

Boehm's Chapel Society

SPRING-SUMMER 2023

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Inside

New pastor named to Boehm's UMC



The Rev. Manny Cruz will follow the Rev. Joan Trout as pastor at Boehm's United

Methodist Church. Page 2.

Our website has new look, features



The Chapel Society has a new website with more features. Page 2.

Pastor and Chapel board member passes

The Rev. Dennis Snovel, a former pastor at Boehm's UMC and an early and dedicated member of the Chapel board, dies at 76. Page 7.



Rev. Snovel

HAND TO THE PLOUGH

Boehm's Chapel Society plans its annual Heritage Sunday service for June 25 in landmark Chapel.



Dale Mylin, dressed for a day of farming, poses with the old plow outside Boehm's Chapel. In the background is the historic Boehm family homestead.

Dale, a member of the Chapel Society board, will be the speaker at the Society's

annual Heritage Sunday on June 25.

A Society business meeting will be held at 3 p.m., followed by the worship service at 4 p.m. An addition this year will be a hayride after the service to the Boehm homestead. Please see the articles on Page 3.

New pastor at Boehm's

Boehm's United Methodist Church will get a new pastor in July and the church will become part of a two-point circuit.

The Rev. Manuel "Manny" Paz Cruz will fill pulpits at Boehm's and Colemanville UMC as the two churches are joined in a circuit.



REV. CRUZ

The Rev. Joan Trout, who has been at Boehm's for six years, is retiring. Pastor Derrick Gutierrez of Colemanville has been transferred from Colemanville to Covenant United Methodist Church in Lancaster. Pastor Cruz is moving from Community

UMC in Roselle Park and Roselle UMC in Roselle, New Jersey.

Pastor Cruz was ordained an elder and became a full member of the Philippines Annual Conference East in 1998.

His call to ministry came in 1990 while working as the program director of Council on Ministries of his mother church, Taytay UMC.

He received his theological training from Union Theological Seminary-Philippines and Drew University. He served two churches in Jersey City, First Fil-Am UMC and Church of the Covenant UMC. He has one daughter.

Pastor Cruz will be living in the parsonage at Boehm's.

The Rev Joan Trout, who is retiring at Boehm's, is shown at last year's Heritage Sunday with actor Peyton Dixon, who portrayed Francis Asbury.



Society has a new website

By Lynn McCord

Board member

Boehm's Chapel Society

Be sure you check out the new Boehm's Chapel Society website at www.boehmschapel.org.

We have an updated format, some great pictures, a couple of unique videos from our drone photographer, and new online payment and donation options.

We are working hard to keep the site current and to give everyone the information they are seeking in one location.

Here's a quick overview of the pages:

- Home page – allows easy access to the information you want.
- Events page – the place to go to see what is happening in the near future.
- Weddings page – Boehm's Chapel is a beautiful place to have a small wedding, renew your marriage vows, or even have a quick elopement! This page has all the details.
- History page – check out this page for ... you guessed it, history of the Chapel and of Martin Boehm.
- Membership page – you can

now sign up for a new membership to the Chapel Society, or renew your membership on this page, and you can submit a payment here as well. We have partnered with Vanco Services to do the processing of our online payment. Vanco is used by many churches and companies large and small to securely process donations and payments.

■ Newsletter page – you can access the most current newsletter here, as well as newsletters going back to the fall of 2009!

■ Contact & Visit page – View a map, get directions to visit the Chapel, and see all of our contact information.

We will also have new pages at different times of the year to feature special events or interesting history.

Check back for a new Photos page that will be coming soon, featuring photos of past events, the Chapel in different seasons, and interesting stories about people who are buried in the cemetery near the Chapel.

If you have comments or suggestions for the website, or are in search of information regarding the Chapel, please use the website to send us a comment.

History lessons

Chapel Society president Marv Adams speaks to members of the Strasburg Historical Society during their visit to the Chapel on May 15.



A hayride after service!

A hayride to the nearby Boehm homestead will be offered after the Heritage Sunday worship service.

Jeff and Sue Frey, owners of the historic farm, will conduct the hayride. The Freys are members of the Chapel Society board.

The hayride will give participants an opportunity to look up the hill at the Chapel to see how it has commanded the valley since 1791.

Byerland member is Heritage Sunday speaker

The Boehm's Chapel Society will hold its annual Heritage Sunday event on Sunday, June 25, in the historic Boehm's Chapel.

The worship service will start at 4 p.m. A Society business meeting will be held at 3 p.m. For the first time, a hayride to the historic Boehm farm will be held after the service.

The event is one in which many Boehm descendants return to the Chapel, which has stood since 1791.

Dale Mylin, a Society board member, and a ninth-generation descendant of Martin Meylin, one of the original settlers of the Willow Street area, will bring a message titled: "Keeping your hand to the plow: On being an influencer."

Dale's message will ask the questions:

How and where was Martin Boehm influenced?

How and where was Martin Boehm an influencer?

How and where are we, the church of today, to be influencers?

Dale is a member of the nearby Byerland Mennonite Church, whose history dates to 1724.

Martin Boehm was a pastor and bishop at Byerland. His father, Jacob, was a lay elder there and his name was on the deed for the first Byerland Meetinghouse, which was built in 1755. The log building still stands.

Raised on a dairy farm in Lancaster County,

Pennsylvania, at Long Lane and Roue 272, Dale is the son of Mary (Shenk) Mylin and the late Robert Mylin.

He is a graduate of Messiah University where he met Marcia. They were married and Dale started his teaching and coaching career at Lancaster Country Day School all within three months.

He coached four sports, sometimes two or three a year. This coming year will be his 40th coaching soccer. He served as County Day's first athletic director. He chairs the physical education department and is a dean of students in the middle school.

As a side job, he shears sheep and has been involved with a sheep-to-shawl team that has competed at farm shows and festivals.

He and Marcia have five children and 12 grandchildren.

In the business meeting, an election will be held for board members. Nominated for two-year terms on the board are:

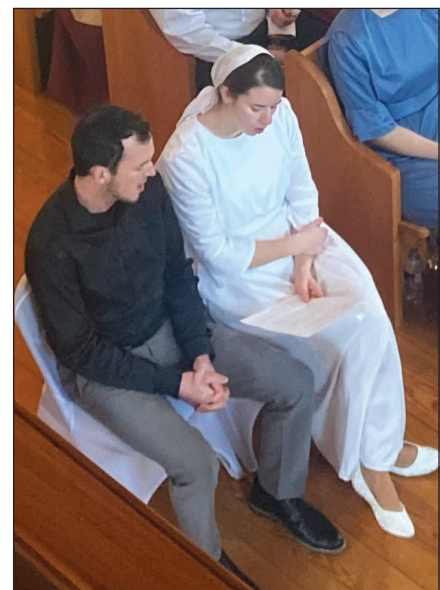
Rev. Helen Adams, Marv Adams, Don Dale, Rev. Joe DiPaolo, JoAnne Foss, Karen Karr and Pamela Martin.

Nominated for officers are: Marv Adams, president, and Dale Mylin, vice president.

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Music for the worship service will be provided by Oksana Reedy, the music director a Boehm's UMC, and by Tammy Ober, a violinist at St. Mark's UMC in Mount Joy. Oksana will play the keyboard and sing.

Wedding day



Satchel Schoener and Esther Mitchell, at right, were united in marriage Jan. 21, the first wedding of the year in the Chapel. Above, a choir sings from the balcony during the ceremony.

Vows renewed

A renewal of vows was held for the Rev. Christopher and Amanda Burcham, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on Feb. 13 in the Chapel. The couple was marking their 15th anniversary. They renew their vows every five years in a historic place. Christopher is a Baptist pastor.



Martin's son Jacob helped spread early Methodism

By Dolores Myers
*Retired Executive Director
Boehm's Chapel Society*

A transcript of the Rev Martin Boehm's family Bible, as translated from the German, included the following information regarding the birth of his second-eldest son, Jacob:

"My Son Jacob Baem was born the 22nd of February 1756 on Sunday Morning in Scorpion."

At the time of Jacob's birth, Martin and his wife Eva, lived with their first-born son, John, on a 181-acre farm in the township of Conestoga (now Pequea Township). The farm is still there today, below the Chapel.

It can be safely assumed that Jacob received the same spiritual guidance and religious instruction under his parents' direction, as mentioned by his youngest brother, the Rev. Henry Boehm. In his historical and biographical account, "Reminiscences," Henry states, "My early advantages for religious instruction 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. My father's voice still echoes in my ears. My mother, too, had much to do in moulding my character and shaping my destiny."

Jacob married Barbara Nissley, daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Herr) Nissley. They settled in Strasburg Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

On May 8, 1792, Jacob purchased a 175-acre farm east of the Conestoga Creek, near Soudersburg in Strasburg Township, from Frederick and Barbara Rathvon.

Jacob paid 3,000 pounds in gold and silver coin, which was then the money of Pennsylvania. Jacob's acres were a portion of the original 1,000-acre property the French Huguenot Abraham Dubois, purchased in 1717 from William Penn, governor-in-chief of the Providence of Pennsylvania. In his will, Dubois granted half of his plantation to daughter Leah,



Early Methodist meeting house in Strasburg is a residence.

wife of Phillip Ferree. Today it is known as Cherry Crest Farm. Jacob resided on his property as a gentleman farmer.

In the same year, Jacob gave his older brother, John, a mortgage on his farm and mill in Bart Township for 614 pounds in gold or silver coin. In 1795, Jacob took possession of the farm, but continued to live in Strasburg.

He noted in his will: "At an earlier period in my life it had pleased the author of my being to invest me with a considerably large worldly estate."

By 1796, the Strasburg Circuit of the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church had been established. John Miller's in Strasburg and Boehm's Chapel were included among the 20-plus Methodist classes scattered from Wilmington, Delaware, to Middletown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

Circuit riders James Stokes and Ephraim Chambers were expected to preach and teach at each class, while completing the circuit, approximately every 25 days. (Boehm's Chapel had been built for the use of the Methodist Society in 1791 on a hill overlooking the Boehm homestead.)

John Miller, of Strasburg, was a brother of Simon Miller, who joined the Methodist traveling connection in 1791. John Miller was open to allowing Methodist preachers to board at his establishment. Both William Jessop and Michael H.R. Wilson,

Methodist circuit riders buried at Boehm's Chapel, succumbed to the extensive labors of the traveling clergy while living at John Miller's establishment. Their ages were 30 and 28 years, respectively.

During Bishop Francis Asbury's travels in southern Lancaster County, he found respite at both the Inn of John Funck in Strasburg and at the home of Martin and Eva Boehm. Funck appeared in the tax lists between 1790-1800 as an innkeeper for Strasburg Township.

Henry, the youngest son of Martin and Eva Boehm, served as Asbury's confidant and traveling companion from 1808-1813. Henry affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church at approximately 23 years of age. He assumed the leadership of the Soudersburg Methodist class, and remained there for two years until he joined with the itinerancy in 1801.

Jacob Beam would have been able to attend the Methodist Episcopal worship classes in nearby Soudersburg or Strasburg when living on his nearby plantation.

On Dec. 29, 1803, an indenture was made between Benjamin Souder and Anna, his wife, of the township of Lampeter, and the trustees of what would become the Soudersburg Methodist Episcopal Church. Mentioned among the seven trustees was Jacob Beam. Bishops Francis Asbury and Richard Whatcoat were recorded as visiting and preaching at the Soudersburg Church in 1803.

Jacob Beam's name again appeared on an indenture written Sept. 12, 1807, between John Funck, of Strasburg, and Anna (Herr), his wife. Jacob was listed as one of three trustees of the future Strasburg Methodist Episcopal Church. The ground, lying in the township of Strasburg, was conveyed to Jacob Beam, Rudolph Keagy and John Telkey for 75 pounds in gold and silver coin.

The plot was described as: "Beginning at a post in the line of Abraham Graff's land, thence along the middle of what is called Funk's Lane." It contained 20 perches and eight-tenths of a perch of land. The three trustees were to erect and build a house of worship for the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Differing opinions were found on an actual date of completion of the church.

Squire Jacob Hildebrand in 1896 asserted, "the first church building in the borough, (Strasburg), of which we have any positive record, was built in 1807, by the Methodists at the end of Decatur Street."

Per a notation made in Edward Bowman Espenshade's 1949 publication, "My American Ancestors and Their Descendants," "John Funck purchased 15 acres of land in 1751, which was situated on the SE corner of Decatur and Main Streets as the village, now the borough of Strasburg, was originally laid out."

"In 1807 he sold a small lot containing less than 1/8 of an acre near the south end of Decatur St. to the 'Society of Methodists,' upon which the Methodists had previously a small one-story building, which was used by them as a place of worship before the land was transferred to them."

As previously stated, Jacob Funck, (1755-1831) and wife Ann (Herr) Funck allowed the venerable Bishop Francis Asbury to find respite within their Strasburg establishment.

The Funcks resided on the southeast corner of Main and Decatur streets. In his later years, Funck began to study

art. Credited among his works are portraits of his wife, painted in oil on wood; a likeness of patriarch Hans Herr, his wife's presumed ancestor; and that of Bishop Francis Asbury. Reputedly, on April 6, 1813, during Asbury's last visit to Strasburg, Funck painted his portrait on a poplar board. Per the Rev. Henry Boehm, it was "a correct likeness." It was considered by some to be Funck's best work, and was stated to have hung in the Sandstone House in Strasburg for many years.

James Galloway, Boehm family historian, stated the Strasburg Methodist Episcopal Church was erected by Jacob Beam in 1811. Galloway continues, "a cemetery was set aside south of the church in the open area. The cemetery area continued around the rear of the house. At that time, Funk Street crossed over Decatur Street and gave access to the church and cemetery."

Other early Lancaster County historians, Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, recorded the Methodist congregation in Strasburg "used the Lutheran Church for worship until 1815 when the Methodists' revival meeting noise forced the Lutherans to close their church to all other denominations."

A. Hunter Rineer wrote that "1815-Methodists built a church on South Decatur and Funk Streets, called the First Methodist Church," in his reference book, "Churches and Cemeteries of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania."

Following the death of Jacob's uncle Abraham Beam in Upper Canada in 1799, Abraham's widow 'Mama' Barbara (Herr) Nissley Beam returned to Lancaster County to reside with Jacob and Barbara on their Strasburg plantation. Barbara was Mama's daughter from her first marriage with Jacob Nissley.

Jacob Beam's wife, Barbara Nissley Beam, died in 1811, and was buried in the cemetery adjoining the Strasburg Methodist Church.

Mama Beam, famed for



Spring came early to the Northeast this year. The Mama Beam trees at the Chapel are shown in early flowering. There are three.

developing an apple that was named for her (see photo above), lived with her son-in-law until her death in 1822.

It was presumed by James Galloway that Mama Beam was buried within the confines of the old Strasburg Methodist Cemetery. Jacob Beam was also buried there in 1836, after which the church was sold and the cemetery closed, per Galloway.

Galloway also recorded, "The congregation erected a new building on Main Street in 1836 and began a new cemetery. Between 1836 and 1941, the old church building on Decatur Street housed several different organizations, and all the gravestones in the cemetery were stacked beside Funk Street. Local historian Wilmer Eshleman recorded the names in 1941. By that time many of the slabs were already carted away, but those of Jacob Beam and wife Barbara were still there. All of the stones became stepping-stones in gardens, and liners for cisterns in Strasburg."

Edward Bowman Espenshade suggested in his publication, "My American Ancestors and Their Descendants," that Rudolph Keagy (mentioned

in the 1807 indenture, as the second trustee of the church), and some of his children were also interred within the old cemetery.

In 1870 the Strasburg United Brethren congregation purchased the former Decatur Street Methodist Church building and cemetery. That congregation was discontinued in 1882 and the building was sold to I.O.O.F Lodge 361. Espenshade stated the former church building was also converted to a Templar's Hall for use as a meeting place of "The Good Templars." Per research done by Joseph Deevy, of the Strasburg Heritage Society, the building also housed the Union Veterans Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, circa 1894. In 1897 it hosted the local YMCA Hall.

In 1909 the old meeting house was used as temporary headquarters while the Strasburg Telephone service was established. After 1922, it was auctioned to an owner who divided it into two dwelling units with large dormers added on each side. The Strasburg Heritage Society purchased the building in 2003. It is a private dwelling until future historic restoration becomes possible.

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OBITUARY

Rev. Snovel served Boehm's and Society

The Rev. Dennis Ray Snovel, who served Boehm's United Methodist Church for eight years from 1977 to 1985, died April 25 at Hospice and Community Care, Mount Joy. He was 76.

He courageously dealt with pancreatic cancer for several months before his death.

Dennis was a resident of Brethren Village, Lititz. He was the husband of Cynthia "Cindi" (Core) Snovel, with whom he shared 51 years of marriage.

He was the second longest serving pastor in the long history of Boehm's Church. Dennis and Cindi were the first family to move into the new parsonage across from the church. The family would grow during their time at Boehm's to include two children.

While Dennis was pastor at Boehm's, the Boehm's Chapel Society came together with the lofty (and successful) goal of restoring Boehm's Chapel, which was built in 1791.

Over time, Dennis would serve on the Chapel Society Board as its secretary and later as treasurer.

Dennis and Cindi would often dress in period costumes, made by Cindi, for special events at the Chapel.

In her book, "Sowing Seeds of Faith," a history of the Boehm family and Boehm's Church, Dolores Myers recorded how Dennis gave impromptu Chapel tours.

"Since my pastor's study desk faced the parking lot," he told Mrs. Myers, "I could see whenever a car or bus pulled up to the Chapel entrance. Upon which I dropped everything and rushed out to meet whoever was interested and showed them the Chapel." If a group had an appointment, he would dress in his period circuit roder clothes.

When the Society's auxiliary building, The Tying Shed, was finished in 2016,



Cindi and the Rev. Dennis Snovel, left, wear their period clothing (sown by Cindi) at a Heritage Sunday event. Below, Dennis is pictured with Abe Sangrey, the heart of the Society, in the Chapel before it was restored.

Dennis officiated at the dedication.

He and Cindi were honored with a Patron-Life membership for their work for the Society.

After Boehm's, Pastor Snovel served Campbelltown UMC for 17 years and Hopeland UMC for seven years. In retirement, Dennis served four and a half years at Milton Grove UMC.

Dennis grew up in Perkasio, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Pennridge High in 1965. He attended Rutgers University on a partial basketball scholarship, but when he heard God's call to ministry, he transferred to Lebanon Valley College where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in religion. He studied at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, where he met and married Cindi, and earned a Master of Divinity degree.

Rev. Snovel was ordained an elder in the Eastern PA Conference of the United Methodist Church, where he served 41½ years in pastoral ministry. His first church was Covenant UMC in Lebanon before coming to Boehm's.

He served as vice president of the Eastern PA Conference's Archives and History Commission, and youth director for 14 years at Highland Park Camp Meeting and Youth Camp, Sellersville, Pennsylvania. At this camp at age 13, Dennis trusted Christ as his Savior and for the rest of his life knew and lived out the love, grace and mercy of his Lord.

Rev. Snovel walked many years for Relay for Life as a cancer survivor and played in YMCA church basketball leagues. At Boehm's he organized a fast-



pitch softball team and was a star player.

He earned the 1965 Pennridge Varsity Club's Outstanding Scholastic and Athletic Achievement Award, and was elected to that area's Sports Hall of Fame. He and Cindi participated in several Lancaster County Senior Games.

At Brethren Village he led Bible studies; delivered mail; and was assistant secretary of the residents council.

He was the only child of the late Robert and Lael (Bollman) Snovel.

Surviving in addition to his wife, are two children, Tonya, married to Bill Lee, of Elizabethtown, and Todd, of Lancaster, and a step-grandson, Mitchell Lee.

Rev. Snovel's family expressed its appreciation for the prayers and words of encouragement for Dennis during his last illness. The family gave special thanks to the pastors of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Hospice staff.

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Misty morning on historic farm

One early morning last fall, Larry Ewer, a Chapel Society board member and a trustee at Boehm's United Methodist Church, caught this scene with his cellphone as mist hung over the Boehm homestead. None of the buildings from Martin Boehm's day stand. The preserved farm is owned and operated by Jeff and Sue Frey, who are Society board members. On Heritage Sunday, June 25, after the worship service, you can hitch a hayride to the farm. See article on Page 3.