

The Church of the Cross Vestry Minutes August 22, 2025

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

PRESENT: Fr. Owens, Michael Simon, Craig Pelley, Linda Laird, Joanne Byrd, Wayne Bowerman, Laura Strange and Kevin Sevier

ABSENT:

I: PRAYER AND DEVOTION: Laura Strange

Laura's devotional scripture was from Luke: 2. She read the story of Jesus birth and the shepherd's encounter with the angles. The story of the birth of Jesus and the gifts of Christ is to be celebrated throughout the year. We are to give the gift of Jesus's salvation to others throughout the year. Laura referenced Henry Van Dike's book, Keeping Christmas. Remember. It is not about what we get throughout our lives, but what we give.

II: MINUTES: Linda Laird

The Vestry did not gather in person in July. Minutes of the June 30, 2025 gathering were approved as distributed by email as were the June financial statements and July MOB requests, both of which had been approved by the Finance Committee on 7/22/25. Joanne made the motion to approve the minutes and Wayne seconded the motion. All approved.

III: FINANCE: Kevin Sevier Vestry Member

Treasurer's Report for Month Ending July 31, 2025:

Revenue Discussions:

Income and giving have slowed as we move into the third quarter of 2025, however we are still ahead of budget on income and below budget on expenses.

July monthly Income finished at \$231,547.59 to a budget of \$284,173.50.

Comparatively, June 2025 monthly income was \$268,044 (Historically there has been a lull in giving/income each summer over the last 8 years as discussed in Finance Committee...it occurs in June or July each summer).

Monthly Plate/Pledge Income was \$152,005.72 to a budget \$206,487.00.

July Plate/Pledge income variance is -\$54,481.28.

Total Income for the month was lower than budgeted by \$52,625.91.

Note: Total income includes Giving, Bequests, Missions, Faith Formation and Counseling Center revenue.

God's Goods Income transferred to the Missions Fund for July was \$52,692 compared to June GG income of \$38,058.

Expenses Discussion:

Overall expenses were lower than budgeted.

Total expenses for the month were \$327,290.35 to a monthly budget of \$345,143.11.

The monthly expenses budget variance is under by \$17,852.76.

We are approximately 5.3% ahead of budget on income and 5% under budget for expenses YTD, with a total variance YTD of \$240,848.64.

Missions Board Budget Stands at the following:

The Missions Board met on Monday, August 11, 2025.

The Missions Reserve at the end of July was at: \$336,111.31

Net Working Capital for the month: \$50,335.31

Monthly Set-Aside Distributions: \$27,858.00

Additional One-time Grant Approvals: \$22,500.00

For a Total of Grants Approval for August 2025 of: \$50,358.00

Church Attendance for July:

July	HC 5:28	HC 8A	HC 10A	Chapel	Crosspoint	Cross School	Week Total
6 th	103	59	248	134	428	0	972
13 th	109	68	218	137	354	0	886
20 th	117	50	209	124	377	0	877
27 th	123	46	201	117	391	0	878
Month Total	452	223	876	512	1550	0	3613
River	220						3833

Wednesday Night Summer Series: @ 125 each week

River Baptism 7/20 @ 220 attendees

Current Month: 3,833(down from June 4,461 and overall, from previous months but similar to previous summers)

Year to Date: 35,929

Streaming and Online: each week respectively 89, 102, 91, and 88

We give thanks to Christ, our King, for everything.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Sevier, Vestry Member

Craig made the motion to approve the financial reports, Wayne seconded and all approved.

Linda reviewed the MOB disbursement report.

Missions Outreach Board: August 11, 2025 Disbursement Report

Net Working Capital:	\$ 50,335.31
August Set Aside Distributions:	\$ 27,858.00 (See Appendix A)
August Grant Approvals	\$ 22,500.00
Total August Distributions if Approved:	\$ 50,358.00
Remaining Net Working Capital:	\$ -22.69

