

2025 Wye Parish Annual Report

Old Wye Church and St. Luke's Chapel



***February 1, 2026
(410)827-8484
www.wyeparish.org***

Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Treasurer
Registrar

Parish Officers

Sharon Butler, since 2024
Tom Radcliffe, since 2025
Jay Marchant, since 2010 THANK YOU!
Ann Goodman, since 2025

The Vestry of Wye Parish

Carol Bilek
Sharon Butler
Mike Borland
Rick Culotta
Robin Metz
Barbara Perry
George Plumbo
Tom Radcliffe
Jeff Scott

Delegates to The 158th Diocesan Convention

Sharon Butler
Barbara Perry
Ann Goodman (Alternate)

Staff

Interim Rector
Assisting Rector
Parish Administrators

Director, Music Ministry
Organist

The Rev. Charlotte Meyer
The Rev. Betty Hudson
Cathy Martin
Ellen Smith (served 2016-August 2025)
Nancy Cook
Richard Strattan

Office Hours

Office Hours
Clergy Office Hours

Mon-Thurs. 9 to 3
By appointment

Parish Contact Information

Office
Pastoral Emergencies

(410)827-8484, info@wyeparish.org
(301)520-5439, rector@wyeparish.org

Monthly Service Schedule:

Sundays at 9:30am	Holy Communion (location alternates by month)
2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays	Sacred Circle, St. Luke's at 1:00pm
Two services monthly	Queenstown Landing (see Rector for details)

Liturgical Leaders and Ministries 2025

Clergy	The Rev. Betty Hudson The Rev. Charlotte Meyer
Worship Leaders and Eucharistic Ministers:	Lennie Anthony Carol Bilek Sharon Butler Rick Culotta
Eucharistic Visitors:	Sharon Butler Rick Culotta
Crucifer:	Edward Racliffe
Acolyte:	William Radcliffe
Director of Music Ministry:	Nancy Cook
Organist:	Richard Strattan
Choir 2025:	Sharon Butler Rick Culotta Geri Elza Jamie Goodman Gloria Griffith Jackie Oren Edward Radcliffe S.P. Sheahan
Ushers:	Ron Dryka Tom Radcliffe
Altar Guild:	Tricia Anthony

Sharon Butler
Mary Campbell
Connie Cole
Mary Julie
Suzanne Sheehan
Savannah Scott
Judy Webber

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SUPPORT! EACH OF YOU
ENSURED WE HAD A MEANINGFUL YEAR OF WORSHIP SERVICES
THAT GIVE GLORY TO GOD!**



THE BUSINESS MEETING OF WYE PARISH

Minutes of the February 2, 2025 Annual Meeting – Ann Goodman

The Wye congregation met at the Wye Parish Hall. Rev. Charlotte opened the meeting with a prayer and call to order. NOTE: The Annual Meeting Bulletin and Financial Reports are available for viewing upon request.

Acceptance of the Minutes from the January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting

Carol Bilek made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Debbie Scott seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Report of the Nominating Committee - Sharon Butler and the nominating committee presented nominees for the Vestry: Carol Bilek and Barbara Perry. Nominations were requested from the floor. None were offered. Tom Radcliffe made a motion to accept the nominees, Jeff Scott seconded the motion, all were in agreement and Carol and Barbara were unanimously voted in.

Current roster of Vestry Members were also approved by acclamation of the attendees: Mike Borland, Sharon Butler, Rick Culotta, Tom Radcliffe, George Plumbo, Jay Marchant, Jeff Scott and Robin Metz.

Diocesan Convention - A reminder was made that our nominees to the Convention are Sharon Butler, Carol Bilek, and Barbara Perry.

Clergy Report (See Report) Rev. Betty and Rev. Charlotte each gave a brief report on their ministry at Wye Parish and talked about their hopes for the future. Please see notes attached.

Senior Warden's Report (See Report) What a year – a year filled with positive change and growth across all aspects of operations and ministries here at Wye Parish!

We've seen these positive changes and growth in the Clergy, the Music Ministry, the Sunday School and with maintenance and repairs on both church campuses.

God states in the very first book of the Bible that He created us to worship Him and to be faithful stewards of His possessions: His resources – His earth, His living creatures, His people. Here at Wye, we have been working together to be good stewards of the many resources and blessings God has given us.

When we established the Stewardship Committee this past September, we adopted the theme suggested by our Committee's leader, Tom Radcliffe: "Giving new life to old traditions."

As we move into 2025, let us continue to consider and embrace new visions and new goals, but at the same time to maintain our traditional values of worshipping and honoring God, loving and caring for our families at home, our Church family, our neighbors, and always spreading God's Good News! And with His help, we will succeed! Joyfully submitted, Sharon Butler

Junior Warden's Report (See Report) - Carol spoke to the work done over the year and the work ahead. She will be working with Tom Radcliffe to transition all projects to his care. A request was made for volunteers to join a re-established Building and Grounds Standing Committee. The amount of work between the two properties is more than one person can do. All those interested are asked to see Tom Radcliffe.

Treasurer's Report (See Report) - Rev. Charlotte spoke to Jay Marchant detailed Financial Reports for 2024 and pointed to Jay's summary and highlights. We are financially sound and doing well. The Parish acknowledged Jay's exceptional contributions and agreed to investigate additional support for his position, as currently, personal obligations demand his attention. A request was made for volunteers to form a Finance Committee. Carol Bilek was the first to volunteer.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Altar Guild (See Report) - Mary Campbell spoke to the report submitted in the bulletin.

ECW Report (See Report) - Mary Campbell and Debbie Scott thanked all who had taken part in ECW events for their grace and enthusiasm, adding that they are pleased to be part of such an exemplary group. Highlights are found in their report.

Books Café Ministry (See Report) - Jim Campbell shared highlights from the year and pointed to the immediate needs ahead, including the need for a new depository as the Saunder's property is for sale.

Stewardship (See Report) Tom Radcliffe spoke to his report highlighting that Stewardship is no longer a one month fall event, but an ongoing ministry with a goal to build relationships and good will among the parish.

Worship Leaders (See Report) - Rick Culotta offered highlights to his report and thanked the parish for their support over the last two and a half years. Those gathered acknowledged Rick for his outstanding leadership and expressed their gratitude.

The meeting ended with a Prayer by Saint Oscar Romero.

Rev. Charlotte moved to adjourn the meeting; Tom Seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Charlotte Meyer

Supplemental Note: Immediately following the Annual Meeting, Rev. Charlotte called to order a short meeting of the Vestry to elect the following slate of officers. Senior Warden: Sharon Butler, Junior Warden, Tom Radcliffe, Treasurer: Jay Marchant, Registrar: Ann Goodman. The slate was unanimously approved. The officers and new Vestry members will be sworn in at the next Vestry meeting scheduled for February 17 at 6pm.

ACTION NEEDED: (Acceptance of the Minutes from last year's meeting.)

A Report of the Nominating Committee - Sharon Butler
Members include Sharon Butler, Rick Culotta and Robin Metz.

Elections

Nominations to the Vestry are

- Valerie Dryka
- Mary Julie
- Nominations from the floor...

ACTION NEEDED: (Vote)

ACTION NEEDED:

Acclamation by the attendees of the Current Roster of Vestry Members:

Treasurer's Report – Jay Marchant and Ron Dryka:

Finance team members include Carol Bilek, Sharon Butler, Ron Dryka, Jay Marchant and Barbara Perry.

The Finance Team formed in early 2025 to support the work of the Treasurer and to create a smooth transition as Jay steps back after decades of devoted service. The team meets monthly and shares their minutes and suggestions with the Vestry.

In their first year they:

- Developed and revised the role of the parish administrator
- Documented the flow of accounting procedures
- Worked with the Treasurer to engage an auditor for this year and 2026
- Developed Gift Acceptance policies
- Developed Endowment policies
- Reviewed and revised the chart of accounts
- Served as a council of advice to the Vestry on financial matters

Bylaws Committee Report – Mike Borland

The Bylaws Committee includes Mike Borland, Sharon Butler, George Plumbo, Jeff Scott, and Rev. Charlotte.

This year the Vestry reviewed Wye's bylaws which are 26 years old. It was suggested an ad hoc Bylaws Committee be formed to make recommendations for revisions to be considered by the Vestry and Diocesan Committee on Constitution and Canons. After review and discussion, the Bylaws Committee suggested revisions that would better work for our context today. The two most impactful suggestions are to 1) allow for electronic meetings and voting when necessary - such as what occurred when we encountered COVID and 2) based on the size of our congregation and that we've moved to a model where much of our work is being done in committees rather than at the Vestry level, the committee recommends the parish consider reducing the number of members on the Vestry to 6 individuals, rather than 9. If approved by the parish, this shift would take place gradually over a course of three years.

The Bylaws Committee sent DRAFT revisions to the Diocesan Committee on Constitutions and Canons for their review to make sure we were in line with the

canons. They responded with a few suggestions. The Bylaws Committee reviewed those suggestions and submitted them to the Vestry for review and comment at their February meeting. The next iteration will go back the Diocesan Committee for a second review. Then we will distribute to the parish for YOUR input and review. A special meeting will be called in the spring and a vote will be taken by the parish.

If you have any questions, please speak them now or see any member of the committee or Rev. Charlotte.

Senior Warden's Report – Sharon Butler

I'm excited to be writing to you as we come to the close of another year together. It's always customary for the senior warden to review accomplishments of the previous twelve months and to thank everyone for their many contributions to the mission and ministries of Wye Parish. This year, the parishioners' involvement and ongoing commitment have been particularly notable.

Beginning early last year, Reverend Charlotte, with Reverend Betty's input and support, evaluated the existing Church ministries and began to guide the Parish toward expanding those ministries and exploring new ones. We then needed to define new committees for these ministries and to secure committee members. It was so gratifying to see you, our parishioners, either spontaneously offer or willingly agree to a request to join a particular group. I'd like to highlight some of each committee's achievements to illustrate your admirable willingness to serve our beloved Parish.

The Finance Team, a newly refurbished committee this past year, has paid attention to all aspects of the finances of the Parish, including monthly financial reports, parish accounts and investments. In addition, the members have learned about and added their expertise to new endeavors this year: a financial audit, QuickBooks accounting online and search for a new Treasurer.

The Search Committee, a group diverse in ages and experiences, is charged with the job of guiding the search for our new fulltime rector. It is reported that, along with advice from a professional pastoral search company, the members are doing commendable work to help hire a rector that will be a perfect fit for Wye Parish.

Building and Grounds Committee. The membership of this team has been coordinating the maintenance and upkeep of our two beautiful church campuses. They must prioritize the various projects and make sure the necessary funds are available; a daunting task indeed, but they are more than capable! It's probably most appropriate to mention here that we were able to rent our Wye Parish rectory this year, through the efforts of our Junior Warden and this committee.

Cemetery Committee - This committee is new this year and has been vital for maintaining the cemetery grounds and serving the families whose loved ones are interred there. They are busy redrawing cemetery maps and detailing the needs for gravestone repair and repositioning.

Worship Planning Committee - We would be unable to provide coordinated and meaningful Sunday, holiday and special services without this membership, which includes clergy, worship leaders, music leaders and the altar guild. The numerous details come together as these committed souls plan the services for liturgical seasons of the year.

Communications -This is another new and exciting committee for online and social media coverage. We want our community to know about our active and welcoming church, its ongoing ministries and its special events.

Pastoral Care -At present, this committee includes Rev. Charlotte and a couple of the worship leaders, committed to contacting and visiting those parishioners who cannot attend church services. The need of this ministry is crucial for our church friends. Pastoral visits can be nicely done by our parishioners. This is a holy service to our Lord.

Bylaws Committee -This is an ad hoc committee, established for the purpose of updating the Wye Parish Bylaws, a job which hadn't been done for 25 years. Their work is now largely completed, but you will see, review and vote on our new Bylaws very soon.

Concert Committee -This is another new committee, currently active for the purpose of planning our first stained glass fundraising event, a cello/violin concert to be held on March 14th at St. Luke's. It is hoped that a more long-term fundraising committee will emerge from this and will take a primary role in fundraising events for our windows and other projects.

Speaking of fundraising, I would be remiss if I didn't applaud our exciting, annual Wye Parish fundraising events: the Christmas Bazaar, this past one being our 60th, and the Books Cafe, now offering its 26th event! I am

AMAZED at what we have accomplished this past year, and I am convinced that we are more aware, informed and unified than ever before.

As we step into 2026, we will continue to build on these past achievements, and we will continue to unite the missions of our ECW, our Vestry and our entire Parish.

We are truly blessed!

Let us pray -

Almighty God, we kneel in adoration with a humble and grateful prayer of thanksgiving. With Your guidance, our Wye Parish family has ended a successful and productive year, and we look forward to a new year together, sustained by Your grace and strengthened through faith by Your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*



Please join us in the parish hall for fellowship and hear highlights from and ask questions about our vast work in 2025!

COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY REPORTS FOR 2025

Junior Warden's Report – Tom Radcliffe

Members of the Building and Grounds Committee include Lennie Anthony, Carol Bilek, George Plumbo, Tom Radcliffe (Chair), and Don Regenhardt as our advisor.

This past year has had a lot of obstacles, projects that were accomplished, and a major project that was started and is currently underway. The Rectory constituted the bulk of those as it needed quite a bit of work done to get it ready for rental, things found after it was rented, an unexpected “maintenance project” that was required by the State, and a major project to help keep it well maintained for either rental or permanent inhabitation for decades to come. These included:

1. Replacing several of the interior electrical outlets, a ceiling fan, and 4 exterior light fixtures
2. Updating bathroom fixtures
3. Inspections of the fireplace & chimney, the HVAC unit, lead paint, water and septic and a septic tank pump out
4. Repair of thresholds of the 2 exterior doors and replacing both storm doors
5. Rekeying all exterior locks to fit one key
6. Large scale cleanup of the house and yard, including tree-house removal
7. Placement of interior French drains in the basement for water and mold abatement
8. Replacement of the water heater
9. Additional electrical repairs of a switch and light fixtures, adding an outlet to the bathroom and plumbing repairs to said bathroom and kitchen after it was rented and occupied

The Parish Hall at Old Wye needed work done to the Geo-thermal system with a thermostat recalibration and replacement of a blower motor in the attic and compressor in the basement. As everyone is aware, we started a major capital project with the stained-glass window restoration at St. Luke's which is still on track to be completed by mid-April. St. Luke's also had a blower motor and control board that was replaced in the HVAC unit in the attic for its

parish hall. The Buildings and Grounds Committee resumed meetings and the Cemetery Committee was resurrected to address both the grounds and maintenance issues of the grave markers in the cemetery.

I have several items I would like to address in the near future (short-term goals). They include:

1. Replacing the light fixtures on top of the post lights at St. Luke's
2. Upgrading the light bulbs in the post lights and other exterior lights at Old Wye
3. Painting and refurbishing the administrator's office
4. Painting and cleaning up portions of the interior of the Parish Hall at Old Wye
5. Repairing and rekeying the locks at Old Wye campus
6. Replacing the carpet with hard flooring in the Parish Hall at St. Luke's

I also have plans for future projects which are mostly large Capital Projects (long-term goals).

1. Replacing the Geo-thermal system at Old Wye Church
2. Upgrading the circle and parking lot (regarding new stone, fixing brick work, sidewalks, etc.)
3. Remodeling the kitchen and upgrading the Parish Hall at Old Wye
4. Removal of the Black Walnut trees from the cemetery

There are probably more things I will either find or come up with for both short and long term goals. I promise to do as much as possible while remaining fiscally responsible to the congregation. It is my intention to maintain this church as a whole (both campuses) so as to keep it clean, inviting, and comfortable to all of our current and future parishioners for generations to come. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Radcliffe, Jr. Warden

Altar Guild – Mary Campbell

Members include Tricia Anthony, Sharon Butler, Mary Campbell (Treasurer), Connie Cole, Mary Julie, Savannah Scott, Suzanne Sheahan, and Judy Webber

Wye Parish Altar Guild Finances 2025 are:

Queenstown Bank:

Regular Savings as of 12/31/25 = \$2,083.86

Business Checking as of 12/31/25 = \$8,275.71

18 month CD (maturity 3/11/27) = \$26,773.93

Total contributions from individuals 2025 = \$1970.

Total contributions from honorary funds = \$578.00

Total expenses 2025 = \$1220. (All for flowers)

Our expenses for flowers are less than in the past since we now have services in one church each week instead of two.

We anticipate additional expenses going forward as we alter some of the altar linens and hangings due to the shortening of the altar. Some other well-used linens and hangings need professional mending or replacement.

The Books Cafe – Jim Campbell

Members include Mike Bilek, Jim and Mary Campbell, Michael Cate, Don Regenhardt, Genie Fitzgerald and many, many volunteers.

With full infrastructure (tables, shelves) now in place as of last Monday, as we speak the Team is working all out to establish all book category displays for opening on Jan 23.

Due to the small size of the core Team and its inevitable age/health issues, even with the much longer set-up period this year (beginning in November), probably not all displays will be curated to traditional Books Café standards by opening day (e.g. incomplete alphabetizing of Hardcover Fiction, some other displays inadequately organized).

The New Queenstown book group realizes that Books Café hangs by a thread, and three of them will be in today to help alphabetize: Don Regenhardt coordinating. Experienced hand Barbara Perry has stepped up to lead Food Service in addition to captaining Cookbooks, so that will go well. Genie

Fitzgerald seems to have Softcover Fiction under control. Jay Falstad is doing social media publicity again, so that will be effective. (I understand Savannah is also working social media for us.) Mary Campbell is handling print media as usual, on top of her Children's Room responsibility where she has much yet to do but is likely to get it done. Mike Cate has been crucial in the heavy lifting. Jim Campbell is currently working a number of the smaller categories and will do inside signage.

The outside sign has been up for couple of weeks; trailer is on the premises; Charlie O. is committed to ring opening day bell. Our leader, the indispensable and indefatigable Mike Bilek, is coordinating the entire operation as well as setting up the largest History collection we have ever had: without him at the helm, there would be no Books Café this year.

Cemetery Report – Rick Culotta

Members: Carol Bilek, Sharon Butler, Rick Culotta (Chair), Valerie Dryka, Rev. Charlotte Meyer, Tom Radcliffe, Ellen Wmth, and Warren Tewes.

The Cemetery Committee reports to Rev. Charlotte and the Junior Warden (Tom Radcliffe). Budgeting comes under the Junior Warden's budget. Meetings: First meeting July 30, 2025. Every other month. Next meeting: February 25th at 10:00 AM.

We are very grateful and thank Ellen Smith for her years of dedication and mostly single handling all aspects of the cemetery burials, maintenance, communications, documentations, for her excellent record keeping, cemetery grid map, Excel spread sheet refinement and expansion and overall management of our beloved cemetery. We also thank Warren Tewes for his fervent interest, work and dedication with the cemetery research and his organization, and record keeping of the cemetery surveys.

After our first meeting, Warren Tewes suggested and organized a physical survey of the graveyard. Due to the size and complexity of the cemetery, we then had approximately 4 surveys. These surveys helped us see the issues with regard to headstones, shrubbery and tree root issues as well as discrepancies or questions about the current maps. However, after the surveys, the committee acknowledged that their

appreciation grew exponentially and found our Wye Cemetery to be truly a treasure of our parish.

A detailed “To Do” list was created and classified the items as DYI or Professional. The list is far to long to detail here, however here are some of our first priorities:

- Develop a process with a form or forms for Cathy Martin, our Parish Administrator, to use with our clients when they first call and to turn over to the committee for advice.
- Handle current client or family requests for grave sites and gravesite issues.
- Review our Cemetery Regulations and Fees document and update with changes where needed.
- Develop a new and easier-to-read map and spread sheet, in multiple forms, as well as research any current cemetery software. We thank Ron Dryka for his expertise, as he has already composed a prototype and will be working with Warren Tewes and Ellen Smith to develop further.
- Warren Tewes is also working on digitizing all cemetery records and has hopes to begin researching the cemetery residents as an ongoing project.
- Tom Radcliffe will begin working with our current grounds maintenance contractor to uncover corner markers and clean up any minor bush or root issues.
- Develop and mark the recently approved opening of 14 additional plots at site 139.
- Ground penetrating radar survey- perhaps in 9 months?
- At each meeting continue to prioritize our almost endless “To Do List.”

Please do not hesitate to contact Rick or anyone on the committee with suggestions, questions or Concerns.

Clergy Report – The Rev. Charlotte Meyer:

What a year! And the best part is watching Wye Parish change and grow. While we shifted from two to one service on Sundays, we have more people in church. While we are may consider reducing the number of members on the Vestry from 9 to 6, the number of committees that are actively meeting has tripled. Just look at all the

people serving on all these teams and committees listed in this report! While some of our ministries may “feel” like they are challenged, the pipelines that feed those ministries remain strong and are growing. We are moving away from smaller contributions to many charities to making a significant impact in a few well-discerned areas of need in our community. You should be very proud of your parish. We are doing great things. We are taking care of ourselves and others. And we are serving God well.

All this shows Wye Parish moving in the direction of a lay led parish. Churches who know themselves and what they are about attract good clergy - clergy that will work with you and lead worship that makes people feel good they came to church. And they will help the parish listen for what God is calling Wye to do.

As Wye Parish moves forward with the search process, I ask you to trust and support your Search Committee. They will be doing important work and need all your prayers in the months ahead. They are committed to this process and will make the best possible, spirit-discerned recommendations to the Vestry.

This year we have checked some wonderful boxes.

- We raised more money than we did last year.
- We have new members who joined us and invested in the work we do.
- We successfully navigated the loss of Ellen as parish administrator. We are planning a smooth transition as Jay Marchant steps back from his long tenure as our trusted Treasurer.
- We took on an enormous capital project replacing the stained-glass windows. That is not only going well – it is going better than expected.
- We added, re-started, and recognize the following committees and teams – many of which are new this year: Finance, Bylaws, Cemetery, Search, Building and Grounds, Communications, Pastoral Care, the Windows Restoration Project team (essentially fund raising), and the Historical Committee.
- This year we hope to grow the Pastoral care team, expand our

Stewardship team to include a Greeter's Team who will shepherd visitors to Wye parish – not just at worship, but also at events such as funeral services and other events. WE also hope to add a creation care team which will look to garden projects around our campus and explore how we might make our fellowship and paper resource practices more earth friendly.

The Vestry agrees that the following are our priorities for 2026:

- Assist and support the Search Team in their work
- Develop a plan to address outcomes from the Holy Cow Survey
- Find a new Treasurer
- Raising funds for the Windows Restoration Project

It is my honor to be working with all of you on all these amazing opportunities and to lead you in worship. Thank you for your faith in me.

Blessings and peace,
Rev. Charlotte

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) – Mary Campbell & Debbie Scott

- Hosted an Appreciation Luncheon on March 30th where all members of the church were invited as a thank you for the help we received during our 59th Annual Bazaar in 2024.
- Revised our ECW Bylaws with the help of Barbara Perry which were voted on and accepted
- Maintained and managed the Fellowship Refreshment Schedule
- Supervised the repair and re-covering of 4 Vestry Chairs
- Organized closets and cleaned out the second floor attic area, hall, and kitchen in response to Fire Marshall's Report
- Ran the Cafe at the 2024 Annual Book's Cafe netting just over \$2,000
- Helped organize Ellen's Retirement Luncheon in September
- Ran a successful 60th Annual Wye Parish Bazaar in. early November netting over \$13,000!
- Made Charitable Contributions totaling \$8,100 to various local Charities
- Contributed \$7,950 to the Vestry, Rector's Discretionary Fund, and Parish Staff Christmas Gifts
- Contributed \$3,000 towards the Stained-Glass Window Fund

Upcoming ECW Projects for 2026

- Forming a Garden Committee
- Revising a complete ECW mailing list
- Assist in developing a Welcoming Committee for new church attendees
- Running of Books Cafe kitchen with all proceeds going towards Stained Glass Window Fund

Historical Committee Report – Rick Culotta

Members include Rick Culotta (Chair), Warren Tewes, Ellen Smith, Ron Dryka, Carol Bilek, Jim and Mary Campbell.

This committee grew out of our 300th Anniversary Committee. Although we have been a bit handicapped due to my recent past church duties, we still have been alive and making slow progress with Warren Tewes and Ellen but are now poised to move forward.

- In addition to the work done for the 300th Anniversary, we have collected an extensive archive of documents, articles, books, pamphlets, pictures, etc.
- A 5-drawer file cabinet has been installed in the left corner of the Old Wye Office, to house blueprints, books, cemetery records, vestry records and archive files for both Old Wye and St. Lukes.
- We have been continually researching the Questions of:
Is the Rev. Christopher Willkinson buried under the Altar at Old Wye?
Investigating the lives of the original founders such as the Hemsley's and the Claytons and others of later times such as Emory's, DeCoursey Tom, Davidsons, Masseys and more.
- Investigating our antiques, deeds, letters for both churches- so much to explore
- I have been conducting tours, in colonial period garb, to various groups.
- **Top Priority:** To compile both a paper and digital, chronological archive in the file cabinet, with special folders and notes expanding on new findings and new questions. This will be a continually growing and expanding project as we are just in our infant stages.

Music Ministry Report – Nancy Cook

Since there was no request for a music ministry report in the year 2024, a review of that period as well as the year 2025 will be part of this information.

When I was hired as choir director in August of 2024, there was no choral octavo music inventory, digital or written. That inventory was completed and digitally sent to the parish office where it will be updated and available for future choir directors. (I have attached the inventory of the parish choral music that is stored in the music office at St. Luke's.)

A form that can be used for other churches wishing to borrow Wye Parish music has been generated and given to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and to Kent Island Methodist Church and is available for any other church (aids in reducing cost of purchasing music).

The choir in August of 2024 consisted of six members-four men and two women, therefore four-part harmony (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) could not be sung, thus, as now, the choir sings only two-part harmony (soprano, bass). The present choir members, now total nine members, are a joy to direct and are so dependable and conscientious in learning and presenting our "sermon in song" at worship.

At this juncture the music budget is more than adequate.

Many thanks must go to the Reverend Betty Hudson, who chose the hymns that were used in past worship services. Rick Culotta and I have planned the hymns to be sung, February through April services, and will submit them to Reverend Charlotte for approval. We will meet again to complete the rest of the year's selections.

Tuning of the two pianos (one at Old Wye and one at St. Luke's) will occur in January 2026.

The organ was recently tuned, but seems to need more attention (as noted on Sunday, January 4.)

Organist, Richard Strattan, has been a wonderful accompanist and supporter of the present choir and director.

At present there are no urgent needs, except for more choir members and an exuberant congregation of singers.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Cook

Search Committee – Rob Sherwood

Members include Lennie Anthony, Connie Cole, Edward Radcliffe, Bibi Schelberg, Suzanne Sheahan, Christine and Matt Schoene, Savannah Scott, and Rob Sherwood (Chair).

In October of 2025, the Vestry of Wye Parish met to discern candidates for a Search Committee who would be responsible for carrying out the Vestry's charge in a search for a permanent rector. The members above accepted the Vestry's invitation and began meeting formally on November 16th and every two weeks thereafter.

The Vestry Charge to the Search Committee in summary is:

- Seek the will of God for Wye Parish
- Pray together for guidance
- Seek to understand wishes, goals, and concerns of the parish
- Work with the Vestry
- Identify candidates
- Present to the Vestry the persons(s) the Committee believes to be good candidates.

To date, the Search Committee reviewed all the good research and transition documents completed by the group formed in 2022-2023. Bibi was a member of that team and help connect the current team with that work.

The team is following a model used by several local parishes in transition by engaging Holy Cow Consulting to help our parish complete a comprehensive survey that aid in creation of a Wye Parish Profile and Job Description for the kind of rector we are seeking. The results of that survey will also give valuable information to the Vestry

about the desires of the parish and how closely our services and missional activities align with those desires. This survey is expected to be shared with the parish in early February. The Search Committee stands by to shepherd the parish through the process ensuring a high response rate.

One of the beautiful aspects of this team's formation is how we are coming together. Each member brings particular gifts to the table. And we are learning how those gifts have a role in this process. There is commitment, flexibility, and compassion for the work and those committed to it.

Stewardship Committee - Sharon Butler

Members include Sharon Butler, Tom Radcliffe, and Rev. Charlotte

Stewardship events during the past year demonstrated variety and creativity as the Wye Parish family offered its time and talents as well as its treasures.

- A goose hunt started the year last January, when several Wye parishioners joined Rev Charlotte's husband, George, for hunting and fellowship.
- The Books Cafe held its 23rd annual event for five weekends in January and February. Approximately 40,000 books were processed, either to be sold or donated to book distributors. About 25 parishioners and friends volunteered to be cashiers, and they were happy to serve more than one shift. Proceeds for book sales for this far-reaching and well-loved event totaled about \$14,000. The Cafe benefitted from volunteer hours from at least 20 parishioners and Church friends, who baked numerous tasty treats and also served in the kitchen. Proceeds from the Cafe were \$2,390.
- The Shrove Tuesday supper was held at St. Luke's. It's always fun, makes stomachs happy and neighbors from the community always join us.
Proceeds totaled \$330.
- The Maundy Thursday service and supper was held at St. Luke's for the second year. The service was spiritual and meaningful, and the supper offered foods researched from Jesus' time that He and His disciples may have shared at the Last Supper.

- In October, a crab feast was held at Wye Parish Hall. It was exciting to bring back a tradition we hadn't kept for several years. Parishioners and friends alike enjoyed crabs and side dishes and especially enjoyed everyone's company! Hopefully this will become another annual event.
- Although historically we have carefully stewarded our cemetery, this past year we established a Cemetery Committee for the purposes of maintaining our cemetery grounds, providing resting sites for our church family and family relatives and keeping accurate records. Six parishioners generously gave their time and knowledge for this endeavor.
- In the fall, we began a project to save our stained-glass windows at St. Luke's Chapel. Plans for our first fundraiser were begun, and a cello-violin concert will be held in March of 2026. Personal donations to date total \$59,200. These windows, along with St. Luke's Chapel itself, are historical treasures and are worthy of community-wide interest and support.
- The Annual ECW Wye Parish Bazaar was sixty years old this past November! No less than 30 ECW ladies and Church friends gave of their time and many talents to make this ever-popular event successful! Proceeds from the Bazaar totaled \$12,877.45. We were then able to donate \$16,550 to community charities and to our own parish funds and staff.
- Faithful church ladies and church friends provided refreshments after service each Sunday last year. This social time strengthens the spirit of friendship among parishioners and offers a warm welcome to visitors!
- The Stewardship Pledge Drive for 2025 was quite successful and drew 37 personal and family pledges for an approximate amount of \$134,000.

During 2025, Wye Parish and its family took exemplary care of its buildings, grounds and its outreach ministries. Our love of our Parish and our community continues to be shown by the faithful and ongoing offerings of our time, talents and treasures.

Worship Planning Team – Rev. Charlotte

Members include Lennie Anthony, Carol Bilek, Sharon Butler, Mary Campbell, Connie Cole, Nancy Cook, Rick Culotta, and Richard Strattan.

We begin this report by giving thanks for the many gifts of Rev. Betty Hudson. Her eye for expanding our worship liturgies and her ear for liturgical music helped Wye expand and improve our worship experience. We look forward to continuing that trend. Among her many wonderful contributions and good ideas: she engaged Richard's vast music knowledge to find appropriate music and hymns; she suggested Wye engage in a deep dive of the prayer book last summer; and she made sure we were exposed to new and contemporary liturgies found in *Enriching Our Worship*. Thank you, Rev. Betty!

It really does take a village to create a meaningful Sunday worship experience. From the flowers to the colors on the altar to the hymn selections, bulletin creation and sermons – each piece contributes something special. Worship is not just what we pray – it is how we move together as the body of Christ.

In 2026, Nancy Cook and Rick Culotta will take the lead in hymn selection. Sharon Butler, our licensed lay preacher, will regularly share her sermons with us every six weeks or so. This summer we will do a deep dive into the history of music in the church.

We thank everyone for their support and ask that you bring your friends to church so they too can experience worship at Wye Parish.

*Please take an extra Annual Report with you
to share with a friend.*

