



Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

Following their meeting on Sunday evening, January 24, 1954, Vestry members made "a short inspection" of the Sunday School Annex then being built onto the rear of the Parish Hall. The following day, Clerk Robert G. Macks summarized the "various details noticed" during the inspection in a letter to architect Joe Bright, who was responsible for supervising the project. The Macks letter emphasized several instances of sloppy or incomplete work.

For example, the builder had not placed "base molding" . . . "to cover the expansion joints between the walls and floors throughout the building." The "acoustic ceiling" tiles were "very irregularly nailed" at certain points, and many of the tiles "already seem to be loose." Doors were not properly hung, and, in particular, the exit door in the "Southeast corner room" was installed in a way that made "exit dangerous." The apparent solution was to reverse the door to open in the opposite direction. Insulation in the ceilings of the Annex seemed "to be loose and very liable to clog up the ventilating fan." A "very bad piece of molding" was conspicuous on the partition between the center room and the "Southeast corner room" and required replacement. None of the cabinet doors in the Annex fitted properly and would have to be refitted. Trim wood should be placed "around the flue in the heater room and the flue insulated." The Vestry inspection also revealed loose roofing shingles at the "Northeast corner" of

the Annex that would have to be secured.

Mr. Macks's letter clearly stated that the items he enumerated had come to the Vestry's attention during "a cursory examination" of the Sunday School Annex. According to Macks, the points he covered were offered to Mr. Bright, "solely with the idea of being of possible assistance in your own checkup." What is unmistakable is that Vestry was dissatisfied with the work on the project completed to date; other signs of dissatisfaction followed.

Meanwhile, with construction nearing completion, Christ Church still was involved in the application process for the \$9,000 loan from the American Church Building Fund Commission. On January 27, 1954, Omer E. Franklin, Jr., acting as Christ Church's agent, sent a letter to Richard P. Kent, Jr., Secretary of the A.C.B.F.C., that contained what Franklin believed were all materials needed for closing the loan. The packet included seven documents. The first and perhaps most significant was a "promissory note executed by The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Georgia, Inc. and the Vestry of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church of Valdosta, Georgia, Inc.," which, incidentally, has been the full legal name of Christ Church since its incorporation in 1949. The note, dated January 15, 1954, was "in favor" of the A.C.B.F.C. loan for \$9,000 with annual interest rate of 3½ percent and required repayment at \$267.66 quarterly. The first payment was due on April 1, 1954, and the full

principal of the loan was to be repaid "within ten years from the date of the loan," meaning by January 15, 1964.

The other items included: a "Loan Deed" that pledged "the property known as Christ Episcopal Church of Valdosta, Georgia, as security for the . . . promissory note;" an "Authority to Mortgage," approved by the diocesan Standing Committee to authorize Bishop Barnwell "to execute the . . . note and loan deed;" a "Consent of Bishop" approving of the previous actions; an "Authority to Mortgage" in which Vestry empowered the Senior Warden "to execute the . . . promissory note;" "a Certificate of Counsel" that certified the authenticity of the title to the property owned by Christ Church; and a certified copy of the Charter of "The Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church of Valdosta, Georgia, Inc."

At the Vestry meeting on February 7, 1954, Senior Warden Noah Fry presented a copy of Franklin's letter, which was then "entered into the minutes." Fry also reported that the proceeds of a recent concert, totaling \$800, "had been completely wiped out by payment for the heating equipment of the Sunday School addition." Then, Vestry heard that contractor Bill Tullis and architect Joe Bright had requested payments for the project. However, Vestry approved a Marion Tucker-Robert Macks motion "that payment only be made on acceptance of the premises by the architect and the Building Committee, substantiated by the consent of the Vestry as a whole."

The writer expected to finish this account in April; however, the story must necessarily conclude in the May *Vineyard*.