



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## 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

Occasionally, those of us that are charged with the responsibility of keeping the grounds, the cemetery, and the church of South New Hope alive, must stop and re-evaluate our goals of what we want to get done and what the strategies are to accomplish those goals.

To be frank, sometimes this is a lonely and almost impossible job. There are always more things to do and almost never enough help or resources to get them done. It is in this context then, that we must seriously consider "What is it we are trying to accomplish with South New Hope?"

There is, of course, the obvious answer of maintaining a strong and appreciative connection with the founders of the Norwegian-American settlement in the New Hope and Central Portage County area. While this is a laudable and totally reasonable goal, it must be partnered with some type of activity or activities that will generate income to help with the more mundane duties that are required to keep this iconic building and grounds current and relevant in the present day.

South New Hope is ideally situated to be a very unique and desirable wedding venue. It is the little white church in the woods with tree shaded lawns, beautiful views, little traffic, and ample parking as well as a classic sanctuary with a curved white balcony, original wood pews, original artwork, an original pulpit, and stained-glass windows all of which encompass the elements for a storybook wedding. While this is a perfect scenario there are one or two things that are missing

## Taking Stock

to make this desirable and functional. It is necessary to have functioning bathrooms and changing rooms in the building. It will be necessary to eventually have a functioning kitchen and a very good sound system and piano to seriously compete for couples wanting a perfect wedding experience. While many of these things can be rented for a specific occasion, ideally, they will have to be installed as time and finances permit.

The other goal in the utilization of the church would be for concerts and programs that could provide education and entertainment to a variety of interests. While this has been done quite successfully in the past, with some concerted effort and resources this avenue of income acquisition could be expanded.

There are plans in process to enhance our ability for increased funding internally, however, the bottom line is that we are in despite need of help and funding. While it is wonderful to enjoy the sights and sounds and experiences of the past, maintaining the circumstances that allow those experiences to occur don't just happen by themselves. They require effort and commitment of dedicated folks who want to see these icons of the past maintained.

We know that these last couple of years have been difficult for all of us and we also know that there are constant requests for funding from various sources, but we would hope that if there is any interest at all in this project that you would make an effort in time, ideas or funding to help preserve this island of peace and beauty not only for today but for the generations to come.

*continued on page 3*

## Calendar of Activities - All activities at SNH

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>May 14, 2022</b>  | Workday - Begins at 8:00 am                |
| <b>June 11, 2022</b> | Wedding of Andrew Poeschel & Stormy Gerndt |
| <b>June 21, 2022</b> | Sons of Norway Picnic                      |
| <b>July 4, 2022</b>  | Firecracker Parade                         |
| <b>July 10, 2022</b> | South New Hope Open House                  |

Please check our Facebook page for the latest updates of activities at South New Hope or email: [info@southnewhope.org](mailto:info@southnewhope.org)

Follow Us:



Located on Cty Rd T, 1/2 mile north of Hwy 161 at 1410 Cty Rd. T, Amherst Jct., WI 54407

SouthNewHope.org

## SOUTH NEW HOPE to CELEBRATE OPEN HOUSE

This summer will be the first time in over two years when South New Hope will be able to host an Open House for our friends and supporters. **The Open House will run from 1 pm to 4 pm on Sunday July 10, 2022.** Included in the festivities will be tours of the church and grounds, a presentation on Pioneer Churches of Wisconsin by Michael J. Cooney, the induction by Representative Katrina Shanklin of South New Hope into the State and Federal Registry of Historic Places, and music before and after the programs by two different musical groups. Coffee, soda, and treats will be available for your enjoyment.

**Michael J. Cooney** is a dynamic and charismatic speaker who has done extensive research on pioneer churches in Wisconsin. He has lectured throughout the state on the subject which highlights 34 different faiths and includes the histories of over 100 historic churches. He has received glowing reviews wherever he speaks. We are looking forward to his presentation.

South New Hope was officially accepted into the State and Federal Registry of Historic Places on September 3, 2019. Unfortunately, because of various circumstances that Fall, and then the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, official presentation of the award had to be delayed until life once again returned to some semblance of normality.

**Representative Katrina Shanklin** was a graduate of Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School in 2005. She earned a BA from University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2009. She was elected to the State Legislature for Assembly District 71, (Stevens Point) in 2012. She became Assistant Minority Leader in 2015. She currently is a Major in the Wisconsin Wing of the Civil Air Patrol Legislative Squadron. Representative Shanklin will make the official presentation of South New Hope's acceptance into the State and National historic registry. We are very pleased to have Representative Shanklin with us at this Open House.

**Fourth Octave** is a five-member singing group who has been together for about six years. Based at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waupaca Wisconsin, they sing Christian as well as secular selections. They sing at church services, nursing homes, service clubs and other organizations on special occasions. Fourth Octave is very pleased to participate in this very historic occasion and wish continued success to South New Hope now and in the future.

**Jim Hotvedt** is a local New Hope Resident who has been playing guitar and singing since his high school days in the sixties. Being a very accomplished musician, he entertains as a solo artist, but also appears annually with this old band "Heart Strings" at the Indian Crossing Casino at an event called "Old Fest". He performs songs from the sixties, seventies and eighties and always receives enthusiastic reviews.

*Save the Date - July 10!*

## WELCOME to a New Trustee



The Board of Directors of South New Hope is very pleased to welcome Carla Struble to our management team. Carla comes to us with a wealth of experience having spent much of her working life as an office supervisor, a Cost and Budget supervisor, and finally as manager of a distribution center for the Pillsbury company. After that branch of the company closed, she was immediately hired as an Accounting Manager and a Senior Staff Accountant for Agnesian Health Care.

A resident of Amherst since 2007, she is a member of the United Methodist Church in Amherst where she serves as the church's treasurer. In addition, Carla is also the treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of the Lettie Jensen Library.

Carla has stated that she has always enjoyed touring historical homes and buildings and is grateful to those who have had the foresight to preserve and restore these structures. We hope this will be Carla's chance to be a part of that process.

*Welcome Aboard!*

## FANS INSTALLATION



Another step in the progress of South New Hope's restoration and enhancement process was recently completed with the installation of ceiling fans in the sanctuary. The fans are needed for proper air circulation and more efficient heating and cooling of the sanctuary space. As the attic and other related spaces are scheduled for application of insulation soon, the wiring for the fans needed to be done first. Sam Steins and Jason Ehr, two friends of South New Hope, procured the scaffolding and volunteered their time to see that the project was completed. South New Hope extends its sincere appreciation for a job well done.



The land that South New Hope was built on was originally called "Plank Hill"

## TAKING STOCK *continued*

If you have any interest in any of the following areas, please contact the trustees listed below.

1. Help with church and grounds maintenance on our twice-yearly workdays.
2. Help with planning, organizing, and working the annual pie social, which is scheduled for the first weekend in October.
3. Help planning, organizing, and getting talent for various programs of interest on anything relative to the history of the church, people, or development of this central Wisconsin area.
4. Help with planning and organizing talent for at least one outdoor concert in the summer and one indoor concert in the church sanctuary in the fall or winter.
5. Someone willing to be a wedding planner and skilled at handling all or as many of the details as the participants require.
6. Someone who is adept at creating and maintaining web sites to enhance South New Hope's presence online as well as consistently updating our Facebook entries with the latest information.
7. Someone who can help in planning and writing grant requests for various areas of required improvements in the church and grounds to enhance our position as a wedding venue and program and concert facility.

## ORGAN DONATION

It is general knowledge that South New Hope is a non-profit organization. So naturally, our main source of revenue comes mostly from monetary donations. However, this year we are very fortunate to receive a donation which already had a very long and interesting history with the New Hope Church. The organ was originally donated to South New Hope in the 1930's by Reuben and Lena Hiller. The organ served South New Hope until the church closed in 1967. At that time, Irving and Freida (daughter of Reuban Hiller) Isaacson reclaimed the organ and stored it at their farm. Mary Schroeder, the last living child of Irving and Freida Isaacson, decided to return the antique pump organ to South New Hope. The organ, a Windsor, was sold by Montgomery Ward Co. of Chicago, Illinois, in the 1880's and 1890's. We are very proud to display this heirloom in our Sanctuary. We are interested in making this instrument functional once again and welcome any advice or assistance in accomplishing this task.



## CHURCH REPLICA Donated to South New Hope

When Mary Schroeder contacted Ardie Stoltenberg about donating an organ to South New Hope, she also mentioned that she was in possession of a replica of South New Hope. Would we be interested? The answer, of course, was an enthusiastic yes!

Norman Isaacson, Mary's father's cousin, was master woodworker and sometime around 1950 he built a replica of South New Hope Church. This replica measures about 4'x4'x4' and resembles the church in minute detail right down to the pews inside the sanctuary, the artwork behind the altar, as well as a pastor standing in the altar area.

This replica is a labor of love, and we are very pleased that Mary has chosen to donate this work to South New Hope. We will have this gift on display the next time you visit the church.



# Spring WORKDAY JUST AROUND THE CORNER



It appears that this long and extended winter is finally drawing to a close. It looks like one of those years when spring weather will be in short supply, and there will be a hasty transition to summer. Nevertheless, short or not, spring is here, and at South New Hope it brings with it a long list of chores that must be done. Sharon Ehr, our grounds coordinator, has identified a few tasks that have to be accomplished to shake off the effects of winter and prepare the church and grounds for summer activities.

Outside the church, the grounds need the usual care which includes picking up sticks, cleaning out the gardens, raking and thatching the lawn, cleaning out the gutters and debris off the shed, and possibly some chainsaw work to clear away some brush in certain areas. Inside, the pews need dusting, carpets need vacuuming and some general cleaning of the floors in the sanctuary after the installation of the ceiling fans and electrical work with the resultant plaster dust and wood shavings associated with those activities.

Sharon has also been very busy over the fall and winter. She has painted the kitchen walls a wonderfully cheery light-yellow with cabinets a bright white resulting in a very home-like and inviting glow to the area. Many thanks to Sharon for her efforts in these areas.



## PROGRAM IDEA for your Club or Organization

A twenty minute PowerPoint on the history of Norwegian immigration, and the history and development of the New Hope Congregation is available for your group. Please call 715-824-7130 for arrangements.

## ELECTRONIC GIVING

Options for electronic giving to South New Hope are currently being explored. This is a very safe, secure and convenient method of supporting various projects here at South New Hope. As more details are developed we hope to have this up and running by September 2022.

## FUND RAISING ITEMS FOR PURCHASE

1. **Two custom made park benches.** Brass engraved plaque indicating donor or honoree. \$500.00 each.
2. **Church style bird houses:** \$25.00 each.
3. **Birch log candle holders:** Large Log: \$10.00 Small Log: \$5.00
4. **Limited number of unframed color pictures of South New Hope in the fall:** 5x7 \$5.00 8x10 \$10.00



If interested please drop us a line at: [info@southnewhope.org](mailto:info@southnewhope.org)