

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS
OCTOBER 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Owens at 12:30pm in the Conference Room of The Chapel.

PRESENT: Fr. Owens, Millard Simmons, Michael Simon, Sallie Brach, Linda Laird, Stew Brown, Tom Durston and Joanne Byrd

Absent: Craig Pelley

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Stew Brown

The devotion was based on the current situation in Israel with Hamas. Stew used the NIV Message Bible as he related Scriptures from the Old and New Testaments describing the current war taking place. *What Can We Do To Stop Such Evil?* *Genesis 6* describes the world in Noah's time as being 'out of control and filled with evil'. God was sorry He had made the world as 'the earth had turned into a sewer' and then came the flood to begin a new world with Noah. Israel appealed to God in their 'imminent danger' to destroy her enemies in *Psalms 83* as they were being invaded by . This evil persists now from the same geographical area, even though Babylon does not exist today...Syria, Iran and Lebanon do. The hatred for the Jews is still there as it was in Lot's day. Today it is called Hamas which means evil or violent. It is their goal to destroy Israel and the western culture. Stew stressed God calls us to pray for peace, be loving, give hope and endure evil as he read scriptures from: *Proverbs, Romans, John, Philippians, Ecclesiastes, Timothy, and Revelation*. Opening prayer was given after Stew read *Genesis 6* to us. Discussion followed on 'what is the righteous action of our prayer?' 'Nothing has changed since the beginning of time,' Fr. Owens.

II. MINUTES: Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes of September 22, 2023 were approved as written and electronically distributed.

III FINANCIAL MINUTES: Michael Simon

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting October 2023

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

We continue to be amazed with the generosity and blessings we continue to receive.
Our plate income for September was \$210,998.23 (vs. a budget of \$189,179.10)
Our total Revenue income for September was \$313,772.91 vs a budget of \$237,679.10.

Our total expenses in September were \$315,413.61 vs a budget of \$299,067.74.

These total September income and expenses includes the Faith Formation income, Mission Outreach Income and Donations, Cross School Scholarships, Counseling Center, Diocesan Pledge and Diocesan Blessings.

Below is the request to approve the October funds that the Mission Board recommends for disbursement.

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of September \$271,587.18.
They have already commitments for September (funds which they allocate monthly) \$21,379.00
The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting Grant Allocations for October for \$20,900 for a total distribution of \$42,279.

Keep in mind, any request from any Mission, needs to first have an application filed, then reviewed by the Mission Board, who discuss, pray and vote for a decision.

The financial Board reviewed the request, filed and approved a motion to recommend to the Vestry to APPROVE the request for funding.

Linda Laird presented and reviewed the request for funds to the Vestry. There was a motion to approve the funds disbursement, it was seconded and approved unanimously by the Vestry.

Restricted accounts remain in healthy standing and our cash position remains very strong

October PLATE Income MTD (3 weeks) is \$140,730.48 against our PLATE budget of \$255,559.70 with two Sunday's remaining.

Other Business

The Sweep accounts, under CSB Intrafi Accounts, are now in place and reflect on the Balance Sheets, as current assets, keeping our accounts protected under FDIC guidelines and earned interest in September of \$1,919.68

Streaming

Every day, we have an average of 200 people visiting our websites of which half are first time viewers.

Streaming is extremely important to most important avenue for us to reach our faithful. Just to show you the impact, just this past week, our website and streaming reaches an average of **15 different countries, 8 different states every month.**

Our blessings do continue to flow for which we say, Thanks be to God.

Attendance Below:

In-person attendance numbers:

					CROSSP 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
JULY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM			5000	41,020	3107	19,381
2nd	103	65	226	142	468					
9th	141	85	237	122	432					
16th	130	66	234	122	430					
23rd	127	77	204	150	471					
30th	141	74	186	112	455					
	642	367	1087	648	2256	0				
AUGUST	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSSP 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	4901	45,921	1461	20,842
6th	146	65	189	125	492					
13th	133	71	226	147	502					
20th	171	74	203	138	480					
27th	138	74	206	104	467					
	588	284	824	514	1941	750				
SEPTEMBER	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSSP 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	5626	51,547	2892	23,734
3rd	131	89	222	118	462					
10th	125	70	197	128	428					
17th	103	72	200	132	493					
24th	119	84	220	133	465					
	478	315	839	511	1848	1635				
OCTOBER	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSSP 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	4347	55,894	3776	27,510
1st	105	86	197	153	368					
8th	107	76	198	146	475					
15th	123	80	267	146	485					
22nd										
29th										
										1335

**To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 55,894 vs. 27,510 in 2022.
Praise God.**

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

IV. OTHER:

- A CROSS LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP:** M. Simmons
Reorganization of slides and material was most beneficial for participants and improved the flow of the presentation for Vestry. Hats off to Craig Pelley on an excellent job of reorganizing the computer/video presentation. Participants enjoyed and complimented on how beneficial the class was. Vestry thought it was the best class 'ever'.
- B. ORDINATION DAVID FISHER:** Fr. Owens
David Fisher's Ordination process is complete. He is now awaiting the Bishop to provide the date and location of ordination. D. Fisher will serve as Deacon for twelve months before being ordained priest.
- C NEW MEMBER STATUS:** Fr. Owens
January-September 2023 New Member Statistics comparing January-September 2022-to January-September 2023. Planning to hire two priests. (See Handout)
- D LOOKING AHEAD 2024 STAFFING AND BUDGETING:** Fr. Owens
New positions needed with TCOTC growth: 1. Director of Family Ministries 2. Office Assistant & Graphics (clerical) 3. Funeral Planning and Coordination 4. Children's Minister 5. Director of Worship Arts/Production 5. Curacy (partnership with a seminary for new ministers. (See Handout)
- E HISTORICAL CHURCH STEPS UPDATE:** Fr. Owens
Looking forward to possible completion date of 2024 as the bricks are difficult to match according to Joe Fraser.
- F UPCOMING STEWARDSHIP OUTLINE:** Fr. Owens
Stewardship envelopes will be mailed out October 27th & 28th being returned during services on November 19th, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.
- G FIRST QUARTER 2024 CALENDAR INFORMATION AS OF OCTOBER 2023**
(See Handout0
- H CLERGY ASSIGNMENTS OCTOBER 22, 2023—DECEMBER 31, 2023**
Historic Campus and Cross Schools Campus. (See Handout)

CONCLUSION:

Stew Brown closed our meeting with prayer remembering Israel. The next Vestry meeting will be November 17, 2023 at 12:30pm in the Conference Room of The Chapel. Sallie has prayer and devotional.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd