

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS

JANUARY 26, 2024

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, Craig Pelley

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Joanne Byrd

Prayer opened our meeting. The devotion was a review of the book, **HOLY MOMENTS... A HANDBOOK FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE**, by Matthew Kelly. The book is a 21 day Day Challenge to change one's life by becoming aware of Holy Moments in our lives and others. Holy Moments are grace-filled prayer-directed actions which are activated by the Holy Spirit through a daily prayer life which is essential. Holy Moments happen when one puts others before themselves becoming Good Samaritans as in *Luke 10:30-37*. "Jesus says go and do likewise." Mr. Kelly shares examples of those who have taken the 21 Day Challenge showing how their lives were changed. They began to see the work of the Holy Spirit transforming their actions as they reached out to touch another's life with goodness, hope and encouragement. Holy Moments are about giving "Hope to All God's People". Scripture from Matthew 17...*The Transfiguration* was illustrated as is Matthew 13: 8 *The Sowing of the Seeds* which fall on four different types of soil. Some seeds multiply hundred fold, so sixty and some thirty. Mr. Kelly's hope is that all people who read his book will be transformed; as well as passing on the 6 free of charge editions he offers to the purchaser to be passed out to others touching one person at a time with God's love and hope.

II MINUTES: Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes for December 15, 2023 were electronically distributed and were approved as written.

III FINANCIALS: Michael Simon

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting January 2024

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 December was \$523,481.93 (vs. a budget of \$354,104.47)
Our total Revenue income for December was \$622,193.97 vs a budget of \$427,604.47.

Our total expenses in December were \$778,266 vs a budget of \$264,229.65.
The 2023 Fiscal year ended with the Parish is very good financial status, with all the restricted accounts in good standing.

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 December \$278,029.86.
They have already commitments for January (funds which they allocate monthly) \$20,583.
The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting Grant Allocations for January for \$17,343 for a total distribution of \$37,926.

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

January PLATE Income MTD is \$195,131 with one Sunday

Other Business

The Financial Board met with Padre on Tuesday and reviewed . The Budget was presented to The Vestry, a motion was raised to approve and the Vestry voted to approve the 2024 Budget.

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 December of \$1,064.04

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, 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 please compare December 2022 to 2023 below

					CROSSP	CROSS	CURRENT	YTD	MTD	YTD
					10:30	SCHOOLS	MONTH	2023	2022	2022
Dec-23	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM			6435	69,995	3886	34,609
3rd	110	97	235	187	467					
10th	113	89	258	152	495					
17th	95	46	150	105	382					
24th EVE	147	604	228	550	612	185	2,326			
31st	152	84	294	148	450					
Totals	617	920	1165	1142	2406	185				

					CROSSP	CROSS	CURRENT	YTD	MTD	YTD
					10:30	SCHOOLS	MONTH	2022	2021	2021
Dec-22	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM			5483	5,493	3886	3,886
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				

**To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 69,995 vs. 34,609 in 2022.
Praise God.**

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

IV MISSION OUTREACH BOARD: Linda Laird

Motion brought forward requesting to bring Debra Watkins onto the Mission Outreach Board. Motion approved by Vestry and seconded by Stew Brown, unanimously approved by Vestry.

V OTHER

A. NOMINEES FOR VESTRY (Fr. Owens)

Two names were submitted for Vestry membership. They are Wayne Bowerman and Lee Watkins, both godly men. After discussion by Vestry a motion was put forth. Both candidates were unanimously accepted to serve on Vestry. Their names will be announced at the Annual Gathering on February 13th,

B. STATUS OF PROJECT TO REMODEL SUNDAY SCHOOL SPACES, PROVIDE A CAFETERIA FOR USE BY CROSS SCHOOLS

Construction on the expansion and remodeling of Cross Schools will begin in April. It should be completed in time for the new school year.

C. THOUGHTS ON ANNUAL GATHERING ON FEBRUARY 13, 2024

The Annual Gathering is on Shrove Tuesday with our annual Pancake Dinner beginning at 5:30pm; followed by the Annual Gathering —‘Looking Back and Looking Ahead’ at 7:00pm. We look forward to a blessed turnout as TCOTC wraps up 2023 and sets the pace for 2024 with God’s help.

D. MEMBERSHIP

Vestry is welcoming two new members and as we do, Vestry says ‘Goodbye’ to Sallie Brach and Mill Simmons who have served the Lord faithfully. Vestry thanks you for your dedication, unselfish service and most of all for your love of the Lord, Jesus Christ, as you have served with

grace and wisdom. May you feel His presence as you walk through the new doors of opportunity in front of you as you step away from Vestry. Thank you again....Joanne

CONCLUSION

Joanne closed the meeting with prayer. The next Vestry meeting will be February 23, 2024 at 12:30pm in the Conference Room of the Chapel. Michael Simon has prayers and devotional. (Devotional Schedule: March—Linda; April--Craig; May -Tom; June—Stew)

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2024

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

PRESENT: Fr. Owens, Michael Simon, Stew Brown, Linda Laird, Craig Pelley, Wayne Bowerman, Lee Watkins and Joanne Byrd

ABSENT: Tom Durston

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Michael Simon

Michael opened our meeting with prayer and then read Genesis 1:1-4...*'darkness was over the the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God said, Let there be light there and the light was good.'* While visiting Germany over Christmas where their day light hours are very short, 9:30-4pm, Michael noticed the people did not smile and tended to be downcast as they dealt with economic issues, the darkness and perhaps Christmas Blues. He and Sonja then traveled to Norway to view the Northern Lights where the days are even shorter with daylight hours between 11am and 2:15pm. Here they found cheerful people, houses filled with light. The city had a glow about it; there was something very special. He compared it to Matt. 5:14-15 as being a 'city on a hill cannot be hidden' and 1 John:5 speaks of Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness. Ps 139:5 assures us 'even the darkness will not be dark to You; the night will shine like the day for darkness is as light to You.'

At TCOTC, the Christian Counseling Center has been a "Light in the Darkness" to many people filled with sadness giving hope. Other scriptures about Light, Goodness and Hope which come from God were found in John 1:6, 12:16; Ecclesiastes 2:14 and Revelation 21:23.

II MINUTES: Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes for January 26, 2024 were electronically distributed and were approved as written.

III FINANCIALS: Michael Simon

Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting February 2024

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 \$326,734.85 (vs. a budget of \$225,525)
Our total Revenue income for January was 385,948.85 vs a budget of 293,650.

Our total expenses in January were \$257,777 vs a budget of 315,213.33.

