

**Sherwood Episcopal Church
Annual Gathering via Zoom for 2019-2020
August 16, 2020**

AGENDA

Welcome
Greg Davis

Thank You to Outgoing Vestry Members
Welcome New Vestry Members
Summary of COVID-19 Reopening & Communications Questionnaires
Mother Nancy

Financial Briefing
Robin Rouleau

Q&A
Greg, Robin & Mother Nancy

Closing Prayer
Mother Nancy

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we were planning for our March 22, 2020 Annual Meeting, COVID-19 was beginning to rear its head and the State of Maryland issued a stay-at-home order for all non-essential businesses and organizations, including churches.

So here we are five months into the pandemic, and we are hosting an annual gathering via Zoom. Our agenda will be modified to accommodate our virtual meeting, but I have no doubt that it will serve as an opportunity to say thank you to some deserving parishioners and to update everyone on where we are today as a community of faith.

This year Sheila Fitzgerald and Christina Strong stepped down after fulfilling two three-year terms. I know I speak for the entire vestry when I say that their leadership was greatly appreciated. Each of them gave of the time, treasure, and talent to serve as a member of the leadership team.

Sheila Fitzgerald not only served as a vestry member but was the first person that I spoke to when the vestry was in search of a new rector. As a co-senior warden alongside Stephanie Everts, she was instrumental in getting me to Sherwood. We will miss her presence, kind spirit, and thoughtful leadership.

Christina Strong also held the leadership position of Junior Warden her last year as a vestry member. During her tenure, she provided oversight of our buildings and grounds. We are thankful for her partnership, sense of humor, and inquisitive mind while she served on the vestry and as Junior Warden.

Thank you, Sheila and Christina for your faithful service to Sherwood and to God.

Sherwood had a busy and successful 2019 and 2020 is proving to be just as fruitful. Please take a look at my report and the report of our other leaders. It will give you an idea of the good work that has taken place at Sherwood.

I am excited about Sherwood's future and I hope you are too. Please join us first for worship via Facebook Live and then via Zoom for our Annual Gathering as we worship God and celebrate who we are as the Body of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mother Nancy".

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey
Rector

2019 REPORT ON SHERWOOD'S MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Staff Comings and Goings:

At Easter 2019, we bid Daniel Weatherholt farewell. There was a period of time that we were without a parish administrator and thanks to a team of volunteers we maintained the weekly bulletin and limited office hours. Carey Medick, our new parish administrator, came on board in the summer of 2019.

Carey's communications background has proven to be a wonderful asset to Sherwood. She has taken over the graphic design of our e-newsletter and is a contributing writer as well. Her skills with social media (Facebook, our website, YouTube) has been especially beneficial as we moved into a virtual worship service. She has caught on quickly and we are blessed to have her as part of the Sherwood team.

Greg Seseck continues to bless us with his musical talents and leadership. Under his leadership and thanks to the generosity of so many, we purchased a digital organ. We had a grand celebration honoring our donors and also a Choral Evensong to showcase the new organ. Partnering with Greg in worship, special events, and especially now during COVID-19 has been a blessing.

Vestry Leadership:

We bid farewell to Sheila Fitzgerald and Christina Strong at our March 2019 vestry meeting. They both gave of their time, talent, and treasure. We are thankful to both of them for not only their position as vestry members, but also as co-senior warden and junior warden, respectively.

Due to COVID-19, our Annual Meeting did not take place. After consultation with the vestry nominees, Joyce Mann and Ralph Wismer, it was decided that they would begin their three-year term as vestry members. At our April vestry meeting, I presented the Executive Committee Leadership team: Greg Davis, Senior Warden; Ralph Wismer, Jr. Warden; Anne Wismer, Jr. Warden Assistant; Charles Roebuck, Treasurer; Robin Rouleau, Treasurer Assistant; and BerNee Arnold, Registrar. The slate was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Adding Bones to our Mission Statement:

"God Commands us to enthusiastically cast open our doors to embrace all, impacting lives through bold service, no exceptions!"

Our next step regarding our mission statement was to establish imperatives that help us bring our mission statement to fruition. It is one thing to state our mission statement each Sunday, it is another thing to bring it alive.

In early 2019 I called together a group of parishioners to lead us through this next phase. This team—Suzie Merryman (chair), Bill Galetto, Kathleen Stewart, Ralph Wismer, Greg Davis, and BerNee Arnold embarked on a process of identifying three imperatives that would serve as the next phase of the process. They worked hard on this assignment and ultimately came to their final decision and presented their results to the congregation in April of 2019.

Strategic Imperatives Presentation:

In faithful commitment to our mission statement to reaffirm and live out our love of God and our neighbor we will...

- Propel our partnership with Cockeysville Middle School, by providing to a select group of students intentional emotional and educational guidance to impact their desire to achieve lifelong success;
- Elevate the spiritual and physical well-being of Cockeysville area homeless veterans through veteran assistance support and scheduled, seasonal, on-site activities;
- Assess and optimize the potential of our campus and facilities to support our ministry and imperatives.

As we entered into 2020, members from the congregation volunteered to serve on one of the three imperative teams. Currently, the teams are meeting and determining a 3-5 year plan to bring the three imperatives to fruition. Their results will be shared with the Vestry and the congregation.

Communications:

The web design course work that Stacey Galetto embarked on last year gave us the momentum to completely redo our website. We worked closely with Worship Times, the website design company that works with the Diocese in building our new website. The website is now up and running, reflecting our active parish. We continue to enhance our e-newsletter and actively post photos, reflections, and information on the Facebook page, broadening our reach into the community.

Saying Goodbye to Faithful Members:

Towards the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, the Sherwood community lost two long standing members, Jack Tyrie and Presh Lyon. Both Jack and Presh served Sherwood in many leadership capacities with the church and the cemetery group. I know I speak for many of us when I say we miss their presence but are so grateful for their long commitment to Sherwood and their faith. Their spirit lives on in each of us.

Other Accomplishments in 2019:

We have been a busy and active parish. We continue to support the Loaves and Fishes program, even during COVID-19. We strengthened our relationship with Cockeysville Middle School when the former principal, Deb Magness worshiped with us. Through that relationship, we have embarked on greater involvement with CMS through our CMS Imperative.

Thanks to the Strong family for opening their home, pool, and farm for a parish-wide picnic in August 2019. That same day I performed a house blessing with everyone present.

We had several guest preachers, including our own parishioner, Anne Wismer, who shared her Lenten Journey; the Rev. Mary Davis with Seafarer’s; Kate Riley, Youth Missioner with the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland; and Kathleen Schotto, first-year seminarian. We all benefited from their words of wisdom and the opportunity to learn more about the programs they represented.

We continued with our tradition of Advent Lessons and Carols and Christmas Lessons and Carols. We hosted a Christmas Open House, celebrated our new organ with a beautiful Choral Evensong, held our second outdoor service for Blessing of the Animals, continued offering Healing Prayers on a monthly basis, and remembered our loved ones on All Saint’s Sunday.

As I reflect on 2019 (and a bit of 2020) I am in awe of the commitment of the Sherwood community. You continue to live out your faith through time, talent and treasure in creative and resourceful ways. For that I give thanks to God.

Respectfully submitted,
Mother Nancy

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Our Parish is alive and thriving in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our accomplishments this year reflect our commitment to Sherwood and the Parish's ever-present generosity.

We accomplished the "organ" project with internal donations from the Sherwood family. The quality and diversity of the sound from this new instrument are enhanced by the special talents of the choir members, the guest soloists, and our organist and music director, Greg Seseck. The music is spiritually uplifting.

Thanks to the work and talents of the Sunday audio/video crew, we continue with a service, music, and Mother Nancy's sermon. Kevin Hennessey, Ann Wismer, and Robin Rouleau are the tech team behind the scenes.

Mother Nancy's vision of identifying and committing to the "Imperatives" initiative has blossomed into three distinct imperatives. Each imperative has a chairperson and a committee. The work is underway but stalled somewhat by the pandemic. There will be updates on all three imperatives very soon.

At vestry, we bid (farewell) to members Sheila Fitzgerald and Christina Strong who both served with the strongest dedication and wise counsel. While serving as junior warden, Christina earned her "rodentologist merit badge" for ridding the parish office of visiting and assorted rodents. Thanks!

