

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES FEBRUARY 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, Rod Musselman, Michael Simon, Sallie Brach, Stew Brown, Tom Durston and Joanne Byrd

GUEST: Barbara Scott—Mission Outreach Board

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: (Rod Musselman)

Our meeting was opened in prayer followed by Rod's very personal experience last Saturday at his niece's Bat Mitzvah. The ceremony was held at the beautiful Mickve Israel in Savannah which is the third oldest Jewish congregation in America, 1733. Rod was asked to participate in the service by reading Isaiah 9:5, which promises the coming of the Lord. He then shared his confident, niece's sermon on *Do Not Covet*, the 10th commandment of the *Ten Commandments* given to Moses by God.

II MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT: (Barbara Scott)

Barbara Scott presented and reviewed the request for funds from the Missions Board (see below).

III MINUTES: (Joanne Byrd)

The Vestry Minutes were approved as written and distributed electronically.

IV FINANCIALS: (Michael Simon)

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 January was \$283,893 (vs. a budget of \$201,306). Our total Revenue income for January was \$338,138.75

Our total expenses in January were \$242,968 vs a budget of \$272,510.

These January income and expenses includes the Mission Outreach Donations, Cross School Scholarships, Diocesan Pledge and Diocesan Blessings.

The transfer of the Titles for the Chapel and Argent Properties from COM to TCOTC is still in process Legally and should reflect on the BL before end of February which will significantly increase the Total Assets number.

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 January \$244,065.94.

They have already commitments for February (funds which they allocate monthly) \$14,181.

The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting \$58,000 for a total number of \$72,181. 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 February PLATE Income MTD (2 weeks) is \$129,963.65 against our PLATE budget of \$221,475.

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM BISHOP EDGAR

There are two parts of the Law Suit pending, one against the Diocese and the other against 3 remaining Churches. The remaining Diocese suit is regarding the Bishop's residence. To settle, they had to get two appraisals and determine the amount for settlement. The appraisals have been accepted and an amount agreed to for the Diocese to purchase this property. Bishop Edgar has requested our financial assistance to help fund this and the request is for \$100,000. In discussion, there previously was the Jerusalem fund which we provided \$100,000 to assist small churches. We still have a balance of \$80,257 in our Restricted Funds which would be used for this request, plus we will fund the remaining \$20,000 from the Diocesan Blessings account. The request was presented in a motion to the Vestry, which was seconded, and approved by the Vestry.

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.**

In-person attendance numbers:

To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 8,801 vs. 2,451 in 2022. Praise God.

V OTHER:

A. 2023 Proposed Infrastructure Repairs/Upgrades—See Handout

Fr. Owens discussed the most urgent priorities on the list being numbers 2,3 4 and 5.

B. Annual Gathering—February 21, 2023

The evening will begin 5:30pm with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (no cost) at Cross Schools. It will be followed by the Parish Annual Gathering at 7pm in The Chapel.

C. Diocesan Convention March 10-11, 2023

TCOTC will be hosting the Convention. Friday night's gathering will commence in The Chapel with a Eucharist at 4:00pm followed by dinner at Cross Schools. Saturday's Convention will be held at Cross Schools.

Delegates to the Convention are Lynelle Jensen, Doug Barone, Rod Musselman and Millard Simon.

CONCLUSION: (Rod Musselman)

Rod closed our meeting with prayer. The next Vestry Meeting will be March 17, 2023 at 12:30pm in The Chapel Conference Room. Sallie Brach will have prayers and devotion.

Respectfully submitted

Joanne Byrd

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2023

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

GUEST: Barbara Scott—Mission Outreach Board

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: (Rod Musselman)

Our meeting was opened in prayer followed by Rod's very personal experience last Saturday at his niece's Bat Mitzvah. The ceremony was held at the beautiful Mickve Israel in Savannah which is the third oldest Jewish congregation in America, 1733. Rod was asked to participate in the service by reading Isaiah 9: 5, which promises the coming of the Lord. He then shared his confident, niece's sermon on *Do Not Covet*, the 10th commandment of the *Ten Commandments* given to Moses by God.

II MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT: (Barbara Scott)

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 unanimously approved by the Vestry. (See Handout)

III MINUTES: (Joanne Byrd)

The Vestry Minutes were approved as written and distributed electronically.

IV FINANCIALS: (Michael Simon)

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting February 2023

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They have already commitments for February (funds which they allocate monthly) \$14,181.
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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

February PLATE Income MTD (2 weeks) is \$129,963.65 against our PLATE budget of \$221,475.

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM BISHOP EDGAR

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

Attendance Below:

In-person attendance numbers:

To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 8,801 vs. 2,451 in 2022. Praise God.

NOVEMBER	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2022	MTD 2021	YTD 2021
							5367	53,345	3213	30,723
6TH	135	77	228	144	391	400				
13TH	107	84	209	113	430	850				
20TH	92	66	270	140	403	400				
27TH	106	70	180	121	351	0				
	440	297	887	518	1575	1650				
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2022	MTD 2021	YTD 2021
DECEMBER	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	5493	58,838	3886	34,609
4TH	96	63	228	127	436	400				
11TH	98	83	230	128	361	400				
18TH	120	66	229	128	466					
24th EVE	80	369	149	279	624	333	1,834			
	394	581	836	662	1887	1133				

2023							ATTENDANCE TOTAL			
JANUARY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2022	MTD 2021	YTD 2021
							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				

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

V OTHER:

A. 2023 Proposed Infrastructure Repairs/Upgrades —See Handout

Fr. Owens discussed the most urgent priorities on the list being numbers 2,3 4 and 5.

B. Annual Gathering—February 21, 2023 (See Handout)

The evening will begin 5:30pm with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (no cost) at Cross Schools. It will be followed by the Parish Annual Meeting at 7pm in The Chapel.

C. Diocesan Convention March 10-11, 2023

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Delegates to the Convention are Lynelle Jensen, Doug Barone, Rod Musselman and Millard Simon.

CONCLUSION: (Rod Musselman)

Rod closed our meeting with prayer. The next Vestry Meeting will be March 17, 2023 at 12:30pm in The Chapel Conference Room. Sallie Brach will have prayers and devotion.

Respectfully submitted

Joanne Byrd

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.

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Attendance Below:

In-person attendance numbers:

					CROSS P	CROSS	CURRENT	YTD	MTD	YTD
					10:30	SCHOOLS	MONTH	2023	2022	2022
JANUARY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM						
1st	79	61	184	115	250	600	6861	6,861	2,451	2,451
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					
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					CROSS P	CROSS	CURRENT	YTD	MTD	YTD
					10:30	SCHOOLS	MONTH	2023	2022	2022
FEBRUARY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM						
5th	108	69	216	159	458	400	5956	12,817	1,891	4,342
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				

					CROSS P	CROSS	CURRENT	YTD	MTD	YTD
					10:30	SCHOOLS	MONTH	2023	2022	2022
MARCH	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM						
5th	133	91	266	171	493	400	3048	15,865	2,463	6,805
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 Chaplin 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

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Owens in the Parish Hall Library. Fr. Owens, the Vestry and Fr. Weaver then toured the newly remodeled Cross Christian Counseling Center. A brief orientation of the facility and how it is to be used was given by Rev. Andy Nix (Licensed Counselor), Elisabeth Markle (Care Ministry Coordinator) and Cristen Fisher (Counselor). Please see Handout for details.

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

GUEST: Fr. Nathan Weaver

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Millard Simmons

Our meeting was opened with prayer from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The topic of Millard's devotion was the Immigration Problem. How do we as Christians address this issue from a none political view. "The Matthew 25 Initiative of the ACNA companions and contends for Shalom in broken places encountering Jesus as they serve those who are vulnerable." We are all truly Immigrants as we journey through this life. Scripture from Luke 10 and Matthew 28 teaches we are to love and serve all others in our human needs being spiritual or physical. Our biblical ancestors from Abraham to Moses to Joseph to David to Daniel to Lord Jesus Christ all were Immigrants. As Christians we are called to love our neighbor as ourself serving the vulnerable with love, compassion and dignity.

II JURISDICTION OF ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINCY AND CHAPLAINS:

A. Fr. Weaver gave us an overview of what will happen as David Fisher proceeds through his four week discernment process to become a Chaplain at TCOTC as he steps down from the Faith Formation Team at Cross Schools. Fr. Weaver is trusting this process can be completed by August as Discernment Panel is being organized presently.

B. June 1, 2023 TCOTC is honored to host the Jurisdiction of Armed Forces of Chaplaincy And Chaplains Diocesan Convention. 250 Chaplains and their families are expected to attend. Fr. Weaver shared, "Chaplains are the arms of Jesus."

III MINUTES: Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes of March 17, 2023 were approved as written and electronically distributed.

IV FINANCIAL MINUTES: Michael Simon

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting April 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 March was \$225,918.7 (vs. a budget of \$230,410.45). Our total Revenue income for March was \$330,636.70 vs a budget of \$272,508.45.

Our total expenses in March were \$253,563.57 vs a budget of \$259,504.02.

These total March 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 March \$263,327.99. They have already commitments for APRIL (funds which they allocate monthly) \$18,097. The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting \$44,200 a total number of \$62,297.

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

April PLATE Income MTD (3 weeks including Easter) is \$138,329.65 against our PLATE budget of \$220,709

Other Business

We were in touch with a company named Synergi Partners, to explore the opportunity of receiving ERC (Employee Retention Credit) from the COVID crisis. Father Owens, Regine and I have had several calls with them, understanding what needs to be done to qualify. Once approved, we will move forward providing them with the necessary payroll and "loss of business" information to vent the qualifications. Our exposure is a \$250 deposit and we don't pay their fees until the IRS funds the ERC applied for amount. Michael made a motion to proceed and which was seconded and a vote of yes to proceed.

We are also reviewing with our banking partners ways of earning interest on funds sitting in our accounts, with having term deposits. Regine is checking with Truist, CSB and PSB on instruments available. Our intent is two-fold, protect accounts in excess of the \$250,000 FDIC insured limit and having our blessings at work while in the respective accounts.

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5th	133	91	266	171	493	400					
12th	93	61	247	121	372	600					
19th	120	99	245	151	499	400					
26th	109	91	238	158	475						
	455	342	996	601	1839	1400					
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022	
APRIL	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	Holy Week/ Sunrise	CROSSP 10:30	CROSSP 9AM	5,558	24,008	3096	9,901
2th	134	104	312	175	1161	445					
Easter	375	235	393	272	139	521	200	2,135			
16th	152	77	234	163		466					
23rd											
30th											
	661	416	939	610	1300	1432	200				

Easter Service Attendance in 2023 was 2,135 vs. 1,817 in 2022.

**To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 24,008 vs. 9,901 in 2022.
Praise God.**

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

V MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY: Linda Laird

A detailed Report of April Disbursements of \$18,097.99 was given. Motion put forth and Vestry voted to approve April Disbursements of \$18,097.99 to ministries. (see handout)

VI. A. FOLLOW UP: CROSS LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP: Mill Simmons

Suggestions were: Shorten Sessions, Better Map, More Details on Each Ministry
Print complete Leadership Emblem in Handout

EASTER HOLY WEEK: Well attended services and no major parking problem with two 9 o'clock services going on at The Chapel and Cross Point at the same time.

B. "GHOST ROADS": Fr. Owens

The Town of Bluffton has asked for help in clarifying and determining property boundaries and right of ways on many unnamed roads in the Town of Bluffton. Ray Cook has surveyed TCOTC properties and its information as been sent to TCOTC attorney.

C. FIRST QUARTER NEW MEMBER STATUS: Fr. Owens

Please see detailed handout....Our growth comes from New Riverside area and West. In the first quarter of 2023, 81 new members formally joined the church compared to 59 during same time last year. We praise God for his faithfulness in growing His church!

D. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FALL OF 2023: Fr. Owens

Please see detailed handout which covers: 1. WORSHIP —2. PARISH CHAPLAIN—
3. PASTORAL CARE— 4. WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHINGS—5. FAITH
FORMATION—6. MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP—7. YOUTH MINISTRY—8. PARISH
FAMILY ASSIMILATOR

E. ELECTION OF VESTRY OFFICERS:

Senior Warden—Millard Simmons, Jr. Warden—Stewart Brown, Finances—Michael
Simon, Secretary—Joanne Byrd

F. DISCUSSION ON IMPROVING AUDIO IN THE PARISH HALL

Vestry made suggestion to Fr. Owens to have a Sound Engineer check the acoustics in the Parish Hall to better mprove the sound/hearing capability for teachings and meetings.

CONCLUSION:

Millard closed our meeting with prayer. The next Vestry meeting will be May 19, 2023 at 12:30pm in The Chapel Conference Room. Joanne Byrd will have devotion and prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS

MAY 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Owens in the Conference Room of The Chapel.

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

ABSENT: Stew Brown

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Joanne Byrd

The meeting was opened with prayer. The devotion was based on a three page article about the 'Historic Church of the Cross' written for a local community magazine, THE STROLL. Bluffton Preservationist, Glen Umberger, had no idea of the beautiful INVITATION he was providing to the Town of Bluffton as he detailed our Church from the year 1854 to present in this secular publication. The article has seven wonderful pictures(one being inaccurate) to support the church's history and growth. The article was found to be more than just architectural facts about TCOTC, but a 'God Given Invitation' for the community to come see, to hear and experience the sacred and hallowed ground of TCOTC which was laid out in God's plan in the year 1854. Scripture used from Matthew 16:18 *'And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail.'* Ephesians 1:5 *He predestined us for adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ, according to his will.'* Corinthians 6:18 *'And I will be a Father to you...'* Matthew 11:28-29 *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me....and you will find rest for your soul.*

II MINUTES: Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes of April 21, 2023 were approved as written and electronically distributed.

