



Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

The sequel to the letter of November 10, 1953, from Zoë Colburn to Omer Franklin, mentioned in February's article, was a brief note, dated November 13, 1953, from Franklin to Richard P. Kent, Jr., Secretary of the A.C.B.F.C. Mr. Franklin enclosed a copy of the Colburn letter and stated that he would be in contact again when "we hear further from Bishop Barnwell." He also reported that the "title work" on Christ Church's property was finished and that he could complete the "title [certificate] when the other documents are ready." If he received a reply from Kent, it has not been preserved in the Vestry minute book.

It is clear from the records that nothing happened in Savannah, despite Miss Colburn's statement in her November 10th letter that Barnwell would attend to the file of loan-related materials from Christ Church "immediately upon his return" from the House of Bishops. In the meeting on Sunday, December 6, 1953, the Vestry conversed at some length about the problem of "the Bishop's approval of the loan application to the American Church Building Fund." The outcome was the decision that the Vicar, Michael Kippenbrock, would "contact the Bishop and take necessary steps for prompt action." Also, Vestry member Harry M. Davis was to be in Savannah the following week and promised that he would "endeavor to see the Bishop."

In the same session, the new Senior Warden, Noah E. Fry, sought "action
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to iron out details on the Sunday School addition." The ensuing debate focused on "new building costs" and apparently aroused some apprehension about total expenses. Thus, the Vestry chose to cut out all expenditures "for extra equipment . . . at this time." The phrase "at this time" obviously was a conditional aspect of the Vestry's action should the money be available for the so-called "extra equipment." In the Vestry minute book is an undated document, probably from this particular Vestry meeting, entitled "Extras at Christ Episcopal Church, Sunday School Addition." Actually, the items described as "Extras" appear to be absolutely essential. On the list are: 1) an 85,000 B.T.U. heater at \$326.00; 2) the ductwork for the heating system at \$315.00; 3) an attic fan at \$164.67; 4) lighting fixtures at \$89.50; 5) the extension of the [north] side entrance porch at \$100.00. The most unusual entry, given that he had long since finished his design work and had been paid \$100.00, was the \$220.00 Architect's Fee charged by Joe Bright.

In conjunction with the decision to eliminate extras "at this time," Senior Warden Fry moved, with a Glen Robinson second, that the profit from a recent concert by two communicants "be applied towards the Sunday School addition to cover the discrepancy between the contract plus extras and the amount to be received on mortgage." The Fry-Robinson motion won Vestry's approval. The concert, incidentally, produced a profit of \$800.00, which later paid for the heating system, and

possibly the attic fan, the total cost being \$805.67.

Finally, Senior Warden Fry reported to the Vestry on Sunday, January 3, 1954, that the "final papers" for the loan from the A.C.B.F.C. "would be ready to send . . . to Savannah on [January] 4th for the Bishop's signature. The requested loan of \$9,000.00 would be available to Christ Church about ten days after the signed documents were submitted. Vestryman M.S. Sadler recommended that the Vestry make "a complete inspection of the premises . . . before any payments are to be made." Marion P. Tucker reported at this point that the contractor, E.W. "Bill" Tullis, was asking to be paid \$8,000.00 on account. Vestry, however, agreed that Mr. Tullis was to be held to the terms of the contract he had signed with Christ Church, which stipulated that final payment to the contractor was to be made ten days after the architect had approved the building.

Three weeks later, on Sunday, January 24, 1954, Vestry held a called meeting, in which the Vicar, Fr. Kippenbrock, confirmed that Omer Franklin "had secured all necessary papers" for the loan application to be submitted to the A.C.B.F.C.; Bishop Barnwell had signed the documents "so that there should be no delay in receipt of the proceeds of the mortgage." Following the business session, the vestrymen inspected the Sunday School Annex and charged Clerk Bob Macks to write Mr. Bright about the particulars of the inspection.

This story continues and concludes in the April *Vineyard*.