



# Menno Haven Impressions



THE NEWSLETTER OF MENNO HAVEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER ~ WINTER 2013

## 2013 Spring Events

**Menno Madness**  
3on3 Basketball Tournament  
March 2

**Spring Work Day**  
March 23  
*(rain date March 25)*

**Rally Day**  
May 27

**5k Run/2k Walk**  
May 27

## 2013 Summer Events

**Facilitator Training Workshop**  
June 3-6

**Summer Camps**  
June 9 - July 26

**Back to School Party**  
August 6

We would like to extend special thanks to **Matt Hickman**, **Maria Hatfield** and **Bob & Pamela Yoder** for sharing their wisdom during the winter retreats.

## Junior High Winter Retreat



**Mennonite Churches represented: 9**

**Number of attendees (youth and sponsors): 90**

**Favorite Activities:** rock climbing, volleyball, ping pong, Borrow the Balls and even some snow tubing on Sunday

Matt Hickman, pastor at Mennonite Church of Normal, spoke about Wearing the Story. The youth were encouraged to get to know their Bible in order to share different stories.

They were able to practice sharing on Saturday evening as different groups spoke and acted out a number of Bible stories. When asked to summarize the weekend, some responses included: "Menno Haven is a camp to return to, make new memories, and meet other people", "It was amazing" and "Spiritually cleansing".



## High School Winter Retreat



**Mennonite Churches represented: 10**

**Number of attendees: 95**

**Number of Mennonite Colleges Represented: 3**

**Favorite Activities:** frozen creek hike, nature hike, volleyball, ping pong and "The Quest"

Maria Hatfield, pastor at Living Love in East Peoria, challenged youth to know what Jesus means to them and be able to: share what Jesus means to them, be disciples and imitators of Jesus, know when to not just say no to temptation but when to run from it, and to be strong and let your light shine. In response to the weekend, one high school attendee said it was a "Wonderful weekend of being pushed outside my comfort zone in my walk with God and my friendship." Another attendee said simply, "Wow, I love this place!".

## Family Winter Retreat



**Family Camp attendees: 20**

**IMCA Members who joined on Saturday: 30**

**Favorite Activities:** games, puzzles, climbing wall, Simon Says with a Twist, 4 on a couch and winter carpet ball

Bob and Pamela Yoder from Goshen, IN worked together giving input during worship. Bob spoke about the Psalms and how they can help us praise God, lament to God, and thank God, while

Pamela led the participants in different prayer exercises. Some comments from the weekend included, "We enjoyed another year at family camp!" and "Great to be here".





## From Our Kitchen to Yours

### White Texas Cake

2 sticks margarine  
 2 c. sugar  
 2 c. + 2 T. flour  
 3 eggs  
 1/2 c. buttermilk  
 1 t. vanilla  
 1 c. water  
 1 t. baking soda

Bring margarine and water to a boil. Remove from heat; add sugar, flour and baking soda. In a small bowl, beat eggs, buttermilk and vanilla. Combine both mixtures and beat well. Spread into a greased and floured jellyroll pan. Bake at 350° for 20 min. Cool and frost.

#### Frosting:

1 stick margarine  
 4 T. milk  
 1 lb. powdered sugar  
 1 t. vanilla  
 1 c. milk  
 1 c. nuts (optional)

Bring margarine and milk to a boil. Add powdered sugar, vanilla and nuts. Spread on cooled cake.



### Wish List:

- Tractor Mulch Bucket
- 20 ft. Extension Ladder
- Plug-in Alarm Clocks
- Washer & Dryer
  - 2 sets
- Chain Saw
- Plain T-shirts
  - All colors and sizes
- Corelle Serving Bowls
  - 1 quart preferred
- Laptop Computer
  - (5 years old or newer)
- Volunteer Guest Hosts



# Upcoming Events



## Spring Work Day

Join us on March 23, 2013 and help prepare Menno Haven for the summer season. The day will start with a hot breakfast at 8:15 followed by work projects until about 3, with an hour break for lunch. We will have indoor and outdoor projects available for all skill levels. We would love your help, even if it's just for part of the day! Email [info@mennohaven.com](mailto:info@mennohaven.com) if you are interested in attending.



## 5K Run/2K Walk

Come enjoy the rolling trails at Menno Haven on the morning of **Monday, May 27, 2013**, the same day as Rally Day, for a 5k Run/ 2k Walk. Whether you enjoying running or walking, bring your family and friends and help raise money for Menno Haven. More information will come soon.