The vestry welcomes Joyce Mann and Ralph Wismer, Junior Warden. Ralph and assistant, Mrs. Wismer, have completed several projects on the property to include a complete inventory and gifting of over 250 books which were stored in the Parish house. Thanks!

Joyce Mann, in addition to vestry duties, continues as Sherwood outreach chair, and has managed multiple meal deliveries to St. Matthias' Loaves & Fishes outreach. Thanks!

We thank also our treasury team of Robin Rouleau, Charles Roebuck, and the finance committee for continuous attention to and standardization of Sherwood Church financial documentation.

Vestry member, Dr. Carrie Fowler, in addition to her music talents, has kept the vestry informed regarding COVID-19 through her professional medical knowledge and position with Hopkins. Thanks!

And keeping all of this activity and schedules recorded, documented, and filed for reference and safekeeping is our registrar, BerNee Arnold. This is a tedious and time-consuming job and BerNee never misses a beat. Thanks!

I would also like to recognize and give credit to our parish administrator, Carey Mednick, whose talents are many and complement the Sherwood mission. Thanks!

And lastly, thanks to the vestry leader, Mother Nancy, who keeps us spiritually grounded and moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Davis

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

The Church, Rectory, Church Office and Parish House have been maintained by both Christina Pavlick-Strong and me over the past year. Preventative maintenance such as service contracts, etc. continue and are described below.

RECTORY:

1. BGE Home performed their annual inspection and some improvements were made to the HVAC system.
2. Trees were trimmed up to roughly 6' height.
3. Items that were no longer needed by the tenants and a general clean-up was performed. Items were hauled to the Baltimore County Refuse Landfill in Cockeysville.

PARISH OFFICE:

1. Replaced smoke detectors—good for the next 10 years.
2. General pick up including closets being cleaned out, etc. were removed.
3. A new door sweep was installed on the back exterior door to eliminate heat and cold coming in the office.
4. Removed collapsed foot bridge out back.
5. Removal of old equipment around the exterior and items were hauled to the Baltimore County Refuse Landfill in Cockeysville.

CHURCH:

1. The bookcases have been cleared out and all books were sent to a book drop off for reuse or recycle.
2. Basement was inventoried and items that were salvageable were sent to the Pindell Room in the Parish House.
3. Vines were removed that were growing up the church exterior.
4. All hymnals and prayer books that were located in the bookcase have been boxed and are locked in the sacristy.
5. Cleansed the closets and moved excess inventory; light bulbs, sand, salt, etc. have been moved to the Pindell Room to keep a central location.

PARISH HOUSE:

1. 10 trips to the Baltimore County Refuse Landfill in Cockeysville were needed as the house was cleaned out of old, no longer needed items.
2. The kitchen was completely emptied of old food, items, etc.
3. An old photograph of Dave Pindell & Josh Cockey from the 1940's was mailed to Dave Pindell's daughter with a note.
4. Old drapes were removed in the meeting hall and main hall.
5. New window blinds were donated by a parishioner.

6. Old appliances have been removed.
7. The Pindell Room is now the central location for campus supplies such as salt, light bulbs, cart to move items around, etc.
8. Two new hose reels were donated by a parishioner and are located in the Pindell Room.

CAMPUS:

1. Storage shed was gutted, sorted with much of it going to trash.
2. Old basketball hoop was removed after being sawed up to be hauled away.
3. Trees and brush were cleaned up and removed.
4. One large tree was removed around the parish office and trimmed up one that was hanging all over the parish office.
5. Trash area has been cleaned up.
6. Water management through Sherwood's property has been recognized and established as a top priority consuming a significant amount of time.
7. Parking lot was repaired where a sink hole had developed

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Wismer

MUSIC DIRECTOR REPORT

2019 (can we go back?) was a year I will not forget. The Sherwood community invested in the future through music. After years of deterioration of the Moller pipe organ installed in 1972, not through neglect but having come to the end of its lifespan, it stopped functioning on Christmas Day, 2018. The old organ was able to get through Easter Sunday miraculously, then played its last service in early June. For many years, I wondered how we would raise the \$500,000 required to build a new small pipe organ. Is it ethical, let alone possible for a small community to spend so much on one item when there are so many needs in the world? Probably not. The solution, digital technology, is the next best thing to a custom-built pipe organ. Though the beauty of a pipe organ is matchless, the digital reproduction of pipe organ sounds is a worthy investment. On July 4, the choir sang a selection of American music, and I played "Stars and Stripes Forever." Suddenly, there was no limit on what can be played. Previously, due to the limitations of the old organ, so much music was off limits. The new organ, big enough for a large church, but voiced for a small building fulfills its chief task of accompanying liturgy, but is also able to adequately handle performance of music from many time periods and genres.