III FINANCIAL MINUTES: Michael Simon

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting May 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 April was \$267,876.56 (vs. a budget of \$220,708).
Our total Revenue income for April was \$343,226.56 vs a budget of \$263,806.96.

Our total expenses in April were \$266,904.07 vs a budget of \$262,504.30.

These total April 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 funds that the Mission Board recommends for disbursement.

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of April \$270,542.11.
They have already commitments for May (funds which they allocate monthly) \$16,847.
The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting \$60,450 for a total disbursement of \$77,297.

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

May PLATE Income MTD (2 weeks) is **\$119,948** against our PLATE budget of \$194,029.85

Other Business

We were in touch with a company named Synergi Partners, to explore the opportunity of receiving ERC (Employee Retention Credit) from the COVID crisis. Father Owens, Regine and I have had several calls with them, and we have some concerns of the exposure for paying them if we don't file on time, or if the IRS audits the work that they did. We also explored using our payroll service Checkwriters to see if they feel we qualify for the ERC credit. Based on the review by Checkwriters and our own CPA, we were told we do not qualify for the ERC Credit. We therefore have decided to not apply for these funds as we feel the audit risks are too high since our income did not decrease during the COVID periods. Michael has notified Synergi.

We have reviewed with our banking partners ways of earning interest on funds sitting in our accounts, with having term deposits. Regine will be having the banks sweep funds in excess of \$250,000 into interest earning accounts with Truist and CSB earning interest around 2.75%. Our intent is two-fold, protect accounts in excess of the \$250,000 FDIC insured limit and having our blessings at work while in the respective accounts.

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:

							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022	
MARCH	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSSP 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	5633	18,450	2,463	6,805	
5th	133	91	266	171	493	400					
12th	93	61	247	121	372	600					
19th	120	99	245	151	499	400					
26th	109	91	238	158	475						
	455	342	996	601	1839	1400					
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022	
APRIL	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	Holy Week/ Sunrise	CROSSP 10:30	CROSSP 9AM	8,124	26,574	3096	9,901
2th	134	104	312	175	1161	445					
Easter	375	235	393	272	139	521	200	2,135			
16th	152	77	234	163		466	100				
23rd	129	96	218	166		454	200				
30th	125	72	238	111		457	200				
	915	584	1395	887	1300	2343	700				
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022	
MAY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSSP 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	2849	29,423	3565	13,466	
7th	130	71	188	137	445	400					
14th	133	75	221	153	496	400					
21st											
28th											
	263	146	409	290	941	800					

To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 29,423 vs. 13,466 in 2022.
Praise God.

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

IV OTHER

A. FOLLOW UP DAVID FISHER'S DISCERNMENT PROCESS—Millard Simmons Committee met Caitland and found her in full support of her husband, David, as he discerns to be a Chaplain as short term goal with possibility of later becoming a priest. Committee found them as a couple to be very supportive of each other and good fit for this calling. Next meeting with David will concentrate on Foundational Documents, Book of Common Prayer and Catechism. Chaplaincy Discernment Process to be completed by August 2023.

B. THOUGHT ON NANCY GUTHRIE EVENT—Linda Laird

Linda gave a very positive response on Nancy Guthrie's program. It was attended by 385 women from all over South Carolina and Georgia. Mrs. Guthrie's teaching was very meaningful as she taught 'How to see Jesus in Old and New Testament through the Themes of the Bible.' Many women would go to see her again. Her books have led many women to a deeper understanding of the God's love.

C. STATUS OF REPAIRS/UPGRADES PLANNED FOR 2023

Please see Fr. Owens' handout

D. STATUS OF "LOOKING AHEAD—FALL OF 2023"

Please see Fr. Owens' handouts which includes detailed information on:

1. Worship
2. Parish Chaplain
3. Pastoral Care
4. Wednesday Night Teachings
5. Faith Formation
6. Men's Discipleship
7. Youth Ministry
8. Parish Family Assimilator

*Detailed handout given on Men's Discipleship Ministry

CONCLUSION:

Our meeting was closed with prayer. The next Vestry Meeting will be June 23, 2023 at 12:30pm in the Conference Room at The Chapel. Michael Simon will have devotion and prayers.

DEVOTION SCHEDULE: July-Linda Laird, August-Craig Pelly, September-Tom Durston, October- Stew Brown, November-Sallie Brach, December- Millard Simmons

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS

MAY 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Owens in the Conference Room of The Chapel.

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

ABSENT: Stew Brown

I **PRAYER AND DEVOTION:** Joanne Byrd

The meeting was opened with prayer. The devotion was based on a three page article about the 'Historic Church of the Cross' written for a local community magazine, THE STROLL. Bluffton Preservationist, Glen Umberger, had no idea of the beautiful INVITATION he was providing to the Town of Bluffton as he detailed our Church from the year 1854 to present in this secular publication. The article has seven wonderful pictures(one being inaccurate) to support the church's history and growth. The article was found to be more than just architectural facts about TCOTC, but a 'God Given Invitation' for the community to come see, to hear and experience the sacred and hallowed ground of TCOTC which was laid out in God's plan in the year 1854. Scripture used from Matthew 16:18 *'And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail.'* Ephesians 1:5 *He predestined us for adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ, according to his will.'* Corinthians 6:18 *'And I will be a Father to you...'* Matthew 11:28-29 *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me....and you will find rest for your soul.*

II **MINUTES:** Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes of April 21, 2023 were approved as written and electronically distributed.

III **FINANCIAL MINUTES:** Michael Simon

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting May 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 April was \$267,876.56 (vs. a budget of \$220,708).
Our total Revenue income for April was \$343,226.56 vs a budget of \$263,806.96.

Our total expenses in April were \$266,904.07 vs a budget of \$262,504.30.

These total April 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 funds that the Mission Board recommends for disbursement.

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of April \$270,542.11.
They have already commitments for May (funds which they allocate monthly) \$16,847.
The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting \$60,450 for a total disbursement of \$77,297.

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

May PLATE Income MTD (2 weeks) is **\$119,948** against our PLATE budget of \$194,029.85

Other Business

We were in touch with a company named Synergi Partners, to explore the opportunity of receiving ERC (Employee Retention Credit) from the COVID crisis. Father Owens, Regine and I have had several calls with them, and we have some concerns of the exposure for paying them if we don't file on time, or if the IRS audits the work that they did. We also explored using our payroll service Checkwriters to see if they feel we qualify for the ERC credit. Based on the review by Checkwriters and our own CPA, we were told we do not qualify for the ERC Credit. We therefore have decided to not apply for these funds as we feel the audit risks are too high since our income did not decrease during the COVID periods. Michael has notified Synergi.