## Summer Camp 2013

### *CAUTION: Difficult Path to Follow*

This summer's theme is Caution: Difficult Path to Follow. Caution is defined as "a warning against danger or evil" or "alertness in a hazardous situation". In this world of evil and many things that try to take our focus away from God, we must be alert and continually choose the path of Jesus. Using the parables that Jesus told, we will look at how Jesus told us to live and navigate the difficult path of life. Mark 8:34 tells us "Whoever



wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Join us this summer as we play games, swim, worship, do crafts, go boating, meet new friends, eat some good food, and hang out with the summer staff. Brochures and registration information are available on our website.



## Back to School Party

Set aside Tuesday, August 6, 2013 to come and celebrate the beginning of a new school year! More information to come.



## Doc's Dictations

I am inspired by the words of Psalm 84. What is a home? A home offers a place where people can be themselves, a place where one can work on becoming the person one wants to be, a place where one can connect to God. Menno Haven is this Spiritual Home away from home for many. Many memories of first time commitments to Christ are attached to a specific place here on God's glorious campus of Menno Haven. Attached to a smell...some have told me years later, "I get a whiff of a campfire, and I am transported back to a campfire at Menno Haven when my counselor was telling his testimony. The powerful images and emotions flood my mind... and the life transformation that happened." Others have said, "I just want to stay here at Menno Haven forever!!" They long to stay in a place where they experienced the closeness of God. That is what the Psalmist is speaking to when he talks about sparrows finding a home and swallows making nests at the altar of the Lord.



## The Improvements Continue!

### New Walk-in Cooler/Freezer

The Mennonite Church of Normal donated money for a new walk-in cooler/freezer in the kitchen. This new unit has the freezer attached to the cooler, so it is only accessible by walking through the cooler. This conserves energy by reducing the temperature difference inside and outside the freezer door from 90° to 40°. The shelves in the old cooler were starting to rust, and the floor was stained and beginning to rot so this new unit is a much needed improvement.



### Dining Hall Bathrooms



Lombard Mennonite Church raised money to renovate the bathrooms in the dining hall. The project was started on January 21 and is almost complete! The bathrooms will look very similar to the ones in the upstairs of the lodge, with the exception of the shape of the women's bathroom. The bathrooms downstairs were a little smaller, so we moved the women's to the back and extended it into the hallway to allow for more space. They look beautiful and will be a huge improvement once completed.



## Thank You

To all of you who have blessed the ministry at Menno Haven with your gifts of volunteer time, resources and prayers, we say thank you! We could not do all that is done here at Menno Haven without your help! We always have a variety of tasks that need to be completed; we enjoy the range of skill sets that our volunteers bring.

If you are interested in helping out, give us a call!

### Menno Haven Year Round Staff

**Doc (David) Johnson**, *Executive Director*  
**Paul Yoder**, *Facilities Director*  
**Ben Bouwman**, *Program Director*  
**Rachel Bastian**, *Food Service Manager*

**Yasi Bouwman**, *Administrative Assistant*  
**Rebecca Hovde**, *Guest Group Host*  
**Melissa Cook**, *Housekeeper*  
**Evie Yoder**, *Grounds-Keeper*



## Facilitator Training Workshop

**Interested in Adventure Education and Challenge Courses? Do you enjoy spending time outdoors?**

Join us on June 3 and become a trained Adventure Education facilitator for Menno Haven. In this three day workshop you can learn how to belay the rock wall and the high ropes course. You will also learn how to facilitate the low ropes course and lead different groups through team building activities. Once you have completed your training, you can be hired to lead groups on Menno Haven's Adventure Education Course.



### Menno Haven

Camp & Retreat Center

Ph: 815-646-4344

Fax: 815-646-4301

[info@mennohaven.com](mailto:info@mennohaven.com)

[www.mennohaven.com](http://www.mennohaven.com)

#### Introducing:

**Aaron Kaufmann**

In January Aaron moved into the volunteer guest house and will be a part-time volunteer through May. Aaron is a Tiskilwa native and has spent 3 summers here on staff. We are excited to have him working with us again!



Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center  
9301 1575 East St  
Tiskilwa, IL 61368

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## Summer Ministry Opportunity!

Have you considered joining the staff at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center this summer? We are seeking persons who have a desire to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ, who are willing, through action and word, to share their faith with others. We are looking for applicants to be mature, teachable, dependable, hard-working, service



oriented, and well suited to work with children and adults. Interested? We have a number of positions available, including **maintenance, kitchen, and counselor**, among others. Check out our website or contact Menno Haven for more details.



Apply Online at [www.mennohaven.com](http://www.mennohaven.com)