These total January 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 February funds that the Mission Board recommends for disbursement.

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of January \$320,402.32.
They have already commitments for February (funds which they allocate monthly) \$22,274.
The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting Grant Allocations for February for \$17,300 for a total distribution of \$39,574.

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 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 is \$186,589.07 against our PLATE budget of \$212,260 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 December of \$2,336.41

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 please compare December 2022 to 2023 below

2024								ATTENDANCE TOTAL			
								CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2024	MTD 2023	YTD 2023
JANUARY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	6384	6,384	2,451	2,451	
7th	143	69	237	189	643						
14th	117	57	256	140	560	700					
21st	117	57	256	140	560	450					
28th	152	83	303	144	561	450					
	529	266	1052	613	2324	1600					
								CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2024	MTD 2023	YTD 2023
FEBRUARY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	4729	11,113	5,956	12,817	
4th	126	75	203	160	535	400					
11th	144	79	252	177	531	700					
18th	155	86	277	167	662						
25th											
	425	240	732	504	1728	1100					

**To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 69,995 vs. 34,609 in 2022.
Praise God.**

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

OTHER:

A. THOUGHTS ON THE ANNUAL GATHERING on February 13, 2024

Vestry thought the Annual Gathering went very well. It was streamed by many.

B. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF CROSS SCHOOLS

Motion was made for the appointment of Rick Harrell, Daniel Thompson and Mitch Brach to the Board of Cross Schools. Motion was put forth and approved by Vestry.

C. STATUS OF PROJECT REMODEL OF SUNDAY SCHOOL SPACES /CROSS SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Work will begin on April 1, 2024 with completion in time for school to start.

D. STEW BROWN RESIGNATION FROM VESTRY

Stew will be resigning from Vestry on March 1, 2024 after many years of faithful service on Vestry and serving TCOTC. Vestry says goodbye to Stew with grateful hearts for all the Lord has called him to do. He and his dear wife, Judy, are moving to KC to be closer to family.

E. DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES —CONVENTION —MARCH 8-9, 2024

Delegates are Laura Strange and Mill Simmons. Newly elected Sr. Warden, Michael Simon and Jr. Warden, Craig Pelley will also attend Convention.

This is the last year the convention will be held at Cross School Campus.

F. CHURCH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP II —MARCH 16, 2024—CRAIG PELLE

Craig has organized presentation and will meet with new Vestry to bring them up to date.

G. ELECTION OF SENIOR WARDEN, JR. WARDEN, SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Congratulations to our new Vestry officers: Sr. Warden—Michael Simon,
Jr. Warden—Craig Pelley, Secretary—Linda Laird, Treasurer—Lee Watkins

H. PARKING AT HISTORIC CAMPUS.

Cars parking for all church services must be parked in official parking spaces or they will be subject to parking tickets from Bluffton Police Department. Announcements will be

made concerning this matter during services.

CONCLUSION

Michael closed our meeting in prayer Our next Vestry meeting will be on March 15, 2024 at 12:30pm in the Conference Room of The Chapel. Linda Laird will do prayer and devotion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES

MARCH 15, 2024

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

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

I PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Linda Laird

Prayer opened the meeting and the devotion focused on “Calling Out to God.” Linda introduced the book of Habakkuk to address the Question “Why does God let bad things happen?”

Habakkuk calls out to God and ask him why he does not save them. Linda shared examples of how her family had reacted to events that called them to ask God “WHY.” God responds to Habakkuk by telling him to look at the nations and watch and be utterly amazed. He also told Habakkuk to write down the revelations and make it plain to all. For the revelation waits an appointed time. God tells us to LOOK and WATCH. WAIT and BE PATIENT. Habakkuk had asked God why evil people prosper while the righteous suffer. God’s answer: they don’t, not in the long run. WAIT FOR IT. Habakkuk rejoiced in the Lord and was joyful in God his Savior. Linda shared her favorite go-to verses for difficult or low times in her life. They included: Jeremiah 29:11, Matthew 11:28-29, Psalm 23:4 and Deuteronomy 31:5-6. She closed with prayer and Romans 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

II HIGHLIGHTS OF CROSS SCHOOLS SENIORS MISSION TRIP: Pastor Nathan

Pastor Nathan provided each member of the Vestry with a copy of his daily journal from the mission trip to Costa Rica. The fifteen students were a little shy at first but were joyful and excited to be with the children. They were hosted by the SCORE International Missions. Leslie Albert prepared a wonderful program for the children. Our students were actors, performers, painters, encouragers, and deliverers of food. They accomplished a lot in a short time. One student asked to be baptized and Nathan made it happen. That moment will never be forgotten. Everyone thanked Nathan for his outstanding work with the Faith Formation at Cross School. He hopes to take every senior class on a mission trip.

III: MINUTES: Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes for February 23,2024 were electronically distributed and were approved as written.

IV FINANCE: Lee Watkins, Financial Overview for February 2024—March 15, 2024

Monthly Income was at \$324,832 to a budget of \$280,385—24% over expectations. Plate

Income for February was \$260,682.01 to a budget of \$212,260. Year to date (First two months) Plate Income stands at \$587,416.66 to a YTD Budget of \$437,785 for a positive variance of \$149,631.86 (Two months in, generous parishioners bless us!) Total Revenue for the year is \$710,780.86 to a budget of \$574,035.00. Additional income comes from grants, bequests, faith formation and the counseling center income. Total expenses for the month were at an actual of \$294,169.04 to a monthly budget of \$327,883.19. For a variance in our favor of \$33,714.15. YTD Expenses are at \$551,954.53 to a YTD budget of \$643,361.67. For a total under-budget variance of 91,416.14. Revenue continues to pace ahead of expectations while our expenses are below budget for these first two months of 2024. We are in a season of abundance but not complacency! Looking ahead to March—we are in a month with 5 Sundays, the last one being Easter. We should expect higher revenue. Plate Income for the first two Sundays in March stands at \$100,990.00. Lee explained that the Sweep accounts under CSB IntraFi ended February at 1,652,075.20, earned interest of \$3314.02 and were moved over to the Argent account. Streaming: The COTC Website continues to attract visitors with over 4400 page views. Returning viewers made up over five hundred of these, which shows two things; first, people are returning for information, and, secondly, our parishioners are utilizing the website for church news and information. Remember that not all people watching sermons come through TCOTC web page, some will view them on YouTube as well.

Attendance Review:

YTD 2024 In Person attendance numbers compared with the first two months of 2023.

