

## THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS

MAY 19, 2023

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

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

**ABSENT:** Stew Brown

### I **PRAYER AND DEVOTION:** Joanne Byrd

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

### II **MINUTES:** Joanne Byrd

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

### III **FINANCIAL MINUTES:** Michael Simon

## Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting May 2023

### **Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

We continue to be amazed with the generosity and blessings we continue to receive.  
Our plate income for April was \$267,876.56 (vs. a budget of \$220,708).  
Our total Revenue income for April was \$343,226.56 vs a budget of \$263,806.96.

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

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

Below is the request to approve the funds that the Mission Board recommends for disbursement.

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

Keep in mind, any request from any Mission, needs to first have an application filed, then reviewed by the Mission Board, who discuss, pray and vote for a decision.

The financial Board reviewed the request, filed and approved a motion to recommend to the Vestry to APPROVE the request for funding.

Linda Laird presented and reviewed the request for funds to the Vestry. There was a motion to approve the funds disbursement, it was seconded and approved unanimously by the Vestry.

Restricted accounts remain in healthy standing and our cash position remains very strong

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

### **Other Business**

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

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

### **Streaming**

Every day, we have an average of 200 people visiting our websites of which half are first time viewers. Streaming is extremely important to most important avenue for us to reach our faithful. Just to show you the impact, just this past week, our website and streaming reaches an average of **15 different countries, 8 different states every month.**

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

**Attendance Below:**

**In-person attendance numbers:**

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

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

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

#### **IV OTHER**

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

B. THOUGHT ON NANCY GUTHRIE EVENT—Linda Laird

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

C. STATUS OF REPAIRS/UPGRADES PLANNED FOR 2023

Please see Fr. Owens' handout

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

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

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

\*Detailed handout given on Men's Discipleship Ministry

#### **CONCLUSION:**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd



