



# EXHORTATION!

NEWS BULLETIN OF THE STRAWBRIDGE SHRINE

The Strawbridge Shrine | New Windsor, Maryland  
*The First Home of American Methodism*

November 1, 2023

2650 Strawbridge Lane, New Windsor, Maryland 21776

Vol. XXVIII, No. 2

## ANNUAL MEETING 2023

Remember what it was like to meet in-person? To gather in the same space as people with the same interests and actually get things done? ZOOM meetings and similar technologies have been lifesavers (and gas savers) through the pandemic and in the years since. But there is something about in-person fellowship that cannot be found in the virtual space.

In January of 2024, the [Strawbridge Shrine Association](#) will celebrate this fellowship with our 78<sup>TH</sup> Annual Meeting. In previous years, we have met in October. But with so much other activity competing for our attention in the fall, the Board of Directors this year elected to move the Annual Meeting to January - after the Holidays - when things have relaxed a little.

Also new this year; we are meeting at [Linganore United Methodist Church](#) in nearby Union Bridge (about 11 minutes



from The Shrine). We haven't held a meeting at Linganore UMC before but are looking forward to learning more about this congregation which has been so faithful in their on-going support of the the Strawbridge Shrine Association. Reverend Stephen tickets will have on display some of the Bibles from his large collection. This will include Bibles and hymnals of John Wesley 's era.

So mark your new 2024 calendar for Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. We will start the day with a worship service led by reverend Mary Buzby, followed by a short business meeting (as required by our by-laws). Although our business is pleasant, it is important to have every member of the Board, and as many members and supporters of the Association as possible, present to approve our slate of officers and budget for the coming year.

Following the meeting, there will be a light lunch and social time. We looking forward to seeing you face-to-face (and not on video) and sharing our plans and accomplishments.

## SEEDING THE GARDEN OF METHODISM Robert Strawbridge on Maryland's Eastern Shore

By Rev Bob Kells, Vice-President of the Strawbridge Shrine Association

The United States will observe its [250th anniversary](#) in 2026. In conjunction with this observance, the Strawbridge Shrine Association is running a series of articles that look back 250 years to the life and times of Robert Strawbridge. This is the second article in the series.

Robert Strawbridge was the first of the unofficial itinerant Methodist preachers to arrive in the British North American colonies. Settling with his wife, Elizabeth, at Sam's Creek in what was then Frederick (today's Carroll) County, Maryland, Robert soon began the missionary journeys that made him famous, at least in Methodist circles. Robert Strawbridge left no written record of his trips. However, the accounts of other early Methodists indicate that his travels fanned out from Sam's Creek to Baltimore and Frederick in Maryland,

northern Virginia, and southern Pennsylvania. Mr. Strawbridge is credited with many firsts. Thus, it should come as no surprise that he was the first of the Wesleyan Methodist preachers to visit the area that became known as the "garden of Methodism"- Maryland's eastern shore.<sup>1</sup>

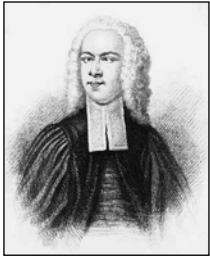
The earliest Methodist influence to reach the peninsula made up of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, came from England in the form of [Rev. George Whitefield](#). Whitefield was a sometimes colleague of John Wesley.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## SEEDING THE GARDEN

(Continued from Page 1)

The two had met at Oxford University when Whitefield joined the "Holy Club," a student prayer group led by John Wesley that also included Wesley's brother, Charles. Although Whitefield had the form of a Methodist, his Calvinist theology – especially his emphasis on predestination and limited atonement – set him apart from Wesley's [Arminian](#) views, which included unlimited atonement for all.



Whitefield was one of the finest speakers of his day and was well-known throughout England. In 1739, he set sail for America and landed in Lewes, Delaware, where he began the first of several evangelistic tours that helped spark the First Great

Awakening. Whitefield's first preaching stop at St. Peter's Church in Lewes attracted a couple of hundred people. His fame increased during a preaching tour that took him to Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Maryland's western shore. When Whitefield returned to Lewes in May 1740, he preached outdoors to a crowd of some two thousand. A few of those gathered there were moved to form a small Methodist society, but it lasted only until 1742.<sup>2</sup>

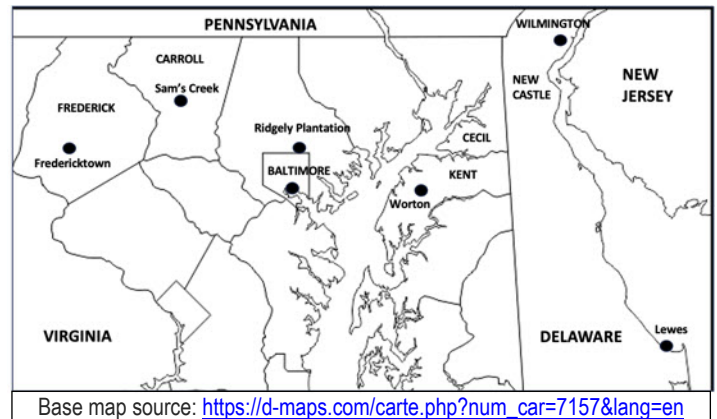
The next efforts to bring Methodism to the Eastern Shore came from north and south. In 1769, [Captain Thomas Webb](#), a lay preacher from the New York society founded by [Philip Embury](#), arrived in New Castle County, Delaware. Webb was a veteran of the Seven Years War (known in the British colonies as the French and Indian Wars). When the war ended in 1763, he became a man in search of a new mission in life. He found it in religion. After dabbling in [Moravianism](#), Captain Webb became a Methodist lay preacher. At his own initiative, he sailed to New York, joined the society there in 1766, and began a traveling ministry. Still bearing the marks of a warrior – he often wore his uniform while preaching and a distinctive green patch over his right eye – Webb often preached fiery sermons intended to move the soul. His preaching was given to an "abundance of visions and revelations," making him an "enthusiast" even among Methodists. Webb traveled to Philadelphia in 1767 where his sense of discipline and organizational skills helped revitalize the local



Methodist society.<sup>3</sup> Webb's preaching in Delaware met with some success, but the organization and establishment of a strong Methodist presence in northern Delaware would be up to other traveling preachers.

One other note about Captain Thomas Webb's career is important to the Strawbridge story. Webb preached in northern Maryland in the late 1760s and early 1770s. One of the people he preached to was Rebecca Dorsey Ridgely, the wife of a wealthy planter, [Captain Charles Ridgely](#). Rebecca became a devout Methodist not long after hearing Webb. She aided the Methodist itinerant preachers by providing meals and a place to stay as they carried out their work for the Lord. This connection would prove vital to the future course of Robert Strawbridge's life. For it was Charles Ridgely – likely at the behest of his profoundly Methodist wife – who provided Robert Strawbridge and family a farm on the Ridgely plantation north of Baltimore. The Strawbridges moved there in 1776.<sup>4</sup>

Robert Strawbridge provided the southern approach of Methodism to the Maryland peninsula. In late 1769 or early 1770, two Methodists from one of the western Maryland societies founded by Strawbridge visited John Randle on his farm near Worton in Kent County. They prayed with Randle and arranged for Robert Strawbridge to come to Randle's home to preach. The direct outcome of Strawbridge's preaching there is not recorded; however, a Methodist society was formed at Randle's home by 1773, and a meeting place, Worton Chapel, was constructed before the end of the 18th century.



The Strawbridge influence on the Delmarva continued to play a role through itinerant preachers who were raised up in the Methodist way by Robert Strawbridge. William Watters, who converted to Methodism through Strawbridge's preaching, became the first American-born Methodist itinerant preacher. In 1773 and 1774, Watters was serving several Methodist groups in Kent

## SPRING / SUMMER MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS

April 15, 2023 - October 31, 2023

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Gettysburg Chapter, Antique Auto Club of Amer.

Linganore United Methodist Church

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

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## MISSION STATEMENT OF THE STRAWBRIDGE SHRINE ASSOCIATION

The mission of the Strawbridge Shrine Association is to preserve, interpret, and share the founding story of American Methodism through the life and legacy of Robert Strawbridge.



## THE SADDLEBAG

### Brings the Latest Shrine News

The Strawbridge Shrine has a new means for bringing you word of the latest developments from Strawbridge country. It's a short, two-page bulletin called *The Saddlebag*. Named in honor of the circuit riders who traversed the American frontier, *The Saddlebag* will carry articles about Shrine activities in between editions of *Exhortation!*, our bi-annual newsletter.

The first edition of *The Saddlebag* was published in late August and emailed to everyone on our current email list. The next edition will be published in January after the Shrine Association's annual meeting. If you would like to be added to our email list, please send your name and email address to

[saddlebag@strawbridgeshrine.org](mailto:saddlebag@strawbridgeshrine.org).

Thank you for your continuing interest in the Strawbridge Shrine Association as we seek to preserve, interpret, and share the founding story of American Methodism through the life and legacy of Robert Strawbridge.



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

By Tom Harford, Chair

The Finance Committee strives to be the best stewards of the funds you have so graciously given in support of the Strawbridge Shrine. The capability for us to accept your donation on-line is coming soon [see article, page 5].

The Finance Committee has developed, and presented to the Board of Directors, a 2024 budget for review. Recommendations made by the board are being incorporated at this time to have a budget to present to the annual meeting for approval. The Finance Committee will have one more meeting before the annual meeting in January, so if anyone has a suggestion, thought or idea please email me at [tharford755@gmail.com](mailto:tharford755@gmail.com) or call 667-341-5895.

We do all need to work together to preserve the legacy of Robert and Elizabeth Strawbridge.

## CURATOR'S CORNER

By Helen Kemp, Curator

One of the most beautiful times of the year is Fall at the Strawbridge Shrine. Painted by lovely colors from God's pallet, it always seems that the time returns to 1760 on our campus. The true story of Robert & Elizabeth Strawbridge and their new Methodist faith comes alive when people come to visit. This is a place of solace, inspiration, and discovery. It still changes the lives of people.

Plan your Fall visit the Strawbridge Shrine. Regular hours have ended for the season but the campus is always open to walk around during daylight hours, and we are happy to schedule a tour of the historic buildings for you.

Tours are free and may be scheduled by contacting the curator at 443-289-0191.

Or visit [www.StrawbridgeShrine.org](http://www.StrawbridgeShrine.org)

## TOUR COORDINATOR AND GUIDES NEEDED

Tour guides are occasionally needed to assist the Curator during large tours. The role of a Tour Coordinator is to arrange for extra guides when large tours are scheduled. The Tour Coordinator also provides support for the Curator and reports some significant tour issues/happenings.

We are happy to provide personal training, a script to learn and read from. Memorization is not a requirement. Tour Coordinator and guides are not expected to participate in every tour. They train to present a tour of one building or room. We ask our guides to dress in colonial period clothing as we dress to enhance the feel of the tour. The clothing is provided without cost.

To inquire about either position please contact the Curator at [curator@strawbridgeshrine.org](mailto:curator@strawbridgeshrine.org) or call 443-289-0191.

# SEEDING THE GARDEN

(Continued from Page 2)

and Cecil counties. Philip Gatch, another Strawbridge protégé, served the Kent Circuit in the 1770's where he encountered both verbal and physical resistance to his work. And Freeborn Garrettson, another American-born Methodist preacher, was inspired by the preaching of Robert Strawbridge, along with that of Joseph Pilmoor and Francis Asbury.<sup>5</sup>

Robert Strawbridge made only one recorded trip to Maryland's Eastern Shore. Even so, that trip proved consequential for the planting and spread of Wesleyan Methodism in the region. Within a few years, Methodist societies were formed in Kent and Cecil Counties. Strawbridge-inspired circuit riders continued to build up the first societies and spread the gospel further south and east in the years prior to the American Revolution. In effect, Robert Strawbridge planted the seeds that later circuit riders watered and nurtured, thus allowing for God to provide the growth of faith communities that continue to make a kingdom difference today.

## ON-LINE PAYMENT OPTION COMING

By Ken Bowen

You soon will be able to pay your [annual membership](#) and/or make [donations](#) to the Shrine with a credit card or direct debit (ACH) via our new online payment processor, [Zeffy](#). The reason we chose Zeffy as our payment processor is they do not subtract their fee from your donation to the Shrine but instead ask you to donate at checkout to keep the platform free for us. This is very similar to the convenience fee you are now seeing at restaurants and retail establishments.

I do want to point out that when you go to check out a default fee is presented by Zeffy, however you may – and I suggest that you do – change the default amount to 3.5% of your contribution rounded up to the next whole dollar. The screen-captures below to show how to make this change.

On confirmation screen, look for the drop-down box

Donation \$50.00

Support the 100% free platform we use! ❤️

Learn more

17.00% (\$8.50) ▼

Total \$58.50

Scroll down and select "other"

Donation \$50.00

Support the 100% free platform we use! ❤️

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17.00% (\$8.50)  
20.00% (\$9.95)  
22.00% (\$10.95)  
Other

Total \$58.50

Enter a dollar amount you choose

Donation \$50.00

Support the 100% free platform we use! ❤️

Learn more

Other ▼

Contribution

2 \$

Total \$52.00

If you choose to use Direct Debit (ACH) option to make your payment, the fees for that are less, so you may want to reduce the amount in the Contribution box shown in the last screen capture above.

Of course, you still have the option to mail your check to make payment with your completed form.

To access this on-line payment option, visit <http://www.strawbridgeshrine.org/> and click on the tab "Join/Donate."

In our next phase, we are looking into the possibility of an on-line Store that would allow purchase of the Shrine Gift Shop items.

## SEEDING THE GARDEN OF METHODISM

End notes and Citations

<sup>1</sup> Several of the early circuit riders used the garden imagery to describe the Eastern Shore. Most notably, Henry Boehm, son of the more famous Martin Boehm, wrote: "The Peninsula that lies between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays...was the garden of Methodism in America." Quoted in William H. Williams, *The Garden of American Methodism, The Delmarva Peninsula, 1769-1820*, (Frederica, DE: The Commission on Archives and History of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the UMC, 1984, reprint edition 2009), xi-xiii.

<sup>2</sup> Barbara Duffin and Philip Duffin, *Cultivating the Methodist Garden, a brief history of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the United Methodist Church*, (Frederica, Delaware: Barratt's Chapel Museum, 2000), 5.

<sup>3</sup> Dee E. Andrews, *The Methodists and Revolutionary America, 1760-1800, The Shaping of an Evangelical Culture*, (Princeton University Press, 2000), 35.

<sup>4</sup> Tucker Adkins, "The Expearence" of Rebecca Ridgely: The Religious Memoir of a Maryland Gentlewoman, 1786-1798," *Maryland Historical Magazine* (Fall/Winter 2021): 211.

<sup>5</sup> Williams, *The Garden of American Methodism*, 27-30.



# STRAWBRIDGE SHRINE ASSOCIATION

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Driving Address:

[2650 Strawbridge Lane](#)

New Windsor, MD 21776

Editor/Communications Coordinator:

John Strawbridge

[info@strawbridgeshrine.org](mailto:info@strawbridgeshrine.org)



Rev. Mary M. Buzby – President

Rev. Bob Kells – Vice President

Rev. Dr. Wm. Louis Piel – Secretary

Rev. Sue Bowen – Treasurer

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[Position Open] – Tour Coordinator

Helen Kemp – Curator

*Self-nominations for Board Members and  
Officers now being accepted*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## THE ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

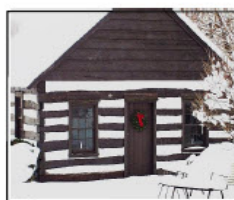
In the HISTORIC LOG MEETING HOUSE

2650 Strawbridge Lane, New Windsor, Maryland

Imagine what it was like to worship in the 1760's in the first

Wesleyan Methodist Meeting House.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 4 P.M.**



The Historic Log Meeting House

Originally constructed about 1760 + Replica built in 1982

+

The Strawbridge Shrine

[www.Strawbridgeshrine.org](http://www.Strawbridgeshrine.org)

Strawbridge Lane, off Wakefield Valley, off Rte. 31

New Windsor, Maryland 21776

+

## TRADITIONAL LESSONS & CAROLS WORSHIP

+

Dress warmly – It was cold in 1760

+

For information, call Curator  
Helen Kemp 443-289-0191  
Or Lou Piel 410-751-9049



## THE YEAR IN TOURS

Thanks to the efforts of our donors, volunteers, Board of Directors and Curator, the Strawbridge Shrine stands ready to greet hundreds of visitors throughout each year. Listed below are just some of the groups, churches and organizations who made The Shrine a destination this year.

### UMC Asia Initiative

Theological Seminary - Moscow, Russia

Brook Hill UMC - Frederick, MD

Scott Key Center - Frederick, MD

St. Paul UMC - Sykesville, MD

Ward's Chapel UMC - Randallstown, MD

Stone Chapel UMC

Carroll Lutheran Village Women

South Korean Christian Group

Wesley Grove UMC - Gaithersburg, MD

Carroll County Social Studies Teachers

GCAH & Sheppardstown UMC - WV

Celebrating America - Westminster, MD

Buckingham's Choice Retirement Ctr. - PA

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority - New Windsor, MD

Homewood Retirement Ctr. - Frederick, MD

Emory Grove Camp

First Methodist Church - Houston, TX

Gettysburg Chapter Antique Car Club of America

Orems UMC Youth Ministry



# 2023-2024 Annual Meeting OF THE STRAWBRIDGE SHRINE ASSOCIATION

At Linganore United Methodist Church  
8921 Clemsonville Road, Union Bridge, Maryland 21791

Saturday, January 20, 2024

Gathering.....9:45 AM

Worship Service and Business Meeting.....10:00 AM

Shrine Association President Rev. Mary Buzby will lead worship.

A brief business meeting will update us on the efforts of the Shrine Association, and introduce the slate of officers & directors and the budget for the coming year.

Lunch (Reservations required)

A light lunch featuring sandwiches, soup and desserts will be served in the social hall. Cost for lunch is \$15.00 / person.

## DIRECTIONS TO LINGANORE UMC

From Westminster & New Windsor; Follow MD-31 west to a left on Clemsonville Rd.

From Baltimore Metro area; I-695 to I-795 (Northwest Expy)

Take exit 4 to merge onto Owings Mills Blvd (go 2.4 mi)

Turn right onto Lyons Mill Rd (go 2.6 mi)

Merge onto MD-26 W/Liberty Rd (go 19.7 mi)

Turn right onto Clemsonville Rd (Church will be on the right)



## Lunch Reservation Form

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) (\$15 each) for the lunch following the Annual Meeting.

DEADLINE FOR LUNCH RESERVATIONS IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

In addition, [I am/We are] sending a donation to help the Financial Campaign meet its goal:

☐ \$40   ☐ \$60   ☐ \$100 (Sustaining)   ☐ \$250 (Sponsor)

☐ \$500 (Patron)   ☐ \$1,000 (Benefactor)   ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Make check out to "Strawbridge Shrine Association"

Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your form and contribution to: **Strawbridge Shrine Assoc. 2200 St. Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21218**