

**SHERWOOD EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Annual Meeting–2023 in Review  
March 10, 2024**

**AGENDA**

**Welcome**

Carrie Fowler, Senior Warden

**Approval of the Minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting**

Joyce Mann, Registrar

**Presentation and Vote of Nominees for 2024 Vestry Members**

Jack Turnbull and Laure Covert

**Commissioning of 2024 Vestry Members**

Mother Nancy and Carrie Fowler, Senior Warden

**Clean Water Project Update**

Mother Nancy

Robin Rouleau

**Financial Briefing**

Charles Roebuck, Treasurer

Robin Rouleau, Asst. Treasurer

**Special Thank Yous**

Mother Nancy

**Q&A**

Carrie Fowler

**Closing Prayer**

Mother Nancy

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Rector

3

Senior Warden Report  
2023 Milestones & Accomplishments

4

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

6

Nominating Committee Report

8

Junior Warden Report

10

Music Director Report

13

Parish Administrator Report

14

Cemetery Perpetual Care Report

15

Altar Guild Report

16

Hospitality Report

17

Outreach Report

18

Parish Records

Treasury Report

19

*For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. -- Romans 12:4-5*

Dear Sherwood Community,

When I sat down to write this letter for our 2023 Annual Report, these verses from Romans 12 came to mind. This past year has been a year of collaboration and partnership. The bringing together of many people with a myriad of gifts to form something much stronger than if we had all acted independently.

Thanks to the leadership of the late Susie Merryman – whose work still lives on – we formed a partnership with area Sherwood Hill churches and other interested folks to establish the Beaver Dam Green Team. We continue to deepen our partnership with the Student Support Network (SSN) for the students and families of Cockeysville Middle School. The youth from Sherwood, St. Francis, and Trinity, Long Green now come together for fun, fellowship, and learning while creating new friendships with other Episcopalian youth. At Broadmead, we continue to provide spiritual outreach through our monthly Eucharist service and Lenten/ Advent group studies. We remain steadfast in addressing the needs of those living in Cockeysville area through my work on the board of the United Churches Assistance Network (UCAN) and Sherwood members volunteering their time to help those in need of rental or utility bill assistance. Lastly, I give thanks to the talents of many who helped us be awarded \$1.7 million dollars of funding for the second phase of our Clean Water Project, a project that will enhance the surrounding environment in a myriad of ways.

Take the time to read this Annual Report so you can gain a full understanding of how Sherwood has been the Body of Christ out in the world. I am proud of the work we have done, and I know that we remain committed to being Christ's light through our work with one another and the greater community. How blessed we are!

I continue to thank God for the privilege of serving as your rector and spiritual leader.

Yours in Christ,

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

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey, Rector  
Dear Sherwood Family,

## SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

As I reflect on 2023 and all we have achieved together as a parish, I feel profound gratitude. Gratitude to God for the guidance, inspiration and the opportunity to serve within our Sherwood community and beyond. As a Vestry, we have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as we gathered to do the work you elected us to do. We are also grateful for your support and have appreciated the feedback you provide to keep us aligned with our shared priorities. And, although we have grieved the loss of beloved members of our Sherwood family this year, I feel deep gratitude for all they gave to Sherwood over their lifetimes and for their lasting legacy.

Before I highlight some of our 2023 accomplishments, I would like to thank our vestry and administrative team. To our members at large, Laure Covert, Sheila Fitzgerald and Christina Strong, thank you for your dedication to Sherwood and for always challenging us to embrace new perspectives while we build deeper relationships as a parish. Thank you to Joyce Mann, who as registrar, ensures that we report our meetings and decisions diligently. Joyce also leads our Outreach efforts. Charles Roebuck (treasurer) and Robin Rouleau (assistant treasurer) have been diligent and vigilant stewards of our finances. Robin has found every opportunity to save resources. Stephanie Everts, as Junior Warden, carries a heavy load. She cares for our buildings and property with care, skill, and a wonderful sense of humor. She also provides wise counsel to me. Carey Mednick keeps us “current” with all our social media platforms and our weekly e-newsletter. Sherwood continues to benefit from her creative works. Greg Seseck, our music director, and Cassidy Dixon, our soloist, bring us the gift of sacred music each week.

And, finally, thank you Mother Nancy for your leadership. We are profoundly grateful for your ministry and partnership.

Every time I sit in our beautiful church, I feel blessed to be in this sacred space with those of you who join us in-person, and those who join us virtually. We are one body in Christ.

Thank you for being part of this family, and for the many gifts you bring to our community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie Fowler

## **Milestones and Accomplishments 2023**

- Sherwood was awarded \$1.7 million dollars from the Department of Natural Resources to fund the second phase of our three-phase Clean Water Project.
- We welcomed fourteen new members to our congregation (so far!) this year and we hosted a Newcomer's Program to introduce our new members to Sherwood and one another.
- Our Outreach Ministry has become more involved in the Cockeysville Middle School Food Pantry and continues to identify needs of personal products, clothes, and additional resources for students and families in our Cockeysville neighborhood.
- Beaver Dam Green Team was formed and hosted two outdoor gatherings on environmental education accompanied by plant, tree, and pumpkin giveaways.
- The vestry committed to gathering a few times throughout the year for fellowship and deeper conversations. This has helped to strengthen our relationships to one another and as Sherwood's body of leadership. The Senior and Junior Wardens meet monthly with Mother Nancy to set the agenda and discuss issues facing the church.
- The Altar Guild and Worship Team Members (ushers, lectors, acolytes, and hospitality) continue to support our worship service through their tireless work providing seamless worship for all to enjoy.
- Karen and Bill Galetto and Jane Buscemi keep our Sherwood sign on York Road updated with our worship schedule and other important events. This is no small feat!
- The beautiful Altar Linens were blessed this year giving thanks to God and the generosity of Ralph and Anne Wismer.
- We established monthly *Second Sunday Soup* gatherings to bring our community together for delicious homemade soup and fellowship.
- Several bible studies offered throughout the year. Both online and in person.

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting convened in person and via zoom at 11:22 am. The attendance sheet was circulated.

Welcome (Bernice Arnold): Bernice welcomed all.

Approval of 2022 Minutes (Joyce Mann): Joyce Mann made a motion to approve the 2022 minutes included in the Annual Report package. Paul Ventura seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Thank You to Outgoing Vestry (Mother Nancy): Thank you to Bernice Arnold who has served three years as Senior Warden. Thank you to Ralph Wismer who, with the assistance of Anne, served as Junior Warden and co-chair on the Clean Water Committee.

2023 Vestry Nominees Presented (Anne Wismer): For 2023 there are two open positions and two nominees. Anne Wismer presented Joyce Mann and Sheila Fitzgerald for the 2023 vestry. Their bios are in the Annual Report package. Paul Ventura made a motion to accept the candidates. Christina Strong seconded the motion. Motion passed. Joyce and Sheila were given a blessing by Mother Nancy.

Cemetery Perpetual Care (Jack Turnbull): Jack gave an informative presentation on the Sherwood cemetery. There are about 800 people buried in the cemetery. Some of the graves date back to the 1850's. The cemetery includes graves for those who had to be reinterred because of the development of Loveton Farms and the flooding of the town of Warren for the dam. Bill Galetto and others have worked on updating the cemetery records. This is a difficult process because some of the deeds and heir information was lost in flooding. There are currently spaces available in the cemetery. Most are cremation sites. The CPC picks up the costs associated with grass cutting, snow removal and tree work. These expenses run about \$20,000 a year. The CPS places flags on graves twice a year. There are estimated to be 80 veterans buried in the cemetery. At Christmas the CPC offers to place wreathes on graves. This year seven dozen wreathes were placed. The CPC pays for the wreathes and seeks reimbursement. All but \$29 was reimbursed this year. The CPC solicits funds once a year. The average response rate is 30%.

Financials (Robin Rouleau & Charles Roebuck): The financials are available for review. The vestry reviews and approves the financials once a month. Highlights below:

- Sherwood was budgeted to lose \$26,000. The actual loss was \$10,000. The generosity of the congregation and a focus on controlling expenses contributed to the better than expected result. The fact that the CPC picks up the bulk of property maintenance costs is also a major factor.
- The 2023 Revenue Budget is \$147,000.
- The Diocese Assessment decreased.

Q&A (All): No questions

Closing Prayer (MN): Mother Nancy closed the meeting with a prayer at 11:55am.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Mann, Registrar

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

*The Nominating Committee (Laure Covert and Jack Turnbull) presents to the congregation the two candidates who are running for vestry, Charles Roebuck and Laure Covert.*

### **Laure (pronounced “Laurie”) Pepper Covert**

I am excited to be considered for a second term to serve our parish on the Vestry because I see this service as an important way to participate more deeply and give back to the church that has given me such welcome. I especially love our dual commitment as a parish to keep Sherwood’s roots strong and to engage with contemporary needs such as the Clean Water project.

My Episcopalian roots go back to childhood with my four grandparents dedicated to their parishes. My own parents’ paths led them away from the Episcopal Church before I was confirmed and so I had to find my own way back starting in my college years. I came full circle in June 2021 when I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. It is never too late to take important steps in our spiritual journey.

I am a strong advocate for immigrant welcome and integration in the U.S. My career path led me to becoming an authorized provider of legal services to immigrants through the Department of Justice Recognition and Accreditation program. I am now the full-time Director of Immigration Legal Services at World Relief Baltimore and am privileged to play a part in connecting our immigrant neighbors to their dreams of legal status and citizenship.

I am dedicated to an open welcome and integration of all who seek to make the United States their home and I align with Sherwood’s mission statement to fling open our doors to embrace all.

In my free time, I enjoy walking in nature, birding, and reading mystery fiction. I have three adult children and three granddaughters with a new grandchild soon to be born this spring.

### **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.

## JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

### April 2023

During Holy Week the gas service line serving the rectory, office, and parish house was accidentally ruptured during the opening of a grave. Subsequently the line was capped off and the buildings had to be modified.

### May 2023

Constellation Home did an electrical upgrade to the rectory which allowed us to install a new hot water heater and stove. The former gas hot water heater was not reusable so it was scrapped, but the gas stove was in very good shape and was reinstalled in the home of a family in need that was thrilled to receive it.

### June 2023

This month was a very busy month. In early June we were unable to get the air conditioner to start in the church. Constellation Home came out and replaced the condensation pump. A week later we were unable to control or turn off the air conditioner, ultimately throwing the breaker to stop it. Again Constellation Home came out and found that the wiring between the outside compressors, the circulating unit and the thermostat had shorted out. This wiring was replaced and the units seem to be functioning properly.

We also noted ants and flying ants (verses termites) in the windowsill of the bell tower. Lynn Pest Control came out and determined that they were indeed flying ants, not termites, and treated the area.

The fire alarm went off erroneously and the sensor was replaced within the church.

I was notified by the tenants that the kitchen sink had a leak beneath it and an outside faucet was leaking. Brewer Plumbing replaced the kitchen faucet and packing in the outside faucet.

Additionally, we received a water bill ten times higher than normal for this quarter. The Baltimore City Director of Finance (water department) said we needed to have our property checked for a leak prior to them addressing the concern. The plumbers came out and determined that while we did not have a leak now, we did have a major leak under the abandoned office that spewed water for weeks without detection. Sherwood was responsible for the water bill.

### July 2023

Quiet month.

### August 2023

Fireline came to Sherwood and inspected replaced and/or recharged the fire extinguishers in all buildings.

The temporary church office was finally demolished and cleared away.

### September 2023

An animal managed to get into the undercroft of the church and a wildlife remediation company was asked to address the problem. Apparently it was a squirrel(s) that managed to squeeze through a small hole and was unable to get back out. The hole has since been sealed and there have been no other issues with our local inhabitants.

PIPCO installed a new HVAC system in the rectory that is all electric.

### October 2023

A possible roof leak was detected in the sacristy by the alter guild following a heavy rain. A roofing contractor was asked to assess the roof.

### November 2023

Wagner Roofing assessed the slate roof of the church and did not find any obvious flaws. They recommended a maintenance contract since the roof is slate. No further water has been detected by the alter guild.

### December 2023

The smoke alarm in the sacristy malfunctioned and was replaced, as well as the one in the wing of the church. The smoke alarms were supposed to have ten-year batteries but they have failed after three years. The new smoke detectors have replaceable batteries.

The tenants in the rectory had plumbing problems with both toilets and the shower drain. The plumber has repaired these issues. Additionally, they had concerns about the washer and dryer malfunctioning. An appliance repairman was sent to the house and found a broken lint screen on the dryer and operator error to be the cause of concern for the washer.

The HVAC system was tied into the new electric meter by BGE and the final inspection for the project has been completed. All is in good working order.

### January 2024

Constellation Home performed the preventive maintenance service on the church HVAC system. No problems were noted.

February 2024

The tenants again had concerns about the function of the washer. The machine was assessed by another contractor and deemed to be in working order.

The tenants also stated that the basement flooded in the last heavy rain but admitted that they did not have the window well covers in place during this period.

The tenants also inquired about getting a new microwave. Although the built-in microwave is older it is still functioning, the handle to open and close it is missing and it could stand to be replaced.

The oven that was installed in April of last year has shorted out. This unit is under warranty and will be repaired by the GE technician this month. The heating element is on backorder.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Everts

## **MUSIC DIRECTOR REPORT**

The music program at Sherwood continues to strive to enrich the life of the community. Our cantor, Cassidy Dixon and I attempt to select music that reinforces the readings and inspire participation. It was wonderful to have the return of the choir on Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve. The choir adds a whole different dimension to our worship life. My hope for the next year is to continue trying to rebuild the choir to sing for feast days and also to sing more regularly. If you would like to sing in the choir, please speak to me. I continue to be inspired by the capabilities of our church organ, particularly when accompanying singing. It offers so many tone colors and I learn more about it all the time. As we look ahead to the next year, I thank you for your encouragement and support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Seseck

## PARISH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

After a big year of change in 2022 for the parish office, 2023 was decidedly a bit more quiet! In the spring, our old parish office was torn down to make way for the Clean Water Project. If you happen to wander up the driveway, you'd never know a building that weathered 50 years was once there.

Mother Nancy and I continue to enjoy the office space at Faith Lutheran. We were concerned that the office would be too small, but after spending the full year of 2023 in the new space, it is more than adequate for our needs. We can even use the conference room next door as a meeting space.

Faith Lutheran has been very welcoming and accommodating, especially allowing us to use their printer which is definitely bigger, better, and faster than our desktop one. It makes my job much easier! Faith will be renegotiating their contract with their printing vendor by the end of this year, so I hope we will be able to continue to use it. We also switched to a less expensive paper for the bulletin and I am always on the lookout for ways we can save money.

On the online front, we changed our newsletter platform from a free and inflexible Mailchimp account to the \$120-per-year Constant Contact. By switching to Constant Contact, we can now track how many users open our enews and we can also track if they click through any links and if any email addresses are undeliverable. It's also made it easier to subscribe and unsubscribe and the format is much nicer and more versatile. I've made the effort to post on Facebook every day so that we are reaching more users more often. We continue to add new followers and subscribers every month.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns about office/communication matters, please feel free to let me know.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carey Mednick

# PROGRAM MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORTS

## CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE

In 2023, the Cemetery Perpetual Care Committee (CPC) continued to update cemetery records. Several CPC members continue to be involved with the storm water runoff project that was recently granted \$1.7 million. Other members are involved with local outreach efforts, Cockeysville Middle School especially, providing families and students' support.

### Highlights

- Burials/Inurnments – 3 – John G. Garland, Evelyn G. Dalmaso and Mark S. Dalmaso.
- Lots sold – 0
- Veterans of the War of 1812, the Civil War (North and South), WWI, WWII, Korean, Vietnam wars to the present. U.S. Flags were placed on graves on Veterans Day and around the church campus on Memorial Day.
- We placed 7 dozen+ wreaths on graves and around the church campus. A big Thank You to all the volunteers that helped us place bows on wreaths and then wreaths on graves.
- We mailed or emailed 163 news/appeal letters resulting in donations totaling \$12,483.

The CPC investment portfolio and a portion of the bank money market funds were transferred to RBC Wealth Management Advisors/Hunt Valley in October in order to take advantage of a more efficient means of managing the portfolio which has grown considerably since its inception. CPC and the church's Finance Committee did their due diligence and placed professionals in charge of daily monitoring the church's investment needs going forward.

• 2023 Total expenses including ground maintenance	\$ 22,211
• Grounds maintenance, snow/ice removal, etc.	\$ 15,114
• CPC Assets as of <b>12/31/2023</b>	\$ 452,759

CPC members continue to hold themselves responsible to Sherwood Episcopal Church, its members and Vestry and to all lot owners/heirs 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: Stephanie Everts  
Members: Bill Galetto, Treasurer  
Joyce Mann  
Suzanne Merryman, Secretary  
Sandy Thompson  
Jack Turnbull, Chairman

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Turnbull

### **ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild of Sherwood Church that was headed by Anne Wismer up until last year has continued on as a vital ministry. Thanks to Anne's excellent leadership and thorough instruction manual that she compiled for us, we have been able to fulfill our duties.

Those duties include proper set up of the altar for each Sunday service, care of the sacraments and altar linens and set up of hymnal boards. We are also responsible for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Memorial Services, special set up for Christmas Eve, Easter Sunday and other liturgical celebrations such as All Saints Sunday, Pentecost and Holy Week. We place fresh flowers or greens on the altar depending on the church season.

The Guild's membership at present includes Susan Boucher, Connie Bonsiero, Dolly Guarini, Joyce Mann and Kathleen Stewart. We are looking forward to Mary Doyle joining us in April. And, of course, we are always looking for new members! Thank you so much to our faithful members for continuing to serve in this important ministry.



Our Flower Guild provides fresh flowers or greens for the altar depending on the church season. The members include Karyn Galetto, Joyce Mann, Greg Davis and Michelle Leahy, and Fran Gunshol. Thank you all for your service and a big thank you to Tim Galetto for providing us with beautiful summer flowers and wonderful greens for altar and Christmas swags! There is now a signup sheet in the wing for anyone wishing to donate money for altar flowers in memory or honor of someone.

Thanks to Carey Mednick, our faithful parish administrator, who does a fantastic job, helps to solve any problem and coordinates the rota schedule. (Not easy!)

I have learned a lot this past year, but would never have been able to do it without all the help I have received from the Guild members and our wonderful leader, Mother Nancy. I am grateful to all. It is an honor to be able to serve in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Thompson

## HOSPITALITY

Hospitality covers many areas. For those of us at Sherwood it means a time to gather informally to refresh friendships and welcome newcomers who have come to worship with us. Coffee, tea, napkins, plates, utensils are always available. Simple treats including a liquid cold beverage are provided by volunteers. Treats are encouraged to be family-friendly in case there might be any leftovers to take home with the provider. Cheese, fruit, crackers w/ dip are favorites not to be outdone by baked items (gluten-free, if possible) including cookies, coffee cakes, and breads. Sign-up sheets are available on the main table in the church wing. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karyn Galetto

## OUTREACH

*"Helping others is the way we help ourselves."-- Oprah Winfrey*

The above statement is simply stated, but in my case, it is the truth. The past few years have had significant challenges: loss, illness, the Covid pandemic and the general sense of unrest in our nation and the world. It is very easy to let myself become overwhelmed by the challenges and negativity. I find that my outreach activities provide a welcome diversion and a respite from the chaos. At the end of a pantry day at Cockeysville Middle School or seeing clients at UCAN I am tired, but also renewed. I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and for the friendships that I have developed with my co-volunteers.

In 2023 Sherwood continued our work with the Student Support Network at Cockeysville Middle School. The latest available statistics show that 41.90% of the 840 students at the school qualify for free or reduced meals. In comparison the percentage was 33.0% for the 2019-2020 school year. Clearly the need continues.

The Sherwood Team supports monthly open pantry dates at the school from September through June. The team makes sure the shelves are stocked, assists students and families with shopping and packs up perishables when the pantry ends. It is hard work but rewarding. Thank you to the core team: Sandy, Kathleen, Dolly, and Sheila.

This year we held our first Santa Shop that gave selected students the opportunity to shop for small Christmas gifts for their families. The students had a great time selecting and wrapping the presents. We hope to expand on this event in 2024.

Other highlights include:

- Sponsor of the SSN annual Fundraiser "A Night for the Network"
- Collecting toiletries and personal items for the pantry
- Providing two CMS families with holiday assistance through the Rector's Discretionary Fund
- Year-end financial donation

Sherwood also supports the work of UCAN (United Churches Assistance Network) in our community. This small local group works on preventing evictions and utility cut-offs. We provide UCAN with financial support and Mother Nancy serves on the board.

Sherwood also donated gift cards from Dollar Tree in 2023. These small cards help people to buy food and other essential items.

I volunteer once or twice a month in the UCAN office. Several times this year the office was “Standing Room Only”. Unfortunately, because of financial constraints UCAN cannot help every client, but they do a good job of referring people to other resources and providing an “ear” to listen.

Sherwood’s outreach efforts are funded through stewardship pledges and individual donations. The generosity and responsiveness of the congregation is a blessing and allows the good work to continue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Mann

### **PARISH RECORDS 2023**

**Baptisms:** None  
**Confirmations and Receptions:** None  
**Marriages:** None  
**Burials/Inurnments:** 3  
**Funeral and Memorial Services:** 4

### **TREASURER REPORT**

Once again—I must thank Robin Rouleau who has done much of work this year (MOST). I think the Vestry has been very aware of expenses and revenues thanks to his efforts. Additionally, the Vestry has been able to readily access information online which has helped for sharing and understanding.

Financially 2023 was a tough year for Sherwood. This is primarily due to some high and some unexpected expenses. On the positive side, we are blessed to have a very generous congregation. The revenue was once again above budget which helped tremendously... once again this year (like 2022) we had more donations than any year I have been involved at Sherwood. The pledge dollars were very large and we also had donations for special projects and directed needs.

We budgeted to be negative (losing money) nearly \$26,500. We ended the year with a loss of \$45,000 – which is not as good as 2022 (loss \$10,000) and 2021 (loss \$1,300). This was primarily due to expenses related to the rectory (many repairs) and to the removal of the church office building due to the storm water runoff. Eventually we will reap the rewards of repairing the water flow on the property and will be getting funds to handle most of this work—but in the meanwhile we have expenses related to the problem that we keep experiencing.

When you add the extra property expenses and repair expenses—this year became very expensive even with a significant uptick in donations.

We are current with all bills. Our insurance has gone up as have many other specific items, but we have found ways to balance that with other savings.

Like usual, payroll and related expenses are the bulk of our operational costs. Following the payroll costs, we have property expenses (many buildings and many acres to maintain, utilities) and finally the Diocese Assessment which varies each year but still is a large expense over which we have little control. Mother Nancy has been working on the insurance to find ways to lower our annual premiums. All other expenses can be and are tightly controlled which has helped Sherwood continue its mission.

For reference, in 2022 we lost \$10,000 and in 2021 we were negative \$1,300 and 2020 we were positive about \$4,000 and in 2019 we were negative about \$12,000 ... 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 (\$7,500)—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. Thus in general we find ways to be close to budget each year—except 2023 where we had a tough year.

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 our incredible team of Greg, Carey and Mother Nancy for their consistent and steady leadership through the last year. Their contributions have been incredible.

Attached, please find the budget for 2024 and the end-of-year statement for 2023. In 2023, we paid our assessment to the Diocese in a timely and consistent manner. We have paid all payroll and retirement expenses. 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. And we continue to have a robust music program.

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 2023—I would suggest that during this fiscal year we will likely need to utilize some “savings and investment funds”—Robin has worked diligently on balancing the needs here and watching the values of various accounts.

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.

The audit committee will be reviewing the 2023 year in accordance with Diocese requirements and guidelines (and as a double check!). This will be fully completed sometime in the near future.

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

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles M. Roebuck, III