

**Old Trondhjem News
Trondhjem Community Preservation Society
P.O. Box 259, Lonsdale, MN 55046**

Trondhjem Community Preservation Society

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Syttende Mai Celebration and Homecoming

Sunday May 21, 2006 2:00 PM
at the old church.

Program: “Melodies and Memories” Piano and Violin music from Bach to Bluegrass
Presented by mother and daughter, Margaret Halverson Heglund and Siri Heglund Geenen.
Admission: No charge. A free will offering.

This year we will celebrate the Norwegian National Holiday on Sunday May 21. The program will be an outstanding performance by the mother and daughter duo, Margaret Halverson Heglund and Siri Heglund Geenen in a celebration of the new piano given to the historic church by Margaret and Gene Heglund. This piano is given in memory of Margaret’s parents, Eddie and Helen Halverson and Gene’s parents Harold and Elaine Heglund. It will be dedicated and heard for the first time that day. This gift is especially meaningful because Margaret was the church pianist at Trondhjem from the age of 12 until she graduated from St.Olaf College with a Bachelor of Music degree. Siri, her daughter, is an accomplished violinist with a Bachelor of music degree in violin performance from Northwestern University and a Master of Music from the University of Colorado. Both musicians have professional music careers and will give us a wonderful program which they call “Melodies and Memories.”

As part of the afternoon festivities, the Trondhjem Community Preservation Society, Inc. will hold a brief annual meeting and election of members to the board of directors.

Message from the President

Two major snow storms within a couple of days blanketed the countryside with a total of nearly 20 inches of snow in March. It made for beautiful winter scenes at the historic church. All roads were promptly plowed within hours of each storm and it made me think about how this type of weather was

handled by the early pioneer farmers. They needed to deliver their milk to the Trondhjem creamery so they’d hitch the horses to the sleigh and find their way.

I have several items of interest to report to you.

- First of all, most people aren’t aware that our TCPS mailing list is now over 700. That’s how many people from all across the country have expressed interest in this preservation work and receive this newsletter in their mail.
- Carol Johnson, Millie Johnson, Barb Lentsch, Edie and Orv Peterson, Paul Fligge, Joyce Pflaum, and Merle Fossum have been meeting monthly as the museum committee to continue developing the photograph exhibit. We had a consultation with Bob Herskovitz from the Minnesota Historical Society on proper care and preservation of photographs and we are lucky to have the expert assistance of John Lindell, Kate Roberts and Judith Hentges in setting up a design for telling the stories of the families and local history.
- Since last fall, the board of directors has searched for the right person to direct our fund raising campaign for a new museum and fellowship hall. We were over-joyed in January when Pastor Howard White accepted our invitation to fill that role. See the article by him in this newsletter. Howard and his

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wife Janet are co-pastors of the Trondhjem Lutheran Church congregation. They and the TCPS board of directors are very interested in promoting close cooperation between our two Trondhjem organizations.

We are all looking forward to a fun day at the Syttende Mai celebration on Sunday May 21.

Merle Fossum, President

Churches of Minnesota Available to TCPS members at a discount.

This new book of photographs by Doug Ohman with text by Jon Hassler is published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. Many people in our community know Doug and his photographs of Historic Trondhjem Church. The book contains 128 pages of beautiful color photographs of rural, small town and city churches of Minnesota. Our church is shown in a winter setting with the long hill approaching from the South and a quotation from Clifford Johnson, recalling his childhood memories. Our neighboring historic Christdala church also has a photograph. The book sells in book stores for \$19.95. Doug has offered to make it available to our members at \$18.00 including shipping. If you are interested, send note to Doug Ohman telling him that you are a member of TCPS along with your check to 3525 Ensign Ave. N., New Hope, MN 55427

Fund Raising for the Fellowship Hall to Begin

The Trondhjem Community Preservation Society has plans to replace the existing Fellowship Hall with a brand new structure. The new design will enable the historic church to stand out on the hill as it did originally. The anticipated cost of the new Fellowship Hall is \$400,000. More than \$85,000 has been set aside in a dedicated account for the construction.

The goal of the fund raising is to receive the remainder of the dollars needed for construction. The \$85,000 already on hand is mostly the result of the significant generosity of a single benefactor to the Preservation Society plus many other generous donors and our fund-raiser events. We are thankful for everyone's gifts.

