

The Church of the Cross Vestry Minutes August 16, 2024

Fr. Owens called the meeting to order at 12:30PM in the
Conference Room of the Chapel.

PRESENT: Fr. Owens, Michael Simon, Lee Watkins, Tom Durston, Joanne Byrd, Craig Pelley, Linda Laird

ABSENT: Wayne Bowerman

I: PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Lee Watkins

Lee led us in devotional focused on the attributes of God. His emphasis was on God's simplicity, perfection, goodness, infinity, ubiquity, immutability, eternity, and unity. God is incomprehensible but he is knowable! The way we view God determines how we worship him.

II: GUEST SPEAKERS: Rev. Nathan Weaver:

We were blessed to have Nathan with us today to share and describe the Strategic Paradigm and Curriculum Map of the Faith Formation program at Cross Schools. He provided each of us with a printed copy of the program. His devotion and excitement for the program was evident in every word. He shared success stories, difficulties, and new activities. All the teachers at Cross Schools are Christians and that intensifies Faith Formation every day. Children are engaged in age appropriate bible activities, and some even teach bible studies. Michael asked, "Do you think it is really sinking in?" Nathan believes at least 60% are engaged. If parents are engaged, students are supported. But often students are removed because their focus is on what college they want their children to go to, not eternity. Some parents come to the church service at the Chapel to worship with their child/children. Children encourage their parents and one couple asked to be baptized at the Cross Schools service. God is great, God is good.

III: MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes for July 2024 were electronically distributed and corrected. Tom made the motion to approve the minutes, Joanne seconded the motion and all approved.

IV: FINANCE: Lee Watkins

Treasurer's Report for Month Ending July 31, 2024:

Revenue Discussions: Monthly revenue finished over budget.

July monthly Income was at \$290,158.12 to a budget of \$295,960.00.

Plate Income for July was \$225,564.73 to a budget of \$207,835.00.

Year To Date Plate stands at: 1,830,315.39 to a budget of 1,492,435.00.

Total Revenue for the year is \$2,424,666.27 to a budget of \$1,969,310.00.

MTD Plate for August: \$ 100,340.56

MTD Plate Budget for August: \$ 241,000.00

Total Funds in the IntraFi account stands at 1,917,447.23. Interest from the IntraFi Account was \$4356.62. (this interest money along with a \$250.00 donation were moved over to the Jasper Co. Campus Fund)

God's Goods revenue for July was \$67,697.90 (Compared to June of \$69,570.10) being added to the mission's budget. The current Missions Reserve Fund sits at \$353,580.49.

Expenses Discussion: Monthly expenses were higher but continue to follow the yearly trend:

Total expenses for the month ranged from \$290,044.81 to a monthly budget of \$301,377.65. Under budget by \$11,332.84

YTD Expenses are at \$2,085,963.80 to a YTD budget of \$2,164,129.96.

Of note, the 3 Allen Street renovation appears to have come in well under budget at just over \$15,354.59.

Missions Funding is higher—however, this is offset by higher God's Goods Revenue. Ministry Expenses were higher in July but still within the yearly budget. These higher monthly expenses were related to the Alpha and Rooted Programs, Food for the Rooted Program, and higher Youth Expenses. There was also a \$10,426.00 Expense for Cross School Scholarships for an additional student—there is \$41,700.00/yr budgeted for the scholarship—this is the first draw taken for 2024.

Cross Counseling revenue came in under budget by \$3497.94, the YTD income variance is under by \$14,482.90.

Revenue and expenses continue a similar monthly trend.

Church Attendance for July:

July 2024 attendance decreased over July 2023 by 772 attendees. The difference can be explained because there were only four Sundays in July 2024, but five Sundays in July 2023

YTD attendance is 3150 higher than YTD 2023. “Rooted” attendance continued in the 280 per week range and concluded on July 31.

						CURRENT MONTH	Y T D 2024	MTD 2023	YTD 2023
	JULY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30			
	7	132	96	209	173	448	4,228	44,171	5,000
	14	104	84	223	158	456			41,020
	21	121	87	190	166	515			
	28	120	87	218	157	484			
	Totals	477	354	840	654	1903			

Streaming and Online:

The COTC Website averaged 392 views per day, slightly down from early in the year. This is attributable to the slower summer months. As school starts back and folks return from summer vacations, the views will, most likely, increase.

Sunday, July 7 saw 190 views on Youtube—which is a high since we started receiving Youtube data.

