



Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

Our continuing story relates Christ Church's efforts in 1953 to acquire money to build a Sunday School Annex on the rear of the Parish Hall and to find a contractor to do the work. As noted in December's article, by early July 1953, Vestry had bids from two builders, one of whom was not even identified in the Minutes. The other was E.W. "Bill" Tullis.

At 8:30 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 1953, Vestry convened in a called meeting to deal with the bids, and Mr. Tullis was present. By then, architect Joe Bright had prepared a new building plan, containing unspecified features not in his original drawings. The updated plan set off what the Minutes called "considerable discussion of construction with a special reference to the detailed specifications in the architect's latest plans which were not included in the previous blue print submitted."

Afterward, Mr. Tullis presented two different offers. If Vestry chose to proceed with Mr. Bright's original concept, his previous bid of \$7,500.00 still applied. Should Vestry decide to use Mr. Bright's newer drawings, his bid was \$8,850.00, with an allowance of \$200.00 for electrical work and \$300.00 for folding doors between two of the classrooms. At that point, Mr. Tucker, a member of the Building Committee, moved that "further consideration be given" to the Tullis bids and that Mr. Tullis receive a response from Vestry by noon on Tuesday, July 28. Further, the other prospective contractor, now identified only as Mr. Morrison, was to

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have an opportunity to study the new drawings and to resubmit his bid. Subsequently, Mr. Morrison was contacted, met with the Vestry, and received plans to examine overnight. His answer was to be given to the Vestry at a second called meeting at ten o'clock on the morning of July 28th. Toward the session's conclusion, Vestry "directed" Vestry Clerk Bob Macks to contact the American Church Building Fund Commission to request that the already approved loan to Christ Church of \$7,000.00 be increased to \$9,000.00.

At ten o'clock the following morning, Vestry reconvened, and Mr. Morrison handed over his bid on the architect's newer plan. Morrison offered to do the project, excluding "electrical installation, heating and flooring," for \$8,400.00. His proffer was \$450.00 less than Mr. Tullis's \$8,850.00. Consequently, on a motion by Bill Gabard, seconded by Bob Macks, Vestry accepted Mr. Morrison's bid, with the stipulation that payment to him for the construction would be made two weeks after Christ Church's final acceptance of the completed Sunday School Annex. Also, Mr. Gabard's motion required that Mr. Morrison provide a "Performance Bond for the amount of the contract, the Vestry to pay the premium." As a closing note, Mr. Macks, the Clerk, reported that he was sending a letter by air mail to the A.C.B.F.C. seeking an increase in the loan from \$7,000.00 to \$9,000.00.

At that point, almost all aspects of launching the project seemed to be settled. Within five days, however, the situation changed significantly. When

Vestry held a regular monthly meeting on Sunday, August 2, 1953, Senior Warden Jamie Carroll asked Mr. Tucker for a report from the Building Committee. According to Tucker, following the called meeting on July 28th, he had offered the contract for building the Annex to Mr. Morrison at a total cost of \$8,400.00. Shortly thereafter, because Mr. Morrison himself could not finance the project and "the J.N. Bray Company showed no inclination to finance it" for him, he had withdrawn from consideration. Now came the suggestion to award the contract to Bill Tullis. On a Tucker-Macks motion, Vestry voted to accept "as a base bid for construction" Tullis's offer of \$8,850.00, "exclusive of electrical work, floor covering, attic fan and heating, but including rock wool insulation in the ceiling. . . ." Also in the approved motion was the statement: "Any changes in the specifications made by the architect, Joe Bright, would be at the discretion of the Building Committee."

Three additional actions followed. One authorized the Senior Warden to borrow from Citizens and Southern National Bank up to \$3,000.00 for building and equipping the Sunday School Annex and designated Omer Franklin, an attorney, to act as Mr. Carroll's agent in the loan process. The second provided that the architect, Mr. Bright, should check "construction at all stages and supervise all details." The third required that Vestry contract with the Orkin Company "for complete termite protection on new construction," a step neglected during original church construction in 1948-1949.

More in the February *Vineyard*.