We have reviewed with our banking partners ways of earning interest on funds sitting in our accounts, with having term deposits. Regine will be having the banks sweep funds in excess of \$250,000 into interest earning accounts with Truist and CSB earning interest around 2.75%. Our intent is two-fold, protect accounts in excess of the \$250,000 FDIC insured limit and having our blessings at work while in the respective accounts.

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.**

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Attendance Below:

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2th	134	104	312	175	1161	445					
Easter	375	235	393	272	139	521	200	2,135			
16th	152	77	234	163		466	100				
23rd	129	96	218	166		454	200				
30th	125	72	238	111		457	200				
	915	584	1395	887	1300	2343	700				
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14th	133	75	221	153	496	400					
21st											
28th											
	263	146	409	290	941	800					

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Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

IV OTHER

A. FOLLOW UP DAVID FISHER'S DISCERNMENT PROCESS—Millard Simmons Committee met Caitland and found her in full support of her husband, David, as he discerns to be a Chaplin as short term goal with possibility of later becoming a priest. Committee found them as a couple to be very supportive of each other and good fit for this calling. Next meeting with David will concentrate on Foundational Documents, Book of Common Prayer and Catechism. Chaplaincy Discernment Process to be completed by August 2023.

B. THOUGHT ON NANCY GUTHRIE EVENT—Linda Laird

Linda gave a very positive response on Nancy Guthrie's program. It was attended by 385 women from all over South Carolina and Georgia. Mrs. Guthrie's teaching was very meaningful as she taught 'How to see Jesus in Old and New Testament through the Themes of the Bible.' Many women would go to see her again. Her books have led many women to a deeper understanding of the God's love.

C. STATUS OF REPAIRS/UPGRADES PLANNED FOR 2023

Please see Fr. Owens' handout

D. STATUS OF "LOOKING AHEAD—FALL OF 2023"

Please see Fr. Owens' handouts which includes detailed information on:

1. Worship
2. Parish Chaplain
3. Pastoral Care
4. Wednesday Night Teachings
5. Faith Formation
6. Men's Discipleship
7. Youth Ministry
8. Parish Family Assimilator

*Detailed handout given on Men's Discipleship Ministry

CONCLUSION:

Our meeting was closed with prayer. The next Vestry Meeting will be June 23, 2023 at 12:30pm in the Conference Room at The Chapel. Michael Simon will have devotion and prayers.

DEVOTION SCHEDULE: July-Linda Laird, August-Craig Pelly, September-Tom Durston, October- Stew Brown, November-Sallie Brach, December- Millard Simmons

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS
JUNE 23, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Owens in the Parish Hall Library, Historic Campus.

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

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Michael Simon

Prayer about 'A God of Hope' as found through the book of Romans opened our meeting. Michael's devotion then followed on Love and Compassion with scriptures from Romans, Psalms, Matthew, Proverbs, Job, 1Kings, Leviticus and 1 Peter. Michael wove a beautiful picture of Love, beginning when we are young adults progressing through our final years. In his descriptions he details the wisdom found in Proverbs, hope found in Psalms, importance of relationships and friendships found in Job. Leviticus spoke of how Love turns to Compassion as we should care for people by serving their needs such as food bank, God's Goods or supporting a family as one of their members recovers from a stroke. As Michael shared his faith filled life and his love of those who have gone before us at TCOTC he reminds us: Be Love, Be Compassionate and Count Your Blessings Every Day.

II MINUTES: Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes of May 19, 2023 were approved as written and electronically distributed.

III MISSION OUTREACH BOARD: Linda Laird

Linda presented and reviewed the request for funds with Vestry. Motion made to approve the funds disbursement. It was seconded and approved by Vestry.
See Handout for Details

IV FINANCIAL MINUTES: Michael Simon

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting June 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 May was \$200,347.71 (vs. a budget of \$194,029.85)
Our total Revenue income for May was \$292,587.71 vs a budget of \$238,127.85.

Our total expenses in May were \$287,183.40 vs a budget of \$249,694.02.

These total May 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 funds that the Mission Board recommends for disbursement.

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of May \$268,951.33.
They have already commitments for June (funds which they allocate monthly) \$16,847.
The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting \$43,700
for a total disbursement of \$60,547.

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

June PLATE Income MTD (3 weeks) is \$144,672 against our PLATE budget of 181,902.99

Other Business

The Sweep account forms and signed and being set up with Coastal States bank and should reflect in next month's Balance Sheets.

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:

								CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
APRIL	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	Holy Week / Sunrise	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS P 9AM	8,124	26,574	3096	9,901
2th	134	104	312	175	1161	445					
Easter	375	235	393	272	139	521	200	2,135			
16th	152	77	234	163		466	100				
23rd	129	96	218	166		454	200				
30th	125	72	238	111		457	200				
	915	584	1395	887	1300	2343	700				
								CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
MAY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM		CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	5258	31,832	3565	13,466
7th	130	71	188	137		445	400				
14th	133	75	221	153		496	400				
21st	108	81	238	123		414	400				
28th	88	57	207	156		537	0				
	459	284	854	569		1892	1200				
								CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
JUNE	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM		CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	3062	34,894	2808	16,274
4th	115	75	234	138		474					
11th	98	71	162	175		434					
18th	123	97	294	140		432					
25th	336	243	690	453		1340	0				

**To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 34,894 vs. 16,274 in 2022.
Praise God.**

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

V OTHER

A FOLLOW UP: DAVID FISHER'S ORDINATION PROCESS—Millard Simmons
Vestry has finished its part of Discernment Process which has been sent to Cannon Ryan. Millard is waiting for Letter of Conclusion, Documentation of Approval, sent from Cannon Ryan for Vestry member signatures. (Chaplin) David Fisher will then begin assisting with services on July 15, 2023. Ordination to Deacon will be in October.

B. COLLUMBARIUM—Fr. Owens
Detailed Concept Plans discussed. (See Handout)

C.SUGGESTIONS ON CHURCH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP SESSION II—M. Simmons
Suggestions discussed—some changes will be made (See Handout)

D. STATUS OF REPAIRS/UPGRADES PLANNED FOR 2023
All repairs/upgrades are complete on Parish Hall. Work beginning on Historic Church which all repairs must be approved by the Historic Society.

E. STATUS OF LOOKING AHEAD—FALL 2023—Fr. Owens
See Detailed Handout—Gives upcoming calendar events from June to December 2023.

VI CLOSING PRAYER (Michael Simon)

Vestry Meeting was closed in prayer. Our next meeting is July 21, 2023 at 12:30 in the Conference Room of The Chapel. Linda has the devotion and prayers.

Devotion Schedule: August—Craig Pelly: September: Tom Durston—October: Stew Brown—November: Sallie Brach—December Millard Simmons

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS
AUGUST 25, 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,
Craig Pelley, StewBrown, Tom Durston, Joanne Byrd

GUEST: Pastor Nathan Weaver

I. PRAYER AND DEVOTION: (Craig Pelley)

Craig shared he didn't have any "special" devotional to share with Vestry, but since being on Vestry is now apart of his spiritual journey, it was a good opportunity to share where he is on this journey today. Padres's sermon last week on the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) brought several questions to Craig's mind. 1. Is he a good Samaritan? Does he take care of his neighbors and friends, or just those who make him feel comfortable? 2. Is he available for his guests and volunteers at the Food Bank to actually listen to their needs or is he too involved in getting the 'actual work' accomplished. Is the Food Bank his passion or mission...is he overconfident? With these questions on his mind, serving communion at Cross Point opens another window into God's world of grace as Craig is amazed by the many children who receive the patten which is followed by AMEN. Or the humbling experience of his saying a prayer over a child as he sees joy in the parents' eyes.

With all the success of the Food Bank and praises, Craig shares he constantly struggles to resist being overconfident. How does he become a better disciple, not judging people, and most importantly now taking time to be a better neighbor. "One person caring about another represents life's greatest value"....by Jim Rohn. Craig ended with prayer.

II. MINUTES: Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes of July 21, 2023 were approved as written and were electronically distributed.

III. FINANCIAL MINUTES: (Michael Simon)

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting August 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 July was \$232,716.23 (vs. a budget of \$189,179.10)
Our total Revenue income for July was \$302,482.80 vs a budget of \$262,679.10.

Our total expenses in July were \$236,030.03 vs a budget of \$265,175.32.

These total July income and expenses includes the Faith Formation income, Mission Outreach Income and Donations, Cross School Scholarships, Counseling Center, Diocesan Pledge and Diocesan Blessings.
It also includes a Grant Bequest of \$25,000.

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 July \$288,994.41.
They have already commitments for August (funds which they allocate monthly) \$17,099.
The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting Grant Allocations for August for \$44,822 for a total distribution of \$61,921.

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

August PLATE Income MTD (3 weeks) is \$140,908.06 against our PLATE budget of \$181,902.99 with one Sunday remaining.

Other Business

We were blessed as a Parish as a family of a recent Funeral asked is they could provide a gift to the Church, only to be used to provide new A/C units for the Parish Hall. The Gift was to be made to the Church with the understanding that it only be used to buy new A/C's, a value of just under \$40,000. God's blessings to TCOTC comes in many forms.

The Good Shepherd Church in Charleston, has lost their property and will start worshipping in in The Northbridge Baptist Church on September 10th at 4pm. Father Owens has requested we provide them with some very needed assistance as they transition to this new location. He requested a donation to the Financial Board of \$10,000 which was unanimously approved. The motion was presented to the Vestry and also approved.

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 July of \$1,665.60

Streaming

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

Attendance Below:

					CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
JUNE	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM			4188	36,020	2808	16,274
4th	115	75	234	138	474					
11th	98	71	162	175	434					
18th	123	97	294	140	432					
25th	130	62	241	124	569					
	466	305	931	577	1909	0				
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
JULY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	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				
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
AUGUST	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	3162	44,182	1461	20,842
6th	146	65	189	125	492					
13th	133	71	226	147	502					
20th	171	74	203	138	480					
27th	450	210	618	410	1474	0				

To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 44,182 vs 23,734 in 2022

Praise God

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

IV OTHER:

A. CROSS SCHOOL UPDATE: (M. Simmons)

M. Simmons gave a detailed update on Cross Schools which included the Vestry's responsibility to the Board of Trustees and the School which is to avoid secular drift. Cross Schools celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year. The spring of 2024 Cross Schools will have its first graduating class of 16 seniors...some who have attended Cross from preschool. Also, discussed were: Rob Heflin (new Cross School Board Trustee—appointment affirmed by emails to M. Simmons), Joe Alameida (Head of Schools), Re-enrollment, Scholarship Students and the financial aspects of children attending Cross to the family.

B. OVERVIEW OF CROSS SCHOOLS 2023-2024 FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

And Its Impact on the School Family: (Fr. Nathan Weaver)

See Detailed Handout describing overall atmosphere as being optimistic and joyful result of Joe Almeida, the new Head of Schools, 2023-2024 Teaching Team, and Curriculum. Faith Formation is making a huge difference with students, staff, and parents.

C. MISSION BOARD APPLICATION FOR MARY LAVARNWAY TO JOIN MISSIONS BOARD: (M. Simon)

Motion brought forth and unanimously approved by Vestry.

CONCLUSION

C. Pelley closed our meeting in prayer. September 22, 2023 will be our next meeting in the Conference Room of The Chapel at 12:30. T. Durston has the devotional and prayers. Devotional Schedule: October—S. Brown; November—S. Brach; December—M. Simmons, January—J. Byrd; February—M. Simon

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS
SEPTEMBER 22, 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, Craig Pelley, Stew Brown, Tom Durston and Joanne Byrd

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: (Tom Durston)

Grace For The Moment by Max Lucado is Tom's daily devotional which speaks to his heart each day. Tom chose seven of his favorite devotions from thru out the year to share with Vestry. Each devotional scripture spoke of God's love for us through His son Jesus Christ. He began with: Hebrews 7...Jesus protects us, Hebrews 13:5...Jesus is always speaking to us as he taps on our hearts to listen; Matthew. 28:20...He is with us until the end of the age, Matthew. 9:12...He called us and adopted us; Romans. 5:8...We are heirs to God through Christ; 1 Corinthians... Christ is wisdom and power; Hebrews 11:1...We can be sure of things we hope for; Psalm 51... Create in me a pure heart not for possessions but for righteousness. God makes us right again; Ecclesiastes 3...Who can fathom eternity..God flirts with us; 1 Corinthians 2:9...No one can fathom what He has prepared for us; 1 John 4...Trust His love—God is love—all you can find.. After the devotional Tom opened our meeting in prayer.

II. MINUTES: Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes of August 25, 2023 were approved as written and were electronically distributed.

III FINANCIAL MINUTES: (Michael Simon)

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting September 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 August was \$275,558.10 (vs. a budget of \$181,902.99)
Our total Revenue income for August was \$348,293.14 vs a budget of \$230,402.99.

Our total expenses in August were \$290,364.90 vs a budget of \$260,434.46.

These total August 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 funds that the Mission Board recommends for disbursement.

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of August \$303,477.96.
They have already commitments for August (funds which they allocate monthly) \$18,349.00
The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting Grant Allocations for August for \$63,451 for a total distribution of \$81,800.

