

## Singing in the Rain (with apologies to Gene Kelly)

While California celebrates the much needed precipitation and our reservoirs receive rejuvenated inflows, our building site on 17th Avenue still sees continued progress, despite periods of mud & slush.

I think this is a great illustration of God answering so many people's different prayers all at once!

After the extremely successful Earth Moving Event and we obtained our Building Permit from the County, our contractors, Slatter Constuction, set to work by first clearing the whole lot of all vegetation including any trees that were not native to the area. One morning we arrived on site to find one particular tree roped off and a sign that had been affixed by a concerned neighbor strongly suggesting that it be saved,. After some discussion we are all relieved that Lyle Crosley is transplanting the Chinese Elm to his property in Clear Lake. A great example of recycling!

So we dug and dug and we dug some more until the soils engineer told us we had either reached China or suitably compacted native soil. One day we were surprised to uncover a concrete septic tank that had been left behind from the previous residence, and not too impressed to find yet another wooden septic tank under the first! This left a large hole, 12 feet deep in the earth where it was not required, so many yards of crushed rock had to be poured in and compacted so that the stability of the site was retained.



As all the large pieces of equipment rumbled over the site, digging and moving soil, interested neighbors and parishioners saw the newest landmark in the Live Oak neighborhood begin to form. Once the ginormous stockpile of topsoil reached its zenith, some imaginative onlookers christened it "Mount Wesley"! I am sure that with the promise of rain on the horizon and the covering of the mountain with white plastic, the appearance might now be more accurately described as that of an iceberg!

The first item to be built on the lot is a cement block retaining wall that will run along the west and south boundaries. In the week before Christmas, the cement workers hurried to construct the formwork for the concrete footings of the walls. The maze of lumber boxes and multitudes of rebar snakes and bends gave the site a Legoland appearance and took shape almost overnight as the talented crew worked their magic. Their dedication and work ethic was most genuinely displayed on Christmas eve as the concrete trucks and concrete pumper rolled onto the site to pour gallons & gallons of concrete into the formwork. By midday all the footings were poured and apart from the monitoring of sump pumps, the site was almost in hibernation over Christmas day. Three days before New Year the crew were back on site removing all the formwork in preparation for the building of the walls with cement blocks.

The neighbors have been keen onlookers as things progress at 2091 17th Avenue, as they can't wait for us to be back and involved in the Live Oak community.

Do drop by from time to time and see the construction for yourself and then go out and encourage all your friends and acquaintances to become part of this wonderful mission of building not only a facility but the body of a Church!