For February, total attendance was 7175 compared to 2023 attendance of 5956.

YTD: In the first two months of 2024, total attendance is 13,559 compared to 2023 YTD of 12,817

Missions Budget Stands at the following:

Beginning Balance at the end of January was \$320,402.32.

God's Goods brought in \$80,146.89 in Feb 2024 (Thanks be to God!)

Grants and distributions approved in February total \$40,974.00. Total

Funds on Hand as of the end of Feb. was \$359,575.21.

While all are impressive results, I strive to always remember that the true results are in the lives changed and needs met by the hard work of our Rector, Priests, wonderful staff, and volunteers. Praise God for the increase, He is faithful and may we all serve him with gladness! For such a time as this!

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Watkins, Vestry Treasurer

Linda Laird reported that the Missions Board met on March 11 and are requesting the following funds be approved by the Vestry.

\$25,333	for monthly commitments
\$31,250	for one-time grants
\$56,583	Total grant requested.

- Total Set Aside \$25,333.00 (See Appendix A below). This amount includes three mission trip funding requests. One request is from Drew Hamilton in the amount of \$1,600 for a mission trip to S. Korea. The next request is in the amount of \$550 from Emily Cook for a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. The final request is in the amount of \$1,650 from the Pratt family for a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. The amount also includes grant renewal for Harvesters International Ministries in the amount of \$3000 for 12 months and an additional - \$2,100 in six installments, (6x\$350) ending in August.
- Total One Time Funding \$31,250
 - a. Anderson Sanchez, Peru, for repairs to the school's roof. \$8250.00
 - b. Christian Orphan Health, supplies for VBS in Eastern Europe. \$7000.00
 - c. AFM- \$20,000 in two installments (2x10,000), \$10,000 in March and \$10,000 in April to use for their three main funds.
- d. Amboseli Project Kenya- \$6,000 for school fees, boarding and day student for one year and school feeding program relief in the amount of \$2,000.

The Financial Board met and reviewed the requests on March 12, filed and approved a motion to recommend the Vestry approve the Requests.

Lee made a motion to approve, Joanne seconded, and all approved the motion.

V OTHER:

- a. Thoughts on the Diocesan Convention (Michael and Craig)
Craig noted that the convention was organized and well received. There were great discussions about the new camp. Michael shared the characteristics of the new logo. There was also a discussion about the parishes who lost their properties and are moving forward in new locations.

b. Staff Changes (present and near future)

Michael-Anne Land is stepping down from the Childrens' Ministry as of June 1, 2024. She will continue with the American Heritage Girls and start a Ranger group for the boys.

We will be hiring a Curate, a new leader for the Childrens' Ministry and a second youth minister.

We are also searching for an Administrative Assistant.

c. The Status of the project to remodel the Sunday School spaces to provide a cafeteria for us by the Cross Schools is on tract. However, 2024 Vacation Bible School has been canceled due to construction.

d. The Church Leadership Workshop II on March 16 is ready to go. We discussed the purpose for the training and the importance of having leaders in the future.

e. Joanne shared that coffee will be served at the chapel on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

VI CLOSING PRAYERS: Linda

Next Meeting -April 19,2014-12:30 -- Conference in the Chapel -- Craig has the devotional and prayers.

[2024 Meeting/Devotional schedule: April 19 -- Craig; May 17 -- Tom; June 21 -- Wayne; July 19 -- Lee; August 16 -- Joanne; September 20 -- Michael; October 18 -- Linda; November 15- Craig; December 13 -- Tom

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Laird

Appendix A	
Mission Trip Reserve	\$3,800.00
Anderson Sanchez Peru - End June 2024	\$2,100.00
Bluffton Soup Kitchen - End January 2025	\$833.00
Campus Outreach Ministry, Hoffman- End November 2024	\$500.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2025	\$3,000.00
Cross Christian Counseling Center - End December 2024	\$300.00
COTC Faith Formation - End May 31 2024	\$1,250.00
CS CrossSchool Monthly - End May 21 2025	\$2,500.00
DGL - Young Life - Olena - End June 2024	
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - \$3,000/month End March 2025; \$350/month end August 2024.	\$3,350.00
HELP Madagascar - End Dec 2024; \$2100/month starting January 2024	\$2,100.00
Hope Compassion Center - End June 2024	\$600.00
Saint Simons Anglican Mission (Josh Lake) - End Aug 2024	\$2,000.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2025	\$1,500.00
UCCD Burundi - End Dec 2025	\$1,500.00
Total for March 2024	\$25,333.00

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES

May 17, 2024

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

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

I: PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Craig Pelley

Craig shared his spiritual journey in service to God from childhood with his parent to today. In sharing, he challenged us to ask ourselves “What is the purpose of my life?” He felt his purposes had changed every 2 years and he knew God was leading him in different ministries. He is serving in Alpha this summer and he is excited to be part of this program. He ended with prayer and the words of the song “Be Humble and Kind.”

II MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes for March 2024 were electronically distributed and were approved as written. The Vestry did not meet in April.

III: FINANCE: Lee Watkins, Treasurer’s Report for Month Ending April 30, 2024:

Revenue Discussions: Revenue continues above budgeted numbers.

Regular monthly Income was at \$358,857.37 to a budget of \$295,860.00.

Plate Income for April was \$250,714.37 to a budget of \$227,735.00. Year

To Date Plate stands at: 1,106,458.09 to a budget of \$902,100.00.

For a YTD positive variance of \$204,358.09.

Total Revenue for the year is \$1,421,071.20 to a budget of \$1,174,600.00.

Also, two months in a row, Cross Counseling revenue was over budgeted revenue for April, \$12,310.00 to a monthly budget of \$10,958.33. Great news!

Plate Income was expectedly lower in April than the previous Month of March because of Holy week and 5 Sundays in the month—but still, over budget.

March Plate: \$268,326.86 vs. April Plate: \$250,714.37

MTD Plate for May (first two weeks): \$98,787.20

MTD Plate Budget for May: \$104,412.80

Expenses Discussion: Expenses continue to be within expectations. Total expenses for the month were \$299,416.85 to a monthly budget of \$301,277.99. YTD Expenses are at

\$1,137,389.57 to a YTD budget of \$1,251,621.33. Expense variances of note were the charges for the HC Lighting and HC natural gas connection fee.

Church Attendance—March and April comparisons:

March 2024 was the “big” month at 5 Sundays and the final week being Holy Week/Easter. April 2024 had 4 Sundays. In 2023, the month of April had 5 Sundays and Easter. YTD attendance through the end of April is 2586, ahead of 2023.

