

St. Joseph Parish News

September 2005

St. Joseph Catholic Church – 134 Prince Ave., Athens, GA 3060

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Published for and by the St. Joseph family

BUILDING COMMITTEE ISSUES UPDATE

In order to keep everyone informed about the status of our parish and school building campaign the Building Steering Committee is pleased to provide you with a brief report on the progress being made in our planning efforts:

LAND ACQUISITION

A parcel of land that appears to be suitable to meet our needs has been identified. It is currently being appraised by an independent appraiser.

Permission to seek an option to purchase this land must first be approved by the Archdiocese once a sales price is determined.

If permission is given, “due diligence” will occur involving a survey of the property and undertaking other tasks to ensure that the land is adequate to meet our current and future needs.

If this property proves to be unsuitable for any reason, the property committee will study other potential building sites that meet our needs and property criteria.

SELECTION OF AN ARCHITECT

The Architectural Design Task Force is well advanced in the selection of the best firm. After several reviews, the final choice will be made in the next few weeks.

Father David will seek approval from the Archdiocese to contract with the architectural firm of his choice, after consultation with the Building Steering Committee.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEEDS

The Architectural Design Task Force is reviewing needs assessment reports and will be meeting with committees and sub-committees (e.g. Facilities, Religious Education, Liturgy, etc.) to ensure that both new and previously identified parish/school needs are shared with whatever architectural firm is selected.

CAPITAL FUND DRIVE CAMPAIGN

The Capital Campaign will start immediately after the prop-

erty is chosen. The consultant retained, Guidance in Giving, is a national organization that specializes in fund raising for the Catholic Church

The Campaign will start with an exploratory phase that will help us get a much closer estimate of our fund raising potential, followed by the Pledge Drive itself. Direct contacts with parishioners and school families will be used throughout.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Feel free to also contact members of the Building Steering Committee with your questions or comments. Their names and contact information are found on our parish web site (stjoesonline.org) and bulletin board in the church vestibule.

We thank the Communications Committee for working so diligently to ensure that current and accurate information is disseminated through the parish web site, bulletin inserts, newsletter and pulpit announcements.

PLEASE WATCH THE BULLETIN AND THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FUTURE UPDATES.

Happenings at St. Joseph School

NEW ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Barbara Bankston, the new principal of SJS, has impressed the St. Joseph community as a smart, energetic woman with the right experience to lead our school. Father McGuinness describes her as wise and capable, and expects her to be an asset not only to the school but also to the entire parish. He comments, "She will build on the strengths that we have here at St. Joseph." First grade teacher Mrs. Sharon Shouse says, "Mrs. Bankston has been a blessing to the teachers, students, and parents of St. Joseph Catholic School. We really thank God for sending Mrs. Bankston to us!"

Mrs. Bankston began as principal of St. Joseph School this summer. Before coming to Athens she had served as Principal and Assistant Principal of elementary and middle schools in Valdosta, Georgia, where she began her career as an elementary and physical education teacher. The Governor and Georgia State Board of Education recognized Mrs. Bankston for the gains made in student achievement during her tenure in Valdosta.

Mrs. Bankston came to Athens in June 2004 with her husband, Dr. Mel Garber, who is Associate Dean for Extension at the University of Georgia, and her daughter, Brittany, who is a sophomore in Spanish and Pre-



Principal Barbara Bankston outside the entrance of St. Joseph School.

Journalism at the University of Georgia and a member of the competitive cheerleading squad. Her step-daughter, Raegan is a sales representative in the food service industry living in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Mrs. Bankston had "retired" when she left Valdosta - though she was working as a part-time Instructor at the University of Georgia and a consultant to the Georgia Department of Education prior to accepting the position of principal at SJS. When asked how she chose to come to SJS, Mrs. Bankston says, "The Lord gives us talents to use and I knew He wasn't through with me yet. I decided to let Him bring the next calling to me." And then she

learned about the position at SJS.

Mrs. Bankston says she loves the wonderful SJS staff, children and parents, the size of the school, and the relationship with the parish community. She enjoys working with Father McGuinness and appreciates his strong commitment to the school. "Our school theme this year is Miracles Happen Here - When We Are United as a Family," she notes. As Principal of SJS, Mrs. Bankston looks forward to continuing the school's active role in the St. Joseph community, and asks for our continued prayers and blessings for the school, staff and families.

HELPING THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

SJS students are emptying their piggy banks to aid Hurricane Katrina victims. Together students and staff have collected over \$2,900 to date. The donations are being sent to the Red Cross.

PARISH NOTES

■ The Second Annual Latino Health Festival sponsored by Catholic Social Services & America Cancer Society, will be held at Saint Joseph from 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15. Fiesta Latina de Salud info: Elizabeth Taxel, (706)548-9421 or email fiestasalud@gmail.com.

■ Don't forget the annual Parish Picnic, Sunday Oct. 2 at Sandy Creek Park. Park opens at 8 a.m., and we'll have Mass at 11:45 a.m. Great food and great fun will follow.

NOTE: Deadline for the October Parish News is Monday, Oct. 10.