

South New Hope Cemetery Association

Living Hope/Levende Håp

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Welcome to Spring at SOUTH NEW HOPE

As I write this in mid-March it is with a measured sigh of relief that we are beginning to see recovery from one of the most difficult years that many of us have ever experienced. The clearing skies and warming sun give promise to the rebirth of a slumbering world. Soon the emergence of spring and with it the hope of a more normal summer will render the past several difficult months a distant memory.

Despite the restrictions placed on us over the past year as the result of the Covid experience, there has been progress here at South New Hope. You will see the results of some of that effort elsewhere in this issue.

Also in this issue we will take time to honor a couple of stalwarts of the South New Hope community. Elaine and Gary Anderson have been integral to the initiation and on-going restoration efforts here at South New Hope. A feature story on them is found on the inside pages.

Many of you have been so encouraging of the efforts at the church with your cards, letters and donations that we thought it was important for you to meet some of the people who are carrying on the work at the church. Brief biographies and pictures are presented in this edition describing who we are and the areas in which we are principally involved.

Finally, we want to increase our ability to communicate with you, our supporters, in a more timely fashion, so we are asking all of you to please forward to us your e-mail address as well as reminding you to check our website and Facebook pages for updates on programs, events or other things of importance here at South New Hope.



DID YOU KNOW?

The New Hope Congregation was founded on October 15, 1857.

SOUTH NEW HOPE'S MISSION STATEMENT

To restore and preserve the church building, its grounds and cemeteries; to develop historical archives preserving the Norwegian heritage and memories for current and future generations so that all may experience how South New Hope Norwegian Lutheran Church served as the heart of the community.

November 8, 2010

Calendar of Activities - All activities at SNH

While the pandemic of 2020 has affected nearly every aspect of life that we had come to believe was normal, there is still some uncertainty as to when we can truly return to pre-covid activities and associations. Consequently, while we would like to schedule an open house of the church and cemetery grounds later this summer, those decisions will have to wait to see how the recovery trend from the pandemic is developing. ***The only event currently scheduled in the workday planned for May 15, 2021.*** All other events will be listed on our website info@southnewhope.org or on our Facebook page. In the event of inclement weather, please contact a board member regarding the status of the scheduled workday.

Follow Us:



Located on Cty Rd T, ½ mile north of Hwy 161 at 1410 Cty Rd. T, Amherst Jct., WI 54407

SouthNewHope.org

South New Hope Cemetery Association

GARY AND ELAINE ANDERSON



One of the things that amazes me, even in this age of so many “me first” movements, is that there are always some people that step forward and volunteer to do the heavy lifting. This is especially true in service and volunteer work. These people see the need of a particular project and decide to do what they can to help. There are no monetary rewards; there is usually just a lot of work and often thankless work at that. But there is a belief that what needs to be done is important, and necessary, and worthy of their time.

There are a number of those folks that have been involved with this entity we call South New Hope, many in the past, and a few brave souls now, but none with the dedication and passion of the power couple we know as Gary and Elaine Anderson.

I know that Gary and Elaine would be embarrassed to be referred to as a “power couple”, but in fact that is what they are. Not in an overbearing or heavy sort of way but more like spider silk, strong, resilient yet flexible in following the path to the accomplishment of a stated goal.

Gary and Elaine met while attending Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Elaine grew up on a farm outside of the small town of Glenwood, Minnesota about 120 miles northwest of the Twin Cities, and Gary, in an even smaller town of Nelsonville, Wisconsin. Married in 1962, the couple moved to Stevens Point where Gary worked for the city as the Director of Recreation while Elaine taught school.

Later they moved to West Bend, Wisconsin where Gary continued his career in Parks and Recreation and Elaine, in addition to managing three toddlers became involved in quilting, Bible study and music at their church.

After retirement, they moved back to Gary’s hometown of Nelsonville. They have lived there for 21 years.

Involvement with South New Hope began about 2007 when Gary became a member of the Cemetery Board. Being involved with South New Hope was something of a homecoming for Gary, in that his parents and sisters had been members of South New Hope while the children were in their early years. Gary’s great-grand parents were charter members of South New Hope and helped build the church.

Shortly after joining the Cemetery Board, discussions began concerning what to do with the church building. Little, if anything, had been done to the structure since the 100th anniversary on September 24, 1989. At this point in 2007, it was becoming painfully apparent that something must be done. Discussions revolved around removing the church altogether or attempting to restore and preserve it. Preservation would involve very substantial expenditure of time and resources, but would, in addition to saving the building, also preserve an icon and memorial to the pivotal role the Norwegian-American community played in the establishment and development of the Central Wisconsin area.

After considerable discussion it was decided to make an attempt to restore the church. There were substantial problems to overcome, not least of which were the acquisition of funds with which to begin the project. It was decided to contact friends in the community and those who may have had some connection to South New Hope in the past. Elaine took on the task of contacting as many relatives of those buried at South New Hope as possible and outlining to them the plans for restoration and that funds would be needed.

