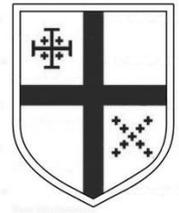


# Glad Tidings



The Newsletter of the United Episcopal Church of North America

Lent 2022

## GRACE ANGLICAN, WILDWOOD, FL



What a difference the “simple” addition of a steeple makes! James Dinan, Senior Writer, of The Daily Sun wrote: “the steeple renovation...turned what was once a private cottage...into a building that truly looks like a house of worship.” These words were especially pleasing since this same writer described the church in an earlier article as a “...small cottage.” Sometimes we need to be reminded of our shortcomings to recruit the time, energy and effort required to make significant changes. Since January of 2020, we have moved through a long and sometimes tortuous process to get to the point of installing the steeple. We couldn’t just plop it on top of the church like a topper on a wedding cake!

Just before Covid struck, we developed a building fund and budget. Next, we worked with an architect and engineer for the drawings we submitted to the county. Our first big surprise was the number of renovations required by the county to support the steeple! We began with the interior which was easier to prepare as the work was done largely by parishioners and friends, ably directed by Fr Wayne. However, it got a bit trickier when it came time to hire subcontractors to do the roof, stucco and masonry this past spring and summer. Between the lack of staff, the rising cost of materials and wild building pace in Florida, it was difficult to make headway. We didn’t give up hope and Fr Wayne lead the way with polite persistence. As he told James Dinan of the Daily Sun, “I think I’ve learned more about construction and permits in a few months than what most people would learn in a lifetime!”

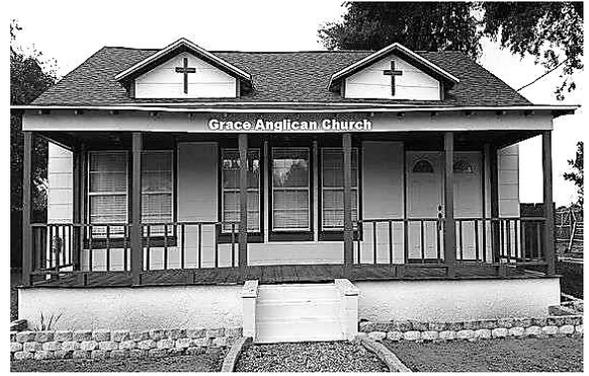
Finally, the day arrived when the steeple, brought down on a trailer from Waynesboro, VA, could be mounted on the roof! Saturday, October 23rd was the date slated for the installation. Up to that very day, we had had many days of rain so we were concerned that it might continue. We needn’t have worried! The day dawned bright and beautiful. Only a few fluffy clouds floated in the sky which was an intense blue. It was the perfect backdrop for the church’s momentous event. We invited all the subcontractors to thank them for helping us and to allow them to see the finished product. While waiting for the big moment, everyone enjoyed baked goodies, coffee, tea and cold drinks provided by parishioners in the shade of a tent.



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As we stood below with our hearts in our mouths, Father Wayne and two helpers hoisted the steeple up to its perch. After placing it on its proper spot, the three men secured it. Then the photographs began in earnest! One of our parishioners even filmed the entire event with his drone. The steeple, lovingly repainted by parishioners, had been donated by Archbishop Robinson from Saint John's, Maryland which had closed. Once more the steeple stood straight and tall as a beacon, welcoming all to a church. It is a testament to God's will and the generosity of contractors, volunteers and parishioners.



*Dana Sauro*

**A few words about this issue of Glad Tidings:**

This is the smallest Glad Tidings ever published during my time as editor. Submissions for the Lent issue are always sparse, but I generally can stretch five pages of news to eight. For this issue I did not have the time or energy to do anything more than report what was sent to me.

The delivery date was delayed by some very unexpected and serious complications of my cancer surgery. The good news is that the cancer is gone. The Bishop and I thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes. Additional prayers will be most welcome as I see more specialists and hope for answers and treatment for the remaining issues.

The imminent demise of my computer and printer has led me to realize God has a wicked sense of humor and He is still honoring my request to become a more patient person.

One last reminder – the UEC has three established parishes in need of clergy. Please contact Bishop Robinson for more information.

Piper Robinson, Editor

**Holyrood, Smithfield, NC**



On Sunday 24 October Bishop and Mrs. Robinson visited Holyrood Anglican Church in Smithfield, North Carolina. Bishop Robinson preached, celebrated Holy Communion, and confirmed Mr. Lynn Bull. He also received Mrs Brenda Jacobs and Mrs. Sharon Bull into the communion of the UECNA. The bishop also presented



the Rev. John Taylor Brantley with a check from Good Shepherd Anglican Church for the Holyrood Building Fund. Good Shepherd Anglican Church collected over \$3,500 in support of the fund. The service was followed by a potluck luncheon. There were 18 people and 2 dogs in attendance.

*Fr John Taylor Brantley*