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## WORKDAYS AT SNH

In 2014, the Board of Directors stepped up the number of workdays in which volunteers could participate. In addition to the spring and fall workdays that are usually dedicated to cemetery and grounds maintenance, the Board designated a 3rd workday in July to be specifically for work on the church building.

All workdays were a success if measured by the number of enthusiastic volunteers participating, and by the number of jobs and projects accomplished.

More work has been done to clear the north lawn. Encroaching trees have been dealt with on the south wooded edge of the cemetery, low spots in the cemetery were improved, all leading to better groomed grounds.

Work inside began as volunteers tackled a very dirty furnace room, dishes were washed and returned to the cupboard, the back entry was painted. It was a good beginning.



Enjoying her job

## 2014—A PRODUCTIVE YEAR

2014 has been a productive year for SNH Church's restoration project. The year's highest priority, re-wiring the entire church, was completed. We did not want to risk a fire hazard due to old wiring in the building. It has also modernized the electrical capabilities, making the building even more useful for a variety of events. Thanks to all who contributed to the completion of this successful project.



Kyle Williams from Shoemaker Cos. updating electrical wiring

We are also pleased to report that a local contractor has graciously agreed to donate his time to remove and restore the front entry doors of the church. This will be a beautiful improvement to the face of the building, as well as provide a much improved weather tight entrance.

The next priority was to make repairs and paint the roof. Unfortunately we did not get bid responses in time to complete the task this year, so it will move to the spring of 2015.

We look forward to another productive year in 2015 as we continue to restore the historic South New Hope Church and provide a wide variety of uses to the community and beyond.

# South New Hope Cemetery Association

## DID YOU GET TO SNH THIS YEAR?

The community enjoyed several events at SNH this past year, including a historical presentation on Norwegian emigration to the area, our annual pie social, and a hymn sing and recital. Below is a summary of each event.

### *Blaine Hedberg*

In June, Blaine was a guest speaker at SNH. Blaine has been doing genealogy research for over 30 years and he knows his Norwegians! He is doing something now that he has always wanted to do, and that is to work on “new databases he is developing to help identify Norwegian settlement patterns...”



Consulting with Blaine

Blaine has recently resettled in Westby, WI, and continues his research. While at SNH, he helped several people find family information they had previously not been able to find.

One fascinating aspect of his databases is that he is listing people by first name which will be very helpful. Norwegians are notorious for having used several last names: paternal name, each farm they move to, changes at time of immigration, etc.

## A PEEK INTO THE MINUTES BOOK

Below you can read the very first written words of the formation of South New Hope Congregation.

### *Congregational Meeting, Feb. 3rd, 1888*

On Friday, February 3rd, 1888, a congregational meeting was held in Anders Nederlo's house as a result of previous announcement saying: “On Friday, Feb 3rd at 10 A.M. a congregational meeting will be held in Anders house, where all who adhere to the old congregational constitution and synod are encouraged to attend the meeting. To be dealt with:

1. Election of officers to fill vacancies.
2. About the pastor's services and whatever

### *Pie Social*

2014 was SNH's 4th annual pie social. It was a cold windy day, but servers and eaters were cozy in the newly improved basement of the church. The turnout was terrific, and the pies ran out before the end of the day. Our grateful thanks to all who contribute pies for the event. It could not happen without your help!

### *Recital and Hymn Sing*

Eager listeners and singers headed for SNH in August. Carol and David Finanger played harp and violin in a beautiful recital. As a second part of the afternoon, Jim Heiks led and Joyce Polson accompanied in an lively hymn sing.



Finangers in recital

SNH has very outstanding acoustics for music, giving participants a beautiful sound—coming from them! The afternoon was climaxed with a welcome reception on the north lawn.

### *Community Musical Event*

In addition to the events planned by SNH, in October the Tomorrow River Chautauqua had its second annual community sing, led by Jim Heiks, in the sanctuary. Participants responded with great enthusiasm. This is a great use of the church. The Cemetery Board welcomes more events of community participation.

concerns this matter.

Signed New Hope, January 24, 1888, E. P. Kalstad, Johan Loberg, Henrik Lysne.”

Thus began the South New Hope Church, which at that time was named The New Hope Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Portage County Wis. Some of the people who were elected to various offices as a result of that meeting were Albert Anderson, David Boe, Edward Helgeson, Ole Iversen, E. P. Kalstad, Johan Loberg, Henrik Lysne, Thomas Mathison, Samuel Paulson, Halvor Waller, Torger Weslie and Martin Wrolstad. The forming of a new congregation was viewed as a very serious undertaking for these leaders, and they made great effort to tackle it with great integrity.



## FUTURE OF SOUTH NEW HOPE CHURCH

*Submitted by Russ Johnson*

Throughout the world churches stand as refuges, places of worship and places of other significant events. This is true for the smallest country church to the largest majestic cathedral. They are all serving people in many different ways. Since 1889 the South New Hope Lutheran Church has stood among all these churches. While the church building has been in physical decline in recent years, it is now being repaired and rehabilitated so it can serve people in some way again.

Something has always attracted people to this church, whether it is to worship according to the beliefs of the old Lutheran Norwegian Synod, or to worship using the Norwegian language. My parents were always strong members of the Nelsonville Lutheran Church. They were part of the Norwegian immigration, and Norwegian was the primary language they used at home. The South New Hope Church continued occasionally to hold services in the Norwegian language up to the 1940s. My parents frequently attended those services to hear again the church service in the Norwegian language.

Obviously the Norwegian language would no longer be a source of attraction. However there are many other things that would make people interested in what the South New Hope Church has to offer. Consider these:

1. The beauty of its setting within this quiet rural glaciated landscape.
2. The ornate fence which was erected in 1912.

3. The unique unadulterated interior of the church with its original gas light fixtures.
4. The beautiful altar painting done by Ingeborg Boe, a self taught local artist.
5. The elevated pulpit in the center of the altar ring.
6. The basement with the new floor and other updated features.
7. The old baptismal font, which may pre-date the age of the church.
8. The loud and clear tone of the church bell which echoes across the countryside.
9. The uniqueness of having two cemeteries on the same site, one pre-dating the congregation and church.

With the South New Hope Church coming to life again, how can it best be utilized? How can it fill the role of serving people in a way which complements the work of other churches in the area? What gaps in services exist? What can this church do to fill those gaps presently and in the future? What services could generate the income needed to keep the church maintained? These and other questions need to be examined and answered. The Board of Trustees would like to hear from you as to what your suggestions might be. Email us at: [info@southnewhope.org](mailto:info@southnewhope.org).





# South New Hope Cemetery Association

## Minutes Book Completed

Everything in SNH's Minutes book has been copied. It has been an education and a wonderful experience to read through these minutes, learning names of the church's leaders and church membership. Equally interesting was how they operated under their meager existence and their other struggles to establish a new church.

The original Minutes book has had a great deal of use and is very fragile. It really cannot be passed around any longer and now that it has been translated and copied, it will be put into a yet undesignated safe depository.

The first step was to get the Norwegian minutes (1888-1933) translated, which was done by Arne Maage. This translation was transcribed and is ready for printing.

After seeing the names of the active people and how the congregation transacted its business in the early years, it seemed there should also be available a record of the congregation's later years (1934-1967). These have been typed up.

Upon completing the copying of that portion of the Minutes book, the early minutes for the newly formed Cemetery Association which were recorded in the book (1968-2007), were also copied.

Topping off these three larger portions of the Minutes book, early subscriptions and lists were found at the end of the book. They too have been included. Thus, there is now available a copy of the complete Minutes book for SNH from 1888-2007.

A copy of these minutes is being made available at this time. Only one printing will be done, so anyone wishing to order this special copy must do so by March 1, 2015, and include a check for \$25.00 for printing and postage for each book ordered.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, WI \_\_\_\_\_

Send a check for \$25 per book      # of books \_\_\_\_\_

To: **South New Hope Cemetery Board**  
PO Box 62  
Nelsonville, WI 54458



Autumn at South New Hope

## QUALITY PRINTS OF SNH AVAILABLE

The picture on our newsletter and on our website has become a favorite with many people. There are limited prints for sale in two sizes as a fund raising project.

Cost, including postage and handling, is \$35.00 for an 8x10, and \$25.00 for a 5x7. Pictures will also be available at church activities for \$30 and \$20. To order by mail, please print your name and full address, and mail a check to:

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## THANKS TO OUR READERS!

In our last newsletter we requested help in saving us money by donating needed items you may no longer need. Of those six items, four were donated. Those included an electric stove with oven, a glass display case (we still could use another), an extension ladder and a combination refrigerator freezer. What a great response is that??? We are adding some new items to this list, so if you have an item that you can donate please use our email ([info@southnewhope.org](mailto:info@southnewhope.org)). We would be willing to pick up the item.

We are looking for:

A heavy duty wheelbarrow

Chain saw

Various yard hand tools

Water hoses & walking sprinkler



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