

South New Hope

Lutheran Church



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Please feel free to contact any of our trustees.

David Anderson
PO Box 97
Nelsonville, WI 54458

Gary Anderson
PO Box 38
Nelsonville, WI 54458

Tor Anderson
PO Box 94
Nelsonville, WI 54458

Julie Dillon
450 E Ellefson
Iola, WI 55945

Bob Melum
345 S Oak St
Iola, WI 55945

Dolores Melum
1824 Sunset Lake Rd
Amherst Jct., WI 54407

Kathy Theige
10827 Trout Creek Rd
Iola, WI 54945

Duane Wolding
359 Nicolay Shores
Scandinavia, WI 54977

News from South New Hope Church (SNH)

December 2011

WHAT A DAY!

What a beautiful fall day to hold our first pie social. The weather was just right, the trees were starting to show their colors, acorns were lending their support of autumn and there was a certain excitement in the air.

The turnout exceeded all expectations. People enjoyed the pie, strolled through the cemetery, visited with one another and were drawn into the church through the open front doors. Thanks to everyone who made it a success.

Anybody interested in donating a pie in 2012? If so, email Julie at kleingurl61@yahoo.com.



BIG UNDERTAKING!

The Restoration Committee has been organized into teams. The teams are as follows: Building Restoration; Cemetery & Grounds; History, Records, Archives; Marketing; Events & Activities; and Fundraising. We're quite sure there's a place for YOU if you are interested in joining one of these teams. Call 715-824-2509 or email Gary at egander@wi-net.com.

* * *

DID YOU KNOW.....

SNH's congregation was organized in 1888 and the church was built in 1889.

Eilev Hagen, a farm employee buried at SNH, wrote poetry that was published in Norwegian newspapers.

LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

Phase 1 of the restoration will begin in the spring of 2012. Kan-Do-Construction, a local construction company, has been contracted. Twelve different tasks will be accomplished under this contract. Those repairs will be structural repairs, work on the bell tower, chimneys, water damaged fascia and soffits, and much more.

Although actual work on the church cannot begin until spring, the contractor will spend time this winter reconstructing the beams and missing decorative features. Watch for progress! There will be further reports in future newsletters.

This project would not be able to proceed without the donations that have been received. The committee truly appreciates each and every gift. Manga tusen takk!

* * *

WORKDAY TWO

A second successful workday was held on Aug. 20. A project of cleaning the gravestones which was begun in May was completed. Trees were cut down to enable large work equipment to enter, and encroaching brush was pushed back from the cemetery edges. Volunteers were treated to snacks and a lunch. Twelve adults and two youth made up the crew.



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SPECIAL WORK DAY

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 11, 2012. Your help is needed to rip out the old decaying wooden floor in the Fellowship Hall of the church. This will save us \$2,500 (a hunk of money) if we can do this ourselves.

Work will begin at 8:30 AM and continue throughout the day. Come for the whole time or for a couple hours--any help is welcome.

Email Gary at egander@wi-net.com or phone (715-824-2509) so we can make plans for needed tools, food, etc. A perfect activity and fellowship to chase away those winter blues.

* * *

FAMILY HISTORY ANYONE?

Historical research has begun on the people who attended and are buried at SNH. Of special interest are those early members who in faith established the congregation. The history committee has found quite a few obituaries, as well as some sketches from early Portage County history books.

Now we're asking for your help. We would like to set up a file for each family and include in it such things as an obituary, a family tree, country of origin with specific area of that country if known, any stories of their adventures growing up and early years, as well as pictures of them and any you might have of the church or outdoor worship shell (gazebo) or horse stable, etc. Please send only copies, identify; and here is a suggestion: If you make copies of pictures please do them in color even if they are black and white pictures. Details show up much better in color than in black and white copies.

Send your information to the address on the bottom of the page and label it "History."

ACTIVITIES FOR 2012

One of the goals of the restoration of SNH is to be able to incorporate it into the community and invite visitors to events.

Listed below are the events that have been set for 2012.

TBA: Spring work day

June 23: Cemetery walk and opening the cornerstone.

July 4: Sell water and snacks at the New Hope Parade.

Aug. 19: Worship service.

Oct. 6: Pie social

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REUNION WORSHIP SERVICE

The Wrolstad family had a reunion this past summer. As a closing to their time together they had a worship service at SNH. Several committee members attended. What a thrill to see many people in the sanctuary and hear it filled with beautiful music provided by the family.

Keep SNH in mind if you want to plan a special family service or event.

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SORRY, I CAN'T READ NORWEGIAN...

But we've found someone who can. The History and Records committee has located some original minutes and other documents, all in Norwegian. There is great anticipation about reading the early business of SNH. The translating will be a huge task.

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CHARTER MEMBERS

A complete list of "charter members" of SNH has not been found. It would be very nice to have, but through various records we do have a good list of very early members. These early members will be listed in future newsletters.