

Boehm's Chapel Society

SPRING-SUMMER 2017

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West Boehms Road, Willow Street, Pa., 17584

INSIDE



250th anniversary of Long's Barn meet

What happened when Martin Boehm share his testimony on Pentecost Day in 1767. Pages 2-3.

Heritage Sunday speaker named



People at Boehms knew him as a teenager. On June 25, the Rev. Robert Brown returns as a retired naval chaplain and pastor. Page 3.



New pastor for Boehms

Rev. Joan Trout takes over July 1. Page 8.

All tied up



Photo by Dolores Myers

Above, stone mason Wes Swanson puts finishing touches on the wall outside the Tying Shed at Boehm's Chapel. At right, Chapel Society member and former Boehms' pastor Dennis Snovel dedicates the auxiliary building. For an article and photo, please see Page 4.



Photo by the Rev. Chris Eden

This painting of Long's Barn, by Merl Wechter, hangs in Covenant United Methodist Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



The Great Meeting

It was 250 years ago that a denomination was given root at Long's Barn.

By Dolores Myers
Executive Director
Boehm's Chapel Society

It was Whitsuntide 1767, better known today as Pentecost Sunday, when a large gathering of 18th-century souls, hungry for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, assembled at Isaac Long's barn, five miles north of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Members of the crowd professed a multitude of religious convictions. Many had traveled great distances, some as far away as Virginia, to attend this

"Eine Grosse Versammlung" or "Great Meeting."

Long's large barn was filled to capacity, and the crowd, numbering more than 1,000, overflowed into the adjacent orchard.

Undoubtedly, some of the ministers addressing the crowd made eloquent proclamations throughout that day, but it was the stirring words of the humble Martin Boehm that would be the most remembered.

The late Rev. Abram Sangrey suggested in his book, "The Temple of Limestone," that Boehm most likely shared

his personal testimony with those present. It was Boehm's recurrent theme to preach on his search for redemption and the subsequent joy that filled his heart and soul when he was led to the assurance of God's salvation.

In 1756, when Martin was chosen by lot to shepherd the local Byerland Mennonite Congregation, he found himself faced with great spiritual turmoil. His initial attempts to rise and speak in front of his friends and neighbors forced a stammering Martin to return to his seat in shame and humili-

ation.

After months of continued failed attempts at preaching, he was plagued with agonizing soul searching. Under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, Martin was led to the realization that he had never received the assurance of God's saving grace personally and therefore was unable to witness to others.

He became awakened to the idea that he was "verloren" – lost – and needed to come before the Lord with a repentant heart and ask for forgiveness of his sins.

Falling on his knees in the middle of a field he was plowing, Martin prayed for his lost soul. The verse "I am come to seek and to save that which is lost," filled his thoughts and Boehm recounted, "In a moment a stream of joy was poured over me. I praised the Lord and left the field."

From that time on, Martin was gifted with the ability to speak and a passion for sharing the joy of his redemption experience with all persons with whom he came in contact. He delighted in glorifying Christ for the assurance of his salvation through grace.

Among those in the crowd that Whitsunday was Philip William Otterbein, minister of the German Reformed Church in York, Pennsylvania. Otterbein had begun his American ministry as the pastor of the nearby Lancaster First Reformed Church. Tall and stately, Otterbein had attended university and studied theology in his native Germany. At first glance, he did not appear to have anything in common with the small, self-educated, plainly clothed Mennonite minister of humble countenance. However, after serving several years in the pulpit, Otterbein had also experienced a period of spiritual hunger and deep soul searching. Like Boehm, he had come to embrace a personal holiness and an intimate walk with Christ.

At the conclusion of Martin Boehm's testimony, Otterbein, recognizing Boehm as his brother in Christ, was unable to repress his emotions and rose, embraced Martin and proclaimed, "Wir Sind Brüder," or "We are Brethren." It was that embrace in Long's Barn, which established the spiritual origins of The Church of the Brethren in Christ.

The two spiritual brothers maintained a close friendship the rest of their lives and attracted a following of like-minded believers. Rev. Sangrey records in his book, titled, "Martin Boehm," that Boehm was the senior member

in charge of the evangelistic movement among Germans.