Thanks to the generosity of a member, the benefit of a soprano section leader greatly enhances our wonderful choir. A celebratory Evensong in October dedicating the new organ was a highlight of my time here. Our service of Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve featured all new music, remarkable, thanks to the commitment of the choir.

2020 is a very different year. Though we are not able to gather and participate in things that are familiar, there is much to be gained from learning how to be useful and supportive in the world we live in. Using the great resources we have in digital technology, we are able to reach people in new ways while doing what we do best. I look forward to the day when we can gather again, but also continue to reach the world in new and effective ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Seseck

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

I would first like to say that I am thrilled to be at Sherwood. I think I have truly found my place here. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful, and I'd like to especially thank my predecessor, Daniel Weatherholt for his detailed notes and willingness to be a resource for me even after he had moved on to his new position.

2019 was a time of learning for me – and 2020 continues to be as well as we have met the challenges of COVID-19 and I got to experience the full liturgical year.

My background is in copywriting and graphic design, and improving communications has been at the forefront of our mission in the office. I designed and wrote postcards that were mailed out to advertise the organ dedication/Evensong and our Christmas open house. I also designed special bulletins for the Evensong and Christmas Eve celebrations. The Christmas Eve bulletin was a first for Sherwood – an 11 x 17 booklet containing the entire service from prayers to hymn lyrics. Before COVID-19 hit, I redesigned the welcome cards in every pew and we continue to investigate ways to update and “brand” Sherwood’s printed materials including forms.

I have taken over the e-newsletter from Mother Nancy’s overflowing plate and, along with Anne Wismer, administer Sherwood’s Facebook page. COVID necessitated the creation of Sherwood’s YouTube channel, the details of which I am sure you will read next year in my 2020 report!

With contributions from Mother Nancy and Greg Sesek, I wrote the copy and created the navigation for the Sherwood’s new website. I am also the website administrator and have taught myself with the help of our web provider Worship Times how to add pages, documents, change photos etc. It’s been an interesting and kind of fun process to learn and explore. As part of our new website, we implemented online giving which is a simple to make pledges and other contributions to Sherwood. The online giving app syncs up very easily with Servant Keeper, our office administration software.

Our greatest office expense has been printer ink and we have switched to a generic brand of toner which has significantly reduced costs. I will continue to look for ways to save money in any way we can as we move forward through 2020 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,
Carey Mednick

PROGRAM MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORTS

CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE

In 2019, The Cemetery Perpetual Care (CPC) committee was busy removing and trimming trees, replacing several broken benches, rewiring and replacing the bell tower spotlight, repairing head stones that had toppled over, and repairing and repainting the Bosley crypt door for safety issues.

In addition, Bill Galetto, with assistance from Courtney Brown, began surveying the cemetery. This project includes measuring the size of the plots, identifying those buried in the plots, determining what plots are available, and identifying rows in the cemetery for a new map.

2019 Highlights

- Burials/Inurnments - 4
- Lots available - 23
- Veterans - 65 representing the War of 1812, the Civil War (North and South), WWI, WWII, Korean, Vietnam wars to the present. U.S. Flags are placed on these graves on Memorial Day and around the church's campus on Veteran's Day.
- CPC contributed \$5,000 to the church to assist in purchasing the new digital organ.
- We placed 70 wreaths on the graves, church doors and signs this Christmas season.
- We mailed 160 news/appeal letters resulting in donations from 54 donors totaling \$7,633. An additional \$4,266 was received from the sale of wreaths, donations received during the year, and burial plot fees.

Thanks to these contributions and gifts, our financial picture is positive.

