

# Boehm's Chapel Society

WINTER 2016

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West Boehms Road, Willow Street, Pa., 17584

The Chapel Society is tightening its financial belt and looking for ways to raise funds. See a column by the Society's president on page 8.

## INSIDE



### Toil, bubble, but no trouble from weather

For photos of the 31st Apple Festival, please see pages 4 and 5.



### Folk art offered

A carving of Martin Boehm's transformation will go on eBay. See Page 6.



### Vesper service

Dec. 4 for lessons, carols and mandolins. Page 7.



*Photos by Dolores Myers*

## The Tying Shed at Boehm's Chapel

# FINISHED!

Just in time for the Apple Festival, we received the occupancy permit for the Chapel's auxiliary building. See pages 2 and 3 for an article and pictures. And a way that you can help maintain the building now to be known as "The Tying Shed at Boehm's Chapel."



# Construction project is all tied up

## *Dedication of auxiliary building will be Dec. 4*

After pondering various suggestions, the board members of Boehm's Chapel Society settled upon "The Tying Shed at Boehm's Chapel" as the most appropriate name for the new auxiliary building.

The long-anticipated building had been visualized as a replica of the old horse tying shed, which at one time stood behind the 1791 chapel. The 18th-century fledgling Boehm congregation came to life under the influence of the itinerant Methodist clergy.

Martin and Eve Boehm offered their home as a preaching station, and a respite for many horseback preachers including the Father of American Methodism, Francis Asbury.

The Rev. Martin Boehm, his son Henry and others who felt the calling, were sent out from the Boehm neighborhood on horseback to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the wilderness.

In keeping the faith of the early Methodist circuit riders, the auxiliary building was officially named The Tying Shed.

Following multiple prolonged periods of waiting before and during stages of construction, the occupancy permit was finally received on Friday, Oct. 7. Receipt of the permit allowed the use of the restrooms for Boehm's annual Apple Festival held the following day.

Members of the wedding party of David Georgia and Bethany Weaver were the first to make use of the changing



*Photo by the Dolores Myers*

**Shown above is the office-meeting room in The Tying Shed. Below is the room that will become the library.**



rooms for their Oct. 29 wedding.

While construction on the building is complete, the bridal/archival room and groom's room/library still

await decoration and final setup. Books on Methodist history collected by, and donated to the Chapel Society over many years, will need to be cataloged and shelved.

The idea of an auxiliary building to house office space for the Chapel Society director, and provide an area to display archival items, was conceived in 2004 when James Galloway, a descendant of the Rev. Martin Boehm, made an initial monetary donation in memory of his wife, Dorothy Wolfley Galloway. Before her death, Jim and Dorothy spent countless years researching the history of the Boehm family throughout the United States and Canada.

In 2005 another Boehm descendant, Joyce A. Jenkins of Bethesda, Maryland, bequeathed in her will what turned out to be nearly \$1.2 million to Boehm's Chapel Society. Her attorney, also her good friend, informed Chapel Society president Marv Adams,

# Businesses that worked on Shed

Boehm's Chapel Society would like to acknowledge the following persons and local businesses who contributed toward the construction of The Tying Shed:

D.A. Dale Building Designs, Don Dale; Don's Building Service, Donald Hess, contractor; Duayne Keen;

Jeff Kreider; Mike Rhineer Excavating; Lancaster Poured Walls; Groff's Plumbing; Groff's Heating & Cooling; Hoffman's Forge, Jymm Hoffman; Lapp Electrical Services; Lantz Insulation; Pine Brook Nursery, Richard Graham;

Stoltzfus Drywall; R.F. Nauman Inc. plaster contractor, Todd Nauman; Myers Bros. Drilling and Water Service; Smucker & Sons Inc. roofing, spouting; Esh's Masonry; Hitchens Fence Co.; Howells Glass Co.; B.R. Kreider & Son, paving; Wes Swanson Masonry;

Next to Nature Landscaping, Brian Hess; FlorHaus; Ressler Propane; The Old Mill House Shoppe, lighting; The Tin Bin, lighting; Street Road Rustics, handcrafted furniture; Kings Home Furnishings.

"You can build you building now, Mr. Adams."

The ashes of Miss Jenkins are buried near the Chapel.

The two rooms in the building, and an archive that is proposed for the basement, will be named in honor of Miss Jenkins, the Galloways and Abe Sangrey.