Otterbein served as the leader of a group of German-speaking pastors, known as the United Ministers, which met biannually in Otterbein's Baltimore parsonage. It was through this loosely formed fellowship that doors opened for the establishment of the church of the United Brethren in Christ.

Like-minded members of this group met at the home of Peter Kemp in Frederick City, Maryland, on Sept. 25, 1800, to establish preliminary guidelines for the fledgling denomination. Martin Boehm and Philip William Otterbein were recognized as the first two superintendents or bishops of the newly organized society.

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ was the first denomination to establish roots within the United States. In 1946, the United Brethren and the Evangelical Church joined to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church, which united with the Methodist Church in 1968 to become the present day United Methodist Church.

Long's Barn was dedicated as historic site No. 389 of the United Methodist Church on May 19, 2002, and a Heritage Landmark of United Methodism on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009.

Information reprinted in the Journal of United Brethren History and Life, Vol 1, No. 1 Fall 2000, taken from Bernard Fogle's unpublished masters thesis at United Theological Seminary (1955), provided the following account:

In the Long family, there were three brothers – Isaac, John and Benjamin. They had been converted at a previous meeting conducted by Boehm and showed increasing interest in the new faith found by listening to the preaching of Boehm. Isaac was a warm-hearted person who was described as demonstrative. He was present at many meetings, attending those that were held even at a great distance away. His brother John was also ac-

A son of Boehms to deliver message

The annual Boehm's Chapel Heritage Sunday Service will be held at 4 p.m., June 25.

Pastor Robert Brown will bring the afternoon message titled, "Our Apostolic Heritage."

Although Bob (known as Bobby then) spent his teenage years at Boehm's UMC, during the period his father, the Rev. William Brown, served the church, this will be the first time he will be bringing a message from the Chapel pulpit.

He graduated from Lampeter-Strasburg High School and graduated from Taylor University, Upland, Indiana; earned a Master of Divinity degree from Evangelical Theological School, Myerstown, Pennsylvania, in 1974; and a Master of Religious Education degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, in



The Rev. Robert Brown is shown in his naval uniform.

1990.

He served Evangelical Congregational churches in Harrisburg, Bartonsville and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, between 1972-1981. Between 1981-1996, Bob served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy. He served the Mid-Pacific Institute, Honolulu, Hawaii, as chaplain between 1996-2007, after which he returned to Pennsylvania and filled the pulpit at Plymouth Meeting ECC, Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, until his retirement June 30, 2016.

The event will feature music and a light supper.

tive in this movement of great meetings. He was instrumental in securing the presence of the "Virginia preachers."

It is only natural that Isaac would extend an invitation to Boehm to hold a meeting at his farm. Isaac Long was the son of immigrant Johannes Lang, who constructed the oldest section of the classic Schweitzer or Swisser barn.

On the lintel of the southwest corner is inscribed the date 1754, surround by sets of initials of Johannes Lang and Anna, his wife.

Another striking feature of the barn is the cut-out

tulip-shaped ventilator. The barn is 108 feet long with a width of 33 ½ feet. The roof of the barn was made of thatch until approximately 1866. Per "Eighteenth-Century Barns of Lancaster County," compiled by Gregory Huber for the 2015 annual conference of the Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania, it is possible that the Long barn is the earliest surviving Schweitzer in Pennsylvania.

An article within the book written by Robert F. Ensminger suggested the construction date of the second phase was before the Great Meeting of 1767.

Shown is one of the rooms in the Tying Shed. The interior of the auxiliary building was given a vintage look with rough walls and wooden floors.



Tying Shed is dedicated

The Tying Shed at Boehm's Chapel was dedicated to the glory of God following the Dec. 4, 2016, Advent program.

Led by the Rev. Dennis Snovel, a long-standing officer and director of Boehm's Chapel Society, who served as Boehm's pastor, 1977-1985, the congregation moved from the Chapel to the front of the newly completed Tying Shed to participate in the dedication ceremony.