Between the time you receive this newsletter and the Syttende Mai events on May 21, we will be seeking "pacesetting" gifts from friends of the preservation society who might contribute \$5,000, or more, over a three to five year period of time. We also hope an additional benefactor or two might be moved to contribute \$50,000, \$75,000, \$100,000, or even more. If you would like to be visited about the possibility of a pacesetting gift, please contact Pastor Howard White at Trondhjem Lutheran Church. He can be reached at 952-994-1972 or pastorhoward@means.net.

After our Syttende Mai celebration we will solicit gifts from all the friends of the Trondhjem Community Preservation Society. All gifts are welcome. We can use small gifts and large gifts. Together we will make this dream a reality.

It is conceivable that we could begin construction of the new Fellowship Hall this fall. Before that can happen we will need to re-visit the cost estimates for the project. Because some donors will need to spread out their special "Fellowship Hall Building Appeal" gifts over three to five years, we may need to obtain some interim construction financing.

Pastor Howard White serves with his wife Pastor Janet White as co-pastor of Trondhjem Lutheran Church. Besides having been a pastor since 1977, he worked for the last 15 years as a fund raising consultant for The James Company, which works specifically with churches on building appeals. He is excited about helping us with this project, as well as helping the Preservation Society with its various purposes. Pastor White is donating his time as part of his gift to the Appeal. Thanks to him for his gifts and to all of you for your generosity.

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

By Joyce Fossum Pflaum

TRONDHJEM CHURCH'S 130th ANNIVERSARY IS MAY 15, 2006.

When the first Norwegian settlers arrived in the area in the 1860's and 1870's, there was no church for them nearby and the mode of transportation did not permit them to travel a distance to attend services. The first few years they held services in homes or the Knowles school house. On May 15, 1876, about ninety people met at the home of Jens Nyhus for the organizational meeting of the Trondhjem Congregation. The minutes were written in Norwegian, and translated for us by Norman Vinnes. Some words were difficult to decipher, and some names were changes in later years, but the minutes of the first meeting as translated, and with names spelled as they were in the record are as follows:

"A Congregation's meeting held in Thronhjem's Congregation, Monday the 15th of May, 1876."

1. It was resolved that there should be purchased two Books, one for Minutes and a Church Register.
2. Congregations Constitution was submitted and adopted.
3. It was resolved that this Congregation's name shall be Thronhjem's Norwegian Lutheran Church.
4. There were 5 elected Trustees, namely Nils Larsen for 1 year, Peder Skasberg for 2 years, Hens Nyhus for 3 years.
5. A Committee of 6 Members was summoned, namely John Fossum, C. Skauge, Peder Skasberg, Ole Anderson and Mathis Johnsen, to investigate a convenient place for a graveyard.
- 6.

The Meeting was begun and concluded with God's Word and Prayer.

Wheatland the 15th of May 1876

John Fossum, Secretary

NOTE: It was not part of the minutes, but 27 men signed the constitution as the charter members of the congregation. They were Peder O. Berg, E. Skauge, Johannes Fossum, E. Stratte, Ole Rygg, Lars Berg, O. Anderson, Ole Johnson, Eskel Quinnell, N. Solberg, P. Danielson, J. Danielson, H. Olsen, Ole Matsen, Herman Kyng, Bertinus Nilsen, H. Grotte, Ole Skauge, Ingebrigt Skauge, P. Olsen, Jens Nyhus, Oluf Stratte, A. Guttormsen, Ole Hansen, Amund Fossum, E. Nilsen, and Guttormsen Nilsen.

The second congregational meeting was held on Thursday, September 2, 1876. The business transacted at this meeting was as follows:

1. There was elected a Secretary for 1 year, namely John Fossum.
2. It was resolved that Pastor Vikre will preach in the morning in the northern part of the congregation and in the afternoon in the southern part, with the Swedes; each time the Pastor visits the congregation in this manner, he will alternate every other time.
3. The Swedes agreed to pay in salary to the Pastor during the present year \$5. each family father.
4. It was resolved that the northern part of Thronhjem's Congregation, namely the Norwegians, shall pay in salary to the Pastor for the coming year. (\$50.?) assessed on the congregation members.
5. The question about which location for the Congregation's graveyard should be selected was discussed and the congregation came to an agreement that it must be plotted on the north eastern corner of J. Fossum's land in the eventuality that there will be granted and platted a road that will go past the mentioned location, namely the town line between Wheatland and Webster and there going north and south, was approved by the Members who had a right to vote.

