

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

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 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:

					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

