

**Sherwood Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting via Zoom for 2020
March 14, 2021**

AGENDA

Welcome

Greg Davis, Senior Warden

Approval of the Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting

BerNee Arnold, Registrar

Thank You to Outgoing Vestry Members

Mother Nancy

**Reaffirmation of Joyce Mann & Ralph Wismer as 2020 Vestry Members
and Presentation of Nominees for 2021 Vestry Members**

Nominating Committee

Vote for New Vestry Members

Nominating Committee

Imperative Updates

Joyce Mann

Anne Wismer

Financial Briefing

Robin Rouleau, Assistant Treasurer

Q&A

Greg, Robin & Mother Nancy

Closing Prayer

Mother Nancy

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Resilience!

As I reflect on this past year, a year spent under the COVID-19 cloud, one word comes to mind when I think of the Sherwood community and that is *resilience*. Regardless of what was placed in front of us, we responded by adapting to the situation. There were bumps along the road but nothing in comparison to what we achieved together as the Body of Christ.

Please take time to read the reports from your ministry leaders. We have not been dormant this past year, just the opposite. What I am most proud of is that we didn't lose sight of our mission statement—*God commands us to enthusiastically cast open our doors to impact lives through bold service, no exceptions*. We continued to keep our eye on our mission statement and our call to be the Body of Christ to ourselves and the greater community.

I have missed not worshipping together on Sunday morning or during the week. We all lose a bit of connection when we cannot physically be together. But I am surprised how we have been able to continue worshipping virtually and maintain our ministries even in the midst of COVID-19. That is a true testimony to the human spirit that burns strongly within each of you.

God's light has continued to shine throughout this dark season. I am ever thankful to everyone for keeping God's spirit alive at Sherwood allowing us to live out our mission statement in bold ways!

I commend you to read the rest of the Annual Report and join us immediately follow our worship service on Sunday, March 14 (approximately 11 am).

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Hennessey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey
Rector

2020 REPORT ON SHERWOOD'S MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Vestry Leadership:

We will bid farewell to vestry members Greg Davis and Robin Rouleau at our March 2021 vestry meeting. Each has served two, three-year terms and have been vital members on the vestry. Both Greg and Robin not only served as vestry members, but each held key positions as Senior Warden (Greg Davis) and Assistant Treasurer (Robin Rouleau).

I am very thankful that Greg has not only been a faithful vestry member but my Senior Warden for the past two years. His listening ear and sound guidance have been a huge asset to me, particularly as we dealt with the ramifications of COVID-19 on our community. His steady presence, deep faith, and sense of humor kept us both looking forward and smiling during some trying times. Thank you, Greg!

Robin's solid leadership and attention to detail has been a huge asset to our vestry and to me as rector. He has helped to reconfigure our financial reports that will serve Sherwood for years to come. We have all benefited from his quiet guidance on financial issues. Fortunately for all of us, he will continue as our Assistant Treasurer alongside Charles Roebuck, Treasurer.

Greg and Robin each possess a deep faith and are committed to staying engaged at Sherwood and for that I give thanks to God!

Update on our Strategic Imperatives:

Last year a team of parishioners presented to the congregation three imperatives that help us bring our mission statement to fruition. Here is what they presented:

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 Cockeyville 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 Cockeyville 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.

Two of the imperative groups (Cockeyville Middle School Imperative and the Campus Imperative) organized, researched, interviewed, and presented a 3-5 year strategic plan to the vestry and the congregation. The strategic plans will help guide us forward as we live into our mission. Some team members are continuing their involvement in the next stage. They continue to move forward and will provide a brief update during our Annual Meeting. I am very proud and excited by what has been accomplished by both groups.

Our veteran imperative still needs to do its initial research and exploration before a 3-5-year strategic plan can be presented. It is my hope that a newly formed Veterans Imperative Team will begin its work later this year.

A special thank you to the two teams that spent the time discerning and investigating how to bring the imperatives to reality. Each group worked hard—despite the challenges of COVID-19—and the vestry leadership and I are eternally thankful.

Cockeysville Middle School Imperative Team: Joyce Mann (chair), Suzie Merryman, and Kathleen Stewart.

Campus Imperative Team: Fran Gunshol (chair), Karyn Galetto, Sheila Fitzgerald, Jack Turnbull, Ralph Wismer (Junior Warden) and Anne Wismer.

Holy Conversations:

The vestry leadership engaged in an important conversation about the impact systematic racism has on our society. George Floyd's death and the deaths of so many of our African American brothers and sisters created a roaring lament, reaching a volume that cannot be squelched. We felt before we expected our congregation to engage in this discussion; we as the leaders needed to first discuss it amongst ourselves. We agreed that "next steps" would be beneficial for those desiring a conversation around this issue. The book, *Waking up White*, by Debra Irving is our first step to enter into a conversation about the negative impact racism has on our communities and the realities of racism in our world today. This is voluntary and I hope that it will engage people as we continue the dialog.

Conversations around this issue are difficult. I believe as followers of Jesus Christ it is our obligation to face difficult conversations with respect and dignity; civil discourse is paramount. I trust we will engage in this topic in a manner that will allow everyone to be heard and that our holy conversations will help all of us to be transformed.

Technology:

Not in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine we would have a virtual worship service. But that was our only solution when faced with having to stop worshipping in person. Everyone's patience and helpful suggestions made our deep dive into the virtual world much easier than expected. Our church and church wing now has WIFI and this allows us to offer consistent virtual worship.

Thankfully we now have a new A/V system, and we are no longer filming from a cell phone in the center of the aisle. We are still learning how to best utilize our equipment and we are moving in the right direction. A special thank you to our donors and the vestry for making this possible.

With our virtual worship our viewership has increased. Our next challenge is to engage those who watch us online. We are blessed to have a few new members reach out to join our bible studies and help on Sunday morning. We will continue to work on ways to involve our "virtual" audience. Going forward we will continue to remain connected with our virtual community by filming our services even when we are back worshipping in person.

A special thank you to Anne Wismer who was instrumental in ensuring that we did not have any gaps in our worship once we were asked to cease worshipping in person. Her leadership and skills

are greatly appreciated by me and others who participated in bringing virtual worship to the greater community.

Staff Blessings:

Greg Seseck and Carey Mednick have both been my true partners in ministry. Both bring skills to Sherwood that keep us connected. Thankfully Greg, along with our soloist Cassidy Dixon, provides the gift of music to each worship service. It is one of a few things that has remained consistent. When the full choir can safely gather and raise their voices together, it will round out all that Greg and Cassidy have been doing for the past year. Thank you!

Carey's writing and editing skills this past year have been invaluable particularly when we have had to rely more heavily on print and virtual communication. She continually seeks ways to keep our Sherwood community connected and I appreciate her partnership. Her work behind the scenes has created a better stream of communication with our congregation and the greater community. Thank you!

Other Accomplishments:

Below are examples of our resilient Sherwood Spirit. Some of the things we implemented will only go as long as COVID-19 impacts us, and others will continue on.

- Phone Tree - members were called on a weekly basis at the start of the pandemic
- Redesigned E-Newsletter - Carey designed a "COVID-19" newsletter and we put it out with more frequency during the week. Scaling back to a Thursday letter and a Saturday worship reminder.
- Sunday Worship and principal Feast Days continued without ceasing, thanks in large part to my staff and a small group of creative and willing helpers.
- Communion by the Red Door and Cyber Coffee Hour help us stay connected.
- Imperative work continues. Two well designed outlines have been presented to the vestry to guide us in living out our mission statement.
- Continued commitment to our outreach programs - UCAN, Loaves and Fishes, Baltimore Seafarers, Cockeysville Middle School.
- Five Bible Studies via Zoom including one for our youth.
- Continued maintenance of our facilities and property.
- Definitive safety steps taken to ready us for an eventual reopening.
- Detailed mapping of our cemetery plots.
- And much more ...

Yes, we have accomplished a lot and I believe we have been more focused on who we are and the gifts we can offer the greater community. The work of God continues on regardless of the obstacles and challenges that lay ahead of us. Our resilient nature has shown forth during these difficult times.

Respectfully submitted,
Mother Nancy

2020 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Meeting convened at 11:00 am via Zoom.

Opening Prayer

Rector's Report

- Vestry-Thank you to the outgoing Vestry members, Sheila Fitzgerald and Christina Pavlick-Strong who both served two terms as vestry members in leadership roles. Sheila served as Co-Senior Warden while Christina served as Jr. Warden. Sheila was Mother Nancy's first contact with Sherwood Church. The transition of vestry members occurred just prior to the declaration of a statewide stay-at-home order in March which forced the parish to cancel our scheduled annual meeting. To ensure the vestry remained intact during the pandemic, Mother Nancy reached out to Ralph Wismer and Joyce Mann to fill the vacant seats. Both agreed to the appointments, with Ralph stepping into the position of Jr. Warden.
- Parish Survey-Carey developed and distributed surveys to gauge parishioner needs/expectations during the pandemic. The survey addressing communications received 20 responses. The survey addressing a return to in-person worship (when allowed according to state and diocesan authority) found most parishioners feeling it would be some time before they would return and others stating they would not return until vaccinated. Of those willing to return, 55% would come back with reservation. Age played a major factor in the decision-making process. The surveyed parishioners that have children all stated they would not return at this time. Responders not ready to return attributed the decision in part to having family members with pre-existing conditions. All responders were willing to adhere to social distancing requirements. Only 1/3 were willing to volunteer with pre-service, service, and post-service needs. Most respondents find parish information via the e-newsletter. Parishioners appreciated the phone calls checking in during the stay-at-home order. The majority of parishioners watch via Facebook, but some utilize the YouTube broadcast. People expressed interest in a virtual coffee hour. Information gathered via the survey will be given to the COVID-19 taskforce and the vestry also has access to the responses. The taskforce will explore options of gathering outdoors as well as creative worship/fellowship options.

Financial Report

Both income and expense items fall within 2% of last year's budget. We have had lower expenses for some line items largely due to not having an administrator for a portion of the year. The current parish expenses are 8% under what was been planned, some of which can be attributed to COVID-19. Income is 22% over what was planned in part to parishioners giving pledges early. Asset balances are currently up 2%, however, we were down as much as 8% at the end of March. Finance committee

were moving toward securing a finance advisor, but COVID-19 has caused a delay. Over the last few years there was a focus on digitizing the financial records and the benefits of the change are evident. Robin will provide Carey with a summary of the finance report that she will in turn share with parishioners that have requested a copy.

Questions and Answers

1. When are pledges made? Is there a specific month?

Pledges can be received at any time. We typically begin the pledge drive in the fall, but new parishioners are welcome to pledge at any time. Mother Nancy⁺ is also able to meet with new parishioners as they are interested.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernice "BerNee" Arnold

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee (Greg Davis, Suzie Merryman and Bill Galetto) presents to the congregation the two candidates who are running for vestry, Laure Covert and Charles Roebuck.

Charles Roebuck--Currently, I run a medium-sized printing company located in Baltimore. We are a family-run operation and have been around for over 100 years. We have approximately 25 employees with a wide variety of backgrounds, skill sets, demographics, and pay scales. This variety has provided me with some firsthand experience in human relations, conflict resolution, choice of benefits provided by our company, and pay levels of employees. Many of our folks have been with my family and the business for ten, twenty and even forty years. We have managed to maintain happy team members; all of this within the confines of what is fiscally proper and sound.

I have also been involved with the local community as well. I am the Vice President for the William S Baer School partnership board. This is an organization that helps act as a “board of directors” and fundraising arm for a Baltimore City School (public school) that takes care of the needs of physically and mentally challenged kids. I am a board member and immediate past-President of Board for the Family Tree. This is an organization dedicated to child abuse prevention. I have served as treasurer of Sherwood Church in Cockeysville for nearly twenty years. My role in that has been to manage the operational funds and organize the finances in such a way that decisions could be made with respect to financial abilities versus needs. I have been a member of the Vestry (on and off) for approximately 20 years.

I am married and have two children, both working and out of college. I live in Timonium.

Thank you,
Charles Roebuck

Laure Pepper Covert (pronounced “Laurie)— I am a newcomer to the Cockeysville/Baltimore area, having accepted a job here a year ago right before the COVID pandemic hit. I saw the Sherwood Episcopal Church sign as I drove to the grocery store one Saturday advertising a “Facebook live” service so I tuned in the next day and immediately felt I had found my church home. Somehow, even with the COVID restrictions I have experienced the connection: I engaged as a lector, met with Mother Nancy, and participated in the Advent Bible Study. I am excited to be considered for the Vestry because I see this involvement as an important way to participate more deeply and give back to the church that has given me so much.

My Episcopalian roots go back to childhood. I was raised in a family in suburban Philadelphia with all four grandparents dedicated to their parishes. My own parents’ paths led them away from the Episcopal Church and so I had to find my own way back during college. I worked full-time as the youth minister at All Saints Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase, MD and attended an Episcopal Church in Harrisburg, PA. I also attended and served in other church denominations, leading children’s programs, leading Bible studies, chaperoning on service trips abroad, and starting a women’s group.

My professional path started with social work and Spanish language study, and travel abroad, (mostly in Central and South America). When I became proficient in Spanish, I provided social

services in Spanish to the non-profit in Denver, Colorado where I was Development Director. Later I became an interpreter for a non-profit organization in Harrisburg, PA while I was raising my 3 children. My career path led me to providing legal services to immigrants through the Department of Justice Recognition and Accreditation program, first in Harrisburg, PA and now in Baltimore through World Relief Immigration Programs. The new responsibility that drew me to the area is a full-time job as the Office Director of the program—a challenge to keep providing help during COVID. My own apartment community is full of immigrant neighbors, so I feel right at home.

In my free time, I enjoy walking in nature, birding, reading fiction, and watching Masterpiece Mystery on PBS. I have 2 granddaughters back in Harrisburg and this pandemic social distancing is wreaking havoc on my grandmother's heart, but I am hopeful we will see brighter days ahead.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Thanks be to God, our parish is alive and well and responding physically and spiritually to the challenges and changes in our normal routine. The French proverb attributed to Jean Baptiste Karr: “plus ca change, plus c’est pareil” or “the more things change, the more they stay the same” helps me appreciate the massive amount of work being performed to continue Sherwood worship services via technology equipment and the work and skills of those who make it happen .

The purchase and installation of state-of-the-art audio-visual assets is complete thanks to our “backstage crew”. The cost was approximately \$24,000; a portion funded from our 2020 budget and the balance through the *generous gifts* from anonymous parishioners. Thanks to all! The crew has proven that they are truly “ready for prime time”.

The Imperative initiatives introduced last year under Mother Nancy’s direction are moving forward, particularly the CMS Imperative chaired by Joyce Mann and the Campus Imperative chaired by Junior Warden Ralph Wismer.

Christian Outreach programs continue, but under modified directives. Specifically, our relationship with St. Matthias’ Loaves and Fishes is limited to gifting of personal hygiene items and clothing. Offsite meal preparation in Clynmalira Church’s health department-permitted kitchen has been curtailed temporarily due to Diocesan mandate. We are prepared to and budgeted to resume this Christian Outreach when COVID-19 restrictions allow.

Mother Nancy and I visited recently with leadership of the two 12-Step Programs who meet weekly in the parish house. They reported to us that they are thriving but miss the solace and convenience of this space. We discussed the realities of our Diocesan protocols as currently structured and what the future may look like for this tenured Sherwood Christian Outreach.

We are grateful to Robin Rouleau and Charles Roebuck for their part in managing the parish financial records. Sherwood was granted, after considerable work and documentation, a Payroll Protection Plan loan which the vestry approved as a back-up safety net during the Pandemic. The loan has since been repaid in full including a modest interest payment (\$19).

Thanks, also and always to our Vestry Registrar, BerNee Arnold who oversees the recording and documenting of vestry meeting minutes with exemplary prowess.

Robin Rouleau and I will be transitioning off the vestry. The parish will vote on replacement members during the Annual Meeting.

Thanks as well to all members of the vestry and Carey Mednick for her work and talents.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Davis

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

The Church, Rectory, Church Office and Parish House have been maintained over the past year. Preventative maintenance such as service contracts, etc. continues and is 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 cleanup has continued to be performed.
4. Some old items the tenants had outside were removed and taken to the dump per their request.

PARISH OFFICE:

1. Check-in periodically to be sure heat and water are working properly.
2. A new exterior lock was installed by Baldino Lock & Key and new keys given to the current list of people who require them.

CHURCH:

1. The bookcases now have doors allowing us to be COVID-19 compliant. Thank you to Mother Nancy & Kevin Hennessey for the donation of the doors and to Greg Szymaszek for the installation of these.
2. Smoke detectors and a heat detector were installed by Central Maryland Alarm. This is now directly tied in to the alarm system should a fire occur.
3. New GFI box was installed in the basement. The prior one was an "antique".
4. Clinton Electric repaired the exterior light used to illuminate the Nativity Window for Christmas Eve. They added a brighter light and made this waterproof to eliminate any water damage.
5. To make room for the new A/V system that has recently been installed, two church small church pews were removed. One was located by the wing. This was broken. Pew was offered to anyone. No one wanted this so it was burned in keeping with sacred disposal. The second small pew was in the last row of the choir pews. This was removed and will be placed in the church office until determination of where it could be used is decided.
6. Jani-King cleaning service was cancelled. We are presently searching for a new service. In the meantime, we are utilizing the services of two people to deep clean the church as we navigate through COVID-19.
7. New Dusk/Dawn light was installed over the church wing door. We are waiting for some help with a ladder to replace the one over the main church door.

PARISH HOUSE:

1. Water was shut down for the winter months in preparation for pipes not to freeze.
2. Items such as salt, shovels, etc. are stored in the Pindell Room.
3. In October, 2020 several pieces of furniture such as a front porch bench that was broken, the stove and the old cabinet in the kitchen were removed and taken to the dump.

CAMPUS:

1. Water management continues to be addressed. We had an appointment on Friday, February 26th with Interfaith Partnership in conjunction with two other churches.
2. Met with a Civil Engineer via Zoom to discuss their findings. We are awaiting a proposal at this time.
3. A landscaping torch for burning the parking lot weeds was purchased by the CPC. This was utilized just before Bishop Ilhoff's visit. Thanks to the CPC for this.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Wismer

MUSIC DIRECTOR REPORT

The first week of March 2020, I traveled to England and was inspired by visiting some of the beautiful cathedrals. These marvels of human ingenuity, one part history and one part a vital continuation of the generations of lives centered around a community are a wonder to behold. I was so energized by the art, architecture and music in the many Evensong services we attended at St. Paul's and Southwark Cathedrals, London; the Temple Church, my favorite London church; York Minster; Rochester Cathedral, Chester Cathedral; and Durham Cathedral. The two that stood out are Liverpool, whose massive proportions are unlike any other; and Canterbury Cathedral, where I saw the location of the martyrdom of Thomas Beckett. There is a great sense of unity in our liturgical seasons and the daily office particularly resonant in the Anglican Communion. Many of us derive serenity and spiritual renewal from these traditions which ground our experiences in a chaotic and fast-paced existence.

Before our plane even lifted off from Heathrow, services at Sherwood were cancelled upon my return. My suitcase is still sitting on the floor a year later. By the time I arrived back in Baltimore, the world had changed. I couldn't have imagined before I left for England a year of home confinement and coming to play the organ in an empty church each week wearing a mask. But that is only one side of the story. I recognize the gift it has been to keep going. While the lives of many have been upended by COVID-19, mine has not. I had to make a choice to adapt and learn new things. I can't begin to imagine the great changes in life that have occurred since Canterbury Cathedral was built more than 14 centuries ago, but I'm pretty sure this pandemic will be etched among the great milestones. For at least the last 50 years, churches have struggled with how to reach people. We tried things that fit the comfort level and within the experience of what has worked or might work ranging from nothing to the misguided, driving away the remaining members, to genuine connections with individuals and communities that forged relevance.

It took a pandemic for us to realize that people still want church, as evidenced by the number of weekly participants soaring to 1950s numbers, and the means of delivering it was there all along.

At Sherwood, we didn't miss a beat, no services were cancelled. I am happy we were able to quickly adapt. Broadcasting the service is a very different effort than just showing up in person. It takes three times as much planning, effort and concentration, but it is worth the effort. I miss seeing everyone and miss the choir terribly. I look forward to the day when we can all reunite in person. Until then, I hope you remain well and join the service online.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Seseck

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

When I think that it's been a full year since the pandemic started, I can't fully comprehend it. I remember telling my son, Ian, that he was going to have a nice two-week break from school. It feels silly now to have been that naïve!

So, it's been interesting! I've particularly enjoyed working on the e-newsletter and have hoped that you have found some comfort in it. I put together the online survey that was completed last summer about reopening with the general consensus being that most people were anxious to get back to church but it needs to be done safely. Hopefully that will happen soon.

I've been stopping at the office during this past year two or three times a week to get the mail and just check on the general state of the campus. We continue to face postal delays that have been very frustrating – one check mailed from Baltimore City took an entire month to arrive! I am happy to have been able to teach myself how to create forms on our website so we have a contact-free, postage-free way to collect information such as newcomer forms, pledge cards, and flower dedications. Our website is very cool.

I am excited about the new A/V system. I will be learning the system so that I can serve as a back-up on Sundays as needed. I'm also VERY happy that the audio quality is much improved – so much so that YouTube's automatic closed-captioning system is actually working for us! I've been very fortunate in that I've been able to easily work from home during this time since all of the software I use is cloud-based. I miss having visits from parishioners, though! My only companions have been deer and the occasional groundhog, and I can't forget Kimberly Hoffman from Kimberly's Farm Flowers who used our parking lot during late spring/summer Wednesdays as a pick-up spot for her flower co-op. We anxiously await her return along with her gorgeous flowers.

On the money-saving front, we recently switched our music copyright service from One License to RiteSong. RiteSong is less expensive and has one tremendous advantage over One License – we now have correct lyrics and clear, reproducible sheet music from The 1982 Hymnal.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or have any thoughts about the bulletin, e-news, website etc., or other forms of communication. I would be happy to hear them.

Respectfully submitted,
Carey Mednick

PROGRAM MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORTS

CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE

In 2020, the Cemetery Perpetual Care Committee (CPC) began sorting through the cemetery records left by Jack Tyrie and began updating them. Copies of deeds are missing and heirs not easily identified. This process will be more formalized as we move forward and will take time. Initial contact has been made with all those on our mailing list and some are responding.

In addition, Bill Galetto, assisted by Karyn Galetto and Tanya Tracey, continued surveying the cemetery. This project includes measuring the size of the plots, identifying names on headstones, and identifying rows in the cemetery for new maps. Bill has started completing maps based on the information collected. The CPC has reviewed some of the preliminary maps.

In the spring, an automobile driver accidentally drove into the northeast side of the cemetery and damaged some monuments, markers and dislocated several gravestones. The damage was repaired by John Tyrie Monuments/Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens and CPC was reimbursed in full by the driver's insurance company.

2020 Highlights

- Burials/Inurnments – 4 – Walter D. Kone, Christopher T. Dols, Eleanor M. Hardy, Helen M. Banister
- Lots sold – 5
- Veterans – 65 representing the War of 1812, the Civil War (North and South), WWI, WWII, Korean, Vietnam wars to the present. Due to pandemic restrictions, US Flags were placed on these graves on Veterans Day and around the church on Memorial Day.
- We placed 66 wreaths on graves and 1 near the entrance to the wing.
- We mailed 163 news/appeal letters resulting in donations from 56 donors totaling \$7,853.50. An additional \$6,206 was received from the sale of wreaths, memorial donations, and cemetery plot fees.

Thanks to these contributions and gifts, our financial picture continues to be very encouraging.

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| • 2020 grounds maintenance, snow/ice removal, monument repair, etc. | \$25,904 |
| • Perpetual Care Fund as of 12/31/2020 | \$349,201 |
| • CPC Money Market as of 12/31/2020 | \$54,746 |
| • CPC CD as of 12/31/2020 | \$20,175 |
| • Checking account balance as of 12/31/2020 | \$5,853 |

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: Ralph Wismer
Members: Bill Galetto, Treasurer
Joyce Mann
Suzanne Merryman, Secretary
Sandy Thompson
Jack Turnbull, Chairman
Member Emeritus: Virginia R. (Presh) Lyon (deceased in January, 2020)

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Turnbull
Chairman

ALTAR GUILD

Well, the Altar Guild 2021 report is somewhat different this year because of the COVID19 pandemic. Last March when the services were cancelled abruptly because of the pandemic, the Altar Guild had to also make changes. Online services began the week after Easter Sunday. As many of you know, while no one was worshipping in person, the altar still needed to be set up for service each Sunday. The flowers were then placed in front of the altar in order to be seen better. Mother Nancy moved back to communion and we began setting up for a modified communion. Now here we are 10 months later. A new A/V system is now in place. We are beginning to arrange the flowers on the altar as previously and our groups continue to work behind the scenes. Communion wafers "to go" have been organized by the altar guild. We assist Mother Nancy with the modified altar for "Communion by the Red Door". Christmas Eve service packets of wafers, bulletins, etc. were put together for distribution. It's been quite the year. A huge thank you to Carey Mednick for her invaluable help each week. Thank you also to the members of the altar guild who continue to assist with the set-up each week in a COVID-safe environment.

The 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.

Last, if anyone would like to do Sunday flower contributions to honor or memorialize someone, we will be happy to bring these to you utilizing a COVID-safe drop off on your porch. Please email Carey if you wish to donate towards 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 and Joyce Mann for preparing the altar flowers monthly for church.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Thompson & Anne Wismer

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Christian Formation has flourished during COVID-19. I am delighted by this as I have found our bible studies over Zoom engaging and educational as we explore our faith. Moving into 2021, we will continue to expand learning opportunities. We have sought tools to aide our Zoom bible studies/classes that have enhanced our teaching methods. Our time together for both adults and youth/children has been interesting, thought-provoking, educational, and Spirit-filled.

Classes Offered in 2020:

- The Gospel of Matthew – delving into the gospel
- Bible 101 – back to bible basics
- *The Path* – a study of the Old Testament
- *The Incarnation* – a Lenten Study of the true meaning of Christmas
- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* – a youth book study on the C. S. Lewis novel

Respectfully submitted,

Mother Nancy

HEALING MINISTRY

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 both 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.

Under normal circumstances, when a pandemic does not alter regular church services, 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 prayer in the wing of the church. All are welcome to participate in this service. Today, though, and until our congregation once again meets face to face, Healing Prayers can continue differently. Our weekly bulletin contains, on its prayer list, the names of Sherwood parishioners as well as others important to us. As each of us reads the name of these individuals, we have an opportunity for prayer. This prayer might take place in our hearts or in something as simple as a phone call, email or text. These ways of communicating under our Lord's guidance can be very effective. They become a very personal way for all of us to connect with our Savior Jesus Christ on behalf of another. Anne Wismer and Jane Turnbull currently serve this ministry.

Sherwood's Shawl Ministry continues to function throughout pandemic restrictions. 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 created for those who cannot be with us. If you know individuals who might need one of our handmade items, please let Mother Nancy, Jane Turnbull or any member of this committee know. The item will be created, 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 sign-up 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.

2021. We are all looking forward to the Sunday when we are under same Sherwood roof again. As a celebration of the event we will have a special hospitality hour. It is still a work in progress but the menu will be something worthy of our gathering.

Respectfully submitted,
Karyn A. Galetto

OUTREACH

“We rise by lifting others.” Robert Ingersoll

I was reading over my outreach report from last year. My report included this quote from *Forward Day by Day* “The church is now leaving the building.” The report was written prior to COVID-19 but was a foreshadowing of what was to come. Who could have predicted that a year later we would find ourselves unable to gather physically in our sacred space or do outreach in the ways we had done in the past?

Sherwood outreach has continued to operate in this difficult environment. It has been a challenging, yet rewarding, year. The Cockeysville Middle School (CMS) imperative was successfully launched in September 2020. In conjunction with The Student Support Network, we have held several food distribution events and are currently serving over 100 families per event. Through this partnership we are building new relationships with area organizations including Hungry Harvest, the Girl Scouts, Cockeysville Middle School PTSA, Oldfields School, Immanuel Episcopal-Glencoe and St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Cockeysville. The list continues to grow!

Our work at CMS will continue in 2021 with plans to establish an in-school storeroom when we are approved to enter the building. The Imperatives Team is also looking at grant opportunities to support the food distributions and funds to provide a “scholarship” to target promising CMS students in art and music. This imperative is a work in progress and will evolve to meet the needs of CMS students and their families.

Sherwood also remains involved with Loaves and Fishes at St. Matthias Church. Like many other soup kitchens, COVID-19 forced them to modify their existing model of serving a hot meal on the premises. Sherwood held two sandwich making events in 2020 to provide bagged lunches for their clients. We also supplied them with personal items for their pantry throughout the year and at Christmas sponsored a virtual Giving Tree for warm winter clothing. These donations were greatly appreciated by Pris Sicard and her team as they serve their vulnerable clients in these challenging times.

I continue to volunteer at UCAN (United Churches Assistance Network) at St. Joseph’s in Cockeysville. UCAN provides rent and utility assistance in our community. They are operating on a limited schedule and much is being done remotely. At UCAN I see firsthand the economic devastation that COVID-19 has wrought in our community. Many clients have lost jobs or have had their hours drastically reduced. The past due amounts on rent and utilities continues to grow. UCAN has stepped up and enabled many people to stay in their homes and keep the heat/lights on during this crisis.

Thank you to everyone at Sherwood for your prayers and support. The need has never been greater, and Sherwood’s outreach will work to rise to the challenges in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Mann

PARISH RECORDS 2020

Baptisms:	1
Confirmations and Receptions:	None
Marriages:	1
Burials/Inurnments:	4
Funeral and Memorial Services:	3 (all graveside)

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Overall, Sherwood had a surprisingly good 2020. We budgeted approximately \$116,000 in income and \$156,000 in expenses, a deficit budget of \$40,000 (before knowing about the pandemic of course). The actuals came out to be approximately \$153,000 in income and \$167,000 in expenses, a deficit of just \$14,000. This compares against the 2019 deficit of \$13,000. Financial highlights of 2020 are described below.

Effects of the Pandemic – The global pandemic did have an effect on Sherwood, but not like one would expect. At the beginning of the pandemic, the Vestry was concerned, as was everyone, about what might happen during the rest of the year. We applied for, and received a Paycheck Protection Loan (\$16,800), offered by the Small Business Administration to help cover salaries and utility expenses during a period of the year due to an expected loss of revenue. That did not happen. We budgeted pledges of \$86,000 for 2020 – we received \$108,000 in current year pledges, a *surplus* of \$22,000). This did not happen for very many organizations last year, so, **well done, team!** (Budgeting pledges is definitely an art, but we clearly did not manage to do that very well last year.) We subsequently paid off the PPP loan in Jan 2021 as we were never in danger of laying anybody off or not paying our bills, so the loan had a net effect of \$0 on the church.

As we were not able to have in-person services, the Vestry decided to allocate funding for internet service and an audio-video system to be installed in the church, to allow us to start online worship services. Several generous parishioners donated most of the money needed for this (**Thank you!**), so that only approximately \$9600 were needed from church funds.

As to other effects, offerings for special services were down significantly, since we did not hold in-person Holy Week or Christmas services. Also, utilities and administrative expenses were down a bit due to less use of gas and electricity, as well as use of office supplies.

Other Highlights – The energy savings initiatives of Vestry in the various campus buildings during the past several years continues to pay dividends in our gas and electricity bills, as these continue to be below budget. And, for all the ups and downs of last year, the overall financial status of Sherwood’s assets (church and CPC combined) increased approximately \$95,000 for year-end 2020 over 2019. This was mainly due to the overall growth in the stock market.

In 2020, we paid our FULL 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.

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 needed, further details can be provided at the Annual Meeting and/or, please feel free to contact me directly.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles M. Roebuck, III & Robin Rouleau