

Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin



Vestry Clerk Robert G. Macks's letter of December 4, 1951, to the American Church Building Fund Commission described Christ Church as "a small mission, with only 125 communicants." He noted that recently "we have raised sufficient funds to permit of our building a very worthwhile plant" on which the parish owed \$6,179.25, "plus a minor amount of interest." "We have worked hard," he wrote, "and are laboring under a heavy budget, considering our size." He asserted that Christ Church was growing steadily and that with only four Sunday School rooms the church's capacity to provide Christian education was "taxed."

Consequently, Christ Church sought a \$21,500 loan; \$15,000 would pay for the building of additional Sunday School rooms, and \$6,500 would be applied to the mortgage.

A response from the A.C.B.F.C., contained in the letter from Richard P. Kent to Bishop Barnwell, appears as October's historical document. The direct reply to Christ Church is not in parish records and apparently no longer exists. The Vestry heard that letter, as well as a copy of the one to Bishop Barnwell, read aloud at a meeting on January 6, 1952.

Immediately afterward, the members

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AMERICAN CHURCH BUILDING FUND COMMISSION

170 REMSEN STREET, BROOKLYN 2, N.Y.

MAin 4-4792

December 17, 1951

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

Dear Bishop Barnwell

Christ Church
Valdosta, Ga.

Thank you very much for your letter of December 13th in which you gave your whole-hearted endorsement to the appeal by Christ Church, Valdosta, in its application to us for a loan to complete additional Sunday School facilities.

On December 11th we heard from Mr. Robert G. Macks, Clerk of the Vestry of Christ Church, and on that day we sent him our loan circular and an application blank. Unfortunately, due to the fact that all our resources are entirely allocated to current church loans and outstanding commitments, it looks as though we would not be able to make any additional new loans much before the latter part of 1952 at the earliest.

We told Mr. Macks that we would be glad to have them file an application with us for action at such time as funds may be available. We are sorry that we could not have given him a more encouraging reply and we are sure that you are aware of our desire to be of every possible assistance in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,
Richard P. Kent, Jr.
Secretary

rpk: B

approved a motion to file a loan application form with the A.C.B.F.C.

However, having to provide extensive information about Christ Church, including appraisals of parish facilities, significantly delayed completion of the application. Minutes of the February 3, 1952, Vestry meeting reported that the application materials were in possession of Vicar Clifton White "for additional information, to be supplied by him." At the March session, Fr. White stated he had provided the

required data except that he "needed some accepted appraisers' figures to fill in." In April the completion of the loan application was again on the Vestry's agenda. This time, according to the Minutes of the meeting of April 6th, the required form was "being filed immediately with the assistance of the Clerk [Robert G. Macks] who will secure help in getting disinterested appraisers to evaluate the property to finish the loan papers for filing." Thus, the story goes on in the November issue of *The Vineyard*.