

Annual Meeting of the STRAWBRIDGE SHRINE ASSOCIATION 2023 - 2024



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024 ANNO DOMINI
CONVENING AT LINGANORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 10:00 AM



Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

A Time of Worship

Welcome

Mary Buzby, President

Greeting

Rev. Stephen Ricketts, Host Pastor

Call to Worship

Rev. Robert Kells, Vice President

One: Are you listening? God is doing a new thing! Will you join in?

Many: Yes! We will follow!

One: Listen! Did you miss it? God calls us again to build the kingdom of heaven. Will you join in?

Many: Yes! We will be builders of the kin-dom.

One: Wait, did you catch that? Again, God calls us to declare the good news to those in need. Will you join in?

Many: Yes! We will declare the good news with our voices and our lives.

One: And still, God calls. God never quits calling us to live and to give abundant life. Will you join in?

Many: Yes! We will join with God in sharing the gracious gift of abundant life with the world.

ALL: May we respond to God's loving and persistent call with a loving and persistent yes! A yes for us, a yes for our neighbors, and a yes for our world to be transformed by the good news that God's kingdom has come near.

Amen.



Unison Prayer

O God, your voice can split the heavens, part the waters, divide night from day. It can flash forth fire, shake the wilderness, thunder over the storm. Yet your word so often is heard among us not in the tempest, but in the silence.

Speak to us, O God, and let us listen, that we might detect the whisper of a wing, the rustle of a feather. Let us listen, that we might glimpse the dove and hear your voice.

Speak to us again, O Lord, for when you speak, it is done, and behold, it is very good.

Hymn #88 (UMH)

Maker in Whom We Live

Presentation

Historic Bibles

Rev. Stephen Ricketts

Scripture

Proverbs 2:1-5

Speaker

Jennifer Secki Shields
Founder & Director, Discovery and Faith

Closing



Business Agenda

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

President Mary Buzby

Other Items

Minutes Of the 2022 Annual Meeting *

Reports and Recommendations

Curator

Helen Kemp

Contract of our Curator

Mary Buzby

Finance

Treasurers Report

Sue Bowen

Operating Budget for 2024

Tom Harford

Nominations

Mary Buzby

Development

Bob Kells

Program

Ronda Robinson

Property

Keith Palmer

Barn Update

Bill Stonesifer

Communication & Membership Coordinator

John Strawbridge

Meeting Calendar for 2024

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn for lunch

Committee Reports

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* Due to a computer system crash, the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting are not available for review at this time. The Strawbridge Shrine Association apologizes for this inconvenience.



2023

Curator's Report

MRS. HELEN KEMP, CURATOR

2023—What a banner year for the historic Strawbridge Shrine where Methodism began in America!

Our 2023 visitor count was over 600. We started giving tours even before the shrine's April opening. As we have always done, there were many Confirmation classes and many of those have visited many times. Their interest and support continues to be faithful and generous. There were also special interest visitors from faraway places like Russia and England. Closer to home we have had folks from several retirement centers, two visits by the Frederick County Special Needs Adult group, several Carroll County Public School teachers of social studies also considered us for history field trips, and there were others.

As curator I also participated for the third year on the shrine's behalf in the National History Day Expo sponsored by the Carroll County Commissioner's and the Celebrate America Partnership. We are even now making plans to participate in the 2026 America 250 nationwide celebration of American independence.

I attended the BWC Annual Conference in June and although we didn't have a display, I came attired in patriotic dress made personal contacts with the attendees. From this effort we picked up additional volunteer help for our annual Colonial Day event.

The most exciting news this year was that the shrine was host to the Gettysburg Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America gathering. This was a large group and a national outreach effort for the shrine. We were also contacted by the American Christian Tours group who has already booked a tour with us for a UMC in Georgia for May 2024. Another new contact recently booked a tour that is coming in 2024 from the North Georgia UMC Conference. This was arranged with Travelwithus.com.