As the world and our nation face uncertainties, may we all, as His Church continue to be an anchor and a bright light to the lost and needy. May we not grow weary or complacent in these labors. He is faithful-- we all have a gift and a part to play.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Watkins, Vestry Treasurer**

Linda shared the Missions Outreach Board request for funding, August 12, 2024. Disbursement Report for Finance Board and Vestry

Net Working Capital:	\$74,480.49
August Set Aside Distributions:	\$25,083.00 (See Appendix A)
August Grant Approvals:	\$10,000.00
Total August Distributions if Approved:	\$35,083.00
Amount for Cross Schools Trip:	\$21,000.00
Remaining Net Working Capital:	\$18,397.49

August Set Aside funding updates and new approvals

- 1. Padre Anderson Sanchez, Peru** - Increase from \$2100 per month to \$2250 per month for 12 months approved with an end date of July 2025 to support ministry activities

across three mission churches.

2. **Young Life New Gen Program** - New grant for \$500 per month for 12 months approved with an end date of July 2025 in support of starting the US version of the Global Leaders program locally in Hilton Head/Bluffton.
3. **Young Life Developing Global Leaders** - The two students supported over the last four years have graduated, one in Ukraine and one in Zimbabwe. Two new students were approved, both of whom are in the Dominican Republic. To start the support, \$4,000 was approved to be paid in August 2025. The set aside schedule will be developed once the student needs are confirmed over the next three to four years. The cost for each student will be \$3,000/year/student will be paid annually starting in 2025. The end date for each student will be added to the spreadsheet once verified.

August One Time funding approved by the Missions Outreach Board

1. **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA):** \$10,000 approved to fund the cost of the FCA program at Cross Schools.
2. **Cross Schools Senior Mission Trip 2025** - \$21,000 was approved to support this trip, one payment will be made in November and one in December. *The Mission Trip Reserve Fund will be used, and the remaining funds will be taken from the general Mission Board fund. The payment schedule will be worked out with Regine. No payments this month.*

Appendix A - August Set Aside Commitments

Mission Trip Reserve	\$0.00
Anderson Sanchez Peru - End July 2025	\$2,250.00
Bluffton Soup Kitchen - End January 2025	\$833.00
Campus Outreach Ministry, Hoffman- End November 2024	\$500.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2025	\$3,000.00
Cross Christian Counseling Center - End December 2024	\$300.00
COTC Faith Formation - End May 31 2025	\$1,250.00
CS Cross School Monthly - End May 21 2025	\$2,500.00
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - End March 2025	\$3,350.00
HELP Madagascar - End Dec 2024; \$2100/month starting January 2024	\$2,100.00

Hope Compassion Center - End June 2024	\$600.00
Saint Simons Anglican Mission (Josh Lake) - End Aug 2024	\$2,000.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2025	\$1,500.00
UCCD Burundi - End Dec 2025	\$1,500.00
Young Life New Gen Program - End July 2025	\$500.00
Young Life Developing Global Leaders, 2 new students	\$4,000.00
Total July 2024 Set Asides	\$25,083.00

Michael made a motion to approve the July disbursements requested by the Missions Committee and approved by the Finance Committee. Tom seconded and all agreed.

V: OTHER:

1. Diocesan 2023 Statistics:

Fr. Owens shared the 2023 Diocesan report of all parishes in South Carolina. Currently there are fifty-five parishes, six being in Beaufort County. It was a very revealing report. Although we are a very blessed parish, there are parishes struggling to exist. We may see parishes closing this year because numbers are down, and funds are dwindling. We are praying for revival to occur.

2. Staff additions/organization:

Our congregation grows and grows. With that increase comes new hires to keep everything running smoothly. Charlie Fiddler is serving as interim worship leader at Cross School until a replacement is found. We have also had to increase the number of support staff, including personnel for facilities, social media, lay ministries, women’s events, calendar and planning, Cross Schools facilities, weddings, worship, discipleship, leaders, cross point leadership, volunteers, and safety.

3. Chapters 1-3 of The Rector and The Vestry and Part 1 of the ADOSC Vestry Handbook:

Fr. Owens led the Vestry in a study of the expectations of the Rector and the purpose of the Vestry. Vestry members thought it was exceptional reading, and they enjoyed the time for clarification and sharing their understanding. This study will continue next month.

4. Thoughts from Linda on recent God moments:

Linda Laird shared her recent experiences meeting her birth family. She shared how God had been with her all her life and supporting her during challenging times. She has always wanted to meet someone from her birth family. And God made it happen. She visited Nebraska and met her four siblings and their children and grandchildren. She had just received a letter from one of her brothers that said how much he enjoyed their time together. He included a little note saying, “We want to keep you?” She thanks God for this wonderful blessing.

VI: CLOSING PRAYER – Lee

**Next Meeting - September 20, 2024 -12:30 – Chapel Conference Room.
Joanne has devotion and prayers.**

**2024 Meeting/Devotional schedule:
October 18 -Michael; November 15- Linda; December 13 – Craig**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Laird