APRIL	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOL	CURREN	YTD	MTD	YTD 2023
							T MONTH	2024	2023	
							5,553	29,160	8124	26,574
7th	156	90	256	159	549	400				
14th	112	90	231	151	433	700				
21st	131	89	226	154	489					
28th	133	92	244	176	492					
Totals	532	361	957	640	1963	1100				

Streaming and Online: Average Online live viewing of Crosspoint/9am Chapel is at 133. This is viewing through Facebook and the COTC website. Additionally, later viewing on YouTube is not accounted for. Visits to the COTC website continue averaging 450-475 per day.

Linda shared the request from the Mission Outreach Board for May Disbursements

Disbursement Report Finance Board and Vestry Summary

Net Working Capital: \$79,669.84 May

Set Aside Distributions: \$21,533.00 (See Appendix A)

May Grant Approvals: \$59,910.47

Total May Distributions if Approved: \$81,443.47

Remaining Net Working Capital: \$ -1,773.63

May funding approved by the Missions Outreach Board:

1. Christian Orphan Health International: \$7,000 for VBS Camps in Romania and Ukraine
2. Y’All KANDU, TN: \$4,000 for Back-to-School night and Welcome Bags for Foster Children
3. Pine Valley Camp: Requests \$15,200
4. TARIRIO, Zimbabwe: Request \$4000 for four student laptops
5. HEAL Ministries: Request \$5,000 toward an office building for the teachers
6. CMSI, St. Luke’s Ibba, Sudan: \$8,000 toward the construction of a new church
7. St. Luke’s Preschool Scholarship Fund: \$5,000 toward the St. Luke’s Preschool Scholarship Fund

8. Missionary Expenses – \$182.47 toward reimbursement for hosting SAMS Mexico missionaries in March and Indian Ministries of North America missionaries in April.

Post Missions Outreach Board Meeting, on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, the Missions Board received an urgent request from an organization that we have been supporting in Mongolia, Youth With a Mission. Through electronic vote, the Board approved the request from Mongolia. Additionally, Harvesters International Missions advised that they had not received the funding for a request that was already approved by the Board in April. These disbursements are described as follows:

1. Youth With A Mission, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia: \$6,528 USD to assist with plumbing repairs due to a failed system which requires replacement.

2. Harvesters International Ministries, Rwanda: \$5,000 to assist with a counseling program to assist those still healing from the genocide as well as to support medical care for the uninsured.

Missions Budget Stands at the following (Updated with Emergency Requests):

On Hand funds:

Beginning Balance at the end of March was \$352,718.12.

Grants for April 2024 were: - \$80,333.00.

God's Goods brought in \$75,884.72 in April 2024 (another big month!)

Total Funds on Hand as of the end of April: \$348,269.84

The Missions Board met yesterday May 13 for their monthly meeting:

\$21,533 for monthly commitments (Set Aside Distributions)

\$59,910.47.00 for one-time grants (including \$11,528 emergency requests made on May 14)

Total grant distribution requests are \$81,433.47*

*The Finance Board asked that the Vestry get more information on the \$5000 grant proposal for St Luke's Preschool and hold the request until next month per review.

Michael led the discussions on providing these requests. All agreed.

Respectfully Submitted, Lee Watkins, Vestry Treasurer

V: OTHER:

a. Historic Campus garage repurposing and renovation

Our Handy Ministry members, under the direction of Roger Abney, will be repurposing and renovating the garage behind the Counseling Center. It will become a one bedroom apartment for our new Curate, Bennett Ellison. We are providing his apartment as part of his salary.

b. The Deacon and the Curate

Dave Fisher, our current Chaplain, will be ordained as Deacon on June 28, 2024. Bennett Ellison will be ordained as a Deacon and will report to work on July 1, 2024. He comes to us from Asbury Theological Seminary.

c. Status of the Chapel Columbarium project

Permits for construction on the columbarium project have been obtained and the project may be completed by December.

d. Status of Jasper County Campus project

Father Chuck shared the drawings of the proposed project. It follows the same plan as Cross School but on a smaller scale. There will be twenty identical classrooms so that flexibility in grade placement and activities can be achieved. There are large inner rooms for indoor activities when it rains. There is also a Worship Center/gym that can accommodate 450 people. The kitchen and nursing care are on the sides of the Worship Center. We are excited to begin this project, but it will not happen quickly. Permitting and approvals are slow to come.

e. Construction details at Cross School

Father Chuck reviewed construction progress at the school. The current nursery will become a classroom for autistic students from Monday through Friday and a nursery during church services. There will be three additional classrooms and an office created on the second floor.

*Wayne shared that a cross country track may be ready by fall.

V: CLOSING PRAYERS: Craig

Next Meeting -June 21, 2014-12:30 – Conference room in the Chapel –

Wayne has the devotional and prayers.

2024 Meeting/Devotional schedule: April 19 - Craig; May 17 - Tom; June 21 -

Wayne, July 19 -Lee; August 16 - Joanne; September 20 - Michael,

October 18 - Linda; November 15- Craig; December 13 - Tom

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Laird

Appendex A	
Mission Trip Reserve	\$0.00
Anderson Sanchez Peru - End June 2024	\$2,100.00
Bluffton Soup Kitchen - End January 2025	\$833.00
Campus Outreach Ministry, Hoffman- End November 2024	\$500.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2025	\$3,000.00
Cross Christian Counseling Center - End December 2024	\$300.00
COTC Faith Formation - End May 31 2024	\$1,250.00
CS CrossSchool Monthly - End May 21 2025	\$2,500.00
DGL - Young Life - Olena - End June 2024	
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - \$3,000/month End March 2025; \$350/month end August 2024.	\$3,350.00
HELP Madagascar - End Dec 2024; \$2100/month starting January 2024	\$2,100.00
Hope Compassion Center - End June 2024	\$600.00
Saint Simons Anglican Mission (Josh Lake) - End Aug 2024	\$2,000.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2025	\$1,500.00
UCCD Burundi - End Dec 2025	\$1,500.00
Total for March 2024	\$25,333.00

THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES

June 21, 2024

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

PRESENT: Fr. Owens, Michael Simon, Linda Laird, Lee Watkins, Wayne Bowerman, and Tom Durston.