As we live into this new outreach extra help will be an imperative to reasonably handle these larger tours. It is our hope that we may establish future tour relationships with these and other unique national tour booking sponsors. I am looking forward to an even more outstanding year in 2024 as we explore new opportunities to share the living history of Robert Strawbridge.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Kemp





2023 REPORT OF THE
Residence Committee
REV. MARY BUZBY, CHAIR

The annual inspection of the curator's residence was conducted on November 23, 2023, by Mary Buzby, Spike Morningstar and Sally Stair. Overall condition is good for the age of the building. Several items of routine maintenance, many already on the property committee's list, should be addressed in 2024. The full list has been provided to the Property Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Buzby





Treasurer's Report

REV. SUE BOWEN, TREASURER

Account Balances - As of 12/31/2023 (Includes unrealized gains)

Account	12/31/2023 Balance
Bank Accounts	
1000-NWSB Checking	13,624.45
1010-NWSB Bank Savings	34,379.73
1035-NWSB Money Market Checking	7,186.06
TOTAL Bank Accounts	55,190.24
Investment Accounts	
1031-Mid-Atlantic UMF	80,237.37
TOTAL Investment Accounts	80,237.37
OVERALL TOTAL	135,427.61

Fund Status Report

Barn Restoration

Income	\$52,385.00
Expense	\$57,775.31
Status	-\$5,390.31

Property Committee (YTD)

General Income (25%)	\$6,181.39
General Expenses	\$5,861.98
Subtotal	\$319.41
Preservation Income	\$4,625.00
Preservation Expenses	\$3,596.74
Subtotal	\$1,028.26
Status	\$1,347.67

General Fund (YTD)

General Income (75%)	\$18,544.16
General Expenses	\$25,788.59
Status	-\$7,244.44

(Continued on next two pages)

2023 Cash Flow

January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

INFLOWS

2000-General Fund	
2001-Membership Dues	
2001.1-Donor	995.00
2001.2-Sustaining	1,850.00
2001.3-Sponsor	1,250.00
2001.4-Patron	500.00
2001.6-Church or Church Group	450.00
TOTAL 2001-Membership Dues	5,045.00
2002-Visitor Center Income	
2002.1-Donations	889.00
2002.2-Sales	
2002.2.3-T-Shirts	17.00
2002.2.4-Books & Cards	38.00
TOTAL 2002.2-Sales	55.00
TOTAL 2002-Visitor Center In...	944.00
2020-Other Types Of Income	
2020.2-Carroll County Land Pr...	6,437.38
2020.3-Unspecified Donations	1,175.00
2020.4-Specified Donations	5,520.63
6001.12-Curator Pymt	1,250.00
TOTAL 2020-Other Types Of I...	14,383.01
2060-Annual Meeting	
2060.1-Meal tickets	90.00
TOTAL 2060-Annual Meeting	90.00
2070-Interest Income	
2070.1-NWSB Savings Interest	12.35
2070.2-NWSB Checking Int	4.64
TOTAL 2070-Interest Income	16.99
2080-Endowment Income	
2080.1-In Memory of	1,080.00
2080.2-In Honor of	2,161.00
2080.4-Interest NWSB MM Ch...	5.54
2080.5-Other Gifts	1,000.00
TOTAL 2080-Endowment Inco...	4,246.54
TOTAL 2000-General Fund	24,725.54
3000-Preservation Fund	
3000.1-Preservation Fund	4,625.00
TOTAL 3000-Preservation Fund	4,625.00
4000-Project Funds	
4000.1-Barn Restoration	5,585.00
TOTAL 4000-Project Funds	5,585.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	34,935.54

OUTFLOWS

6000-General Expenses

6001-Utilities

6001.1-Electric

6001.11-House & VC 209	1,220.06
6001.2-Grounds 597	1,644.54

TOTAL 6001.1-Electric 2,864.60

6002-Telephone 502.85

6003-Internet 626.46

6004-Security 2,562.30

6005-Trash Collection 367.92

TOTAL 6001-Utilities 6,924.13

6010-Office Expenses

6010.2-Supplies 174.38

6010.3-Safe Deposit Box 45.00

TOTAL 6010-Office Expenses 219.38

6020-News Bulletins

6020.1-Postage USPS 171.02

6020.2-Copying 332.50

6020.3-Supplies 39.13

TOTAL 6020-News Bulletins 542.65

6030-Advertising 809.00

6040-Special Events

6040.1-Colonial Days 1,753.50

6040.2-Advent Service 1,121.02

TOTAL 6040-Special Events 2,874.52

6060-Repairs & Maintenance 80.98

6060.1-Curators House & VC 1,011.00

6060.2-Grounds Maintenance -100.00

6060.21-Mowing 4,870.00

TOTAL 6060.2-Grounds Mai... 4,770.00

6060.4-Fire Extinguisher 167.60

TOTAL 6060-Repairs & Maite... 6,029.58

6065-Misc

6065.1-Misc Expenses 4,817.30

TOTAL 6065-Misc 4,817.30

6070-Projects

6070.3-Signage 6,164.20

TOTAL 6070-Projects 6,164.20

6080-Insurance

6080.1-Property Insurance 3,651.00

6080.2-Workers Comp Insurance 250.00

6080.3-Corp Bond Insurance 1,065.00

TOTAL 6080-Insurance 4,966.00

6090-Real Estate Taxes

6090.1-Curator House & VC 3,241.41

TOTAL 6090-Real Estate Taxes 3,241.41

TOTAL 6000-General Expenses 36,588.17

7000-Preservation Expenses

7000.1-Strawbridge House 3,026.74

7000.4-Spring House 570.00

TOTAL 7000-Preservation Expen... 3,596.74

8000-Project Expenses

8000.1-Barn Restoration 47,275.31

TOTAL 8000-Project Expenses 47,275.31

TOTAL OUTFLOWS 87,460.22

OVERALL TOTAL

-52,524.68

The Strawbridge Shrine Association

The First Home of American Methodism

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DONATION

Type of Membership:
(please select one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership.....\$40.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining.....\$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple's Membership.....\$60.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor.....\$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church / Church Group.....\$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron.....\$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 20 yrs. of age)...\$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor.....\$1,000.00 |

Date of birth: _____

Membership includes:

- ✓ Admission to all events of the Strawbridge Shrine Association
- ✓ Donor Listing
- ✓ 10% Discount at the Gift Shop
- ✓ Subscriptions to *Exhortation!*, *The News Bulletin of the Strawbridge Shrine*
- ✓ And, of course, support for the Preservation and Programs of the unique birthplace of the worldwide United Methodist Denomination!

Additional Contribution:
(please select as many as apply)

- In addition to membership I / We are adding a donation of \$ _____
- I would like to support the Preservation Fund with a donation of \$ _____
- I / We do not wish to become a member, but please accept a donation of \$ _____

Special Gift:

- A donation of \$ _____ In Memory of _____
- A donation of \$ _____ In Honor of _____

Member Information:

(please print)

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE (BEST) _____

Please make your check or money order to:

Strawbridge Shrine Association, Inc.

2200 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

The Strawbridge Shrine Association, Inc., is a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

2023 REPORT OF THE
Finance Committee
THOMAS HARFORD, CHAIR

As a new Finance Committee, there were many new challenges to face us in 2023. Much has been accomplished and there is much ahead of us. I would like to thank the members of the Finance team, yes I said TEAM, our Treasurer, Rev. Sue Bowen, our Assistant Treasurer, Bonnie Graham, and Our President, Rev. Mary Buzby, and our Curator, Helen Kemp, for making this a productive year. And yes a big thanks to Ken Bowen for introducing “Zeffy” to the team. Since donations are the life blood of the Shrine, this is just another big step in the right direction.

In 2024 we will be facing new challenges. We will be looking at such thing as, internal controls, external controls, policies and procedures and more as we address the income and expenses of the Strawbridge Shrine. The goal is and should always be “Financial Sustainability” as we review reports and the budget to ensure Financial Accountability. We do this as we work together to preserve the legacy of Robert and Elizabeth Strawbridge.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas Harford



BUDGET 2024

Expense:

