Pilgrim Steps and Plaque

Location: Between Pilgrim Road and South Road

Florence Bratenahl designed the Pilgrim Steps and the plaque – which were dedicated on May 16, 1930.

The stone for the fifty-one sandstone steps came from Virginia’s Aquia Creek quarry. Aquia Creek sandstone was used in the construction of many of D.C.’s most famous landmarks, including the White House and the U.S. Capitol building.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Leslie Taylor of Philadelphia donated the Pilgrim Steps as well as the planting of the adjacent boxwood, yew, holly, and magnolia. Mr. Taylor was a member of the National Committee for the Cathedral. He and his wife gave the money for the Cathedral’s Children’s Chapel in memory of their infant son.
Plaque Inscription:

Come Let Us Go Up To
The House of the Lord
These Pilgrim Steps and Their Planting
Are the Gift of Roland Leslie Taylor and
Anita Marjory His Wife
Who Thus Express Their
Appreciation of All Those
Who Have Worked for The
Upbuilding of the Cathedral
Anno Domini 1930

Early view of the Pilgrim Steps with the Cathedral apse - the North transept under construction