

**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.

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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
SEPTEMBER	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM			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	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	6433	57,980	3776	27,510
1st	105	86	197	153	368					
8th	107	76	198	146	475					
15th	123	80	267	146	485					
22nd	100	71	183	156	482					
29th	128	66	233	163	489					
						1350				
	563	379	1078	764	2299	1350	CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022
NOVEMBER	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSS P 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	5580	63,560	3213	30,723
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

