



Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

As recounted in the February history article, Vestry Clerk Robert G. Macks explained at length to Zoë Coburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Executive Council of the Diocese of Georgia, that her fears about possible disruption of her vacation by Christ Church's need to pay building costs were pointless. As he said to Miss Coburn in his letter of July 12, 1948, "one of us is laboring under a misapprehension."

In her response the next day, Miss Coburn wrote, "... I checked again on the change of handling Valdosta affairs and find that I misunderstood[,] for which I am more than grateful." She also declared, "... I learned that it is only through you that I handle funds for you to handle there---just as the bishop had told me---so when you begin to need the money you may call on me and before going away we will have in your hands whatever funds we hold for that purpose." Not content with that missive to Macks, she wrote him again on July 14th, and in her new letter claimed that she was "overjoyed to know that I had misunderstood." Once more she assured Macks that she would transfer money from the Diocese to Christ Church as required. "Whenever you need the money I have," she wrote, "let me know. I shall check with you before I go away, in case I have not heard from you, and send you what funds I have on hand."

Though the issue of how the diocese would pay its gift toward
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construction of the new Christ Church seemed to have been put to rest, the Vestry continued to be concerned about money. The specific source of anxiety was how to acquire funds sufficient to pay for erection of the "Assembly Hall" [i.e., the Parish Hall] at the same time as the church was built. In Vestry's meeting on July 18, 1948, Senior Warden Jerome Tillman provided an account of pledges "due to the program" and "funds in hand." In light of the information from Mr. Tillman, the group's consensus was that "we would simply work toward as much as we can, pressing for a new 'drive' after the commencement of actual work on the new property. . . ." And, looking ahead to tasks still to do, vestrymen selected Noah Fry and Glenn Robinson to serve as a "furnishings committee."

At the next Vestry session on July 31, 1948, Fr. White joined the Furnishings Committee, following which "he presented many samples received from business houses he had contacted." Vestrymen yet again discussed the cornerstone at length and agreed to the placement inside the stone of an airtight liner of copper or aluminum that would contain various items such as a "Bible, Prayer Book, name of Vicar and Vestry." They reaffirmed their previous decision that the existing cornerstone from the building on East Central Avenue "be worked over and the date of construction of the new Church be added." They decided as well that letters should be sent to "all members of the

Church who had not contributed to the building fund" to solicit contributions from them.

In early September the Macks-Coburn correspondence resumed. On the fourth of that month, Macks informed Miss Coburn that "all seems now set for the church. The contract has been let---and the construction is actually under way." The Building Committee, he said, was now dealing with the "matters of the construction bond and the builder's risk [insurance]. . . ." As he had previously informed Miss Coburn, "we will hold the policies here, notifying you of the company, number and coverage," which was not at all what she wanted. Her view was that the insurance policies should be sent to her to be held in the diocesan office, a procedure she had suggested indirectly in correspondence with Macks months earlier. He now told Miss Coburn that, according to the construction contract, payments to Tinker Concrete, the builder, would have to begin soon. He recommended, therefore, that she begin to send to Christ Church "such funds as may be available." He added, "It would not be a bad idea to build up our bank balance a bit, as we plan on making a change and hope to profit considerably from the new connection." The term "new connection" evidently was a reference to the relationship with Citizens and Southern National Bank in Valdosta established by depositing Building Fund money with C & S.

Look for the continuation of this story in the April *Vineyard*.