

Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin



The story of Christ Church's efforts to borrow \$15,000 to build the Parish Hall now becomes a bit vague. At a Vestry meeting on February 6, 1949, Senior Warden Jerome Tillman reported "a slight difficulty in the matter of the loan from the Citizens & Southern National Bank" and said he hoped "to straighten the matter out." The Minutes contain no clue about the nature of the "slight difficulty." Concerned that the bank loan would fail, Tillman raised the possibility of a private loan from an unnamed Valdosta resident, saying that "all arrangements will very probably be handled in this manner rather than through" C&S.

However, the C&S loan apparently was completed, though Vestry records are not explicit about the matter. On March 8, 1949, Zoë Coburn, diocesan Treasurer, wrote to Mr. Tillman, "Immediately upon receipt of your telegram today I made up deposit as requested and left this with Mr. Joseph Harrison, Vice President of the Citizens and Southern Bank here, and he said he would take care of the matter as you requested." Attached to Coburn's letter in the Vestry files is a copy of the deposit slip for \$15,000. Further,

THE BUDGET for 1950 – CHRIST CHURCH

Item For	Amount
a. MISSIONS: The Church's work in Diocese, Nation, & World.	400.00
b. DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: Bishop's work & Convention Fund.	151.00
c. SEWANEE: Gift to out Seminary.	20.00
d. SALARY OF VICAR: This is 116.66 a month.	1400.00
e. SALARY OF ORGANIST: \$5 a week for 52 wks., plus 3 extra services.	275.00
f. SALARY OF SEXTON: \$10 a week for 52 wks.	520.00
g. PENSION ASSESSMENT: 15% of item d plus one-sixth for Rectory.	245.00
h. ASSESSMENT ALLOWANCE: Deductions from support: 38.75 per mo.	465.00
i. INSURANCE ON CHURCH PROPERTIES: Rectory, Church, Organ, Fixtures.	500.00
j. LIGHT, HEAT, WATER AT CHURCH: This is \$25 per mo.	300.00
k. SUPPLIES: Printing, postage, canvass aids, candles, elements, etc.	150.00
l. LAUNDRY AND CONTINGENT: Cleaning and also for aid to transients.	150.00
m. PARISH SUPPER 1950:	75.00
n. BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT: Upkeep & repairs to Church and Rectory.	300.00
o. INTEREST AND RETIREMENT OF LOAN:	2000.00
p. MISCELLANEOUS: Adjustments on accounts.	49.00
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TOTAL BUDGET	\$7000.00

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET BY PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL BUDGET:

For work outside Parish.....18.3%; For work in Parish.....52.48%
 For loan retirement.....29.22%

TOTAL...100%

on March 11, Mr. Tillman learned from Bishop Barnwell of a \$5,000 gift to Christ Church from the National Council of the Episcopal Church.

Vestry attempted to discuss the bank loan at a regular meeting on April 3, but, without knowing the particulars of the mortgage, deferred action until a called meeting on April 10, when Mr. James D. Carroll explained the details. The first payment of \$2,000 was due on February 25, 1950, including principal of \$1,325 and interest of \$675. Identical installments were to be remitted each February 25th through 1953. In 1954 a balance of \$9,751.27 would be payable. Vestrymen decided to apply the National Council's \$5,000 gift, and more, to the first payment in 1950.

Treasurer N.E. Fry affirmed to Vestry on March 4, 1950, that Christ Church had paid \$7,555.56 on the mortgage and noted, "Future payments have been so arranged as to clean up the balance of the obligation in four years." In actuality, Christ Church was free of debt in less than three. As Vestry Minutes of March 1, 1953, briefly stated, "Notation is made of payment of the Mortgage on Church property and the presentation of cancelled Mortgage to the Bishop at the service at 4 P.M. this date."