

Visitors flock to Chapel ... Inside

BOEHM'S CHAPEL SOCIETY

WINTER 2010 Newsletter

13 West Boehms Road, Willow Street, Pa. 17584

INSIDE



ANNUAL VESPERS SERVICE

The annual Advent Vespers service of lessons and carols will be held at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5, in historic Boehm's Chapel.

The program will incorporate Scripture lessons, congregational singing, special music and costumed characters that will present tableaux type scenes in a retelling of the Christmas Story. **Back Page**



Kim Costello "took the cake" with this cake she baked in the shape of an apple. It was auctioned at the Festival.

A SUNNY APPLE FESTIVAL

You can find pictures and reports on a very successful day. **Pages 4-5**

Chapel Society Online

Go to: www.boehmschapel.org

E-mail: boehmschapel@gmail.com

You can also link to the Boehm's United Methodist Church newsletter on the Chapel website.

Nov. 30 is 285th anniversary of the patriarch's birth

The story of Martin Boehm still echoes

BY DOLORES MYERS
*Executive Director
Boehm's Chapel Society*

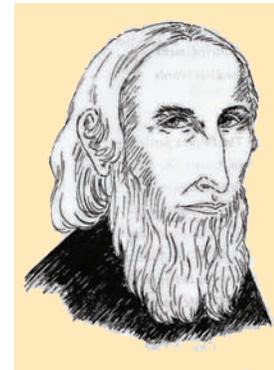
Nov. 30, 2010 marks the 285th anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Martin Boehm.

Boehm is remembered as a leader among the earliest German-speaking evangelical preachers in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

Of Martin Boehm, the revered Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury said, "The prominent feature of his character was goodness."

Born at the foot of the hill on which Boehm's Chapel now stands, Martin was raised in the strong Anabaptist faith embraced by his immigrant parents, Jacob and Barbara Böhm.

In Switzerland and Germany, persons who rejected the state church and embraced the ideas of Anabaptism faced persecution, exile, imprison-



ment and possible death. Encouraged to come to the new land, Jacob Böhm emigrated between 1715-1717 with family and friends of the original settlers

who had established the Pequea Settlement centered near Willow Street.

Jacob served as blacksmith of his new community. He was regarded for his upstanding character and was ordained a deacon in the nearby Byerland Mennonite Meetinghouse. His son

Please see **MARTIN**, page 2

Open house at church and Chapel

Boehm's United Methodist Church and historic Boehm's Chapel will jointly open their doors to welcome the public from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4 as part of the conference open house at all United Methodist churches. Both church and chapel

will be decorated for the Advent season.

The 1791 chapel will be open for tours and the DVD, "More than Just a Chapel on a Hill," will be available for viewing. Inside Boehm's Church, built in 1899, members will be on hand to explain the history of the

beautiful stained glass windows and the meaning of the Chrismons decorating the tree. Light refreshments will be available.

Church and Chapel are within walking distance at opposite ends of the Boehms campus. This is a free event.

Martin Boehm: Patriarch

Continued from Page 1

Martin was also found to exhibit good moral and spiritual qualities and was nominated for the ministry in the same congregation.

For several years Martin had freely risen to testify at the conclusion of the sermons, yet in 1756, when the lot fell upon him to become pastor, he found himself faced with great spiritual turmoil. His first attempt to rise and speak in front of the congregation, forced a stammering Martin to return to his seat in shame and humiliation.

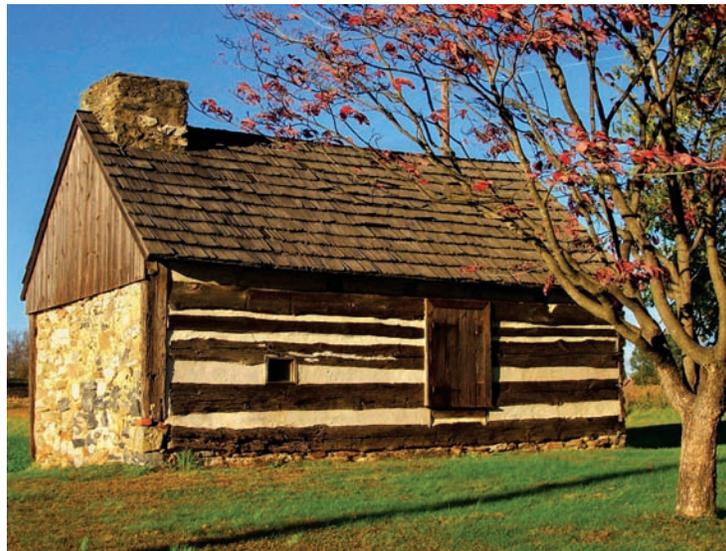
Months of failed attempts at speaking followed. Martin's spiritual anguish continued. While plowing his field one day, Martin continued to hear the word "verloren" or "lost" echoing in his mind. Martin became awakened to the idea that before he could lead others in the way of Christ he must first seek his own personal salvation. Falling on his knees in the middle of the field, Martin prayed for his lost soul. Into his heart and mind came the verse, "I am come to seek and to save that which is lost."