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| • 2019 grounds maintenance, which includes the entire campus -
Lawn cutting, snow/ice removal, and operating expenses | \$27,224 |
| • Perpetual Care Fund as of 12/31/2019 | \$290,498 |
| • CPC Money Market as of 12/31/2019 | \$45,264 |
| • CPC CD as of 12/31/2019 | \$20,147 |
| • Checking account balance as of 12/31/2019 | \$8,066 |

CPC members hold themselves responsible to Sherwood Episcopal Church, its members and Vestry and to all lot owners of the cemetery. We are dedicated to the tradition of reverent and perpetual care which has always been associated with this church community.

Cemetery Perpetual Care Members

Rector:	The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey
Jr. Warden:	Christina Pavlick-Strong (currently Ralph Wismer)
Members:	Laurence J. Boucher, resigned during the year Bill Galetto, Treasurer Joyce Mann

Suzanne Merryman, Secretary
Sandy Thompson
Jack Turnbull, Chairman
Member Emeritus: Virginia R. (Presh) Lyon (deceased in January, 2020)
Jack Tyrie (deceased in November, 2019)

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Turnbull
Chairman

ALTAR GUILD

The Sherwood altar guild consists of 4 teams of people. We welcome and encourage members of the church to consider becoming a member of the altar guild. This is an important ministry because we are the parishioners behind the scenes preparing the church for all services, not only on Sundays, but Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, as well as we decorate for Christmas and Easter. The most important duties are the proper set up, removal and care for the blessed sacraments. Even though we work on different teams, we together are the Altar Guild. We can call on each other regardless of what team we serve on.

This past year, Kathleen Stewart joined our group. A huge "thank you" to Kathleen for assisting us. We are a small but mighty group.

The altar guild is also responsible for the flowers and/or greens on the altar each week. We are deeply grateful for all the members of the Altar Guild who continue to serve with faithfulness, devotion and dedication for this important ministry.

Altar Guild Members:

Janet Barr
Susan Boucher
Bernice Denbow
Joyce Mann
Kathleen Stewart
Sandy Thompson
Anne Wismer

Special thanks to Karyn Galetto, Joyce Mann and Anne Meenan for preparing the altar flowers monthly for church.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Thompson & Anne Wismer

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Children's Formation:

The Christian Formation program for children at Sherwood remains conceptual and fluid because of the busy schedules of our families. However, we continue to discuss the program and have had several parishioners express an interest in assisting with the young members when this becomes a reality. Our young members have been active in Sunday worship as acolytes, torch bearers, and ushers. Beginning in 2020 they were a regular part of the Sunday rota. Their involvement serves as a wonderful opportunity for them to engage in learning about their faith and the church outside a classroom setting.

For Christmas and Easter we provide quiet church-related activities for children to do in the pews with their families and Mother Nancy has a children's moment before her sermon. Since COVID we have offered a children's book study via Zoom (*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by C. S. Lewis) and this may become a regular avenue for connection and education with our younger members.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Everts & Mother Nancy

Adult Formation:

Adult Formation is offered on occasion throughout the year. During Advent, we offered a book study (*Low: An Honest Advent Devotional*, by John Pavlovitz) led by parishioner Carrie Fowler and Mother Nancy. Our annual Soup and Scripture served as an opportunity for a deeper dive into the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. There were also several guest speakers who offered insights into their ministries. (Cockeysville Middle School, Seafarer's, Episcopal Youth Program).

As we entered into 2020, we have offered two bible studies via Zoom on the Gospel of Matthew and Bible 101. These were well received and will serve as a new way to provide bible study to our adults.

Respectfully submitted,
Mother Nancy

HEALING MINISTRY

The foundation for Sherwood's Healing Ministry focuses on the healing power of prayer, the idea that special prayers are available to those who need them and that these prayers can comfort and lead us on our paths to greater mental, spiritual, and emotional health. For Sherwood, this ministry has two missions: the Healing Prayers themselves and a Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Healing Prayers are offered to our congregation regularly on the first Sunday of each month. After making their communion, those who wish a special prayer receive both ointment and their prayer in the wing of the church. All are welcome to participate in this service. Anne Wismer and Jane Turnbull currently serve this ministry.