MUSEUM NEWS:

We are so appreciative of the help we are receiving from staff members of the Minnesota State Historical Society. John Lindell, Kate Roberts, and Judith Hentges have come to the Old Church, along with members of TCPS, to re-do our photo exhibits. Millie, Carol, Barb, Charlene, Merle, and Joyce have been joined by 3 new committee members, Paul Fligge and Orv and Edie Peterson. We have a lot of work to do, so we can use YOU, too. No experience necessary, as you will be provided with on-the-job-training. Call Joyce or Millie if you have time to lend to this project.

We are proud of the collection of photo's in our museum; thanks to all who have donated. There are pictures we are missing – are YOU the one that can help us locate them? (Please check your box of old family photo's.) Photos we would like to include are:

1. The first Trondhjem church, built in 1876
2. The 1876 charter members of the church (named earlier).
3. Homes and businesses of the village of Trondhjem and area.
4. Church and school events, farm and home activities, and any other pictures of interest. If you do not want to part with your original photo, a good quality copy or negative is acceptable.

Please identify people in your photos, date or approximate date that the picture was taken, and any other information known such as location, reason for photo (anniversary, etc.), or relationships.

We have received many artifacts and donations during the past years. Among gifts received are a china cabinet/hutch that once belonged to Albin and Elise Thompson from the Ted Johnson family; a cookie jar that belonged to Bertha Fossum from her grand-daughter, Carmen Sevcik; a 1907 baptismal dress that was worn by Sadie Johnson Geiger from her brother, Percy Johnson; University of MN Marching Band uniform, ca 1918, worn by Morry Haugen, given by his daughter, Mavis Fossum; photo of the last horse-drawn hearse used by Bierman Funeral Home for the funeral of Eskel Quinnell; cut glass sugar and creamer souvenir of Lonsdale given by Mabelle Walstad Splicahl; wood egg crate given by Al Johnson,; black felt hi-top men's shoes worj by John Fossum, given by grand-daughter, Joyce Pflaumrecord book from "Churches of Minnesota' by Doug Ohman, given by Audrey Topp. Many other items and books have also been donated. Stop and look at them the next time you are in Old Trondhjem.

The Old Trondhjem museum is looking for old Rice County platbooks, pre ca 1900. If you have other items you wish to donate, please contact Joyce at 651-423-585, or Millie at 507-645-5172, to see if it is something we can use. You may also write to us at the TCPS address, P.O. Box 259, Lonsdale, MN 55046

Hope to see you at the Syttende Mai Celebration on Sunday, May 21!

And remember to visit us
on the web at:

www.trondhjempreservation.org

CONTRIBUTIONS 2005

201. MARILYN HAGEN-In Honor of BERG REUNION
202. CHARLES CANNONS-In Memory of MARY CANNONS
203. INES TREBESESCH-
204. ALLAN (BUD) KINDSETH-In Honor of the Norwegian immigrant that started the church
205. STEVE AND SANDY LEE-In Memory of DUANE PFLAUM
206. VAL KUCERA
207. WM. F. & GUDRUN JOHNSON-In Memory of MR. & MRS. OLE ANDERSON
208. FRITZ & DELORES VALEK-In Memory of BERNICE KLAHR
209. LYLA & RALPH ARNESON-In Memory of BERNICE KLAHR
210. SHERWIN & ELNA HANSEN-In Memory of BERNICE KLAHR
211. DAWN & LARRY RAADT-In Memory of PERCY JOHNSON
212. KENNETH & CINDY HALVERSON-In Memory of BARBARA & GORDON HALVERSON
213. MARCUS & KRISTIE STROM-In Honor of CLIFF & RUTH JOHNSON
214. DARLENE PFAHNING-In Honor of IRENE CHRISTENSEN & In Memory of HANS CHRISTENSEN
215. IRENE CHRISTENSEN-In Memory of MARIE (BEYER) AND THOMAS WALSTAD
216. DOUG & RUTH PFLAUM-In Honor of JOYCE PFLAUM and In Memory of DUANE PFLAUM
217. WILLIAM JOHNSON-In Memory of parents ART & HAZEL JOHNSON
218. ROBERT & LIL PAGEL-In Memory of ESTHER ARNESON ROOS
219. MAXINE HALVERSON-In Memory of ESTHER ARNESON ROOS
220. ARVID & GLORIA BOYUM-In Memory of ESTHER ARNESON ROOS
221. DARRELL & ARLYS WIESE-In Memory of ESTHER ARNESON ROOS
222. RUSSELL ANSETH
223. MAVIS & MERLE FOSSUM-In Honor of the Many Hardworking Volunteers for TCPS
224. DOUGLAS & PAT FOSSUM-In Memory of LLOYD AND AGNES FOSSUM

225. ALLEN & SHIRLEY LAVANGER
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227. WARREN VELENCHENKO-In Memory of CONRAD GORDER
228. ARDIS WILSON-In Memory of sister, LORRAINE BERG BROIN
229. ARDIS WILSON-In Memory of MENS & EDNA BERG
230. JANET JANES-In Memory of DR.. JOSEPH M. JANES
231. JUDY FOSSUM MATHERN-In Memory of ALBERT FOSSUM
232. JOYCE PFLAUM-In Memory of DONNA PFLAUM
233. ROBERT & PRISCILLA JANES-In Honor of HELEN AND CHARLES HILL
234. SHERWIN & ELNA HANSEN-In Memory of DONNA PFLAUM
235. JEFFREY & MARY JO PFLAUM –In Memory of DUANE PFLAUM
236. JEFFREY & MARY JO PFLAUM-In Memory of LEIF & MABEL FOSSUM
237. DONALD & YVONNE PAVEK
238. DAVID & JUDITH SAXERUD
239. KENNETH & JOYCE MADOLE
240. NANCY HALVERSON NORTON-In Honor of the 55th wedding anniversary of NORMAN & ELLA HALVERSON
241. NANCY HALVERSON NORTON-In Honor of the marriage of CHARLES HOYUM AND EILEEN ROBERTS
242. DARIN, DAVID & DALE PAVEK & Families-In Honor of CAROL JOHNSON

CONTRIBUTIONS 2006

1. DORIS HUSBYN-In Memory of RALPH B. BERG
2. MERLE & MAVIS FOSSUM-In Memory of RALPH B. BERG
3. ARDIS B. WILSON-In Memory of RALPH B. BERG
4. ARNOLD BROIN-In Memory of RALPH B. BERG
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7. JOYCE PFLAUM & PAUL FLIGGE-In Memory of RALPH B. BERG
8. DALLAS & MILLIE BERG-In Memory of RALPH B. BERG
9. ARLEIGH & BARBARA BERG-In Memory of RALPH B. BERG
10. HOWARD & JANET WHITE
11. ALICE KLINE-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
12. DELORIS BERG-In Memory of RALPH B. BERG
13. CLARE & SONDY JENSEN & Family-In Memory of RALPH B. BERG
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15. ERLING & CONNIE HALVERSON-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
16. SHERWIN & ELNA HANSEN -In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
17. DARRELL & ARLYS WIESE-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
18. REV. GENE & MARGARET HEGLUND-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
19. MERLE & MAVIS FOSSUM-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
20. RALPH & LYLA ARNESON-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
21. RAMONA & ELMER PUMPER-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
22. DALLAS & MILDRED BERG-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
23. ARVID & GLORIA BOYUM-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
24. MAXINE HALVERSON-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
25. JOYCE PFLAUM-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
26. REV. CLIFFORD & RUTH JOHNSON-In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
27. AUDREY FOSSUM TOP- A book "Churches of Minnesota" by Doug Ohman
28. PALMER & ELSIE BERG-In Memory of MARILYN KOLSTAD HAGEN
29. DORIS HUSBYN-In Memory of MARILYN HAGEN
30. DOUGLAS & PATRICIA FOSSUM -In Memory of ERNEST HALVERSON
31. EDYTHE & ORVILLE PETERSON- In Memory of LUELLA BLEICHWEHL
32. C.D. LORENCE & K.J. LORENCE-In Memory of LUELLA BLEICHWEHL
33. MILDRED JOHNSON- In Honor of HAZEL TOPP'S 90th birthday
34. DALLAS & MILDRED BERG-In Memory of MARILYN KOLSTAD HAGEN

My Contribution to Help Restore Historic Old Trondhjem Church

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please Accept my gift of \$ _____

To be Given

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

We will gladly send an acknowledgement of your gift to someone you choose, if you would like. Simply write the name and address below, of where you would like an acknowledgement sent.

Return to Trondhjem Community Preservation Society, P.O. Box 259, Lonsdale, MN 55046