ABSENT: Joanne Byrd and Craig Pelley

I: PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Tom Durston

Tom's devotional was from Max Lucado's Grace for the Moment. Tom is part of the Rooted classes on Wednesday night, and he is excited about his experiences thus far. Today's scriptures focused on spiritual warfare, our society and how we keep our faith strong through tough times. If God is for us, who can be against us? Amen

II MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes for May 2024 were electronically distributed and corrected. Michael made the motion to approve the minutes, Wayne seconded the motion and all approved.

III: FINANCE: Lee Watkins Treasurer's Report for Month Ending May 31, 2024:

Revenue Discussions: Monthly revenue continues to be slightly above budgeted numbers.

Regular monthly Income was at \$338,402.59 to a budget of \$269,325.00.

Plate Income for May was \$235,586.62 to a budget of \$201,200.00.

Year To Date Plate stands at: 1,342,044.71 to a budget of 1,103,300.00.

Total Revenue for the year is \$1,759,473.79 to a budget of \$1,443,925.00.

April Plate: \$250,714.37 vs. May Plate: \$235,586.62

MTD Plate for June (3 out of 5 Sundays): \$145,716.67

MTD Plate Budget for June: \$181,300.00

The tax refund (exemption) was received for the Argent property on the property taxes paid in March 2024. The total was 15,255.90.

Counseling Center revenue continues to be at budget for three months running.

God's Goods and staff continued their tremendous work with \$69,570.10 being added to the mission's budget. The current Missions Reserve Fund sits at \$348,269.84.

Expenses Discussion: Expenses continue to be within expectations.

Total expenses for the month were slightly down from April for an actual of \$291,940.71 to a monthly budget of \$305,677.99. Under budget by \$13,737.28

YTD Expenses are at \$1,429,330.28 to a YTD budget of \$1,557,229.32.

Expense variances of note were the charges for the HVAC repair to the counseling center \$1880 and expenses will continue to come in for the Apartment re-model at #3 Allen Street—which according to Roger is ahead of schedule and will be done by the deadline of July 1 (although he might not appreciate me quoting him on this)

Revenue (income) continues to pace ahead of expectations while our expenses are on track as we approach mid-year.

Church Attendance—April and May comparatives:

May 2024 attendance increased over May 2023 by 351 attendees. April '24 to May '24 increase was 56 attendees. Attendance for the first session of Rooted (May 29) was 280. Cross School Graduation attendance was 250.

					CROSS P	CROSS	CURRENT	YTD	MTD	
					10:30	SCHOOL	MONTH	2024	2023	YTD 2023
MAY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM			5,609	34,539	5,258	31,832
5th	105	70	233	157	546	400				
12th	99	92	230	184	485	400				
19th	139	83	238	157	494	400				
26th	99	84	310	154	450					
Totals	442	329	1011	652	1975	1200				

Streaming and Online:

Average Online live viewing of Crosspoint/9am Chapel is at 133. This is viewing through Facebook and the COTC website.

We are now receiving data from YouTube—May average Sunday viewing of the Chapel service is 147 views.

Visits to the COTC website continue averaging 400-465 per day.

As we enter summer and our halfway point for 2024, the Church of the Cross continues to grow and be blessed. May we always strive to return that blessing to our Lord and Redeemer!

Respectfully Submitted

Lee Watkins, Vestry Treasurer

Linda shared the request from the Mission Outreach Board for June Disbursements.

Net Working Capital:	\$94,829.47
June Set Aside Distributions:	\$24,533.00 (See Appendix A)
June Grant Approvals:	\$64,800.00
Total June Distributions If Approved	\$89,333.00
Remaining New Working Capital:	\$ 5,496.47

June Funding approved by the Missions Outreach Board:

1. Cross Faith Formation Application: \$15,000 approved for one year payable at \$1,250/monthly for 12 months (new end date of 5/31/2025 added to set aside list)
2. SAMS Mexico: Funding request approved for \$4,700 to replenish funds due to unexpected benevolence costs and travel expenses.
3. Diocese of Marsabit: Funding request approved for \$5,000 which is a matching gift through ARDF to provide for a multi-purpose hall and kitchen in the complex of the St. Andrews Boys High School
4. Olamayiana Village, Amboseli, Kenya: \$9,500 approved to start Phase One of the Christian School Building Project
5. Anthony Pelloni, SAMS Cambodia: Grant Renewal approved for \$12,000 which is applied toward the ongoing expenses to serve in Cambodia.
6. Harvesters International Ministries: \$13,600 approved as follows: \$5,600 to replace the metal roof and complete the exterior brick for the church at Remera Rwanda and \$8,000 toward the completion of 4 classrooms at the Free Life Christian Academy which serves the orphans of the Free Life Children's Home in the DR Congo
7. Anglican Diocese of South Carolina: Approved \$20,000 toward the Camp Jubilee Property Acquisition campaign.

Michael made a motion to approve the disbursements, Tom seconded and all agreed.

IV: OTHER:

- a. Historic Campus garage repurposing/renovation: The renovation is close to complete and should be ready for occupancy by July 1.
- b. Lisa Wilson is joining us as Administrative Associate. Lisa worked at God's Goods and the Island Packet. She will start work next week.
- c. Cross Schools activities: Wayne described what we can expect on the back 40. Progress is very slow. Scott Thomas is chair for campus development and busy with permits and deadlines. We wait, wait, and wait some more. We can look forward to seeing a cross country trail, concessions, baseball, and football fields, etc. Next year start times will be different for elementary and high school students due to difficulties with campus traffic. The renovation in the middle school is underway, increasing the number of classrooms and offices. The nurse remains on the ground floor but has moved from the pre-school side of Phase 1 to the K-1st side of Phase 1. The addition of a cafeteria, Church offices and classrooms is one project. The alleged donation will be applied to the total project. Wayne will be taking us on a tour of the school after the

meeting. Fr. Owens mentioned that we hope to have a classroom for students with autism. Wayne provided a tour of the area after our meeting.

d. Camp Jubilee: Bishop Edgar has shared his Camp Jubilee Property Acquisition campaign and challenged the diocese to support the fund raising efforts to purchase land for Camp Jubilee. He has asked TCOTC to donate \$100,000.00 in two years. The land is seventy acres, and 50 acres are buildable. After discussion the board suggested to send \$30,000 with the \$20,000 from the Mission Board this year and send \$50,000 next year.