August Disbursements

- A. **Padre Anderson Sanchez:** Funding renewal of **\$2250 monthly approved**. This continues his weekly evangelism and outreach through the Anglican Church in Lima, Peru to several churches and neighborhoods. The \$2250 is already included in the August Set Aside commitments. See Appendix A. An additional one time **\$500** was approved as a thank you for Ivana Sanchez for her August visit to TCOC and her presentation.
- B. **Next Gen Program:** Funding renewal **\$500 monthly approved**. This helps support The Young Life ministry staff that works with the youth in Beaufort County. The \$500 is already included in the August Set Aside commitments. See Appendix A.
- C. **Young Life in Beaufort County:** **\$7000 approved** for weekend and summer camps.
- D. **Youth With A Mission** in Mongolia: **\$10,000 approved** for funding the upcoming Youth Crusade Conference.
- E. **Fellowship of Christian Athletes** for Cross Schools Program: **approved \$5,000 now and \$5,000** in January 2026. This supports the counselor's salary and costs of meeting with the high school and separately with the middle school.

Joanne made the motion to approve and all agreed.

Appendix A

August Set Aside Commitments	
Anderson Sanchez Peru - End June 2025 (Extended through July 2025)	\$2,250.00
Bluffton Community Kitchen - End January 2026	\$1,834.00
Campus Outreach Ministry, Hoffman- End November 2025	\$500.00
CBC Kenya Monthly - January 2026	\$3,000.00
Cross Christian Counseling Center - End December 2026	\$300.00
COTC Faith Formation - End May 31 2026	\$1,708.00
CS Cross School Monthly - End May 31 2026	\$3,750.00
Young Life, Developing Global Leaders - 2 students (paid annually)	\$6,000.00
Harvesters Intl Congo Monthly Orphan care - End March 2026	\$3350.00
HELP Madagascar - End January 2026	\$1,850.00
Hope Compassion Center - End October 2025	\$1,650.00
SAMS Missionary Griffin - End Jan 2026	\$1500.00
UCCD Burundi – End January 2026	\$1650.00
Young Life Next Gen – End July 2025	\$500.00
Total August Set Aside Disbursements	\$27,858.00
note: Organizations must submit a grant renewal application annually. The end date indicates the current grant is valid through the date recorded in the Set Aside list.	

IV: Other

- a. **Appointment of Bonnie Rossi the MOB (application previously distributed):**
After a brief discussion Linda made the motion to approve the placement of Bonnie to the Mission Outreach Board, Michael seconded and all approved.
- b. **Status of the Cross Schools-construction projects: Wayne, with tour after meeting:**
Certificate of Compliance: The Town has decided to combine the Addition and the Trailer as a single project, meaning the Trailer will need to be completed before we can receive the C of C. The Trailer won't be completed for months to come. The Addition is a couple weeks from completion. Willy Powell of Ward Edwards Engineering is working with the town to separate these two projects.
Landscaping was planted and sod laid 8/14 & 8/15.
Gutters and downspouts scheduled to be started 8/25. The owner / architect punch list and walk-through are scheduled for Wednesday, 8/27. Folding walls are scheduled to be installed starting 9/2.
- c. **Update on the Chapel columbarium and the Argent East project. Michael:**
The columbarium is progressing and is expected to be complete by mid-September. After a successful meeting with the Jasper County School System, we are heading forward with the ground preparation.
- d. **Update on Cross Schools Board activities: Michael:**
Michael and Fr Owens noted the importance of the Cross School Board understanding the process of development of the Argent East campus. Frank, Steve, and Scott Thomas were also part of the team to explain that "The Train has left the Station" and we are calling "All hands-on deck!" There is a great need for planning that must be understood by all. Fr. Owens has led many projects during his time as Rector. He has voiced his passion for the potential of the Argent East Campus and the Buckwalter Campus of CS and TCOTC working in tandem with COM to achieve our shared goal of reaching this and future generations for Christ.
- e. A personal situation: Fr. Owens

Fr. Owens received letters from the Bishop of the Armed Forces and Chaplaincy and the Reverend Nathan Weaver. Both letters revealed that Nathan, under orders, is being redirected to fill a critical Active-Duty position beginning in October with the United Air Forces and Chaplaincy for the foreseeable future.

We were all shocked and speechless. More information will be forthcoming.

VI: Closing Prayers

Laura closed us in prayer and all said “Amen.”

Next Meeting – September 19 - 12:30pm – Conference Room in
The Chapel - Kevin has the devotional and prayers.

[Meeting/Devotional schedule: – October 17 - Craig;
November 21 – Linda; December 19 - Wayne

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Laird, Clerk