Sherwood's Shawl Ministry began in November 2018. Today, this group knits and crochets shawls, wraps, lap robes, and baby blankets. All items are meant to express the power of prayer, tangibly created for anyone, but especially for those who cannot be with us in church. Also, if our congregation knows who might need one of our handmade items, we make sure it is blessed and sent on. Loretta Cunninghame, Debbie Geiman, and Jane Turnbull currently serve this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Turnbull

HOSPITALITY

It goes without saying; we are a hospitable Parish. Adding to the welcoming atmosphere that exists among our Parish family there is a welcoming presence to those who enter and return to our midst as a newcomer. The nourishment and friendship we offer to those who gather in the wing after our Worship add to the solid foundation of Sherwood Church. Thank you to everyone who participates with food and a smile. The signup sheet for future coffee hours helps in the decision process of "what can I prepare?"

I, as chairperson for Hospitality, strive to keep supplies such as single serving coffee, napkins, plates and cups readily available. If some item is not found, please contact me so it can be replaced.

As for future coffee hour offerings including liquid nourishment, I like to suggest that donors offer what their families or friends would enjoy if there any "leftovers". Perishable items and those with limited shelf life frequently have to be thrown away so it is important any unused food items find happy homes immediately after our Hospitality/coffee hour.

Respectfully submitted,
Karyn A. Galetto

OUTREACH

"The church is now leaving the building." -- March 4th, 2020 Forward Day by Day

Each morning with breakfast I read from Forward Day by Day. Some days the passages hit closer to home than others. The March 4 entry struck me as being very relevant to Outreach. The quote above was placed on a sign above the church door at a new rural church in a developing area. Departing members could see the message as they left services and were reminded that we are God's hands and feet out in the world. Sherwood's mission statement has different wording, but a similar message.

For a relatively small church, Sherwood sustains a robust outreach program. We are active partners with Cockeysville Middle School and continue to support them via the School Supply Drive and Thanksgiving baskets. We also support UCAN (United Churches Assistance Network). This is an organization located on the campus of St. Joseph's, Cockeysville that is comprised of several area churches and offers emergency assistance to residents of our local community facing eviction and utility turn-offs. They also provide bus tokens, homeless food bags, small dollar gift cards for food and referrals to other agencies.

In 2019 Sherwood continued to actively engage in the community beyond our physical doors. Three meals were prepared and served at the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen at Saint Matthias Church. These events gave Sherwood members the opportunity to interact on a personal basis with the Loaves and Fishes clients and volunteers and gain insight into the challenges that they face. We provided additional support to Loaves and Fishes through donations of food, clothing and personal care items.

Sherwood ended 2019 with The Giving Tree where warm hats, gloves, scarves and long underwear were collected for their clothing closet. In 2020 we plan to continue our involvement with Loaves and Fishes. We currently have two dates scheduled to serve meals in March and June. A third potential date is to be determined. Please remember there are many ways to serve Loaves and Fishes including cooking, serving, greeting guests, baking cookies and prayer partners.

Efforts to go beyond our physical doors included opening our campus to our neighbors on July 4th to share our great view of the fireworks at Oregon Ridge. On a beautiful fall day Sherwood held the Blessing of the Animals service in our parking lot. This service to honor our beloved animal companions was open to all.

Other outreach projects in 2019 included providing a meal for the Christian Workshop Breakfast, supporting veterans at Perry Point through the Poppies for Veterans sale and collecting supplies for the Baltimore County Humane Society.

On a personal note, I began volunteering with UCAN in 2019. I generally serve twice a month answering the phones and checking in clients. Through my work with UCAN I have been able to put a human face to the challenges that our community faces. UCAN serves a diverse clientele. Some are homeless. Many are employed, but live paycheck to paycheck. Some clients are “regulars”. Others may just need help one time. An unexpected expense or cut in work hours can push families over the edge financially. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard the phrase “I never thought I would end up here.” The clients are treated with dignity and respect and they usually respond with the same. UCAN cannot always help financially, but they always provide an ear to listen. It has been an eye-opening experience to serve there and has given me a new perspective.

I would encourage everyone who is able to take advantage of any opportunity to get out and “get your hands dirty”. You will get much more out of it than you put in.

In closing, enhancing our relationship with Cockeysville Middle School is one of the three imperatives that Sherwood is targeting for the future. I am very excited to see where this will lead us in 2020 and beyond. Thank you for your continued support.

Addendum 7/28/20:

I wrote the above report in early March. This was a couple of weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic upended the world as we knew it. The church has actually left the physical building for the last several months, but we have pushed on.

Sherwood has provided sandwiches to Loaves and Fishes on two occasions and continues to supply their pantry with donations of personal items. They do not anticipate being fully open until a vaccine is available and will need our continued support.

Although the UCAN office remains closed, Sherwood was able to assist in preventing two families from being evicted through contributions from Mother Nancy's discretionary fund. UCAN is working to finalize a plan to reopen with reduced hours. It appears that evictions and utility turn-offs will be handled via email or FAX. In-person visits will be limited to bus tokens, food cards, gas vouchers and homeless food bags. UCAN believes that when the eviction and utility cut-off restrictions are lifted the demand for help will substantially increase.

The Cockeysville Middle School Imperatives group has met several times and are in the process of finalizing recommendations for a long term strategy; needless to say the pandemic has had a drastic effect on how the schools will operate for the foreseeable future and we are trying to determine creative ways to move forward.

Now more than ever we must be God's hands and feet in the world. The need is great.

"Christ has no body on earth but yours. No hands but yours. No feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now." St. Teresa of Avila

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Mann

PARISH RECORDS 2019

Baptisms: 1
Confirmations and Receptions: None
Marriages: 2
Burials/Inurnments: 4
Funeral and Memorial Services: 1

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Before I start – I must thank Robin Rouleau who has done much of work this year. He has changed the way finances are kept and organized. He has kept "the books" and helped balance the funds. He has been the Director of Finance (an unrecognized and underpaid position). He has been amazing and worked very diligently! I think the vestry has been more aware of expenses and revenues thanks to his efforts.

My report on 2019 is a good message. We were blessed to have a very generous congregation. The revenue was huge this year-granted so were the expenses... but this year we had more donations than any year I have been involved at Sherwood. You can see we had many donations to Outreach (even for a small church) as well as the music program.

We budgeted (and guessed) to be negative nearly \$16,500. We were negative, but not that negative. Pledges remained strong and some of the expenses were high (some special items). That said, it was mainly income (giving) that created solid financial year. We were at a loss of \$12,700–still a loss but not as high as projected even with such large one-time expenses.

Clearly the new organ was a big expense and also received large donations. This huge change for Sherwood will be a wonderful addition for years to come—and already has been incredible. And it is fully paid for! Our insurance costs increased, as did everyone's—driven by things out of our control like floods in Texas and other disasters that all impact the overall cost of insurance.

For reference, in 2018 we had a positive year. In 2017 we were at net zero (broke even). In 2016 we were negative around \$18,000. In 2013 we were positive, but in 2011 & 2012 we were negative financially. In 2014 we were slightly negative (\$7500)—the first part of the year we had a regular priest and associated expenses while in the second half we had merely supply priests which is much less cost. In 2015, we were negative about \$8,000.

We continue to work hard at controlling our expenses, projecting our upcoming needs and maintaining fiscal responsibility. I want to thank everyone at Sherwood for their help. Most especially I want to thank the many volunteers, the vestry, the altar guild, and particularly Robin, Christina and Greg for their consistent and steady leadership through the last year. Their contributions have been incredible.

In 2019, we paid our assessment to the Diocese in a timely and consistent manner. We have paid all payroll and retirement expenses—so there are no lingering costs. We are current with all tax and insurance issues. We are current with all invoices. We did have some capital and repair expenses—but those have all been paid. The new organ is paid off.

We continue to replace and repair many things at Sherwood. As you all know, over the last ten years we have repaired the Bell Tower, all the stained glass, replaced the roof, HVAC systems, lighted the parking lot, painted/plastered the inside of the church building, fixed the flooring in the church building, fixed up the wing, had many plumbing repairs, repaired the rectory, and have done many other building repairs.

Of course, you may notice that we still have a good checking account balance. Some of this is due to monies remaining from a bequest that was undesignated for usage. Given the financial shortfall from previous years, and the projected budget shortfall for 2020—I would suggest that during this fiscal year we will likely need to utilize some “savings funds”, but also can consider investing some as well. Robin has worked diligently on balancing the needs here.

Also, please note that all financial information and data is kept in the office in case anyone desires more specifics or has questions. This includes statements (originals) as well as all back records and anything else not needed by me for the immediate calendar year.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me directly. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles M. Roebuck, III