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

September PLATE Income MTD (3 weeks) is \$139,661.10 against our PLATE budget of \$189,179.10 with one Sunday 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 August of \$1,829.04

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:

					CROSS P 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				
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
AUGUST	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 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				
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
SEPTEMBER	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	4120	50,041	2892	23,734
3rd	131	89	222	118	462					
10th	125	70	197	128	428					
17th	103	72	200	132	493					
25th										
	359	231	619	378	1383	1150				
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
OCTOBER	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	0	50,041	3776	27,510
1st										
8th										
15th										
22nd										
29th										

**To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 50,041 vs. 27,510 in 2022.
Praise God.**

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

IV. OTHER:

A. COLUMBARIUM FINAL DESIGN: (Fr. Owens)

Final blueprints for the columbarium adjacent to The Chapel were viewed by Vestry. Questions were answered and the date to begin has not been determined.

B. LOOKING AHEAD A FEW YEARS: (Fr. Owens)

The Argent Track Land has become more valuable to serve The Kingdom of God as population in that area soars with no alternative schools or preschools. Future plans will encompass a preschool, school built around a assisted living facility...special needs included.

Vestry viewed video on Autism by Emily Colton

C. CAMP JUBILEE

Property has been found on Lady's Island to replace Camp St. Christopher. It is an 80 site with an option to buy...needs to be cleared legally before purchase.

CONCLUSION

T. Durston closed our meeting in prayer. October 20, 2023 will be our next meeting in the Conference Room of The Chapel at 12:30. S. Brown will have devotional and prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd

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				
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
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				
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
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				
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
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 Handout)
- 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

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES

NOVEMBER 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 Pelley

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Sallie Brach

The meeting was opened in prayer by Sallie. Our devotional was titled "The Power of Prayer." Sallie included bible verses related to the importance of prayer. She shared how prayer guides us, keeps us from temptation, and demonstrates our gratitude. This devotion was special because it was Sallie's last devotional as a Vestry member. She led a special prayer time as each of us prayed individually for our fellow members and then received prayer. It was a special time for all of us.

II MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes for October were reviewed by electronic distribution. Michael made the motion to approve as written, Sallie seconded the motion and all present agreed.

III FINANCIAL REPORT: Michael Simon

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 October was \$236,770.21 (vs. a budget of \$225,559.70)

Our total Revenue income for October was \$301,378.87 vs a budget of \$274,059.70.

Our total expenses in October were \$336,704.16 vs a budget of \$312,972.46.

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

Linda shared the request for November funds for the Mission Outreach Board disbursement. She also shared the joy of meeting Father Nicolas from Zimbabwe. He shared his life story, his work, and his current needs for funding. His financial request will be posted in the December disbursements.

The summary for the November disbursements is as follows:

Net Working Capital: \$75,839.00
Set Aside Disbursements: \$26,469.00
One Time Disbursements: \$39,351.00
Total Disbursements if Approved: \$65,820.00
Remaining Net Working Capital: \$10,019.00

During our meeting, the Missions Outreach Board discussed and approved the following one time disbursements:

a. **Cross Schools Mission Trip to Costa Rica** – The total request was for \$17,000 of which \$13,000 is required by December 2, 2023, and \$4,000 is required by January 1, 2024. The Board approved \$13,000 to be paid in November and \$4,000 to be paid in December. For the November payment of \$13,000, *\$8,120 will come from the Mission Trip Reserve set aside fund and \$4,880 will come from general God's Goods funding. This is the first out of country mission trip that Cross Schools is taking.*

b. **Christian Orphan Health International** - The Board approved \$10,000 as requested for orphan/foster children Christmas gifts to three groups of children, those housed in the Hand of Help Orphanage in Botosani, Romania, those foster children ministered to by Pastor Wally in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, and those foster children housed in the numerous Joshua houses in Lytin, Ukraine...totaling approximately 500 children which is approximately \$20.00 per child.

c. **Harvesters International Ministries, Project Hope 127, DR Congo** – The Board approved \$7671 to provide the 176 children and youth with new shoes, clothing, and off-site Christmas celebrations/meals.

d. **Diocese of Marsabit, Kenya** – The Board approved \$5,000 to complete the necessary funding for the first Women's Conference to bring women together from throughout this large diocese in northern Kenya.

e. **TARIRO** – The Board approved **\$8,500** to support higher education for five (5) students for the first trimester of 2024. The funding will be revisited in early 2024 for consideration of assistance for the second and third trimesters.

f. **Cross Schools Scholarship Students** – The Board approved **\$3,300** to provide one time monetary Christmas gifts for 11 Cross Schools Scholarship Students.

The MOB has committed for November funds in monthly allocations equaling \$26,469.

Mission Trip Reserve	\$8,120.00
Anderson Sanchez Peru - End June 2024	\$2,100.00
Bluffton Soup Kitchen - End January 2024	\$833.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2024	\$3,000.00
COTC Faith Formation - End May 31 2024	\$1,250.00
CS CrossSchool Monthly - End May 21 2025	\$2,500.00
DGL - Youn Life - Olena - End June 2024	\$0.00
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - End March 2024	\$3,000.00
HELP Madagascar - End Jan 2024	\$2,000.00
Saint Simons Anglican Mission (Josh Lake) - End Aug 2024	\$1,000.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2024	\$1,000.00
UCCD Burundi - End Dec 2023	\$1,000.00
	\$26,469.00

Total disbursements for November are \$65,820.00, if approved. The financial Board reviewed the request and recommended APPROVAL to the Vestry. The Vestry reviewed the request submitted and made a motion to APPROVE funding. All present agreed.

Michael reported that the November PLATE Income MTD (2 weeks) is \$114,903.98 against our PLATE budget of \$225,559.70 with two Sunday's remaining.

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 \$1,984.66

Streaming daily, we have an average of 200 people visiting our website, of which half are first time viewers. Streaming is extremely important. It is the most important avenue for us to reach our faithful. Just to show you the impact, this past week, our website, and streaming reached an average of 15 countries and 9 states every month. Our blessings do continue to flow for which we say, **Thanks be to God.**

In-person attendance numbers continue to increase. To date, our 2023 PEW attendance was 61,073 vs. 30,723 in 2022. Praise God. Our attendance has doubled!

Respectively Submitted, J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

IV. OTHER

a. Upcoming stewardship outline

- Father Owens shared that he would rotate to all five services this weekend to thank everyone for their generosity and commitment.
- The church will be closed from November 22-26
- We will have a first draft budget for the December meeting.
- We will have the final draft for the January meeting.
- February 13, 2024, will be the date for the pancake supper and the Parrish Annual Gathering.

b. Looking ahead to 2024 staffing/budgeting

- Staffing – We are still searching for two priests and will be interviewing soon.