Glorifying Christ for the assurance of his salvation, Martin from that point on was blessed with the ability to speak and share his redemption experience with others.

Martin's zeal could not be contained. After listening to his joyous exhortations, members of the local Mennonite congregations and community became eager to embrace the same heart warming salvation experienced by Boehm. Martin and Eve opened their home for fellowship and welcomed their neighbors to attend extra weekly meetings. The Boehm home became recognized as a stopping place for traveling circuit riders and evangelistic preachers of various religious denominations.

In 1761 the lot again fell upon Martin and he was advanced to fill the position of bishop. While traveling long distances from home to shepherd his growing flock, Martin came in contact with like-minded ministers outside of the Mennonite faith.

Martin was becoming widely recognized as a Spirit-filled



The Byerland Mennonite Meetinghouse where Boehm preached.

preacher. He began to participate in "great meetings" that sometimes lasted for two or more days. A great awakening was beginning throughout the land. Hungrily seeking a more emotional relationship with Christ, members of many faiths traveled long distances to attend the meetings that were rising up throughout the colonies.

The most recognized of the great meetings was held on Whitsuntide or Pentecost Sunday, May 10, 1767 on the farm of Mennonist, Isaac Long. The large barn, located northeast of Lancaster, was filled to capacity and the crowd of more than 1,000 overflowed into the adjacent orchard.

Undoubtedly, ministers who had traveled long distances to address the crowd on this Pentecost Sunday made great proclamations. However, church history records that it was the humble Martin Boehm who would be the most remembered.

Among those in the crowd that Sunday was Philip William Otterbein, minister of the Reformed Church in York. Otterbein had previously served as pastor for the nearby Lancaster First Reformed Church and its surrounding rural communities.

At first glance, Otterbein and Boehm did not appear to have anything in common. Six feet tall Otterbein had the benefit of a superior education. He had studied theology in his native Germany and could translate the Scriptures from Latin. He was recognized as powerful and commanding both in speech and stature. Boehm had received a rudimentary education within the confines of his German home

and church. He was a plainly dressed man of short stature and humble countenance.

What Otterbein and Boehm did have in common was a passionate desire to share their common conviction that walking with Christ meant more than adhering to principles of catechism or rules set down in the Ordnung.

Following a period of deep hungering and soul searching each had come to experience the assurance of personal salvation. They both encouraged repentance of sins, acceptance of grace, Bible study, personal prayer and holiness and an intimate walk with Christ.

As Boehm concluded his message, Otterbein recognized him as a kindred spirit. Not able to contain his emotions, Otterbein rose, embraced Boehm in his arms, and proclaimed, "Wir sind Brüder" or "We are Brethren." The origin of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ is attributed to this meeting.

Boehm and Otterbein would maintain their close friendship while remaining pastors within their respective home churches. The desire of both men was to promote renewal and revival within their denominations. However, their evangelistic style of ministry was soon crossing interdenominational barriers. On Sept. 25, 1800, a loosely knit group of converts following the teaching of Otterbein and Boehm met at the home of Peter Kemp in Frederick City, Md. Boehm and Otterbein were recognized as the first two bishops of the newly organized society. The Church of the United Brethren in Christ claims this society created in

Following in father's footsteps

The story of Henry Boehm, youngest son of Martin and Eve, may be better known than that of his father.

At age 23, Henry joined with the Methodists and is remembered as a faithful traveling companion of the venerated Bishop Francis Asbury. In his memoirs of Methodism, titled, "Reminiscences," Henry gives insight into his early upbringing under the care of Martin and Eve Boehm.

"My early advantages for religious instructions were great. I was 'brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.' Morning and evening, the old family Bible was read and prayer was offered."

However when Henry set out to learn the miller trade at age 15 he states his course became zig-zag. He states, "I was not a member of the Church, therefore was not under her watch-care, and I had no opportunity to improve the talents God had given me. These were lost years: lost to myself, lost to the church and lost to the world."

Henry was "spiritually restored" in a great revival held in Boehm's Chapel in 1798. Three years later he was licensed to preach and appointed to the Dorchester Circuit as an itinerant minister. In 1808 Bishop Asbury requested that Henry travel with him.

Henry had the advantage of being able to preach in both German and English and translated the Methodist Discipline into the German language.

During his extensive travels with Asbury he often found himself joined in worship with his father for whom he sometimes translated. ■

BOEHM'S CHAPEL SOCIETY APPLE FESTIVAL 2010

We could not have had a better day for the annual Apple Festival, which this year fell on Oct. 9, a warm and sunny day. If it wasn't a record crowd at the Boehm's campus, it sure came close or was a tie with a similar day a few years ago. But weather is not all we need for a successful Apple Festival. We need people and this year we had great help. To all of you great helpers, thank you, thank you, thank you.



The 'ingredients' for making apple butter

BY JIM McCULLOUGH
President
Boehm's Chapel Society

A huge thank you to everyone who was part of the apple butter crew this year.

Forty two different people helped Oct 1, 2, 8, 9, plus the days before and after, getting things ready and put away.

Among the volunteers, one came from New Hampshire, one from Berks County, two from western Pennsylvania, and two from New Jersey. The rest came from a variety of zip codes in Lancaster County. Two people were Boehm descendants. I was anticipating that

our labor pool might decline, but it is actually increasing. That eagerness and loyalty is hard to measure. I think we may be becoming famous.

You made 446 pints in total. It sold as fast as we could get it out of the kettles. My current plan is to add one more kettle, for a total of six, next year.

If you want to try this at home, here's what you'll need:

- At least one pickup truck to haul all the stuff;
- three 30-gallon copper kettles;
- large stirrer for each kettle;
- a lot of friends;
- 20 gallons of cider;

- 31 bushels of assorted apples;
- two apple peelers, one coring machine, one slicer;
- at least 10 two-bushel tubes;
- 2 ice chests;
- tables, 15 chairs;
- sundry utensils;
- one pint of dish soap;
- two cords of seasoned hardwood;
- lots of dish rags;
- one box of Band-Aids;
- a good cook to feed the gang and make coffee;
- several dozen donuts;
- parking spaces;
- 38 cases of pint jars;
- two strong men to lift

- kettles;
- a tent to keep leaves and bird droppings out of the kettles and to keep everyone dry in case of rain;
- someone to say "it's done";
- and
- a place to store all this stuff.

There are no secret ingredients or magic dust in this apple butter.

The person who scorches a kettle, also has to clean it.

On the day you make the butter, light the fires at 1 a.m. so you can finish by 2 p.m.

A lot of wash up follows. Don't let your help go home too soon. Wear old clothes. ■



Above, the Chapel is pictured against a blue sky at the 25th Apple Festival. Other photos show various activities that day and in the days before.

Visitors flow into Chapel

BY DOLORES MYERS
*Executive Director
Boehm's Chapel Society*

A steady stream of Boehm descendants and visitors from far and near have continued to arrive at Boehm's Chapel throughout the fall.

Mrs. Sarah Evelyn Clark and her son, the Rev. Robert Sherfy, visited the chapel on Sept. 17. Mrs. Clark is the great-granddaughter of Christiana Boehm, and the Rev. Joseph Bowman. Christiana was a granddaughter of John Boehm, the brother of Rev. Martin Boehm.

Bob, who is now a member of the Chapel Society Board, also descends from the Boehm family on his father's side through Mariah, the daughter of Rev. Martin and Eve Steiner Boehm. Currently residing with her daughter in Ohio, Mrs. Clark, a nonagenarian, enjoyed her first visit to Boehms Chapel.

■ On Oct. 1, a group of ten Boehm cousins and spouses from Rochester, N.Y., and various cities in Canada included a visit to Boehms Chapel and the old Hess/Boehm cemetery as part of their vacation in Lancaster County.

It was north-meets-south as Boehm cousin Katherine Tribit and her husband Donald, of Lancaster, greeted them at the chapel. Originally from Johnson City, Tenn., Katherine descends from John Boehm, the brother of Rev. Martin.

The visit followed a day of heavy rain and flooding

Please see **VISITORS**, page 7



In top photo, members of the Golden Fellowship group of Bethany United Methodist Church, Lebanon, watch the chapel video.

In the middle photo, pictured are Boehm's cousins, Rev. Robert Sherfy, James Galloway and Roger Beam at the Apple Festival. Rev. Sherfy should be named "rookie of the year" for arriving early and staying late to stir apple butter. Roger Beam is a veteran early-to-arrive, late-to-leave stirrer.

At left, this confirmation class visited from West Lawn United Methodist Church in Berks County.



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in Lancaster County so all cousins were put to work helping to pick up downed limbs and sticks in the old cemetery. The cemetery is faithfully maintained through the efforts of the Hans Hess Associates.

Those visiting from Rochester were Brenda Hain, Dorothy Jones and Evelyn Chaffer. Canadian cousins included Carol Root Pearse from Chippawa, Ontario, and Nancy and Robert Tooke from Oshawa, Ontario; Barbara and Patrick Willick from Stevensville, Ontario and David and Murray Baker from Sainte-Foy Quebec.

The New York and Canadian cousins are all 11th generation descendants of immigrant Jacob Böhm. Their Beam ancestors were some of the earliest settlers in the area of Stevensville and Niagara Falls, Ontario.

■ Oct. 2 brought a confirmation class from West Lawn United Methodist Church, near Reading, to visit the Chapel. Boehm's Chapel was one of several local historical sites pertaining to United Methodist and general church history they visited. The confirmation class is under the direction of Pastor D.J. Choi.

■ The Lord provided a beautiful fall day for Apple Festival 2010. Visitors walking throughout the Boehm campus were too numerous to count. Over 600 attendees registered for door prizes. As widely known as the Boehm's Chapel apple butter has become, it still came as quite a surprise to spot a car with Australian license plates in the parking lot.

Mr and Mrs. M. Vanderluys from Templestowe, Victoria, Australia stopped by to enjoy the festival activities and, of course purchase chapel butter; to take home. They were spending a six-week visit



Those working the parking lots for the Apple Festival were surprised to see an Australian license plate. The car carried Mr. and Mrs. M. Vanderluys from Templestowe, Victoria, Australia. They were visiting son, Peter, who lives in Strasburg. The plate is on the front of his car.

with their son and daughter-in-law. Their son Peter remarked that he was anxious for his parents to visit a broad cross section of the country to give them a true taste of America.

Peter lives in Strasburg. His car carries an Australian license plate on the front.

In addition to the southern hemisphere, Europe was also represented by a visitor who signed the chapel guest register from Ballyvolan, Wicklow, Ireland.

Closer to home, folks attended from states including Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Ohio.

Several Boehm descen-

dants also traveled from various states to attend the 25th Apple Fest. Roger Beam from New Hampshire arrived before daybreak to assist the overnight apple butter crew. Roger is a faithful butter stirrer.

Honorary Lifetime Director, Jim Galloway and wife Vivian made the trip from Ohio.

First-time visitor Diana Lynn Beahm traveled from Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Lynn has been working tirelessly to scan and index the American Boehm/Beam notes and records collected by the late Dorothy Galloway for future publication. More infor-

WANT TO VISIT?

It is our privilege to share the story of Martin and Henry Boehm, their walk with Christ and their role in early Methodism.

To schedule a tour of historic Boehms Chapel, please call: 872-4133 or e-mail boehmschapel@gmail.com.

mation on Lynn's project and also a forthcoming book on the Canadian Beams by Lawrence Beam, will appear in a future newsletter.

■ The United Methodist studies class of Evangelical Theological Seminary, Myerstown, participated in a love feast at Boehm's Chapel on Oct. 18 under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Joseph DiPaolo. This is the second year Rev. DiPaolo, pastor of Wayne United Methodist Church has conducted a love feast at the chapel.

■ On the morning of Oct. 20, members of the Golden Fellowship group from Bethany United Methodist Church in Lebanon stopped by the chapel to tour and to view the video, "The Boehm Legacy, More Than Just a Chapel on a Hill." The fellowship group plans a bus tour to a different United Methodist historic site every year.



Dianna Lynn Beahm from Idaho Falls, Idaho and James Galloway, from Ohio discuss the indexing of the Boehm information collected by James's late wife, Dorothy Galloway.

Planning your estate?

For those doing estate planning, the Boehm's Chapel Society asks to be remembered for its work, not only in maintaining the Chapel and preserving its heritage, but for the Society's work in carrying on the word of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Lessons & Carols Dec. 5

Annual Vespers service is at 3 p.m. in the Chapel

The annual Advent Vespers service of lessons and carols will be held at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 5, in historic Boehms Chapel.

The program will incorporate Scripture lessons, congregational singing, special music and costumed characters that will present tableaux type scenes in a retelling of the Christmas Story.



Rev. Dr. Sharon Barley

Church members from Byerland and New Danville Mennonite churches will join in the service.

The choir is under the direction of Joanne Swords-Wang. Selections include "What is This Lovely Fragrance?" a traditional French carol; "All Is Well," by Michael W. Smith; and "Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King," a spiritual based on "Go Tell It on



the Mountain," by Moses Hogan.

Mrs. Swords-Wang will also be performing both traditional and contempo-

rary harp selections before the beginning of the service.

The Rev. Dennis Snovel, a former pastor of Boehm's

United Methodist Church, will serve as reader.

The Rev. Dr. Sharon Barley, current pastor of Boehm's UM, and Pastor Joseph Garber of Byerland Mennonite Church, will join to recognize the 285th anniversary of the birth of Martin Boehm.

The event is free and open to the public. The congregation will be able to see the costumed characters when seated on either level of the chapel.



Rev. Joseph Garber



Joanne Swords-Wang



Rev. Dennis Snovel

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