



Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

The December 2011 article concluded with certain developments in the Vestry meeting of June 6, 1948, that related to construction of the new church. In that same session vestrymen deliberated at length about “means of complying with the Bishop’s instructions to reduce costs. . . .” Subsequently, they approved a Jamie Carroll-Glenn Robinson motion for a new round of bids to be submitted by interested contractors by June 28, 1948. The motion required the tender of three different bids by each contractor: the first for the complete church plant, including the church proper, the so-called “parish house,” and the “assembly hall,” meaning the present parish hall. The second would be for the church and the “parish house,” excluding the “assembly hall.” The third would be for the “parish house” and the “assembly hall,” excluding the church proper. After the meeting, the Building Committee was to contact the supervising architect, Lloyd Greer, immediately, asking him to advertise for new bids and “urging him to attempt to secure bids from other localities besides Valdosta.”

Meanwhile, on June 7, 1948, Vestry Clerk Robert Macks received a letter from J. Randolph Anderson, Treasurer of the Corporation of the Diocese of Georgia, explaining how the Corporation would pay to Christ Church \$23,000.00 of the \$25,000.00 promised by Bishop Middleton S. Barnwell toward construction of the new church. The remaining \$2,000.00 would pay John C. LeBey, a Savannah *The Vineyard*, p. 10, January 2012

architect, for his design of the new church plant. Bishop Barnwell had earlier told Macks that Christ Church would receive two payments: \$13,000.00 on July 1, 1948, and \$10,000.00 on August 1, 1948. However, as Anderson now wrote, the money was to be derived from selling Series “F” United States bonds held by the Corporation. Without clarifying how the source of the funds affected the payment schedule, Anderson informed Macks that Christ Church would receive \$10,135.00 on July 1, 1948; \$7,970.00 on September 1, 1948; and \$4,895.00 on December 1, 1948, the total being \$23,000.00

Macks responded diplomatically on June 8, 1948, saying to Anderson, “You may be certain that we will be very pleased to receive the funds whenever it is convenient for you to let us have them, and we will make our arrangements accordingly.” He also reported that the contract for the Church had not been let, “so that the slight delay in receipt of funds will not cause any difficulty.”

Then, at three o’clock on the afternoon of July 2, 1948, Vicar Clifton H. White, Jerome Tillman, Jamie Carroll, Glenn Robinson, Noah Fry, and Robert Macks met with Lloyd Greer in his office to open the new bids from two Valdosta contractors, J.N. Bray Company and R.R. McCall Company, and from Tinker Concrete of Macon. To simplify a somewhat complex story, Tinker Concrete submitted the lowest bid of \$62,800.35 for the complete project [church, parish house, and assembly hall] and \$50,680.25 for the church and parish house without the assembly hall. The

minutes of the meeting declared that the Tinker bid of \$50,680.25 for the church and parish house “per specification but minus the Assembly Hall, was accepted, with the provision that the bid for the entire structure might be accepted at a somewhat later date, at the original price, if we are able to raise the additional funds required and there had been no major change in costs or labor conditions.” A further development from this gathering was the decision that Jerome Tillman, Jamie Carroll, and Fr. White would meet with Horace Caldwell, a communicant and manager of the Daniel Ashley Hotel, to consider the possibility of “soliciting the funds to complete the entire Church as proposed – solicitation to be made from certain parties well known to the vestrymen . . . and to Mr. Caldwell.”

By the time of the next sitting of the full Vestry on July 4, 1948, no progress had been made with the idea of seeking additional funds to carry out the full project of building the church, parish house, and assembly hall as originally envisioned. The meeting, however, did make two decisions. The first was to confirm an agreement reached earlier to reuse the original cornerstone from the old church on East Central Avenue. The stone would be turned “endwise” so that it could be re-carved with the information about the new church. Second, Vestry recommended that the Building Committee “check with Mr. Tinker [H.G. Tinker, owner of Tinker Concrete] and check [into] Mr. Tinker . . . to determine the necessity of securing a Building Bond.”

More in February.