



Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

During the Vestry meeting of September 5, 1948, Senior Warden Jerome Tillman provided a succinct account "of the building situation." As he reported, the Building Fund had \$28,187.15 in hand, with \$23,000.00 still to come from the Diocese of Georgia. The bad news was that the total of \$51,187.15 was "not enough for our purposes, and we must add to our funds, especially securing payment of promises and unpaid pledges." As Mr. Tillman summarized the situation, Christ Church required \$2,136.00 more "to actually complete the building (without assembly hall)" and would need another six to seven thousand dollars to purchase "furniture and fixtures." Vestry Clerk Bob Macks noted that "construction bond had been placed and issued, covering [the] performance of Mr. Tinker, the contractor."

Vicar Clifton H. White, informed Vestry that plans for "a larger and more efficient kitchen" than originally visualized had been completed and accepted by the women of the Church and by the Building Committee. He confirmed that he and supervising architect Lloyd Greer had the task of selecting the hardware and lighting fixtures for the building. Also, he said, the cornerstone from the original Christ Church on East Central Avenue "had been cleaned and re-engraved and was ready to be reset." Thereupon, Vestry decided to hold the cornerstone laying ceremony on Friday, September 10, 1948, with Mr. Arthur Goodin serving as the deputy for Bishop Barnwell, who was still in Europe.

In the next meeting, on October 3, 1948, Vestry dealt with additional building project business. Fr. White raised the "matter of insurance on the new building. The decision, after discussion, was to purchase \$50,000.00 worth of "Builder's Risk" insurance, half of which would come from the McKey-Tillman Agency and the other half from the Bass Insurance Agency. The coverage was to be obtained at "prevailing rates," and the Diocese of Georgia would be the beneficiary.

Though unmentioned in the Minutes of October 3, 1948, Vestry apparently urged Mr. Macks to contact Zoë Coburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Diocese of Georgia, about the \$23,000.00 Christ Church still had not received for the Building Fund. The next day, Macks wrote Miss Coburn to remind her that on September 4, 1948, he had sent a letter to her "asking that, at your convenience, whatever funds available for Christ Church Building Fund be sent on to us." He observed that after a month's wait, he had heard nothing from her. Macks also declared that, several payments already having been made to the contractor, H.G. Tinker Concrete, "we will be in a position of needing additional funds in very short order." Therefore, "your taking care of this matter will be sincerely appreciated." As a closing note, he reported that "Contractor's Construction Bond and Builder's Risk Insurance have both been placed in requisite amount."

Macks's letter elicited a quick response from Miss Coburn, who wrote on October 5th that she owed

him an apology. His September 4th letter had been on her desk when she returned from vacation on September 16th. She claimed that her desk had been piled "high with mail" and that Bishop Barnwell had arrived home from his European trip at the same time. The consequence was her not knowing "what to do first" and thus she filed his missive without acting on it. Her return letter of October 5th also contained a check for \$23,000.00. Miss Coburn already had paid John C. LeBey, the architect, his fee of \$2,000.00 before she departed for vacation. In closing, she wrote, "I hope I have not inconvenienced you. Had matters been reversed I would have been very angry. Terribly sorry."

Macks received the Coburn letter and the check the following day, October 6, 1948. In a letter to Jamie Carroll, Chairman of the Building Committee, he reported that he had the check, which was in Macks's name, in hand. As he wrote, "Why the check was made out to me is a question I cannot answer, but I have endorsed it and am turning it over to you herewith." However, before mailing the letter and check to Mr. Carroll, Macks contacted him by telephone and was told to deposit the check in the Building Fund account at Citizens and Southern National Bank, which he did. In a postscript in the Carroll letter, he confirmed that "I have deposited the check to the account of the Christ Church Building Fund in the Citizens and Southern National Bank and enclose herewith duplicate deposit slip."

More on the building of the new Christ Church in the May *Vineyard*.