

Raising the steeple at Wesley

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Tuesday, 30 October 2012 00:00 -

Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, which is almost 200 years old, sold its site at 2212 State Street in New Albany a year ago and has been building a new church on Hwy 150 just off the Greenville Exit from I-64 on the way to Highlander Point in Floyds Knobs.

The hope is the congregation will open the new facility on Easter 2013.

On Friday, Sept. 28, the steeple was hoisted to the top of the new structure.

The aluminum steeple is 41 feet tall and is arriving from Utah in two sections.

The 2,500-pound steeple will be erected on the ground the day before and will be set in one piece Friday morning with a 70-ton crane.

Here are some background details about the project.

--The new church campus is 22 acres, including a stream.

--The outside of the building (47,500 sq. ft.) is complete, and crews will continue working to complete the inside by early spring.

--Plans are to have the first service on Easter 2013.

--The building has a geothermal field to assist with temperature control.

--There will be a chapel inside and a prayer garden outside in this first phase.

--The church had been in its State Street location for more than 50 years. Before that it had been at the corner of Scribner Drive and Market Street downtown.

--The congregation has been worshipping temporarily for about 18 months in New Albany at Christian Academy of Indiana on Sunday mornings and Grant Line United Methodist Church on Sunday evenings and for Wednesday night meals and activities. Its offices are at 2810 Grant Line Road.