



# Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

As reported in the November *Vineyard*, the Vestry of Christ Church again approached the American Church Building Fund Commission in early June 1953, this time about borrowing \$7,000.00 to finance construction of Sunday School rooms at the rear of the Parish Hall. Richard P. Kent, Jr., Secretary of the A.C.B.F.C., quickly answered the letter that Vestry Clerk Robert G. Macks had written in behalf of Christ Church. Kent's response is not in the Parish files, but subsequent developments make clear that what he said was favorable.

The Minutes of a called Vestry meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 1953, state specifically that the reason for the gathering was "to discuss a letter received from the American Church Building Fund in reference to a loan of \$7,000.00." Vestrymen quickly approved a motion "to proceed with the plans for the Sunday School addition at a maximum cost, including furnishings, not to exceed \$10,000.00." Senior Warden Jamie Carroll appointed a four-man Building Committee, with the Vicar, Fr. Kippenbrock, as an ex officio member. The Building Committee was "to report back in detail at the next meeting of the Vestry, with plans for the addition and guaranteed bids covering construction." Mr. Carroll also said that he would contact Bishop Middleton S. Barnwell immediately to seek his approval of the project. Attached to the Minutes of this meeting is a hand-written note, dated *The Vineyard*, p. 10, December 2010

June 17, 1953, and directed to Robert G. Macks. Its message was that Mr. Carroll had talked with the Bishop by telephone and that Barnwell "endorses any move . . . [we] want to make on church property."

Vestry "instructed" Mr. Macks to thank the A.C.B.F.C. for being willing so soon to consider a new loan request from Christ Church. Macks was to report that, "on the strength of . . . [the] letter [from Richard P. Kent, Jr.], we will proceed at once with our plans for the Sunday School addition." In the short term, "financing . . . [would] be taken care of locally . . . to give the Foundation a bit more time." Once the building job reached its conclusion "we will furnish satisfactory documents to the Foundation, looking forward to . . . completion of the loan under conditions prescribed."

At the Vestry's regular monthly session on Sunday, July 5, 1953, work on the Sunday School project resumed. The Building Committee reported having received permission to extend the Parish Hall eastward by forty-seven feet. A local architect, Joe Bright, had been engaged to develop detailed plans and had submitted drawings of an annex to the Parish Hall of about 1,504 square feet, containing six classrooms and a heater room, with two of the classrooms separated by folding doors. The plans called for blackboards in all the rooms.

The Building Committee to date had received two construction bids. The first bidder, not identified by the Minutes, stated that he would

complete the project at a cost of \$8,864.00 for the building, excluding a heating system. His bid document stated that he would match the exterior of the annex to the existing buildings. The second bid, from E.W. "Bill" Tullis, was for \$7,500.00 with the construction "to be completed within sixty days, payment due at completion date or [to be] carried at five percent [interest] until" the proposed loan was received from the A.C.B.F.C. The Tullis bid featured such items as "cabinets under windows and gutters." Tullis also estimated that duct work for a heating system could be installed for \$200.00 or an entire heating system, including heater, ducts, oil tank, and electric control unit, could be put in for \$500.00.

Then, on a Louis Kafoure-Glenn Robinson motion, Vestry authorized the Building Committee "to sign a contract with a builder to construct proposed addition, complete with heating system for \$8,000. . . ." The Committee also was to work out the details of installation of an attic fan in the annex and to provide for the annex to be treated against termites. The original buildings, constructed in 1948-1949, had not been provided with termite protection, and the Church had suffered a termite invasion and some damages in 1950. [See *Vineyard*, August 2009, p.10 for details of the termite episode.]

A final item of business at the July 5th meeting was the continuing issue of a new vicarage for Christ Church. The only action taken was to defer the question until the next meeting.

More in the January *Vineyard*.