Michael made a motion to send \$30,000 this year and \$50,000 next year. Tom seconded the motion and all agreed.

e. Preschool on Argent: Father Owens described the schematic building plan for Argent East. It will look like Cross Schools on a smaller scale. The facilities will be sufficient and flexible in use for both preschool and worship.

f. Wayne described the area of the playground near Shell Hall that is completed and being thoroughly enjoyed by our little tykes. This upgrade was made possible by a \$70,000.00 donation from the family of one of our young students whose father was killed in an unfortunate accident. The bench on the playground bears the father's name.

g. Michael recently connected with Millard, Stew and Sally to catch up on their lives after Vestry. He also gave them a beautiful glass cross as a thank you for their service. He shared Judy's latest report and asked us to pray for them both during Judy's recovery.

h. Request from St. Lukes Preschool director After revisiting the details of the request, the Vestry voted to approve the request.

V: CLOSING PRAYERS: Tom closed us in prayer from Streams in the Desert. Next Meeting - August 16, 2024 -12:30 Conference room in the chapel – Lee has devotion and prayers.

2024 Meeting/Devotional schedule: – September 20 – Joanne;

October 18 -Michael; November 15- Linda; December 13 – Craig

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Laird

Appendix A	
Mission Trip Reserve	\$0.00
Anderson Sanchez Peru - End June 2024	\$2,100.00
Bluffton Soup Kitchen - End January 2025	\$833.00
Campus Outreach Ministry, Hoffman- End November 2024	\$500.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2025	\$3,000.00
Cross Christian Counseling Center - End December 2024	\$300.00
COTC Faith Formation - End May 31, 2024,	\$1,250.00
Cross School Monthly - End May 21, 2025,	\$2,500.00
DGL - Young Life - Olena - End June 2024	\$3,000.00
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - \$3,000/month End March 2025; \$350/month end August 2024.	\$3,350.00
HELP Madagascar - End Dec 2024; \$2100/month starting January 2024	\$2,100.00
Hope Compassion Center - End June 2024	\$600.00
Saint Simons Anglican Mission (Josh Lake) - End Aug 2024	\$2,000.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2025	\$1,500.00
UCCD Burundi - End Dec 2025	\$1,500.00
Total Set Asides Disbursed June 2024	\$24,533.00

The Church of the Cross Vestry Minutes August 16, 2024

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

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

ABSENT: Wayne Bowerman

I: PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Lee Watkins

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

II: GUEST SPEAKERS: Rev. Nathan Weaver:

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

III: MINUTES: Linda Laird

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

IV: FINANCE: Lee Watkins

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

Revenue Discussions: Monthly revenue finished over budget.

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

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

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

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

MTD Plate for August: \$ 100,340.56

MTD Plate Budget for August: \$ 241,000.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revenue and expenses continue a similar monthly trend.

Church Attendance for July:

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

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

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

Streaming and Online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

August Set Aside funding updates and new approvals

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

across three mission churches.

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

August One Time funding approved by the Missions Outreach Board

1. **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA):** \$10,000 approved to fund the cost of the FCA program at Cross Schools.

2. **Cross Schools Senior Mission Trip 2025** - \$21,000 was approved to support this trip, one payment will be made in November and one in December. *The Mission Trip Reserve Fund will be used, and the remaining funds will be taken from the general Mission Board fund. The payment schedule will be worked out with Regine. No payments this month.*

Appendix A - August Set Aside Commitments

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

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

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

V: OTHER:

1. Diocesan 2023 Statistics:

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

2. Staff additions/organization:

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

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

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

4. Thoughts from Linda on recent God moments:

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

VI: CLOSING PRAYER – Lee

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Laird

The Church of the Cross Vestry Minutes September 20, 2024

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

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

ABSENT:

I: PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Joanne Byrd

Joanne opened our meeting in prayer. She prayed that God's will would be done in our work today. Joanne shared her experience of traveling to Israel with a group from TCOTC. She also shared a new video series by David Stotts called, A Drive Thru History. She focused on the videos on the life of Jesus. She emphasized the beauty and accuracy of the videos, and she recommended them to us. It brought back memories for all of us who had visited Israel.

II: MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes for August 2024 were electronically distributed and approved by all.

III: FINANCE: Lee Watkins: **Treasurer's Report for Month Ending August 31, 2024:**

Revenue Discussions: Monthly revenue finished over budget:

August total monthly Income was at \$342,147.38 to a budget of \$309,125.00.

Plate Income for August was \$281,730.92 to a budget of \$241,000.00.

Year To Date Plate stands at \$2,112,046.31 to a budget of 1,733,435.00.

Total Income for the year is at \$2,766,813.65 to a budget of \$2,278,435.00.

Just a reminder: Total income is plate income, grants/bequests, faith formation, missions, and counseling center income.

MTD Plate for three of five Sundays in September: \$146,918.70

MTD Plate Budget for September: \$ 216,880.00

Total Funds in the CSB, Money Market and Intra Fi accounts stand at \$1,956,631.31. Interest from the Intra Fi Account was \$4377.16.

(God's Goods revenue for August was \$70,118.70 (Compared to July of \$67,697.90) and has been added to the mission budget. The current Mission Reserve Fund sits at \$388,116.19.

Expenses Discussion: Monthly expenses were lower than July (\$290,044.81) and under budget for August:

Total expenses for the month were \$255,576.74 to a monthly budget of \$304,577.65. Under budget by \$49,000.91

YTD Expenses are at \$2,341,540.54 to a YTD budget of \$2,468,707.61—thru August, YTD expenses are under budget by a total of \$127,167.07.

Expenses will certainly increase as we head into the “busy” season, but we are in position to finish the year along the current trend in both income and expenses.

Church Attendance for August:

Year to Date attendance and monthly attendance continue to grow. Cross School Chapel has also returned for the new school year. Comparing attendance by service from August 2023—The am Chapel Service had a year over year increase of 100. River Baptism (Sun. Aug 18) attendance was 350.

							CURRENT MONTH YTD 2023	YTD 2024	MTD 2023	
	AUG	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS L SCHOO	5,925 50,096	4901	45,921
	4	126	89	182	140	470	150			
	11	125	63	176	154	499	700			
	18	129	70	217	154	524	450			
	25	116	84	262	167	428	450			
	Totals	496	306	837	615	1921	1750			

Streaming and Online:

The COTC Website views/visits average increased to 437 views per day, with the start of school and folks’ summer schedules ending website usage is once again increasing.

Total YouTube viewers for August were 1136.

May we continue, collectively and individually, to be a bright light to our community and devout in our holy service!

