **Coming Up:**

~ Meeting with the principals of local Catholic schools.

~ Visit the Abbey of St. Joseph in Spencer, Massachusetts.

~A summary of the things the Steering Committee liked and didn't like on their church visits.



Members of the Committee having dinner in King Hall, the dining room at St. George's School