<u>Utilities:</u>		5,700.00
Electric	3,600.00	
Telephone	600.00	
Internet	600.00	
Security	500.00	
Trash Collection	400.00	
<u>Office Expenses</u>		595.00
Postage	300.00	
Supplies	250.00	
Safe Deposit Box	45.00	
<u>News Bulletins:</u>		670.00
Postage/USPS	200.00	
Copying	350.00	
Supplies	120.00	
<u>Purchasing</u>		4,000.00
Visitor's Center	4,000.00	
<u>Advertising</u>		600.00
Brochures	400.00	
Advertisements	200.00	
<u>Special Events:</u>		700.00
Colonial Day	500.00	
Annual Meeting	100.00	
Advent Service	100.00	
<u>Travel/Meetings</u>		200.00
Conference	100.00	
Mileage	100.00	
<u>Repair & Maintenance</u>		12,000.00
Curator's House/VC	3,000.00	
Grounds	6,000.00	
Historic Buildings	3,000.00	
<u>Projects:</u>		2,100.00
Exhibits/Displays	100.00	
Furnishing	1,000.00	
Artifacts Conservation	1,000.00	
<u>Insurance</u>		4,600.00
Windsor-Mt. Joy	4,000.00	
Barnes & Bollinger	600.00	
<u>Real Estate Taxes</u>		3,500.00
Carroll County Gov.	3,500.00	
<u>Unintended Expenses</u>		1,000.00
<u>Variances</u>	(see Note at the bottom)	

Total budgeted Expenses for General Funds

35,665.00

Projected Income:

<u>Contributions:</u>		7,600.00
Membership Dues	5,000.00	
Visitor's Center Donations	00.00	
Visitor's Center Sales	6,000.00	
<u>Other Income</u>		12,000.00
Unspecified Donations	2,000.00	
Specified Donations	5,000.00	
B/W Conference	5,000.00	
<u>Public Support:</u>		7,000.00
USDA	600.00	
Carroll County Land Preservation	6,400.00	
<u>Interest Income:</u>		65.00
NWSB Savings	20.00	
NWSB Checking	10.00	
NWSB MM Ch	15.00	
<u>Endowment Income:</u>		4,400.00
In Memory of	1,200.00	
In Honor of	1,200.00	
Other Gifts	2,000.00	
<u>Fundraising</u>		2,600.00
Total budgeted Restricted & Unrestricted Income		35,665.00

Total budgeted Expenses 35,665 is 2,972 per month (including the 1,000.00 unintended expense)

Note: Any increase over 10% or emergency Expense must be approved by the Executive Director. All proposed expenditures not in budget and not an emergency must be approved by the Board of Directors with respect to the available funds. All variances in budget will be addressed at quarterly reviews.





2023 REPORT OF THE
Nominations Committee
REV. MARY BUZBY, CHAIR

NOMINATIONS 2024 -2026

Officers

President	Rev. Mary Buzby
Vice President	Rev. Bob Kells
Secretary	Rev. Dr. Lou Piel
Treasurer	Rev. Sue Bowen
Ass. Treasurer	Bonnie Graham
Communications Coordinator	John Strawbridge
Membership Coordinator	John Strawbridge
Tour Guide Coordinator	(Vacant)

Directors (up to six openings each year)

Directors Term Expiring 2024

Ray Albert
Bonnie Graham
Tom Harford

Directors Term Expiring 2025

Theresa Hebron
Don Ludke
Sally Stair
Ronda Robinson

Directors Term Expiring 2026

Reuben H. "Spike" Morningstar III
Keith Palmer
J. William Stonesifer

2023 REPORT OF THE
Development Committee
REV. BOB KELLS, CHAIR

The Development Committee made some important strides during 2023 to fulfill its mission of promoting the work of the Shrine Association, creating new avenues for fundraising, and planning for the future of the Strawbridge Shrine. The Committee’s membership remained stable this year with members Helen Kemp (Curator), Tom Harford (Finance Chair), Ray Albert, and Rev. Bob Kells (Chair). Shrine President Mary Buzby participated in all six of our meetings during the year.

I am pleased to report important progress in all three areas of the Development Team’s portfolio of responsibilities.

Promoting the Shrine. The Strawbridge Shrine is fairly well known locally as a historic site of the UMC, but there is ample opportunity to improve the visibility of the Shrine and the story of Robert Strawbridge. As Committee member Ray Albert liked to point out in our meetings, there are 20 some thousand United Methodist Churches we can connect with, and that’s just the United Methodist denomination. There are many denominations and movements that grew out of the Methodist movement that can trace their origins to the work of Robert Strawbridge and the early Methodist circuit riders. The Development Committee will look for ways we can connect with our “brothers and sisters” in these denominations in 2024.



Two other groups we connected with in 2023 were the Methodist historical organizations and individuals who work in Methodist History. In May 2023, Rev. Bob Kells and his wife (Joyce) and Rev. Mary Buzby attended a meeting of the North Eastern Jurisdiction Committee on Archives and History (NEJCAH) in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. This three day event featured presentations on Methodism and its predecessor denominations (especially the Evangelical Association), along with business

meetings for the NEJCAH. Rev. Kells presented a short overview of the Strawbridge Shrine and noted some of the areas we are working on to improve how we tell the story of Robert & Elizabeth Strawbridge. We also set up an information table with brochures, copies of Exhortation (the Shrine newsletter), and free promotional pens. The pens were very popular and over 50 of them found their way into the pockets of participants over the course of the meeting. This conference included a meeting of the Historical Society of the UMC, and we made some important contacts with this organization as well.

One other promotional/communications milestone for 2023 was the publication of *The Saddlebag*. This is a short, two-page, bulletin designed to provide Shrine members and others the latest news from the Shrine in between editions of *Exhortation*. *The Saddlebag* is published electronically as a PDF and sent to all the Shrine members via email. We may put some hard copies of this bulletin in the Visitor’s Center in 2024 to see if there is an audience for it there. The *Saddlebag* is an occasional publication that will be distributed when we have some interesting events to report on, or upcoming activities to promote. Look for more issues of this publication in 2024.



(Continued, next page)

Rev. Kells is also grateful to the Historical Society of the UMC for reprinting an article from *Exhortation* in the Society's newsletter, *Historian's Digest*. The article "Seeding the Garden of Methodism: Robert Strawbridge on Maryland's Eastern Shore" appeared in the Fall edition of *Exhortation*. It was republished in the December issue of *Historian's Digest*. Here is yet another way to promote the Shrine and the story of Robert and Elizabeth Strawbridge.



New Funding. As part of our charge to enhance funding for the Shrine, the Development Committee proposed several ideas for items we can sell that both promote our "brand name" and earn some money for our day-to-day operations. The first item we selected is an ornament—actually, a series of ornaments—that we can sell over a period of years. We drew our inspiration for this from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, which sends its supporters small brass ornaments each year. The first ornament for the Shrine is The Strawbridge House. This item will be available to members and the general public beginning in January 2024. Future ornaments will include depictions of Robert Strawbridge, the buildings on the Shrine Campus, and other buildings and monuments related to Robert Strawbridge.

Additional Strawbridge-themed merchandise under consideration includes leather bookmarks with drawings of Robert Strawbridge and the Strawbridge House, stoneware mugs, and T-Shirts. We hope to have one or more of these available later in 2024. All these items can be used to rejuvenate the Shrine store at the Visitor's Center and to stock an online store. Ken Bowen has already set up a draft "storefront" on Zeffy. Thanks Ken!

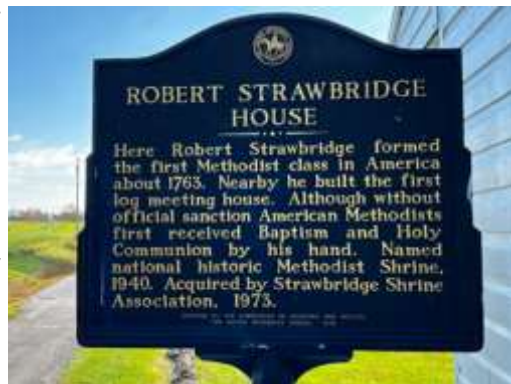
Planning for the Future. Perhaps the most important work of the Development Committee in 2023 is our work on a strategic plan. Association President Mary Buzby made the creation of a strategic plan for the Shrine a high priority for the Development Committee when it was established in the fall of 2021. A strategic plan for the Shrine Association is vitally important. It will set goals, establish priorities, and provide a roadmap for the organization to move from its current state to a desired future state.

The Shrine Association's strategic plan will be based on the major tasks outlined in our mission statement: "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." In addition to the three specific tasks mentioned here—preserve, interpret, share—we add a fourth implied task, that of sustaining the Shrine Association itself.



We have already identified some important goals the Development Committee will recommend be included in the strategic plan, including:

- ◆ Improving the visitor experience through better use of technology by covering the campus with reliable WIFI and creating a web-based interactive experience for virtual and self-guided tours. (Share)
- ◆ Using a “living history” approach to tell the story of Robert and Elizabeth Strawbridge: more portrayals of 18th century people during events (Colonial Day, Advent service), and appropriate attire for tour guides during major tours. (Interpret)
- ◆ Creating a training program for tour guides. (Interpret/Share)
- ◆ Seek outside advice/expertise/resources to upgrade displays of historical items. (Preserve/Share)
- ◆ Recruit more volunteers as tour guides and board members. (Sustain)
- ◆ Obtain new computer and printer for Curator. (Sustain)
- ◆ Improve business procedures and codify changes with policies and procedures. (Sustain)



The primary goal of the Development Committee for 2024 is to complete a strategic plan that can be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors, hopefully before the next annual meeting.

It is truly a joy to work alongside the faithful and dedicated members of the Development Committee. We hope and pray our work will help the Shrine Association focus on the future and grow into a financially and organizationally sustainable group determined to educate and inspire people about the work of God through the story of Robert Strawbridge. We have a story to tell the world! Let’s tell it well so that future generations will know the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Bob Kells

2023 REPORT OF THE
Program Committee
MS. RONDA ROBINSON, CHAIR

The program committee organized the colonial day event on June 17, 2023. This year we extended our time by two hours, as several people reported they did not have enough time to eat, to see all the crafters and buildings and to take time to enjoy the music played on the hammered dulcimer. The other change we made was to ask for volunteers from the community to be docents in the four buildings. This went very well and will be done again in 2024. The weather and the event were great!

The annual Advent service was held in the log meeting house on December 10, 2023. The attendance was down slightly, as the weather was typical December. Those who braved the weather enjoyed the lessons and carol's. Refreshments were served in the visitor 's center following the service.

The annual meeting was moved from October to January, so a full budget report could be given for the year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ronda Robinson





2023 REPORT OF THE
Property Committee
MR. KEITH PALMER, CHAIR

We would like to thank the Commission on Archives & History of the Baltimore-Washington Conference for their support. Thanks also to anyone who donates their time and effort to help keep the Shrine operating, including members of the Property Committee and Pam Edwards.

We started the year off installing air fresheners and cleaning the carpet and rug in the Visitors Center.

We were able to redefine the property lines with help from Dave Kiefer (surveyor). This will allow for proper placement of the new "No Trespassing" signs which should last 20 to 25 years.

The exterior security cameras have been updated. The rest of the system is considered obsolete, but still working at this time. We would benefit from installing a license plate reader.

The phone number on the entrance sign donated by Spike Morningstar has been updated.

Work on the Strawbridge House has been 95% completed. There are always small repairs that could be done. Some work has been done on the Summer Kitchen and Spring House area. More still needs to be done.

Spike Morningstar and Mike Johnson were able to install the wayside signs (made possible by the Ken Stewart family). Spike also provided the always needed pressure washing service.

Thanks to Bill Stonesifer for helping to move things and services he provides.

Due to scheduling and weather the Blacksten Company was unable to paint and preserve the exterior of the meeting house. Same goes for the rear deck on the curator house. These will be done in the spring.

The dusk to dawn pole lights are scheduled to be repaired.

There will always be repairs and maintenance that need to be done. We continue to get bids and prices for the items. Hoping that funding will be available for further repairs and maintenance.

Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Palmer

Barn Report

Phase one has been completed. We would like to move forward with finishing the remaining exterior walls. Then painting could be done in the future. An estimated cost of \$40,000 - \$45,000 is needed to do so. It doesn't include painting in the estimate.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Stonesifer

2023 REPORT OF THE Communication Coordinator MR. JOHN STRAWBRIDGE

The Strawbridge Shrine Association is blessed in its mission of story-telling to have its feet planted firmly in past success and future opportunity. The past year saw the introduction of “Saddlebag,” our electronic newsletter, which will only increase connection in the future. And plans are already underway for the coming year, in which the ministry of Robert Strawbridge will be the focus of the 2024 Pilgrimage week.

In this past year we also installed two new Historic Wayside signs which have been in the works for several years. These not only help us more fully tell the story of the Shrine site, but also allow us to bring in the Strawbridge Cluster site.

We are especially grateful for efforts by our curator to actively look for ways to engage with outside groups, forge connections and promote the presence of the Strawbridge Shrine. (see her report).

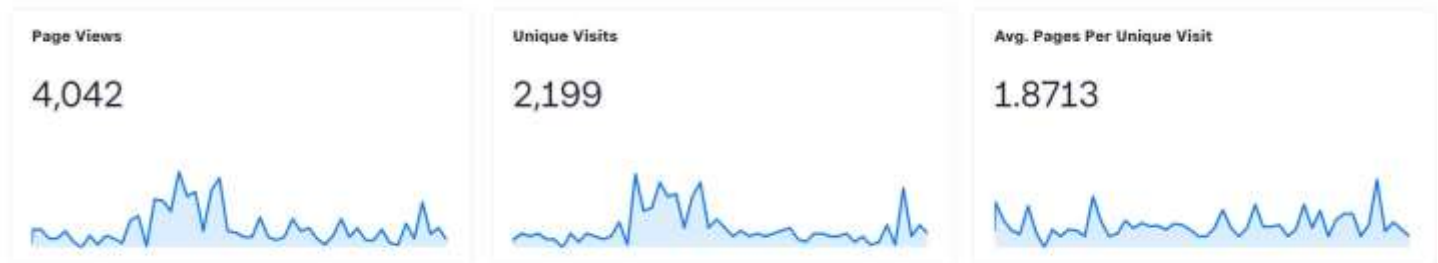
And, as ever, we continue to be active in our news bulletin production and our website/Facebook presence.

EXHORTATION!

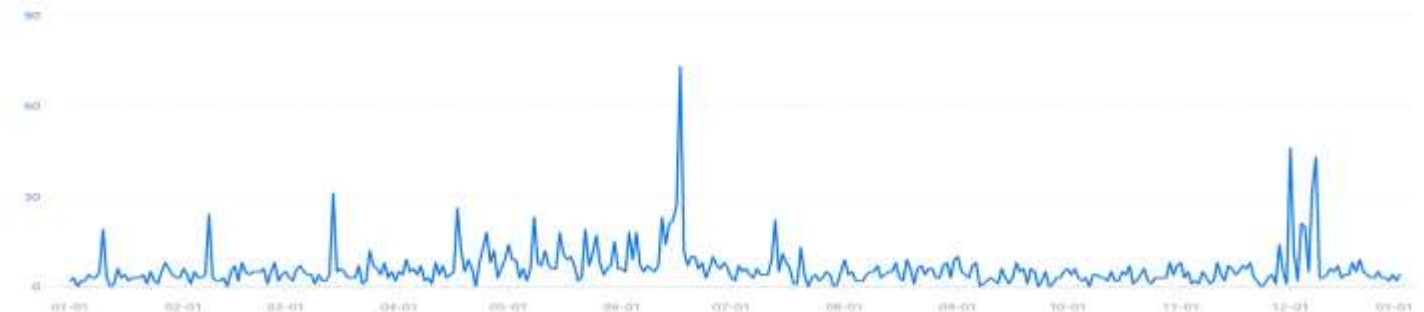
Our news bulletin published both the spring and fall issues, with 400 copies of each mailed. The additional 100 copies which are normally placed at the Visitors Center, at Lovely Lane and at the UMHS Museum. A special thanks to Mt. Zion, Finksburg, church for providing a place to assembling our mailings, to Lou and Judi Piel, and to all the volunteers who participate.

