

## **Fun Fact October 20, 2021**

**Question:** Which church in our diocese had a gilt cross installed on its spire in 1822 and why was this controversial?

**Clue:** Over 30 years later, Christ Church Christiana Hundred would not allow a cross on its spire because of the same controversy.

**Answer:** Immanuel Church, New Castle, had a gilt cross installed on its spire in 1822, as part of its building improvements. This was seen as a controversial expression of Ritualism, as were the placing of crosses, candles, or flowers on the altar, the wearing of certain vestments by clergy and choristers, and the burning of incense, all of which, with the exception of incense, are normal in Low and High churches alike today. Ritualism was started by the Oxford Movement and the efforts of some to revive the feeling and observance of ritual directions which had been ignored in common practice. Thirty years later, Christ Church Christiana Hundred did not get a cross installed on its spire because of the "Protestant feeling" among the people of the area.

Taken from *The Episcopal Church in Delaware: 1785-1954*, by Charles A. Silliman