The liturgy concluded with the following reading by Pastor Snovel:

"With thanksgiving to God for the rich and ongoing ministry of the Boehms Church congregation and the Boehm's Chapel Society, for the many saints of God who have given generously for the building of this Tying Shed, for those who have labored throughout its construction, and for those saints who have sustained and continue to give for the mission of Christ Jesus through the ministry of this historic site."

The congregational responded:

"We give you thanks, O God, for all your beloved saints."

Pastor Snovel: "We do now, as the people of God, set aside this newly constructed Tying Shed and dedicate it to the glory and honor of Almighty God and to

the service of His people, in the name of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

The congregation:

"All praise be to God, Amen and Amen."

Following the dedication, members of the church, Chapel Society and community were invited for refreshments and to tour the interior.

The Tying Shed was built as an auxiliary building for the Chapel. It will contain archives of the Chapel and local Methodism. The building also has five bathrooms. Dolores Myers, the executive director of the Chapel Society, has an office in the building. There is also room for wedding parties to dress for weddings in the Chapel.

The Tying Shed was funded by the Chapel Society and will also be used by the Boehms congregation.

It was modeled after a building that once stood behind the Chapel that housed horses that congregants used to get to the Chapel before the era of the automobile.

The Society is seeking donations to help defray costs of maintaining the building. In recognition of the 225th anniversary of Boehm's Chapel, we hope you will

consider making a generous donation to Boehm's Chapel Society.

Persons donating \$225 or more will have their names added to "The Builders" plaque in the new Tying Shed. A \$225 donation in memory of a loved one or in honor of a Boehm ancestor will also be noted on the plaque.

Please make checks payable to Boehm's Chapel Society. Canadian checks must indicate U.S. funds. Please mail your gift to:

BOEHM'S CHAPEL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 272
WILLOW STREET, PA 17584

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OBITUARIES

Dorothy Garboczi

Dorothy Garboczi, 88, died March 27 at her home at Lancaster Terrace, surrounded by her family.

Dorothy, a cherished member of the Chapel Society board, was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and earned an associate degree from Wilkes College in 1948. She and her husband, Nicholas Garboczi, moved to Lancaster after marrying in 1951.

Dorothy worked for Donnelly Printing Co. before



Dorothy Garboczi was a beloved member of the Chapel Society board.

her retirement in 1990. Her lifelong hobby was collecting dolls and following the lives of the Dionne quintuplets. She was a member of both the Lancaster Red Rose and Sarasota, Florida, Doll Clubs.

Dorothy was a member of Northminister Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, Florida, where she resided during the winter months.

She attended Grandview United Methodist Church, Lancaster, and was actively involved with the group of bakers from Grandview who bake the popular apple bread for the Chapel Society's Apple Festival. Dorothy served

as a director on the board of Boehm's Chapel Society for many years, previously having served as membership secretary.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, brother John Sorber, and husband of 50 years, Nick Garboczi. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Anne Sorber of Luzerne, Pennsylvania, four children; David (Kathy), Gaithersburg, Maryland; John, Lancaster; Ed (Alice), Denver, Colorado; Linda, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Grandview UMC.

Maris R. McCullough

Maris R. McCullough, of Willow Street, passed away Feb. 13, 2017, at Manor Care, Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

He was married to Jean A. (Gaddis) McCullough for 69 years. They were married March 8, 1947.

It didn't seem like an Apple Festival if Maris wasn't there. On those days when apples were being snitzed, you would find Maris in his yellow rubber coveralls peeling apples with a small machine.

It wasn't all work those days. Maris was known for his sense of humor. Beware of picking on him; he would give as good as he got.

When it came time to make the apple butter, Maris was there to assist the crew by tossing in the apples and cider and taking his turns in stirring the large cooper pots.

Apple butter was a family affair as he assisted his son, Jim, a former president of the Apple Society (and chief apple butter producer) and Jim's wife, Sharon, plus their children and other relatives.

He was also there when the tents for apple butter were put up or taken down.

Maris was a World War II decorated combat veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Born in Strasburg, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late John A. and Jenny C. (Eisenberger) McCullough. A Protestant, he was a member of West Willow United Methodist Church for many years. He was a 32nd degree member of Charles M. Howell Masonic Lodge 496 of Millersville.

He was a graduate of Solanco High School, Class of 1944. He also graduated from Millersville University, Class of 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial arts. Maris worked as an industrial arts teacher for 20 years at Solanco High School, from where he retired in 1988.

Maris was a World War II decorated combat veteran who served in the European Theater and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded and became a prisoner of the Germans until his liberation in May 1945.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Jean, are his three



Photo by Chere Fizer

Maris McCullough, right, is shown with his son, Jim, as they check the consistency of the apple butter at a recent Apple Festival. Maris could always be counted on.

sons, James R. (husband of Sharon) McCullough of Strasburg, Pennsylvania, Larry L. McCullough of Marticville, Pennsylvania, Michael R. (husband of Linda) McCullough of Strasburg, Pennsylvania; two brothers, Harold McCullough, of Colorado, Robert McCullough of Willow Street; a sister, Helen Hess of Lancast-

er; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Maris was preceded in death by two brothers, Paul McCullough and John McCullough, and a sister, Mary Ann Andrews.

A celebration of his life was held at Boehms United Methodist Church. He is buried in the cemetery there.



It was 100 years ago

It was 100 years ago that the United States entered World War I. In these photos, courtesy of Charles Miller and his mother, Dorothy Hackman Miller, a soldier, William "Jim" Sigman, is shown. He served in the 151st Machine Gun Battalion from July 1917 to May 1919. At left, he is shown with his cousin, Anna Hackman, and Charles Ressler. Mr. Ressler was the brother-in-law of Ira Hackman, Anna's husband. At right, the soldier is shown with a woman, who might be his wife,



Emma. Mr. Sigman and his wife are buried at Clearfield United Methodist Church. Mr. Sigman's parents are buried in the cemetery at Boehms. Anna and Ira Hackman lived next to the church, where their son, Richard, now lives. Members of Boehms Church might notice a resemblance between the late Anna Hackman and her granddaughter, Sharon Hackman McCullough.

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Enclosed, please find the Boehm's Chapel Society renewal envelope for the membership period covering June 1, 2017, through May 31, 2018. Membership dues help support Chapel programs and preservation and aid with the cost and printing of the newsletter. If you prefer to have your newsletter sent electronically or wish to have your name removed from the mailing list, please contact Dolores Myers at boehmschapel@gmail.com or phone 717-872-4133.

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Boehm's Chapel Society newsletter

New pastor coming to Boehms Church

Rev. Joan Trout takes over July 1; Rev. Chris Eden moves to Memorial UMC

The Rev. Joan Trout, a Lancaster County native, will assume the pastoral duties at Boehms United Methodist Church on July 1.

She arrives at Boehms with 23 years of pastoral experience, having most recently served six years at Hibernia United Methodist, near Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

She previously served seven years at Lionville United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, (now Exton UMC), and 11 years at Safe Harbor United Methodist, during which time Pastor Joan developed a love of Rawlinsville Camp Meeting.

Pastor Trout is an ordained elder with a Master of Divinity



Rev. Joan and Barry Trout.

degree from Evangelical Theological Seminary, and undergraduate degrees in psychology and speech communication from Millersville University.

Her husband, Barry, serves part time as a lay pastor at Pomeroy UMC and also in a counseling capacity at Chester County Prison.

They are the parents of two daughters and have four grandchildren.

Pastor Chris Eden, who has

served Boehms for five years, will transfer to Memorial United Methodist Church in Quarryville, Pennsylvania.

Rev. Eden was very active in the Boehm's Chapel Society and will be greatly missed by the Society.

Besides conducting services in the Chapel, he also provided many of the photos that readers of this newsletter have enjoyed over his time at Boehms. He was also instrumental in organizing the 225th anniversary events for the Chapel.

We thank him for his dedicated service to the church and to the Society. We wish him, his wife, Amanda, and their four children great success at Memorial and in Quarryville.