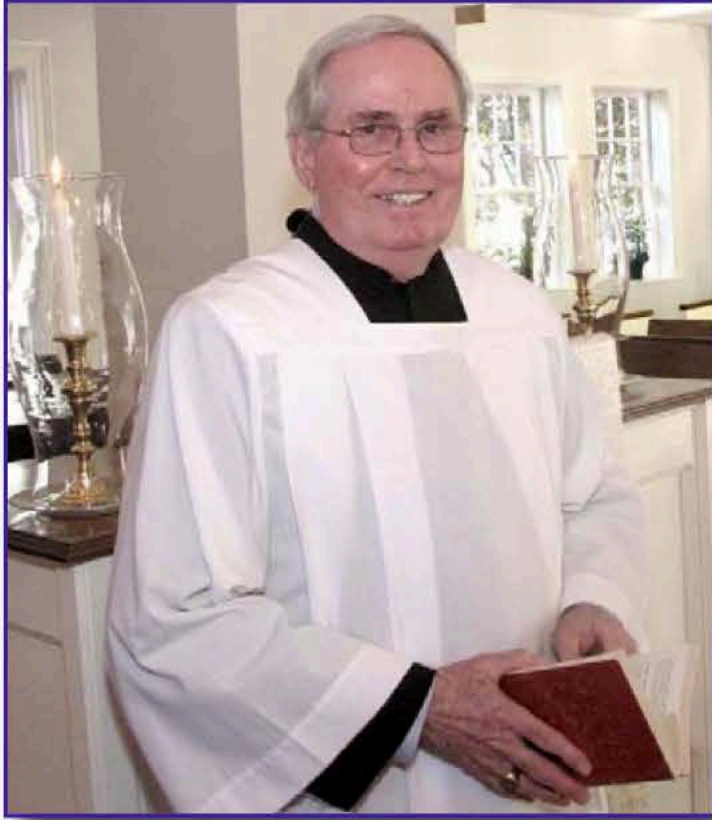


Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin



This month's history feature turns from the sublime story of the Vestry's struggle to find money to finance construction of the Parish Hall and to repay the loan. For August only, the subject is termites, the most serious physical threat to the new Christ Church in its earlier days. Obviously, the church structures were not treated against such pests when built in 1948-1949. On May 7, 1950, less than fifteen months after the first service on Patterson Street, the Vicar, Fr. White, summarized for Vestry "the termite situation, in the church as a whole." Vestry, however, took no action pending a report from Orkin Exterminating.

Orkin's statement showed widespread infestation that was heaviest around the door to the original kitchen in what is now the south wing of the sanctuary. Orkin proposed to treat the entire church plant and to repair damages for \$405.00, less a 10 percent discount offered to all churches. Vestry did

not accept the Orkin offer, presumably because of lack of money.

On December 3, 1950, vestrymen learned that "termites were again being seen around the Church." Their only decision was to contact "Jack Smart to . . . secure his services in making a careful examination of roof rafters and joists for any possible termite damage." By its January 1951 meeting Vestry had heard nothing from Smart. Consequently, Mr. Dawson introduced a Mooney Exterminating bid to treat the Church complex for \$250.00. Mr. James Carroll offered to inspect rafters and joists on the following Saturday with Mr. Dawson's assistance. They reported to Vestry in February that they saw



Termites!

no evidence of termites in the upper reaches of either Church or Parish Hall. Also, a motion was offered, passed, and then tabled "until such time as necessary funds are available, that, at a future date, the offer of R.S. Mooney . . . be accepted, for necessary termite protection work at \$250.00."

In May the Vicar confirmed to Vestry that termites were still present, saying that the time for action had come. A Vestry committee of Mr. Carroll, Mr. Dawson, and Mr. Fry was

empowered "to get the job done, thru Mooney . . . if possible at about \$250.00." But in July the situation was still under discussion owing to confusion about whether Mooney's bid covered repairs and treatment. Mr. Carroll proposed to eliminate the confusion by having Mooney attend the August meeting to explain his offer. Mr. Mooney was present in August and stated that he would eradicate the termites for \$250.00 and offer continuing coverage for five years at \$20.00 a year. Repairs, estimated at \$75.00, were additional. Vestry authorized Secretary Robert Macks to sign an agreement with Mooney. The actual contract put repairs, including replacement of four doors, at \$141.21, plus \$250.00 for treatment. Thus the full process cost \$26.71 more than what Orkin had proposed fourteen months earlier, and the Vestry heard in September that the treatment and repairs had been accomplished and that Mr. Mooney had been paid.