- Cross Schools– Millard shared that the monthly family worship had 800 participants in attendance, including parents and grandparents. Father Owens did the Homily in 8 minutes. A group explored the swamp area for future use for an athletic complex.
- Millard also shared that there are concerns about students dropping out during the year. When the number of students decreases, the budget is impacted. Tuition Refund Plans are now available so there will not be budget problems when students leave. It benefits the parents and the school.
- Tom expressed concerns about the accidents and danger of exiting left from the church campus. Father Owens explained that there are future plans to add exits on Buckwalter Parkway and the 5B (Buckwalter Extension).
- Father Owens shared that the Historical Society wants to update our informational book, but the prices are much higher, from \$12 to \$15 each. Father Owens suggested a more economical option - an eBook that can be easily accessed by users on our website.

V. CLOSING PRAYER (Sallie)

Sallie led us in our closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Laird

Next Meeting – December 15,2023 – 12:30 – Conference room in the Chapel

Mill has devotional and prayer.

Devotional schedule: January – Joanne; February - Michael

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS
DECEMBER 15, 2023

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

PRESENT: Fr. Owens, Millard Simmons, Sallie Brach, Stew Brown, Tom Durston, Linda Laird, Craig Pelley, Joanne Byrd

ABSENT: Michael Simon

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Mill Simmons

Mill's devotional was a map presentation on the *Cedars of Lebanon*...Finding the 'Sacred in the Secular. The map presented the same areas of trouble we see today as in biblical time, reminding us of conflict at the Lebanon/Israel border where Muslims, Shiite and Christians live.

The Cedars of Lebanon are mentioned seventy five times, appearing in eleven books of the Bible and in Psalm 92. Scripture states cedars flourished in the country of Lebanon, growing tall, strong and deep rooted; much as the olive trees flourishes in Israel. David and Solomon built the temple with majestic Cedars of Lebanon. During World War II the German army down many of these magnificent trees for their use. Mill also shared about a friendship had with a thirty-one year old Lebanese Christian coworker who gifted him with a souvenir medallion made from Cedar of Lebanon. On the medallion is the official flag of Lebanon represented by a Cedar of Lebanon. (Handout)

Prayer concluded the devotion.

II. MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes of November 17, 2023 were electronically distributed and approved as written.

III FINANCIAL MINUTES: Stew Brown

IV MISSION OUTREACH BOARD: Linda Laird

Linda gave detailed report on December MOB disbursements for Vestry consideration.

Vestry approved the MOB December, 2023 recommended disbursements, without alterations, as written. Vestry thanks the MOB for their work and commitment.

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting December 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 November was \$285,260.97 (vs. a budget of \$225,559.70)
Our total Revenue income for November was \$374,596.42 vs a budget of \$274,059.70.

Our total expenses in November were \$272,107.77 vs a budget of \$265,622.46.

These total November 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 December funds that the Mission Board recommends for disbursement.

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of November \$335,658.82.
They have already commitments for December (funds which they allocate monthly) \$23,023.
The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting Grant Allocations for December for \$53,500 for a total distribution of \$76,523.
This includes a one-time disbursement of \$10,000 for the Kairos Ministry for Christmas Dinners locally which they are asking for disbursement this week if possible to make this happen on time.

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

December PLATE Income MTD (2 weeks) is \$143,160.48 against our PLATE budget of \$354,104.47 with three Sunday's remaining.

Other Business

The Women's Craft Show had a very successful event which grossed \$14,500 which will fund the Women's Ministry as well as selected charities chosen by the women as a group. This is reflected in the Restricted Accounts.

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 \$2,965.45

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, 9 different states every month.**

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

Attendance Below:

In-person attendance numbers:

					CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
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5th	122	89	237	182	451					
12th	129	61	208	146	468					
19th	117	62	249	159	450					
26th	116	75	287	140	432					
	484	287	981	627	1801	1400				

**To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 63,560 vs. 30,723 in 2022.
Praise God.**

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

V. OTHER

A. PRELIMINARY LOOK AHEAD TO 2024 STAFFING/BUDGET: (Fr. Owens)

Vestry viewed preliminary budget as it was explained by Fr. Chuck. The final budget will be seen at our January meeting. (Handout was returned to Fr. Owens).

B. HISTORIC CAMPUS SHUTTLE: (M. Simmons)

Motion put forth to purchase a second shuttle which would help alleviate the lack of parking on the Historic Campus during services. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved for purchase. (See Handout for details)

C. REQUEST FROM CROSS SCHOOLS TO PARTNER IN CONSTRUCTION: (M. Simmons) See Handout

Cross Schools is in need of a cafeteria and expansion as the students are eating in an over crowded hallway. Plans were shown with final details to come. Motion was put forth to support expansion on school up to and not to exceed \$412,825. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

D. THOUGHTS ON THE ARGENT EAST CAMPUS: (Fr. Owens)

\$200,000 has been provided to work with planning and an architect for this campus. The immediate focus is to apply for permit for building on Argent East Campus property.

CONCLUSION

Millard closed our meeting with prayer. The next Vestry meeting will be January 26, 2024, at 12:30pm in the Conference Room of The Chapel. Joanne has devotional and prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES

NOVEMBER 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 Pelley

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Sallie Brach

The meeting was opened in prayer by Sallie. Our devotional was titled "The Power of Prayer." Sallie included bible verses related to the importance of prayer. She shared how prayer guides us, keeps us from temptation, and demonstrates our gratitude. This devotion was special because it was Sallie's last devotional as a Vestry member. She led a special prayer time as each of us prayed individually for our fellow members and then received prayer. It was a special time for all of us.

II MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes for October were reviewed by electronic distribution. Michael made the motion to approve as written, Sallie seconded the motion and all present agreed.

III FINANCIAL REPORT: Michael Simon

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 October was \$236,770.21 (vs. a budget of \$225,559.70)

Our total Revenue income for October was \$301,378.87 vs a budget of \$274,059.70.

Our total expenses in October were \$336,704.16 vs a budget of \$312,972.46.

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

Linda shared the request for November funds for the Mission Outreach Board disbursement. She also shared the joy of meeting Father Nicolas from Zimbabwe. He shared his life story, his work, and his current needs for funding. His financial request will be posted in the December disbursements.