After professional consultation and prioritization of the most critical areas, it was further decided that direct communication with the developing list of friends and relatives of South New Hope would be required.

Consequently, a direct appeal was made in the form of a one page “Newsletter” printed and funded by the H. O. Wolding company. The Wolding family was deeply involved in the early church at South New Hope and was happy to assist in this endeavor.

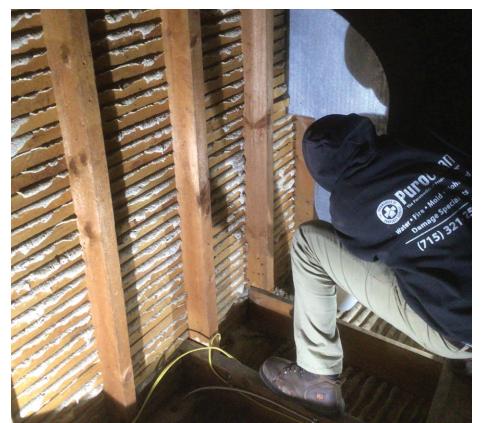
From 2010 to the present, considerable progress has been accomplished. The bell tower was repaired and made structurally sound. The church was professionally rewired. A new concrete floor in the basement was poured, and a new furnace was installed. Various needed repairs were accomplished including fixing severe leaks and the resultant damage. The old front sidewalk was removed and replaced. The entire outside of the church was painted and the cemetery was surveyed with current and future grave plots marked and recorded with the County.

Throughout this entire time, Gary was shepherding work days and other projects while Elaine was writing and producing the bi-yearly South New Hope Newsletter to keep our supporters apprised not only of the progress of the restoration, but also of some of the interesting pieces of history associated with South New Hope and some of the people that were essential to its past.

All of us on the current board and certainly all of the supporters of South New Hope are greatly indebted to Gary and Elaine Anderson. Without their foresight, passion, dedication, and just plain hard work, South New Hope may well have joined so many other dying and forgotten country churches reclaimed by the land and lost in the mists of time.

PROJECT CONTRACTORS in the continuing effort at SOUTH NEW HOPE

In each of the coming issues of the South New Hope Newsletter, it is our intention to feature a contractor who has done some of the work at South New Hope. In each instance, we have been pleasantly surprised by the dedication, effort and enthusiasm they have exhibited toward this amazing project. The work has always been excellent, and in some instances the company has gone above and beyond what the contract called for. The company we are featuring in this issue is ProClean owned by Kevin McBride located in Plover, Wisconsin. Not only has the company done an outstanding job of taking on the unenviable task of cleaning the attic and belfry of years of accumulated animal and avian droppings and other objectionable debris, but also doing an amazing job of cleaning the furnace ductwork throughout the building. We have included a few photographs of Proclean’s outstanding work. ProClean’s telephone number is 715-321-2526.



THE SOUTH NEW HOPE STORY

The Board of Directors have created a 20 minute audiovisual presentation of the history of the New Hope congregation from its founding in the fall of 1857 to the creation of a separate congregation in 1888 called South New Hope, to its eventual closing in 1966. This is an interesting and informative program that will enhance the quality of your club or organizations meetings by offering a historical perspective to the development of the Norwegian-American community in central Wisconsin. For information on availability please contact us via email at infor@southnewhope.org or visit our Facebook page.

Does anyone know what this says?

Vorder Ordets Gjørere og ikke
dets Gjørere alene, hvorved I
bedrage eder selv. Jak.1.22.

Spring WORKDAY PLANNED

Sharon Ehr, the Grounds Coordinator for South New Hope has scheduled a workday for Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to around noon. Among the projects that Sharon has scheduled is rototilling for new perennial gardens, raking in preparation for lawn mowing activities, tightening bracing on the wrought iron perimeter fence, and cleaning debris off the shingles of the storage shed.

Workdays are not only a time for helping with the maintenance of the church and grounds, but also a time for fun and socialization with friends of South New Hope. Whatever time you can allow would be greatly appreciated. Please bring shovels, rakes, gloves and whatever small hand tools you would normally use for working around the yard.

WE COULD USE YOUR HELP

As you have noticed from the newsletter last fall and the one you're reading now, things are moving along here at South New Hope. But as is true in any project, there is always more to do and there is always help that is needed. The Board of Trustees has compiled a list of projects that will be next on our schedule.

1. Ceiling fans in the Sanctuary.
Two multispeed reversible fans extending down from the ceiling.
Cost: \$300-550 ea

2. Insulation in the attic over the ceiling of the entire first floor of the church.
Cost: Approximately \$10,000

3. Park benches to be set on the north side of the churchyard creating a usable picnic, meeting and outdoor entertainment area.
Cost: \$500-700

Donations can be directed toward any of these projects or a sponsorship of an individual project will be most welcomed.



SOUTH NEW HOPE AT NIGHT

Photo by Jeremy W. Riehle Photography.