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

Linda shared September Disbursements requested by the Mission Outreach Board.
Missions Outreach Board Meeting - September 2024 Disbursement Report

Net Working Capital:	\$87,016.19
September Set Aside Distributions:	\$20,583.00 (See Appendix A)
September Grant Approvals:	\$51,000.00
Total September Distributions if Approved:	\$71,583.00
Remaining Net Working Capital:	\$15,433.19

September 2024 Funding Requests

- a. Rev. Zach Slagel - **\$6,000** to support full time mission work through Ministry Essentials International in Albania
- b. Olomayiana Village - **\$12,000** to support Phase 2 of the building project to construct Olomayiana Christian Academy
- c. Diocese of Matana, Burundi - **\$5,000** as a mercy gift to support Bishop Seth in his ministry

- d. Ed Grecco - **\$1,000** to support his mission trip to Cape Town, South Africa with Extreme Response International. **Note: This gift will be deducted from the Mission Trip Reserve, and it has been accounted for in the September Set Asides.**
- e. Bunia Children's Home, DR Congo: **\$10,000** in support of ministry needs: completion of a painting project, gift towards a new well, staff support and healthcare needs.
- f. Cross Schools - **\$13,500** toward six scholarship tuitions due to an unexpected deficit created by the new SC Supreme Court ruling that the previously approved "Education Scholarship Trust Fund" was unconstitutional.
- g. UCCD, Burundi - **\$4,500** to support a 3 day conference in November 2024 for all Anglican Pastors in Burundi.

September 2024 Set Aside Disbursements

Mission Trip Reserve	\$1,000.00 (If Approved)
Anderson Sanchez Peru - End June 2025	\$2,250.00
Bluffton Soup Kitchen - End January 2025	\$833.00
Campus Outreach Ministry, Hoffman- End November 2024	\$500.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2025	\$3,000.00
Cross Christian Counseling Center - End December 2024	\$300.00
COTC Faith Formation - End May 31 2025	\$1,250.00
CS Cross School Monthly - End May 21 2025	\$2,500.00
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - End March 2025	\$3,350.00
HELP Madagascar - End Dec 2024; \$2100/month starting January 2024	\$2,100.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2025	\$1,500.00
UCCD Burundi - End Dec 2025	\$1,500.00
Young Life New Gen Program - End July 2025	\$500.00

Total September Set Aside

\$20,583.00

Respectfully Submitted

Barbara Scott

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

IV: OTHER:

- a. **Review of the 9/3/24 Leadership Gathering and the 2025 Budgeting Process:**

Fr Owens lead us through the agenda presented at the Leadership Gathering. All were reminded that we are servants and are not to be served. The one who serves is more important. We serve the Lord and intensify our relationship with Him. At present, there are 40 staff leaders serving TCOTC, but our congregation is growing every year by an average of 300 families. Our need for more staff and more space will continue to be addressed. For now, all Staff will be responsible for identifying their ministry goals and expectations. Fr Owens shared the details of the Columbarium to be built at the Cross Point Campus. It will be a beautiful sanctuary with a live oak tree foundation, surrounded by fountains, seating areas, and an array of beautiful plants and flowers. All permits have been approved. Construction will take 60-90 days to complete. He also shared that there are many things planned for our area. There will be large developments springing up at the 195 and 278 intersections, both commercial and residential. Growth is moving in all directions. Residential housing will be developed off 170. Our development of the Argent campus could be especially important at this time. All permits have been approved and construction could start in the first quarter of 2025.

- b. 2025 Budgeting Process:** As our congregation grows, we need more details from ministries seeking funding. Scheduling events becomes more difficult with more members but no added space. Rebecca and Nathan will receive these requests and compile a funding request. Regine will collaborate with them and collate program requests with salary information and 2025 income projections. In December, the Finance Committee meets to approve the proposed budget and sends it to the Vestry for approval.
- c. Bishop Edgar's Visit:** The bishop will be coming to TCOTC on October 13. He will be preaching at the Chapel on the Buckwalter campus at 9 o'clock.
- d. Chapters 4-6 of The Rector and The Vestry and Part 2 of the ADOSC Vestry Handbook:** The Vestry continued their study and discussion of the responsibilities of the Rector, the Wardens and the Vestry. All took part and clarifications were made. Conversations will continue next month.
- e. Other Comments:** Wayne Bowerman shared that Cross Schools' renovations are almost completed. The cross country area will be ready for action soon. Craig Pelly shared a praise from Leah McCarthy for the Counseling Center.

VI: CLOSING PRAYER - Joanne

Next Meeting – October 18, 2024 -12:30 – Chapel Conference Room.

Michael has devotion and prayers.

2024 Meeting/Devotional schedule:

November 15- Linda; December 13 – Craig



Respectfully Submitted,

Senior Warden

Linda Laird

The Church of the Cross Vestry Minutes October 18, 2024

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

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

ABSENT:

I: PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Michael Simon

Michael shared that the roots in the parish go very deep. He read a poem written by Lisa Riddle about the crosses that were hand carved from the wood taken from the back of the pews, treasures of the past. The teachings of Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Life were also discussed. In following God's purpose for us, we are living to be his servants.

II. GUEST SPEAKERS: Elisabeth Markle and Dave Fisher: Pastoral Care Ministries and Chaplain

Elisabeth and Dave blessed us with their current workings of the Pastoral Care Ministry and the Chaplain ministry. They are a well connected team that covers many ministries. Elisabeth leads Care ministries that include the Caregiver Group, Dinner Delivery, Financial Counseling, HAL Grief Support, Intercessory Prayer, Military Care, Prayer Shawls, Stephen Ministry, Visits and Home Communion. Dave serves in Preaching, Teaching, End-Life visits, calls, prayers, care ministries and Funerals and End of Life Planning. They are developing materials and connections on TCOTC APP to educate our Parrish.

III: MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry Minutes for September 19, 2024, were electronically distributed. Michael made the motion to approve and all approved.

IV: FINANCE: Lee Watkins:

Treasurer's Report for Month Ending September 30, 2024:

Revenue Discussions: Monthly income finished over budget:
September total monthly Income was at \$330,236.33 to a budget of \$284,805.00.
Plate Income for September was \$235,500.23 to a budget of \$216,680.00.

A Reminder: The Historic Campus was closed for one weekend, impacting three services.

Year To Date Plate stands at \$2,347,546.54 to a budget of \$1,950,115.00.
 Plate income variance is +\$397,431.54.
 Total Income for the year is at \$3,097,049.98 to a budget of \$2,563,240.00.
 MTD Plate for October: \$ 104,236.50
 MTD Plate Budget for October: \$ 207,835.00

Total Funds in the CSB, Money Market and Intra Fi accounts stand at \$1,956,631.31. Interest from the IntraFi Account was \$4368.74 (moved to the Argent Account along with \$265,000).