The summary for the November disbursements is as follows:

Net Working Capital: \$75,839.00
Set Aside Disbursements: \$26,469.00
One Time Disbursements: \$39,351.00
Total Disbursements if Approved: \$65,820.00
Remaining Net Working Capital: \$10,019.00

During our meeting, the Missions Outreach Board discussed and approved the following one time disbursements:

a. **Cross Schools Mission Trip to Costa Rica** – The total request was for \$17,000 of which \$13,000 is required by December 2, 2023, and \$4,000 is required by January 1, 2024. The Board approved \$13,000 to be paid in November and \$4,000 to be paid in December. For the November payment of \$13,000, *\$8,120 will come from the Mission Trip Reserve set aside fund and \$4,880 will come from general God's Goods funding. This is the first out of country mission trip that Cross Schools is taking.*

b. **Christian Orphan Health International** - The Board approved \$10,000 as requested for orphan/foster children Christmas gifts to three groups of children, those housed in the Hand of Help Orphanage in Botosani, Romania, those foster children ministered to by Pastor Wally in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, and those foster children housed in the numerous Joshua houses in Lytin, Ukraine...totaling approximately 500 children which is approximately \$20.00 per child.

c. **Harvesters International Ministries, Project Hope 127, DR Congo** – The Board approved \$7671 to provide the 176 children and youth with new shoes, clothing, and off-site Christmas celebrations/meals.

d. **Diocese of Marsabit, Kenya** – The Board approved \$5,000 to complete the necessary funding for the first Women's Conference to bring women together from throughout this large diocese in northern Kenya.

e. **TARIRO** – The Board approved **\$8,500** to support higher education for five (5) students for the first trimester of 2024. The funding will be revisited in early 2024 for consideration of assistance for the second and third trimesters.

f. **Cross Schools Scholarship Students** – The Board approved **\$3,300** to provide one time monetary Christmas gifts for 11 Cross Schools Scholarship Students.

The MOB has committed for November funds in monthly allocations equaling \$26,469.

Mission Trip Reserve	\$8,120.00
Anderson Sanchez Peru - End June 2024	\$2,100.00
Bluffton Soup Kitchen - End January 2024	\$833.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2024	\$3,000.00
COTC Faith Formation - End May 31 2024	\$1,250.00
CS CrossSchool Monthly - End May 21 2025	\$2,500.00
DGL - Youn Life - Olena - End June 2024	\$0.00
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - End March 2024	\$3,000.00
HELP Madagascar - End Jan 2024	\$2,000.00
Saint Simons Anglican Mission (Josh Lake) - End Aug 2024	\$1,000.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2024	\$1,000.00
UCCD Burundi - End Dec 2023	\$1,000.00
	\$26,469.00

Total disbursements for November are \$65,820.00, if approved. The financial Board reviewed the request and recommended APPROVAL to the Vestry. The Vestry reviewed the request submitted and made a motion to APPROVE funding. All present agreed.

Michael reported that the November PLATE Income MTD (2 weeks) is \$114,903.98 against our PLATE budget of \$225,559.70 with two Sunday's remaining.

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 \$1,984.66

Streaming daily, we have an average of 200 people visiting our website, of which half are first time viewers. Streaming is extremely important. It is the most important avenue for us to reach our faithful. Just to show you the impact, this past week, our website, and streaming reached an average of 15 countries and 9 states every month. Our blessings do continue to flow for which we say, **Thanks be to God.**

In-person attendance numbers continue to increase. To date, our 2023 PEW attendance was 61,073 vs. 30,723 in 2022. Praise God. Our attendance has doubled!

Respectively Submitted, J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

IV. OTHER

a. Upcoming stewardship outline

- Father Owens shared that he would rotate to all five services this weekend to thank everyone for their generosity and commitment.
- The church will be closed from November 22-26
- We will have a first draft budget for the December meeting.
- We will have the final draft for the January meeting.
- February 13, 2024, will be the date for the pancake supper and the Parrish Annual Gathering.

b. Looking ahead to 2024 staffing/budgeting

- Staffing – We are still searching for two priests and will be interviewing soon.

- **Cross Schools–** Millard shared that the monthly family worship had 800 participants in attendance, including parents and grandparents. Father Owens did the Homily in 8 minutes. A group explored the swamp area for future use for an athletic complex.
- Millard also shared that there are concerns about students dropping out during the year. When the number of students decreases, the budget is impacted. Tuition Refund Plans are now available so there will not be budget problems when students leave. It benefits the parents and the school.
- Tom expressed concerns about the accidents and danger of exiting left from the church campus. Father Owens explained that there are future plans to add exits on Buckwalter Parkway and the 5B (Buckwalter Extension).
- Father Owens shared that the Historical Society wants to update our informational book, but the prices are much higher, from \$12 to \$15 each. Father Owens suggested a more economical option - an eBook that can be easily accessed by users on our website.

V. CLOSING PRAYER (Sallie)

Sallie led us in our closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Laird

Next Meeting – December 15,2023 – 12:30 – Conference room in the Chapel

Mill has devotional and prayer.

Devotional schedule: January – Joanne; February - Michael

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS
DECEMBER 15, 2023

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

PRESENT: Fr. Owens, Millard Simmons, Sallie Brach, Stew Brown, Tom Durston, Linda Laird, Craig Pelley, Joanne Byrd

ABSENT: Michael Simon

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Mill Simmons

Mill's devotional was a map presentation on the *Cedars of Lebanon*... Finding the 'Sacred in the Secular. The map presented the same areas of trouble we see today as in biblical time, reminding us of conflict at the Lebanon/Israel border where Muslims, Shiite and Christians live.

The Cedars of Lebanon are mentioned seventy five times, appearing in eleven books of the Bible and in Psalm 92. Scripture states cedars flourished in the country of Lebanon, growing tall, strong and deep rooted; much as the olive trees flourishes in Israel. David and Solomon built the temple with majestic Cedars of Lebanon. During World War II the German army down many of these magnificent trees for their use. Mill also shared about a friendship had with a thirty-one year old Lebanese Christian coworker who gifted him with a souvenir medallion made from Cedar of Lebanon. On the medallion is the official flag of Lebanon represented by a Cedar of Lebanon. (Handout)

Prayer concluded the devotion.

II. MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes of November 17, 2023 were electronically distributed and approved as written.

III FINANCIAL MINUTES: Stew Brown

IV MISSION OUTREACH BOARD: Linda Laird

Linda gave detailed report on December MOB disbursements for Vestry consideration. Vestry approved the MOB December, 2023 recommended disbursements, without alterations, as written. Vestry thanks the MOB for their work and commitment.

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting December 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 November was \$285,260.97 (vs. a budget of \$225,559.70)
Our total Revenue income for November was \$374,596.42 vs a budget of \$274,059.70.

Our total expenses in November were \$272,107.77 vs a budget of \$265,622.46.

These total November 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 December funds that the Mission Board recommends for disbursement.

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of November \$335,658.82.
They have already commitments for December (funds which they allocate monthly) \$23,023.
The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting Grant Allocations for December for \$53,500 for a total distribution of \$76,523.
This includes a one-time disbursement of \$10,000 for the Kairos Ministry for Christmas Dinners locally which they are asking for disbursement this week if possible to make this happen on time.

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

December PLATE Income MTD (2 weeks) is \$143,160.48 against our PLATE budget of \$354,104.47 with three Sunday's remaining.

Other Business

The Women's Craft Show had a very successful event which grossed \$14,500 which will fund the Women's Ministry as well as selected charities chosen by the women as a group. This is reflected in the Restricted Accounts.

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 \$2,965.45

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, 9 different states every month.

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