STRAWBRIDGESHRINE.ORG

Traffic to the primary website remains positive. See tables below for statistics regarding page visits for the 12 months January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. Over the previous year this shows an increase of 32% in unique visitors, and an increase of 16% in the number of pages viewed.

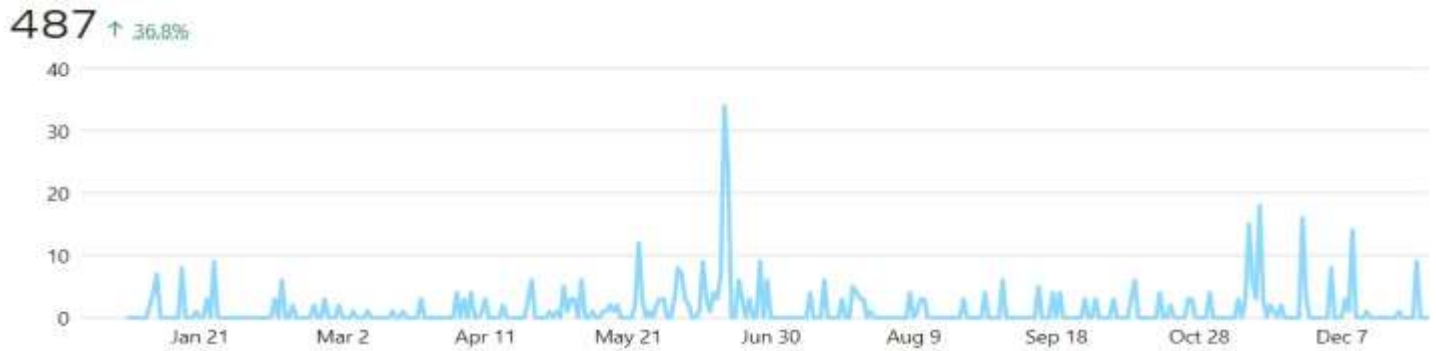


Daily Activity



FACEBOOK:

Social media remains critical to our 21st Century presence. Our Facebook page has enabled us to post “real time” updates regarding our opening status, tour schedule and newsletter publication. The table below shows daily traffic to our Facebook page for the year 01/01/2023 – 12/31/2023:



In addition to these visits, we have a “reach” of over 1,100 – meaning that our content was shared or otherwise seen over a thousand times. Almost 300 accounts “follow” us on Facebook.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Strawbridge



2023 REPORT OF THE Membership Coordinator MR. JOHN STRAWBRIDGE

Reporting Period: August 15, 2022 – October 31, 2023

This represents two campaigns: Fall/Winter (August - April) and Spring/Summer (May – October).

Note that this is a 14.5 month period because we changed the publication date of the fall news bulletin to support the change in the Annual Meeting date.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING UNITS¹: 106 (-35 from previous year)

The table below summarizes **gifts given** in the past year² (Fall 2022 – Fall 2023).

	<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>In Honor Of</i>	<i>Benefactor</i> \$1000+	<i>Patron</i> \$500 - \$999	<i>Sponsor</i> \$250 - \$499	<i>Sustaining</i> \$100 - \$249	<i>Member</i> \$1 - \$99
COUNT	10	6	1	2	7	24	32
PREV.	19	4	1	1	5	19	42
CHANGE	- 9	+ 2	0	+ 1	+ 2	+ 5	- 10

Contributing Organization: 10 (+2)
Preservation Fund: 15 (+ 3)
Barn Fund: 40 (-17)

Greatest *number of donors* are Individual donors. However, the greatest *amount of giving* is Sustaining.

Gifts *In Memory Of* and gifts *In Honor Of* are, by policy, designated for our Endowment Fund.

Gifts to the Preservation Fund are, by policy, restricted to the maintenance and restoration of the historic buildings; Strawbridge House, Evans House, Meeting House and Out Building cluster.

Gifts to the Barn Fund are restricted to fund raising and facility of the 19th century bank barn.

NOTES:

¹ “Contributing Units” refers to an individual, a household or a church/business at a single address

² Because some donors give more than one gift, total number of gifts does not equal total number of donors.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Strawbridge