Many ideas for an auxiliary building were tossed around during the past 12 years. The initial thought had been to erect a larger building with museum quality archival space. The Chapel Society purchased the property at 5 W. Boehms Road, to allow space for separate access to the rear of the Boehm's Church campus, the probable site of the auxiliary building.

But the need for transitional housing within the Penn Manor School District was presented to the Chapel Society and Five West was offered, free of charge, to Love in the Name of Christ as temporary housing for local families.

The Society has also aided various ministries over the years including Rawlinsville Camp Meeting, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Lumina Outreach, Boehm's Church and others.

The Chapel Society faces the job of rebuilding our bank account. (See article at far right and the president's column on Page 8.

An open-house at The Tying Shed will follow the Dec. 4 Vesper Service.



Above, an old plow donated by Doris Moore, the Society's secretary-treasurer, adds to the ambience of the Chapel. Below, a tying shed is shown behind the Chapel circa 1893.



## A way to donate

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 name added to "The Builders" plaque in the new Tying Shed. Donations of \$225 in memory of a loved one or to honor a Boehm ancestor will also be noted on the plaque.

To donate: 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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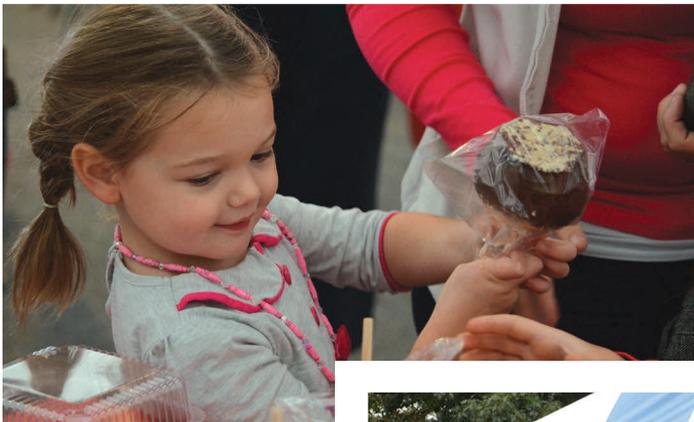
State/ Province/Zip/Code \_\_\_\_\_

# 31st Apple Festival dodges rain



The forecast wasn't the best, but that did not stop us from having a very successful 31st Apple Festival. A light rain fell in the afternoon, but it didn't even settle the dust. At left, the apple butter crew empties a kettle; below left, a girl gets a caramel apple; to the right, Kathleen Railing minds the apple nuggets and ice cream stand. Below left, Bill Phifer, an apple butter vet, cleans jars, while at bottom right, the big tent fills.

*Photos by Chere Fizer*





At left, visitors to the Apple Festival take a hard look at the baked goods table. In middle, left, Lori Barley and the Rev. Helen Adams work the serving line; at right, middle, the Lampeter-Strasburg Community Band performs; at lower left, the festival has been a family affair for, from left, Chere Fizer, her mother Doris Moore, and her aunt, Audrey Goss. Bottom right, a vendor displays her wares.

*Photos by Chere Fizer*



*Photo by Dianne Neff*



# Own local folk art of Martin's conversion

*Item created by craftsman Tom Grassel will be posted on eBay on Jan. 1*

Through the generosity of local Conestoga craftsman Tom Grassel, a unique opportunity has been made available to own a piece of decorative folk art, depicting Martin Boehm, on his knees, praying behind his plow.

In fall 2013, Tom completed a wooden rendition of Martin Boehm's conversion experience, which happened while Martin was plowing near present-day Boehm's Chapel. The carving serves as a visual aid to relate the below account of Father Boehm's salvation experience, to chapel visitors.

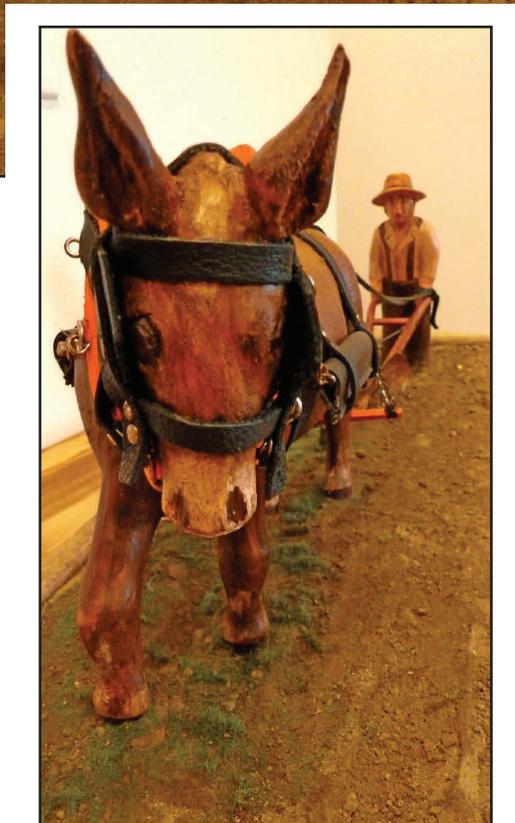
After being chosen by lot to serve as a minister in his local Mennonite congregation, Martin prayed earnestly to retain God's Word to help aid his ineffective preaching, a cause of great humiliation. After months of prayerful soul-searching, Martin realized he had never prayed for his personal salvation.

According to Martin's conversion experience, as related to his son, Henry, the thought of his own "lost condition" consumed his mind and caused him great agony. While plowing his fields, Martin knelt down at the end of each furrow to pray. The word "lost" followed him with each passing round. Midway in the field, Martin could go no farther and sank behind the plow, beseeching, "Lord save me, I am lost!"

Martin stated that in a moment he was overcome with a stream of joy and the reassurance of a voice stating, "I am come to seek and to save that which was lost." Praising the Lord, Martin rose from his knees, and ran to share the joyful news of his deliverance with his wife, Eve.

Following his salvation experience, Martin was filled with the assurance of Christ as his personal savior and an overflowing desire to share his redemption story with every person he encountered.

A second similar wood carving,



showing Martin behind his plow, was recently donated by Society member Tom Grassel for use as a means to raise funds for the Chapel Society.

In the fall 2013 Chapel Society newsletter, Tom stated he began turning blocks of wood into art forms around 2001. He initially tried his hand at carving

Shown above and at left is the carved-in-wood portrayal of Martin Boehm's conversion by Tom Grassel.

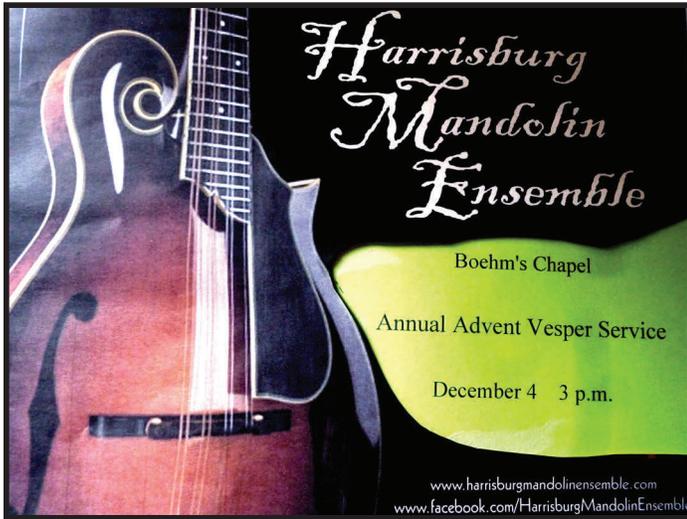
miniatures to fulfill the need of creating a mule team to complete a model Conestoga wagon he had purchased. Tom now creates miniature Conestoga wagons of his design, along with examples of period farm equipment.

By 2013, Tom estimated he had carved several hundred mules. His models are made to 1/8th scale. In addition to being displayed in several local libraries and museums, Tom's creations have been shipped throughout the United States.

To allow all interested parties, including Boehm descendants throughout the United States, and in Canada, a chance to purchase the piece of folk art, it will be posted on eBay with an opening bid of \$800. Shipping and handling fees will be at the expense of the purchaser.

The auction will begin Jan. 1, 2017. To view the carving in person, please phone 717-872-4133 or email boehmschapel@gmail.com to arrange an appointment.

To view additional items of Tom's handiwork, please visit: [conestogawagonworks.com](http://conestogawagonworks.com)



## Vesper service is Dec. 4; Mandolin Ensemble set

Boehm's Chapel's annual Advent Vesper service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4.

The traditional service of lessons and carols will feature music by The Harrisburg Mandolin Ensemble. Members of the trio include Greg Rohrer on mandolin, Tom Cook on mandola and mandolin, and Henry Koretzky on mandocello and mandolin.

Selections arranged by Greg Rohrer include medleys "In the Bleak Midwinter" and

"Silent Night," and a second selection incorporating an old carol titled, "It Will Soon Be Dark," combined with "The First Noel."

Congregational a capella hymns will also be part of the program.

Following the worship service, guests are invited for refreshments and to tour the completed "The Tying Shed at Boehm's Chapel."

Boehm's Chapel apple butter will be available for purchase at \$5.50 per pint.



*Photo by the Rev. Chris Eden*

Pictured above is the gathering for Boehm's Chapel Vesper service last December.

## Out of the past



While Boehm's Chapel has remained nearly the same for 225 years, its surroundings have changed drastically. Shown above is the Chapel circa 1893 with a board fence and trees. The photo was found in an article, "The Illustrated History of Methodism," in the The Methodist Magazine, published in 1900.

Support the preservation and future ministry of Boehm's Chapel: <b>BECOME A MEMBER TODAY</b>		
<b>Membership Categories:</b>		
Individual	\$	25.00
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Life Membership & Plaque*	\$	500.00
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\*Plaque is pictured on memorabilia page

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For Membership Year: June 1 20\_\_ To May 31, 20\_\_

Please print and return to:  
**Boehm's Chapel Society**  
 P.O. Box 272  
 Willow Street, PA 17584

(717) 872-4133  
[boehmschapel@gmail.com](mailto:boehmschapel@gmail.com)

## Letter from the president

For years now, the Boehm's Chapel Society has been publishing four newsletters a year, one for each season.

Starting in 2017, the number will be reduced to two, one in the spring, one in the fall.

Why?

We are tightening our belts to conserve our financial resources. The main purpose of

the Society had been to reconstruct the Chapel (done) and to provide for its upkeep (never ending).

The Chapel is more than a pile of limestone. It has a story to tell, a story of faith.

We have finished the auxiliary building, now named the "Tying Shed at Boehm's Chapel." We expect it to become a center for studies of Methodism and related denominations.

Over the years, we have been blessed with a number of bequests. Because we were blessed, we have aided

Boehms Church and other Methodist-related groups. We have taken on all the expenses of the Chapel, and now the Tying Shed.

Our financial footing is sound, but we need your help to keep it that way. More money goes out every year than comes in through donations and investments.

More than 1,200 people receive this newsletter. But fewer than 160 of you are members. Each newsletter costs about \$1,800 to print and mail. More members would help.

We operate as a nonprofit. Donations could help you on taxes and in estate planning. In this newsletter, you'll find a way to help maintain the new building by a donation of \$225 (page 3); a wood carving of Martin Boehm to be auctioned (page 6) and on Page 7, a membership form, which is also on our website.

May God bless you.

**Marv Adams**  
President,

**Boehm's Chapel Society**

## Boehm's Chapel Society

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## OBITUARY

### Henry Harbage

Henry B. Harbage, 90, of Exton, Pa., died Nov. 7. He was a direct Boehm descendant, tracing his lineage to Rudolph Boehm.

He and his wife of 62 years, Maria, often attended events in the Chapel. Ironically, Mrs. Harbage died five days before her husband.

Mr. Harbage was the son of Joseph and Gladys Harbage. A native of Haddonfield, N.J., Henry served in the Navy during WWII; as a reservist

until 1955, and earned a Master's in Education degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He taught at Overbrook School for the Blind for 25 years.

A lifelong Methodist, he was laid to rest in the Finke-nauer Mausoleum at Westminster Cemetery, Bala Cynwyd, Pa.

He is survived by his sister, Barbara Pennypacker of East Berlin, Pa.; daughters Joanna Hurst of Malvern, Pa., and Pamela Martin of Pottstown, Pa; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Henry's daughter Pamela and Georges Martin were married by the Rev. Joseph DiPaolo in Boehm's Chapel.



**Henry and Maria Harbage are pictured at the wedding of their daughter Pamela in Boehm's Chapel**

Rudolph Boehm arrived in the colonies by 1727 and settled north of the city of Lancaster in present-day Warwick Township.

Rudolph and his brother Jacob (father of Rev. Martin) were both blacksmiths and lay elders in their respective Mennonite churches.

Rudolph was one of the first trustees of the Hernley Mennonite Church in Rapho Township, Lancaster County.

Jacob served as lay elder at Byerland Mennonite Meeting House, present day Pequea Township, Lancaster County.

Rudolph was naturalized as a citizen in Lancaster County in 1743.