

Recognize anyone on 1955 photo on Page 3?

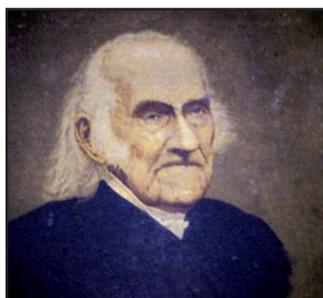
# BOEHM'S CHAPEL SOCIETY

Spring 2012 Newsletter .....13 West Boehms Road, Willow Street, Pa. 17584



## IN CATBIRD SEAT

A child in the balcony gets a closer look at the Vespers service. Pages 4-5



## TO JEWEL

A letter from traveling Henry Boehm to his wife, Sarah. Page 6.



## 1883 REMODELING

The Lancaster New Era covered remodeling work on the Chapel back in 1883. Pages 7-8.

# Dr. Campbell returns to first pastoral home

As pastor at Boehm's 1953-57, he opened the Chapel for annual services.

BY DOLORES MYERS  
*Executive Director*

Rev. Dr. J. Gary Campbell recalled fond memories of the beginning of his ministerial service as he stepped behind the pulpit of Boehm's United Methodist Church while on a visit to the Willow Street area with his wife Joy.

Rev. Campbell served the Boehm's congregation 1953-1957 as a student-

## NEWS ARTICLE ON USING CHAPEL AGAIN.

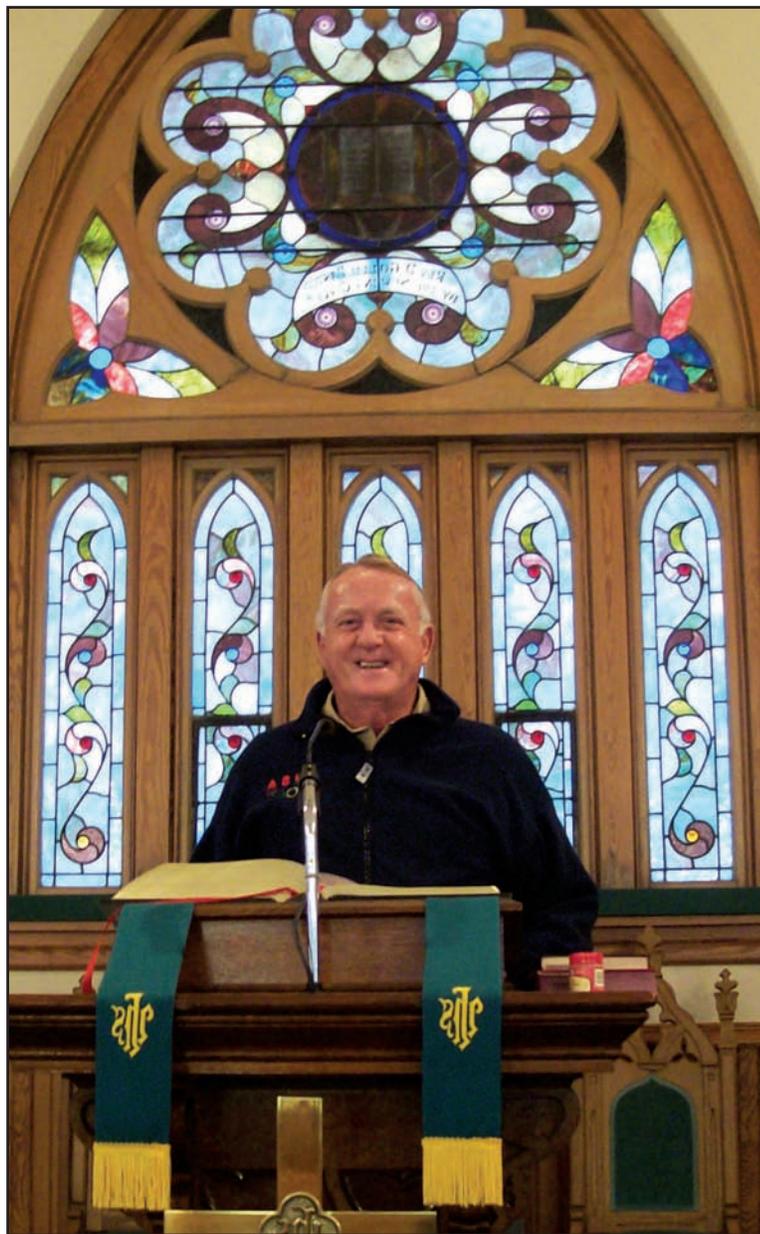
### PAGE 2

pastor. The first two years he was at Boehm's were spent finishing his degree at Frank-

lin & Marshall College in Lancaster, followed by two years as a student at Drew University School of Theology, Madison, N.J.

Rev. Campbell states, "Our budget had improved during each of the four years, and I actually had money in hand to assure we could pay a fulltime salary... so we were moved

Please see **CAMPBELL**, page 2



On a recent visit, the Rev. Dr. J. Gary Campbell stands behind the pulpit he preached from more than 50 years ago.

## Campbell: Reopened the Chapel for services

Continued from Page One

for my final year at Drew, and Boehm's did become a fulltime appointment."

Rev. Campbell was first married to Audrey E. Railing, of Lancaster County. As the Boehm's pastoral couple they worked with the youth of the church and one of their projects included opening the old chapel for a once-a-year service. Audrey died in 2007 and is buried in Ohio.

Rev. Campbell states, "I fully appreciated the chapel's historic significance, but I didn't know how to bring it to the attention of the general church or the (Eastern Pennsylvania) conference. Even so, the service was well attended each year, and we had several outstanding speakers."

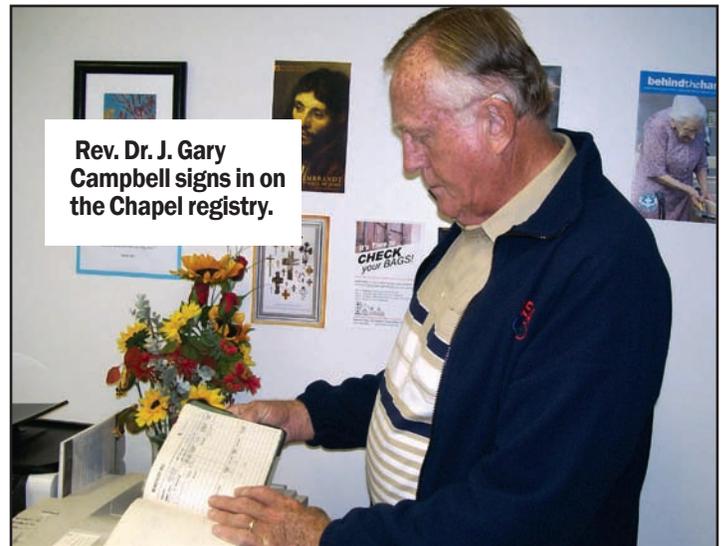
"Our visit to Boehm's Chapel last October was such a bless-

ing! A youth fellowship project during my four-year pastorate at Boehm's (1953 - 57) was to open and clean the old Chapel, where we held a Sunday night service annually. The restoration that has been accomplished in the intervening years has made the Chapel a beautiful memorial to the faith and vision of our spiritual forebears."

Recently vacationing in Florida, he added:

"Incidentally, we visited Ken and Mary Brown and their daughter Barbara, all of whom live in Clearwater. (We did not see their son, "Buzz," whose home is in Davenport, FL.) Mary is 93 years of age now, physically feeble but mentally sharp and spiritually joyous. She was a youth counselor along with my (first) wife and myself, and Barbara and Buzz were in the youth group that first opened and cleaned the Chapel."

After leaving Boehm's, Rev. Campbell continued his studies at Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass., and Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Ky., where he received his Doctor of Ministry degree in spiritual formation. He was ordained in the West Virginia Conference as a deacon in 1956



and an elder in 1958.

He served fulltime pastorates in Massachusetts between 1961-1976 and as the district superintendent of Rhode Island-Southeastern Massachusetts District between 1976-1980. Between 1980-1993 he served full time pastorates in Westerville and Dayton, Ohio and again served as a district superintendent of the Portsmouth District between 1993-1990.

As a retired clergy member, Rev. Campbell is serving as part-time minister of nurture

and discipleship at Fredericktown United Methodist Church in Ohio.

Rev. Campbell married Joy H. Sommers Draper on Feb. 14, 2010. Their combined family includes three sons, twin daughters and nine grandchildren.

We thank Rev. Dr. Campbell for his years of ministry at Boehm's and for his foresight in directing interest into the re-opening of the old chapel. It is our delight to welcome former pastors "home" to Boehm's. ■

**From the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal, July 9, 1955**

# Back in Service

## Old Boehm's Chapel Will be Used Again

The oldest Methodist Church in Lancaster County, the old Boehm's Chapel, long in disuse and in need of repair, is getting its face lifted through the energetic efforts of the Boehm's Youth Fellowship.

Silent for many years after the new Boehm's church was built in 1898, the old chapel will ring with the sound of the voices of people attending an old-fashioned hymn sing for the second year in a row on Sunday at 7:45 p.m.

And the hymn sing, sponsored by the youth, will help finance the renovation work the young people are doing on the chapel so that it can later be put into use as a Sunday School classroom. The Youth Fellowship hopes to make the old fashioned hymn sing an annual event.

Last year about \$175 was raised

through the collection taken at the hymn sing and from donations — one from as far away as Florida. The Youth Fellowship put the money to work hiring a carpenter and plasterer while they themselves did the painting and cleaning up. Right now members are in the process of preparing the old chapel, built in 1791, for the hymn sing.

The young people also plan to install some kind of heating system, which will make the building suitable for use by the Young Adult Class. Members of the Youth Fellowship range in age from twelve to twenty-three. Their counselors are Mrs. Kenneth C. Brown, Willow Street R1 and Mrs. Oliver H. Armstrong, Willow Street.

The youth group is carrying forward the renovations under the supervision of the official board of the church and with

the assistance of the pastor, the Rev. J. Gary Campbell. By restoring the chapel they hope to keep alive and to regain the spirit of this shrine of early American Methodism, community interests and visions.

The Boehm's Methodist Church is located just off the highway to the right of Willow Street, and the Old Boehm's chapel is beyond the church and cemetery.

Constructed of limestone, the chapel is 40 feet long by 32 feet wide. It was founded through the effort of Martin Boehm and the generosity of his son, Jacob who granted the land. Prior to the building of the chapel, the house and barn of Martin Boehm furnished a meeting place for the Methodists as early as 1775.

Please see INTELL ARTICLE, page 3



## CLEAN-UP, FIX-UP, PAINT-UP

Members of the Youth Fellowship of Boehm's Church, Willow Street, assisted by the pastor, the Rev. J. Gary Campbell, work on painting and cleaning up the old Boehm's Chapel, built in 1791 and long in disuse, for an old-fashioned hymn sing next Sunday. Members of the fellowship are sponsoring the hymn sing to raise funds to renovate the building, not used since the new church was built in 1898. After it is renovated, the old chapel will be put into use as a Sunday School classroom.

Continued from Page 2

The plan for the chapel was furnished by the Rev. Richard Whatcoat, who was one of John Wesley's helpers in England. The Rev. Mr. Whatcoat officiated extensively throughout the general area and visited the home of Martin Boehm often.

When the chapel was first erected, it had a gallery on each side and at the entrance end. The pulpit was directly opposite the doorway and set high enough so that the preacher could see all the movements of those in the gallery. The door had a porch roof over it.

But in 1883, the Old Boehm's Chapel, built less than a decade after the Revolutionary War, was modernized. The old pulpit and the galleries were removed, the porch roof

taken off, and the windows enlarged. And it has stood as such, preserved by some repairs, but in a general state of disrepair since 1898 until the Youth Fellowship decided to do something about it.

Martin Boehm, founder of the church, later became identified with the United Brethren in Christ, and in 1800 was elected one of their bishops. He was about eighty when his more active ministry ceased in 1805 and he was later re-identified with the Methodist Church before his death in March 1812.

Another of his sons, in addition to Jacob, who granted the land, is often associated with the Old Boehm's Chapel. Henry Boehm, younger brother of Jacob, was about sixteen when the chapel was built and in

1798 he joined the Methodist Church. He was soon licensed to preach and was ordained by Bishop Francis Asbury, a well-known name in early American Methodist itinerancy.

From 1803 to 1813, Henry Boehm was Bishop Asbury's assistant and traveling companion and was executor of the Bishop's last will and testament. Asbury himself preached several times at the chapel.

Henry Boehm later had the unique distinction of being the eldest American Methodist minister at the time of his death when he attained the age of nearly 101.

A capacity crowd attended the first hymn sing last July when the hymns sung were chosen by the congregation

and were the favorites of the individuals representing seven different denominations.

The Youth Fellowship will pattern this year's sing after the first one. The chapel holds approximately 120 persons.

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Eddie Hess/SPECIAL TO THE BOEHM'S CHAPEL SOCIETY



## IN THE SPIRIT

On Sunday, Dec. 4, the Boehm's Chapel Society holds its annual Advent Vespers Service.

Above, a child peers over the edge of the balcony to get a look at what's going on on the floor of the Chapel.

In the middle photo, Joanne Swords-Wang, Amanda Eden and Noah Miranda perform.

In the bottom photo, the audience is shown seated in the pews on the first floor.

On the next page, the bottom photo shows part of audience in the balcony. Others were seated along the sides of the balcony.

In top photo, some of those attended the service enjoy fellowship in the late afternoon sun outside the Chapel after the service.



Dolores Myers/SPECIAL TO THE BOEHM'S CHAPEL SOCIETY



Edie Hess/SPECIAL TO THE BOEHM'S CHAPEL SOCIETY



# 'My Dear Jewel'

## Transcription of Henry's letter to Sarah

Boehm's Chapel Society was pleased to receive a copy of a treasured keepsake written Sept. 2, 1820 by Rev. Henry Boehm to his wife Sarah Hill Boehm. The letter was written while Henry was traveling in the vicinity of Accomack County, Virginia. At the time the letter was penned; Henry and Sarah had celebrated two years of marriage and had one son, Henry Martin, born June 1819. Sarah was residing at Milford, Del.

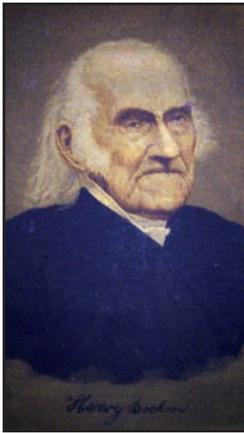
Snow Hill to which Henry refers is on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Henry spent considerable time away from family and home while serving the young American Methodist movement. Per an entry in Reminiscences, Henry states, "In January, 1800, I began my regular itinerant life. It was on Dorchester Circuit, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, in Philadelphia Conference. The peninsula that lies between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, though not considered very healthy, was the garden of Methodism in America."

In 1819 Henry Boehm was appointed to the Delaware District, which included much of the area Henry had traveled years before.

Again quoting from Reminiscences, pertaining to the year 1820, Henry states, "We held several camp-meetings this year. One was at the Tangier Islands. The weather was fine, contrasting agreeably with the terrible storm we had the year before."

This letter reveals the sweet feelings Henry felt for his wife whom he addresses as, "My dear jewel" and his young son, H. Martin. In addition Henry's writing also exemplifies the personal relationship he had with his Lord and Savior.



1820  
My dear jewel Bro. Downings Accomack Sept

You will please to excuse the liberty of writing the third epistle before obtaining an answer, but no doubt there is one at snow hill, which will come to hand on my way up. O my beloved wife you must not be surprised, will you bear with me if I tell you I love you bettr than ever, at all events it is so impressed on my mind, well there is certainly no harm in

that, be that as it may, your friend canot help it, neither does he trye, but well satisfied it is a laudable affection in the heart; implanted by the GOD of nature and grace is designed to refine and regulate these tender emotions, and feelings- jewel, it seems my gracious master has deepened the work of grace in my heart, in proportion as our love to GOD increases our love to one another likewise increases agreeably to the relation we sustain

to each other, all glory to GOD and the LAMB for ever and ever.

My health of body never was better than at this time, praise the LORD. I endeavour to live temperate and drink but little water, which no doubt is a means of promoting health of soul and body - many of the friends enquire for you and H. Martin do press him to your brest for his poor Father. many desire to be remembered to you in love in all probability we will have a great meeting at snowhill-the LORD willing I calculate on being at home next Wednesday night week. pray for me - that the great head of the Church may give wisdom and grace -to perform important duties agreeably to his will.

Jewel Yours in love Henry Boehm

P.S. we have had powerful seagles with muquetoos but very few in this place.

1820  
My dear jewel Bro. Downings Accomack Sept  
you will please to excuse the liberty of writing the third epistle before obtaining an answer, but no doubt there is one at snow hill, which will come to hand on my way up, O my beloved wife you must not be surprised, will you bear with me if I tell you I love you bettr than ever, at all events it is so impressed on my mind, well there is certainly no harm in that, be that as it may, your friend canot help it, neither does he trye, but well satisfied it is a laudable affection in the heart; implanted by the GOD of nature and grace is designed to refine and regulate these tender emotions, and feelings- jewel, it seems my gracious master has deepened the work of grace in my heart, in proportion as our love to GOD increases our love to one another likewise increases agreeably to the relation we sustain to each other, all glory to GOD and the LAMB for ever and ever. my health of body never was better than at this time. praise the LORD, I endeavour to live temperate, and drink but little water, which no doubt is a means of promoting health of soul and body - many of the friends enquire for you and H. Martin do press him to your brest for his poor Father. many desire to be remembered to you in love in all probability we will have a great meeting at snowhill-the LORD willing I calculate on being at home next Wednesday night week. pray for me - that the great head of the Church may give wisdom and grace -to perform important duties agreeably to his will.  
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yours in love Henry Boehm

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Jewel  
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# Remodeling the Chapel in 1883

The following two articles both taken from November 1883 issues of *The Lancaster New Era*, supply interesting and detailed descriptions of the chapel interior before and after so-called improvements.

The second article mentions a framed picture of "Father" Boehm given as a gift by Miss Eliza Smith. This portrait hangs in Boehm's Church. If the present location of the "new clock" or "bracket lamps" mentioned in the same article are known, the chapel society would be delighted to have them returned to be placed on a permanent loan display inside the historic chapel.

**THE NEW ERA,  
SATURDAY,  
NOV. 3, 1883**

Boehm's Chapel  
The Oldest House of  
Worship in Lancaster  
County-Repaired  
and Remodeled, it  
Will be Reopened on  
Sunday, November  
11.

This venerable building, the oldest place of worship used by Methodists in Lancaster county, was built in 1791, from plans furnished by Rev. Richard Whatcoat in 1790. It derived its name, "Boehm's Chapel," from the fact that the Boehm family were instrumental in its erection and contributed a large part of the funds. It is said that Henry Boehm, son of Martin Boehm, a bishop of the old United Brethren or German Methodists, helped to haul part of the stone used in the building when quite a young man.

Henry Boehm figured conspicuously among the pioneer preachers of Methodism, and was for a long time the intimate friend and traveling companion of the famous



In the photo at left, the Rev. Dennis Snovel and the Rev. Abe Sangrey look over the Chapel as planning for reconstruction work began. Rev. Snovel was the pastor when the work began. Rev. Sangrey, a pastor at Boehm's in the 1940s, was the guiding spirit. Bottom, photo shows the old pews. Note, there's no balcony. It came out in 1883.

Bishop Asbury.

