



Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?

*It has been two years since restoration has begun.
There is much to report and much left to be done.*

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The Cemetery Board feels it is time to summarize the past and share hopes for the future. It is hard to believe that two years have passed since restoration of our beloved church building began. Through the generosity and kindness of many people, the restoration efforts have moved along more rapidly than expected.

The restoration began none too soon, because the Cemetery Board knew the structural integrity of the church was badly threatened. Making the building weather tight gained importance after the structure was properly supported. Many areas of the building were allowing rain and snow to damage the infrastructure. Animals were using the building as a home, hastening damage to the structure. Many of these corrections have been accomplished.

Safety of the public was the next concern. The rotten basement floor was removed by volunteers and a new concrete floor was contracted for installation. Also taking advantage of the walls being open to remove rotted wall studs, all original wiring of 1945 in the basement, except for the ceiling fixtures, was replaced.

The final project in 2013 was to eliminate the leakage problem at the rear entrance that plagued the church for many years, while simultaneously improving the emergency exits from the sanctuary and basement.

Where do we go from here?

Listed below are big projects that can only be undertaken as money becomes available.

1. Update electrical wiring for sanctuary, narthex, balcony, as well as basement light fixtures. Estimated cost – **\$5,300.**
2. Restore the large exterior double doors, threshold and door jams leading to the sanctuary. Another option, would be to replace them, constructing them as close to the originals as possible. Estimated cost – **not available at this time.**
3. Clean, repair, prime and paint the steel roof of church and steeple. Estimated cost – **\$5,600.**
4. Paint exterior. Although this may seem to be a simple project, it gets fairly complex for such an old building that has had lead based paint used on it. There are repairs, replacing siding where needed, pressure washing, priming of all bare wood surfaces, glazing windows, replacing broken and cracked window panels and a good coat of paint. Estimated cost – **\$27,000.**
5. Furnace replacement. Disappointment hit hard last winter when we were anticipating working inside during the winter months when suddenly the old 1950s furnace decided to quit. Fixing was out of the question, as parts were no longer available. (We might be limited to conducting fair weather activities for a few years.) Cost estimate – **\$5,700 to 13,500.**



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that there is a writer (maybe more) and a composer buried at SNH?

The writer referred to above is Eilev Hagen, a farm worker at an area farm, who submitted poetry and short stories to Norwegian publications. Eilev was killed in an accident at the age of 39.

The composer, Josephine (Nelson) Fredriksen, probably didn't go on to publish music, but she did write a song for a large Loberg/Nelson family reunion.

It is fun and interesting to find out about people buried at SNH, especially their talents and achievements. If you know stories, activities or events about your family members buried at SNH, it would be great if you would share them with the history committee, using SNH's email address.

MANGE TUSEN TAKK

The Board wishes to acknowledge with thanks the following thoughtful donations:

A piano has been placed in the basement as a donation from the Wrolstad family. This piano has been in a family residence for many years.

Two glass light fixtures, the exact same as those missing in the basement, donated by Blaine Hedberg.

Six safety cones, to alert highway traffic during events, anonymously donated.

Permanent sign at the front entrance, giving a brief history, anonymously donated.

The initial cost of the photo prints for the fund raising project, anonymously donated. (See related article)

EXCITING NEWS—ORDER TODAY!

Several readers have asked if we could get prints made of the photo of South New Hope that is on our newsletter. It has been done! This picture, which has now become well-known, was taken by Marsha B. Haynes of Stevens Point. Our thanks to Marsha for giving us permission for its use. This will be a fund-raising project. A limited supply of two sizes, 8x10 and 5x7, ready for matting and framing, are now available.

Cost, including postage and handling, is \$35.00 for the 8x10 and \$25.00 for the 5x7. Pictures will also be on sale at future events at SNH for \$30.00 & \$20.00. To order, please print your name and full address, and mail a check to:

South New Hope Cemetery Association
PO Box 62
Nelsonville, WI 54458

2013 IN A NUTSHELL

First of all, the Cemetery Board wants to thank all who donated time and energy to the 2013 events, from lawn work to wiping down pews to baking pies. Without our volunteers a lot less would be accomplished.

Activities at SNH this past year included the sign unveiling, cornerstone closing, readings, a hymn sing and harp recital with Chuck Fritz and Rosalie Gilbert, and, in spite of the weather, a successful pie social. Along with that, three outside groups met at SNH: Portage Co. Genealogical Society, Sons of Norway and Tomorrow River Chautauqua. In addition, the cemetery was beautified, debris was cleaned away, grass was planted. Whew! What a year!



Rosalie in recital

WHAT IS SNH'S FUTURE

The Cemetery Board will be studying methods to provide for future maintenance and repairs to the church. We can never allow the building to fall into such disrepair as was found recently.

Once the restoration is complete, the board will be looking to the future to have a long term method in place to gather funds that can grow over the years and provide a source of money to make repairs to the building when needed. Under consideration is an endowment fund or a foundation. If anyone has a suggestion that could be considered, please email us at info@southnewhope.org.

Questions have been raised about the use of cemetery funds. The cemetery fund is a restricted fund that can only be used for the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery and grounds, as set forth by Wisconsin Statutes. The church restoration and maintenance funding has to stand on its own.



Warren sealing the cornerstone

Follow Us:



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