



Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

On January 21, 1949, Bishop Middleton S. Barnwell wrote to Vestry Clerk Robert G. Macks that his "understanding" was that Christ Church intended to borrow \$15,000.00 in Valdosta to pay for erecting the Parish Hall, provided he signed the mortgage and notes as the "Bishop of Georgia." Barnwell reported that the officers of the diocese had authorized his doing so. He had discussed the mortgage with Joe Harrison, Vice President of the Citizens and Southern Bank in Savannah, and "he was perfectly willing to let me have the money but the home bank here is reluctant to take business away from the Valdosta bank if they care to make the loan." He asked Macks to "find out from the Valdosta bank if they will let you have the money if I sign the notes and at what interest rate. . . ." Barnwell added, "It certainly ought not to be more than 4½ [percent]." Macks responded on January 26, 1949, "Your letter of the 21st has been in my hands for a couple of days. With all the good will in the world I have not been able to take care of the matter, insofar as Mr. Fleming Winn, head of the Citizens & Southern, is ill in bed." Nothing more could be done, he said, until Winn was back at work because the Senior Warden, Jerome Tillman, had been working with Winn in making preparations for the loan.

At the Vestry meeting on February 6, 1949, Mr. Tillman declared that "a

slight difficulty" existed with borrowing "from the Citizens & Southern National Bank and that he was endeavoring to straighten the matter out." Indeed, according to Tillman, the possibility had arisen that Christ Church would acquire the money from a private source "rather than . . . the Citizens & Southern Bank." After the report on that situation, Vestry turned to a discussion "of our early move into the new Church . . . together with the form of announcement and the programs for the event." The minutes asserted, "Every one is anxious to get into our new home, and it is felt by all that . . . February 20th [1949] would be the most practical date."

Meanwhile, Vestry had to deal with the bills for construction work that were still arriving. In the meeting on April 10, 1949, three bills payable required action, including the following: \$732.00 for flooring in the Church, \$500.00 for Lloyd Greer's services as supervising architect, and \$100.00 for "electrical fixtures and wiring." Vestry approved a complex motion offered by Jamie Carroll to handle those expenses and other issues. The Carroll motion, first, called for the flooring bill to be paid from Christ Church's savings account. Second, \$320.00 in donations would be deposited, and the electrical bill would be paid from that deposit. Third, "any balance remaining [was] to be paid to Lloyd Greer on account." Also, "on . . . receipt of statement from him as to balance

due, effort [was to] be made to reduce this indebtedness monthly." Fourth, Christ Church would no longer solicit money from the people "who had already contributed," and there would be "no active solicitation from those outside the Church family." Fifth, Horace Caldwell, a Christ Church communicant who managed the Daniel Ashley Hotel, had asked to be released from his pledge to the fund campaign. Consequently, his check for \$1,000.00 would be returned to him. Then, on approval of a motion by the Vicar, Fr. White, the savings account was renamed "The Building Fund" and those who had served as officers of the Building Committee were "released and discharged from their duties." Further, Vestry voted to thank David and Alec Wainer by letter for their gift to the church of a "cement cross walk" and to add to the existing church insurance coverage against "vandalism and malicious mischief."

Two days prior to the Vestry's April meeting, Mr. Macks had received from Zoë Coburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Executive Council of the Diocese of Georgia, a letter raising again the same issues regarding insurance on Christ Church that were dealt with in the May 2012 history article. Miss Coburn had written letters to Macks in September and November 1948 about insurance questions, and he had answered in a way that seemed satisfactory to her in her letter of November 16, 1948. More about this topic in September's *Vineyard*.