The building is of limestone and is located about six miles south of Lancaster city. The church was originally regarded as a model of architecture, especially in the interior. The pulpit was elevated considerably above the heads of the people, with an extended enclosure for the minister to stand in, and also a sounding board; but that was, in course of time, removed, the gallery extended around on the three sides of the building and almost covered the first floor. The seats seemed to be constructed on the principle that comfort is not compatible with worship.

The original deed of the land (in possession of the trustees,) on which the church is built, is written in a fair, clerky hand, and is a model of neatness. It was made by



Philip Gloninger, bearing date December 24, 1791.

The land was sold by Christian Herr, of Manor township, to Martin Boehm and Jacob Boehm, of Conestoga township, Abraham Kagey, John Miller, Solomon Miller and John Hart, of Martic township, Frederick Rathvon, of Stras-

burg township, John Buckwalter and Benjamin Souder, of Lampeter township, in trust, for the sum of £5, current money of the State of Pennsylvania, to a religious society called Methodists.

The church has been lately repaired, and will be ready to

Please see 1883, page 8

# 1883: Remodeling

Continued from **Page 7**

re-open on Sunday, November 11. Former pastors will be present, and a grand season is expected. Love feast at 9 a.m. Preaching at 10 a.m. by J.W. Harkins, of Philadelphia. Preaching at 2 p.m. by Rev. J.T. Stachell, of Lancaster; and evening service at 7 p.m. by Rev. F.M. Brady, of Fulton circuit.

**The New Era  
Friday  
Nov. 16, 1883**

## BOEHM'S CHAPEL

The Interesting  
Ceremonies of  
the Reopening-  
An Old Building  
Modernized.

In spite of the inclement weather, the reopening of Boehm's chapel last Sunday



The exterior of the Chapel as it looked circa 1883.

was a success. Before nine o'clock in the morning the people began to assemble, and it was found necessary to place benches in the aisles. Many sat on the chancel rail and pulpit platform. Others were obliged to stand. It is safe to say that had the weather been favorable the church would not have held one half of the people, so great is the interest in this old landmark of Methodism.

To those who had seen the church previous to its alteration it seemed as if Aladdin's lamp had been brought into requisition, so complete was the transformation effected.

Boehm's is substantially new as to its interior, and unless some unlooked-for mishap befall it is good for at

least another half century of service. The old gallery, lofty pulpit and back-breaking benches have disappeared. New and comfortable pulpit and benches have been put in. The modern demand for "more light" is met by day by new and enlarged windows, and by night by a new chandelier and bracket lamps. Folding doors replace the old fashioned, latched door that for so many years admitted saint and sinner. A new clock keeps the parson's sermon within bounds, and the painter's art has covered a multitude of sins of omission and commission. A new tin roof bids defiance to Jupiter Pluvius. The walls are repainted, and to mark denomination and other lines new fences have been set

### CANADIAN MAIL

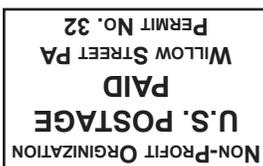
A problem involving the Chapel Society newsletter being delivered to our friends and neighbors in Canada has been brought to our attention. Please be advised that from this point forward Canadian newsletters will be sent first-class mail. Please contact boehmschapel@gmail.com if you desire original hard copies of any of the 2011 newsletters.

in place. It is also intended to build new carriage sheds.

After the Quarterly Love Feast, Rev. J. W. Harkins, of Philadelphia, a former pastor, preached an interesting sermon. The pastor then stated that \$300 were yet needed to cover cost of improvements and called for subscriptions. Two hundred and sixty-nine dollars were subscribed in a few minutes, which sum, in the afternoon, after an excellent sermon by Rev. J. T. Satchell, of Lancaster, was increased to \$320. Rev. F. M. Brady, a former pastor, preached an earnest sermon in the evening, and one penitent was present at the altar. The total cost of the improvements was \$750.

A pleasant surprise was the gift of Miss Eliza Smith, of Lancaster, consisting of a beautiful floral design and framed picture of "Father" Boehm, taken at the age of 101.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Boehm's Chapel Society  
P.O. Box 272, 13 W. Boehm Rd.  
Willow Street, PA 17584