(God’s Goods revenue for September was \$53,086.83 (Compared to August of \$70,118.70) and has been added to the mission’s budget. The current Missions Reserve Fund sits at \$369,620.02.

Expenses Discussion: Monthly expenses were higher than August (\$255,576.74)

Total expenses for the month were \$559,644.73 to a monthly budget of \$303,302.65. Over budget by \$256,342.08

The largest variance is from designating funds and moving \$265,000 to the Jasper County/Argent account.

There were some other variances as well, of note:

Missions Funding was over budget by \$29,916.33.

Cross School Scholarships expense of \$8868.00 was budgeted yearly but not monthly.

If we were to deduct the one-time expense of the transfer to the Jasper fund, then MTD expenses would be \$294,644.73—within budget.

YTD Expenses are at \$2,901,185.27 to a YTD budget of \$2,772,010.26—thru September--YTD expenses are still under budget by a total of \$129,175.01.

Church Attendance for September:

Attendance in September was impacted by a widespread power outage that meant services for Saturday and Sunday Sept. 29th were not held at the Historic Campus. This impacted overall attendance by approximately four hundred.

SEPT	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOL	CURRENT MONTH 2023	Y T D 2024	MTD 2023	YTD
1	127	82	202	174	452	450	6,843	56,939	5626	51,547
8	107	80	207	178	479	650				
15	113	79	184	151	428	450				
22	130	84	202	169	529	450				
29	0	0	0	193	493					
Totals	477	325	795	865	2381	2000				

Average Attendance Comparisons for September:

Gracetime: 119 (same as 9/23)

Historic 8AM: 81 (79 in 9/23)

Historic 10AM: 199 (210 in 9/23)

Chapel 9AM: 173 (128 in 9/23)

Crosspoint: 476 (same as 9/23)

Streaming and Online:

The COTC Website views/visits average was down to approximately 389 views per day. With most of the area losing internet service for several days due to the storm, the numbers are lower.

Total YouTube viewers for September were 1688 compared to 1136 for August. Some of the increase relates to the additional teaching during the week.

Lord,

Keep us in continual godliness, that we may devoutly serve you and be a light to this world!

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

Fr. Owens made the motion to approve the financial report. Michael seconded and all approved.

Linda shared October Disbursements requested by the Mission Outreach Board.

Missions Outreach Board Meeting - October 2024 Disbursement Report

Net Working Capital:	\$55,000.00
October Set Aside Distributions:	\$24,233.00 (See Appendix A)
October Grant Approvals:	\$29,853.00
Total October Distributions if Approved:	\$54,086.00
Remaining Net Working Capital:	\$914.00

October 2024 Funding Requests

1. Funding Requests
 - a. ARDF Disaster Relief - **\$10,000** (previously approved by electronic vote for Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief)
 - b. Kibera Pride Initiative - **\$5,000** (previously approved by electronic vote for repairs due to the orphanage fire)
 - c. Harvesters International Ministries - **\$8853** was approved for the orphan's Christmas celebrations across two orphanages.
 - d. Samaritan's Purse - U.S. Hurricane Helene/Milton Relief - **\$6,000** was approved.
 - e. Cross Schools, Operation Christmas Child, Trip to NC in December - **\$4,650** was approved and will be applied to the Mission Trip Reserve

Note: Due to the decreased September income from God's Goods, which created a negative Profit/Loss ratio for September, the Missions Outreach Board voted to work the decreased Net Working Capital amount of \$55,000 vs. the actual Net Working Capital amount of \$73,520.02. The working net capital amount will be re-evaluated next month.

October 2024 Set Aside Disbursements

Mission Trip Reserve	\$4650.00
Anderson Sanchez Peru - End June 2025	\$2,250.00
Bluffton Soup Kitchen - End January 2025	\$833.00
Campus Outreach Ministry, Hoffman- End November 2024	\$500.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2025	\$3,000.00
Cross Christian Counseling Center - End December 2024	\$300.00
COTC Faith Formation - End May 31 2025	\$1,250.00
CS Cross School Monthly - End May 21 2025	\$2,500.00
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - End March 2025	\$3,350.00
HELP Madagascar - End Dec 2024; \$2100/month starting January 2024	\$2,100.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2025	\$1,500.00
UCCD Burundi - End Dec 2025	\$1,500.00
Young Life New Gen Program - End July 2025	\$500.00

Total October Set Asides **\$24,233.00**

Respectfully Submitted
Barbara Scott

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

V: OTHER:

- a. **Update on Cross Schools: Wayne Bowerman**
 Cafeteria project: Work is currently on hold due to financial uncertainties. Enrollment is noticeably less than predicted. A motion is expected to be presented by the next B.O.T. meeting on October 22, whether to advance or not.
 Amended Development permit pending. Permit needed updating due to value engineering changes. For cafeteria project to be completed by start of '25/'26 school year, groundbreaking needs to occur by third week of November 2024.
 Cross Country trail: The Board is waiting for final approval from the Town. The Board will not initiate trail construction, even with permit in hand, until it has a clear understanding of land ownership and insurance recommendations and requirements. The access road was initiated by a parent volunteer in August.
 The trail was fully marked in August, required additional town inspection, and has had initial inspection/approval from the town, waiting for final approval. This is due to the last-minute storm water/development issue.

Joe has secured a donor with a not-to-exceed donation that should cover the work. Two contractors bid on the trail work. Winning bidder is ready to begin once we have town approval.

Phase 4 (Middle School) second floor renovation is completed!

The “Back 40” Master Plan Amendment needs to be approved before any progress will be made. This has been a slow process. This may be a blessing in disguise; we need to obtain a clearer financial picture.

- b. Vestry Leadership Session Readiness:** The Leadership training will be on Saturday, October 26. All members of the Vestry are prepared and excited to meet the new team.
- c. Chapters 7-9 of The Rector and The Vestry and Part 3 of the ADOSC Vestry Handbook:** The Vestry continued their study and discussion of the responsibilities of the Rector, the Wardens, and the Vestry. All took part in sharing what spoke to them or interested them. Fr. Owens made clarifications as needed. Conversations and study will continue next month.

VI: CLOSING PRAYER - Michael

Next Meeting – November 15, 2024 -12:30 – Chapel Conference Room.

Linda has devotion and prayers.

**2024 Meeting/Devotional schedule: December 13 – Craig; January 17 – Tom;
February 21 – Wayne; March 21 – Lee; April 25 – Joanne; May 23 - Michael**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Laird

