

**THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES**  
**MARCH 17, 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, Stew Brown, Tom Durston, Linda Laird, and Craig Pelly

**GUEST:** Fr. Nathan Weaver

**I PRAYER AND DEVOTION:** Sallie Brach

The meeting was opened in prayer by Sallie. Our devotion entitled *Prayer* came from Sallie's bible study in the book of *COLOSSIANS*. She shared with us what a privilege we have to pray to our Father God. Jesus prayed to his Father. The scriptures shared with us from *HEBREWS 10:25..when 2 or 3 are gathered; MATTHEW 14:23..Jesus prayed alone 6:6..close the door of your room, 26:39..tears were like blood; LUKE 22:23-24..prayed for enemies, ROMANS 12:12..constant in prayer; JOHN 17...intercedes for us; MARK 23:24 MATTHEW 5:44-45..love your enemies; Colossians 3:17 pray for friends.*

We are to follow our Lord Jesus Christ's example and pray for All in every situation. Jesus prayers were persistent, they were private and personal.

I praise HIS name and give thanks for Sallie's devotion.

**II MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT:** Linda Laird

Please refer to Handout—a letter was received from Samaritan's Purse from Rev. Franklin Graham thanking TCOTC for its donation to Samaritan's Purse/Ukraine.

**III MINUTES:** Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes for February were approved as written and electronically distributed.

## **IV FINANCIAL MINUTES: Michael Simons**

### **Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting March**

#### **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 February was \$220,866 (vs. a budget of \$206,156). Our total Revenue income for February was \$307,431 vs a budget of \$248,254.

Our total expenses in February were \$292,480 vs a budget of \$250,494.

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

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

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of February \$242,197. They have already commitments for March (funds which they allocate monthly) \$15,847. The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting \$22,973 for a total number of \$41,420.

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.

Barbara Scott 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

March PLATE Income MTD (2 weeks) is \$100,792.95 against our PLATE budget of \$230,410.45

#### **New Items Addressed During the Vestry Meeting.**

There was an opportunity presented for Dominion Utilities to bring a Gas Line down Calhoun Street which would allow us to connect the Historic Campus (including the Counseling Center) and convert from propane to natural Gas. The cost would be \$22,717 and would result in annual savings of \$10,000 resulting from the difference in cost between propane and natural gas. There was a motion raised to approve and go forward with this expenditure which was voted on and approved by the Vestry. Motion granted and Roger Abney was given the approval to move forward.

There was a recent incident on the Historic Campus during the night which was brought to our attention by the Bluffton Police, in which it was determined that there is no camera coverage on the river side of the Church which presents a security breach. The Church currently has cameras on the front side and Parish Hall side and the Town of Bluffton has cameras on the corner of Water and Calhoun streets, but the Church Building blocks any visual access to the Bluff.

There was a motion presented to install three additional cameras on the grounds / exterior of the Historic Church as proposed by Coastal Alarm and fire which would be added to our current monitoring backups. The Vestry voted to approve this motion and Coastal Alarm will be contacted to begin the process.

### **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. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

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

**Attendance Below:**

**In-person attendance numbers:**

					CROSS P	CROSS	CURRENT	YTD	MTD	YTD
					10:30	SCHOOLS	MONTH	2023	2022	2022
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>HIST 5:28</b>	<b>HIST 8AM</b>	<b>HIST 10AM</b>	<b>CHAPEL 9AM</b>						
							6861	6,861	2,451	2,451
1st	79	61	184	115	250	600				
8th	108	69	240	189	512	400				
15th	116	79	237	152	614	400				
22nd	109	60	185	132	522	400				
29th	137	70	228	135	478					
	549	339	1074	723	2376	1800				
							CURRENT	YTD	MTD	YTD
							MONTH	2023	2022	2022
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>HIST 5:28</b>	<b>HIST 8AM</b>	<b>HIST 10AM</b>	<b>CHAPEL 9AM</b>	<b>CROSS P</b>	<b>CROSS</b>				
					10:30	SCHOOLS	5956	12,817	1,891	4,342
5th	108	69	216	159	458	400				
12th	95	67	195	110	463	400				
19th	136	86	335	149	469	550				
26th	149	75	218	144	505	400				
	488	297	964	562	1895	1750				
							CURRENT	YTD	MTD	YTD
							MONTH	2023	2022	2022
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>HIST 5:28</b>	<b>HIST 8AM</b>	<b>HIST 10AM</b>	<b>CHAPEL 9AM</b>	<b>CROSS P</b>	<b>CROSS</b>				
					10:30	SCHOOLS	3048	15,865	2,463	6,805
5th	133	91	266	171	493	400				
12th	93	61	247	121	372	600				
19th										
26th	226	152	513	292	865	1000				

To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 15,865 vs. 6,805 in 2022. Praise God.

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

## **V OTHER:**

### **A. ANNUAL MEETING**

Annual Meeting was great success starting with Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner served by the Men's Ministry to over 200 people in Cross Point gym. The Annual Meeting followed in The Chapel. Thank you to Christian Ray whose servant hands help many and to the Men's Ministry for providing delicious pancakes!

### **B. DIOCESAN CONVENTION —Millard Simmons**

The Convention commenced in The Chapel with a 4pm Holy Communion Service. Bishop Edgar began by stating, "The war is over. It's time to seek and save the lost. It's time to plant and to revitalize." Bishop Edgar also highlighted focus to be on church planting, church revitalization, the continuing education of our clergy. (more may be read on the TCOTC website). Thank you to Cross School students who were there to help where they could.

**C. REQUESTED CROSS SCHOOLS BYLAWS CHANGES—previously distributed**  
Bylaw proposal to increase members from 11 Board members to 15 Board members. The motion was put forth and approved by Vestry raising the number of Board members to maximum 15 members.

**D. Nominations to Board of Cross Schools—applications previously distributed**  
Proposed and approved by Vestry to be added to Board of Trustees Cross Schools are these individuals: Joseph Crowley, Kimberly Duke-Clark, Douglas Barone and Katherine Robinson.

**E. PDG CONTRACT FOR DESIGNING STEPS ON HISTORIC CHURCH—Fr. Owens**  
Project is still under design and approval of Historic Society,

### **F. PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL CAMERAS AROUND HISTORIC CHURCH**

Fr. Owens shared their had been an assault on the bluff which our cameras were not able to record. He put for a proposal the camera system be updated to include the surrounding areas of the church. The motion was put forth and approved by Vestry to update camera system and add additional cameras where needed.

**G. CATCHING UP WITH FR. NATHAN WEAVER**

Fr. Weaver received a warm welcome on his return from his 2+ months of Military Chaplain training in Alabama. He shared some of his experiences of base life and military disciplines. He is very happy to be back with his family, church family and to continue the FAITH FORMATION classes he began at Cross Schools last year. He believes in Faith Formation class each and every day for each child at Cross Schools. Praise God!

**CONCLUSION:**

Sallie closed our meeting in prayer. Our next Vestry meeting will be April 21, 2023 at 12:30pm in the COUNSELING CENTER on the Historic Campus. Then it will move to the Parish Hall. Millard Simmons has prayers and devotion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd