



EXHORTATION!

Newsletter of the Strawbridge Shrine Association

"The First Home of American Methodism"

April 1, 2026

2650 Strawbridge Lane, New Windsor, Maryland 21776

Vol. XXXI, No. 1

Annual Meeting Provides Snapshot of Shrine in Motion

By Bob Kells

The annual meeting for the Strawbridge Shrine Association bore witness to the many "moving parts" of our organization that make possible the sharing of Methodist history at the Shrine. The Shrine Association met at St. Paul UMC in New Windsor, Maryland, on January 17, 2026. We were more than pleased to welcome **Paul Eichelberger**, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Baltimore-Washington Conference (BWC), as our keynote speaker. **Paul** shared some insights about the nature of the relationship between the Shrine Association and the Conference that will help our planning for the future. He also shared some personal stories about his family connections to the Methodist movement that explain "why [he has] a heart for preservation of early Methodist history."



Paul Eichelberger speaking at the Shrine annual meeting.

Several reports from committees highlighted the work being done to preserve our historic property and to share the story of Robert Strawbridge with the Church and the public. Curator **Helen Kemp** talked about her work giving tours to the 414 people who visited the shrine in 2025 along with her outreach work to groups in central Maryland. **Ronda Robinson** reported on the events for last year, chiefly the Advent Service on December 1, and the outlook for some small-scale events in 2026. The Association's membership remained stable in 2025 at 78 members, according to Membership Coordinator **Sally Stair**. The Property Committee report by **Keith Palmer** included an update on work to the fields around the historic buildings, and thanks to the BWC for its continued support of the Shrine. The 2026 operating budget prepared by the Finance Committee was approved for \$37,450. Finally, Shrine Association President **Mary Buzby** thanked everyone for their work over the past year. She also appealed to members to seek out individuals and groups who have an interest in the history represented by the Shrine and who would be interested in volunteering at the Shrine as we continue to share the good news about early American Methodism and the role of Robert Strawbridge.

Carroll County Liberty Tree to be planted at the Strawbridge Shrine:

By Helen Kemp

The Strawbridge Shrine is excited to announce that with the support and by the sponsorship of the Heart of the Civil War and Celebrating America sites the shrine was chosen to be the location of the Carroll County "Liberty Tree". We offer them our sincere and honored thanks! There will be a "Liberty Tree" (Tulip Poplar) planted on the shrine campus in commemoration of the 250th celebration of our nation's independence from England. On March 25th we will be attending a celebration of this event along with two other counties near the State House in Annapolis. When we have the date for the planting we will let you know so you can be on hand to celebrate with us and for the USA.

*The Strawbridge Association is 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.
Connect with us online @...*



The Strawbridge Shrine



strawbridgeshrine.org



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National History Day/Expo Celebrating America

By Helen Kemp

This year, the Strawbridge Shrine took part in the annual National History Day at Westminster High School. The event took place on Saturday, February 28, 2026, and involved middle and senior high school students who competed in a contest on a history theme. The theme this year was "Revolution: Reaction and Reform in History." Students had their projects approved, conducted research, created a display, and delivered an in-person presentation. Winners were chosen to advance from the local, county, and state levels. Finalists will be included in the National History Day for America.

This year saw over 100 presentations of history for Carroll County. Winners will be awarded monetary and other prizes donated by the Celebrating America participants who represent the many and varied historic groups in Carroll County. We were also privileged to welcome Katie O'Malley as the Keynote speaker. Mrs. O'Malley is the chairperson for the Maryland America 250 Committee that is making the plans for the commemoration of America's independence. Also in attendance was Carroll County Commissioner Gorden. Our commissioners are great supporters of history.



Join
The Strawbridge Shrine
First Home of American Methodism
for a Spring Open House



April 11 from 10 am - 1 pm

There will be tours of three historic building and the historic campus, as well as refreshments.
This is a free family-friendly event.

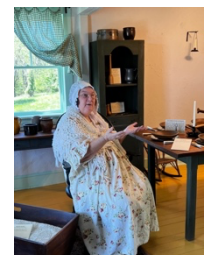
If you need more information or you have any questions, please call the Curator at 443-289-0191 or click on "Tours" on Strawbridgeshrine.org




My husband Tim and I were in attendance for the shrine and met with around 200 visitors, both students and adults, over a three-hour period. This is the fifth year the shrine was represented. It is an outstanding personal outreach for the shrine. We had only a few brochures left. This history network is vital to the visibility and efforts of the shrine. There are about 25 sites represented. The shrine receives support, promotion, inclusion in joint events, great ideas, and problem-solving strategies throughout the year at the monthly meetings. All this for free!



Confirmation classes are regular visitors to the Strawbridge Shrine.



Curator Helen Kemp in Character in the Strawbridge House.

Help Share the Founding Story of American Methodism

We need people like you to help us fulfill our mission to “preserve, interpret, and share” the Robert Strawbridge story with present and future generations. We offer several levels of membership, along with non-member opportunities to donate. To join or make a donation, [click here](#) for our electronic payment option. You can also print this page and send a check or money order to us at: Strawbridge Shrine Association, Inc., P.O. Box 388, New Windsor, MD 21776. *The Strawbridge Association is 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.*

Membership:		Other Contributions	
Individual	\$40	Addition to membership	\$ _____
Family	\$60	Preservation Fund	\$ _____
Sustaining	\$100	Barn Restoration	\$ _____
Church	\$100	Donation instead of	\$ _____
Sponsor	\$250	membership	
Patron	\$500		
Benefactor	\$1,000		

If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of someone, please make a note here:

Donation in honor of: _____ Donation in Memory of: _____

Membership Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code _____

Email: _____

Phone (best): _____

**1760's Farm Life
At Historic
Strawbridge Shrine**

July 11, 2026 from 10 am to 1 pm

2650 Strawbridge Lane
New Windsor, MD

Visit the farm of early Methodist Circuit Rider, Robert Strawbridge. There will be tours, colonial cooking demos, portrayals, dressmaking, music and games for kids!

Free but donations are welcome.
More info call 443-289-0191

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary

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.

STRAWBRIDGE SHRINE ASSOCIATION
2200 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218



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