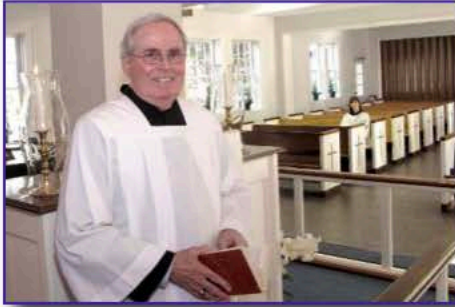


# Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin



January 19, 1949

Rt. Rev. Middleton S. Barnwell  
7 East St. Julian Street  
Savannah, Georgia

Dear Bishop:

Your letter of January 4th was received by us with great pleasure and we are very happy that you have been able to so completely arrange the situation in our behalf.

At a recent meeting of the Vestry, held on January 10th (copy of the minutes of the meeting enclosed for your information), a resolution was offered empowering Mr. [Jerome] Tillman and me to execute a note on behalf of the incorporated Vestry for the fund[s] needed. We are not certain of the form in which you wish this note and would therefore ask that you be kind enough to prepare the note and forward it to us for necessary signature[s].

After going over the situation very carefully, it is our feeling that with the funds in hand and the probable additions collectible in the near future, an additional sum of \$15,000.00 will be necessary to make requisite payments and we sincerely trust that this sum can be secured for us by your good self. It would be very much appreciated if this fund could be made available to us by the first of the month to take care of necessary payments.

Feeling that you will be very much interested, I am taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of the by-laws as adopted for the incorporated Vestry.

You will be interested to know that the contractor is making good progress on the Parish Hall and that addition should be completed by the latter part of February. The Church itself is coming along in grand style and is approximately 95% complete at this time. On the other hand, it has been decided that it would be wise to postpone our first service until such time as the Church proper and Parish House (omitting the Assembly Hall) are truly ready for occupancy and completely furnished.

With kindest personal regards to you and Mrs. Barnwell and greetings from all the Vestry. We trust to have the privilege and pleasure of seeing you here in the near future.

Very sincerely yours,

ROBERT G. MACKS

On January 9, 1949, the Vestry assembled to discuss Bishop Barnwell's January 4th letter, which was reproduced in the May *Vineyard*. The Vestry had applied for, but had not received, a charter of incorporation. Thus, the consensus was that its officers "could not legally sign an obligation [to borrow \$15,000] at this time." Otherwise, there was complete agreement with the Bishop's ideas, and the Secretary was to inform Bishop Barnwell that, "as soon as the incorporated Vestry was a legal entity, proper evidence of indebtedness would be forwarded." Mr. Macks's letter of January 19th to the Bishop appears with this article.

In his January 21st response, Bishop Barnwell emphasized his "understanding that you would borrow the \$15,000 in Valdosta if I would sign the notes and mortgage as the 'Bishop of Georgia.'" He recounted his conversation with the Vice President of the Citizens and Southern Bank in Savannah, who "was perfectly willing to let me have the money but . . . is reluctant to take business away from the Valdosta bank if they care to make the loan." Therefore, he asked that Mr. Macks ascertain whether the Valdosta C&S was willing to extend the loan and at

what interest rate. As the Bishop opined, "It certainly ought not to be more than 4 1/2."

Robert Macks reported to Bishop Barnwell on January 26th that, "with all the good will in the world, I have not been able to take care of the matter [of the loan]." The difficulty was that Fleming Winn, local C&S President, was "ill in bed." Nothing could be done until Winn returned to work because Senior Warden Jerome "Joe" Tillman was handling loan arrangements through him. His understanding, Macks wrote, was that "all is in order and at the earliest possible moment we will secure the note from Winn for your signature and forward same to you with duly executed note of the Vestry, signed by Joe and myself."

Stay tuned; in the July *Vineyard* this story will continue to creep toward a conclusion.