



# Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

Bishop Barnwell promised the Vestry on March 12, 1953, that he would contact Fr. Michael J. Kippenbrock in Aiken, South Carolina, the following day about accepting the position as Christ Church's Vicar. The Bishop reached Fr. Kippenbrock and arranged for him to visit Valdosta and to meet with Vestry, which he did on Thursday, March 26, 1953. As the Clerk, Robert G. Macks, put the situation, "It had been more or less agreed between all concerned that Mr. Kippenbrock would come to us [as Vicar] if we could reach an all around agreement." The Vestry and Kippenbrock achieved an understanding, according to Macks, during the March 26th visit.

The specific terms of the agreement are not recorded, but Vestry Minutes of April 5, 1953, indicate that the significant points were that Christ Church would pay for the Kippenbrock family's furniture to be moved to Valdosta and would provide a new house for the Vicar's family. Senior Warden Jamie Carroll accepted responsibility for "the details of moving the Vicar's furniture, etc., taking [the] matter up with Acme, and consulting with Mr. Kippenbrock." Further, Mr. Carroll reported that "he had written the Bishop in reference to a new home for our new Vicar, and asking for some suggestions. The Bishop's answer stated merely that the call had been extended to Mr. Kippenbrock, and that we were to be congratulated on securing him - leaving everything up to us."

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Mr. Carroll had taken other steps toward securing new housing for the Kippenbrocks. He had engaged Emory Bass, of the J.E. Bass Company, to appraise the existing "Rectory" at 115 West North Street; to provide recommendations about selling the house; and to list newer houses in Valdosta that might be appropriate for Christ Church to acquire to replace the "Rectory." Mr. Bass's letter of April 1, 1953, to Mr. Carroll stated that he had appraised 115 West North Street and concluded the house would "produce a net of \$7,500.00 after paying for sales brokerage, if any, and loan costs." Bass also had requested an appraisal by First Federal Savings and Loan Association, and that appraisal also was \$7,500.00. Bass declared that the "Rectory" was "in reasonably good condition for its age [the house was built in 1910], but about \$500.00 spent for certain repairs, refinishing floors and some interior painting would inevitably result in quicker sale of the property."

Bass recommended that Christ Church sell 115 West North on terms that he proposed and also outlined a plan to buy a new house making use of the money realized from sale of the "Rectory." He was thinking of a dwelling, as he said, "in the neighborhood of \$15,000.00, and he detailed the means of accomplishing the purchase with minimum long-term financial obligation. Finally, he provided five possibilities for a new "Rectory;" three were houses already in existence, and two were available lots that would require new construction. The lots were,

first, at the northwest corner of Oak Street and Baytree Road, priced at \$3,000.00; and, second, in Glynn Lear Park, a developing subdivision, at \$2,500.00. The three houses included two that were new, one on the southwest corner of Williams Street and Woodrow Wilson Drive, listed at \$16,500.00, and the other at 2210 Glyndale Drive, listed at \$17,000.00. The third was an older house located behind Christ Church at 107 East College Street, and its asking price was \$13,500.00.

In the April meeting, three vestrymen agreed to serve as a committee to determine how to refurbish the "Rectory" and to see that the necessary work was completed. Vestry authorized the spending of a maximum of \$750.00 and set May 3rd as the deadline. In addition to repairs and renovations, the kitchen stove, sink, and refrigerator and the hot water heater were to be checked to assure proper functioning. At the May 3rd session of Vestry, Senior Warden Carroll thanked "all who had worked in preparing the Vicarage [until this point, 115 West North was invariably called the "Rectory"] for its new occupants." Then, Mr. Carroll raised the question of selling the "Rectory" in accordance with Emory Bass's recommendations. However, on a motion by Omer Franklin, the issue was tabled until the June meeting and continued to be tabled. The consequence was that during their time at Christ Church, from May 1, 1953, to October 1, 1963, Michael and Virginia Kippenbrock lived at 115 West North.

Stay tuned; more in November.