

Habitat for Humanity and Church of the Holy Spirit

The exciting announcement about CHS' donation of \$50,000 to Habitat for Humanity Cape Cod to build a home in memory of Nat Goddard and Gilbert Merritt is a wonderful idea which continues our tradition with Habitat and our community.

During the last interim before Father Adam arrived, our church sponsored its first Habitat home. It was on Gomes Way in Harwich, part of a 14-unit build. Due to the generosity of the parish, we raised \$55,000 - an additional \$5,000 contribution was for an international build. It was a challenging job which took many appeals for funding, many dinners in parishioners' homes with Habitat homeowners as guests to explain their participation as well as ours and several concerts and other events, including selling our bird houses in the Parish Hall.

We built our "own home" with many volunteers from Habitat and our parish. Gilbert and Nat were most helpful. During the morning coffee break with snacks, our retired clergy conducted a brief prayer service. We made many sandwiches for lunches for participants of our build and others prepared and served by our parish. The home was purchased by a young family who still live there.

Shortly after Adam arrived we had a reception with everyone from CHS plus the Habitat leadership. Practically the entire parish participated in the build in one part or another. It challenged us and helped keep us together during the difficult interim period. It also introduced Fr. Adam to our community outreach in a very positive way.

Obviously during the time of Covid it is not possible to replicate this effort but I didn't want it forgotten. CHS and the Habitat relationship continues through the generous offer that you have agreed on.

Chip Bechtold, Co-chair of CHS Outreach Ministry