



# Menno Haven Impressions



THE NEWSLETTER OF MENNO HAVEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER ~ SUMMER 2014

## 2014 Fall Events

- Back to School Party Aug. 5
- Fellowship 55 Sept. 23-25
- Fall Work Day Oct. 11  
(Rain Date Oct. 13)
- IL Mennonite Camp Assoc. Annual Business Meeting Nov. 22

## 2015 Winter Events

- High School Winter Retreat Jan. 16-18
- Jr. High Winter Retreat Jan. 23-25

## IMC Youth Leaders Conference

No youth to chaperone! No release forms to collect! No vans full of teenagers to drive! This retreat is for YOU—those of you who give yourselves to youth ministry week after week, year after year. Youth leaders, youth pastors, youth sponsors—anyone with a passion for youth ministry—**plan to join us September 5-7.** Come and recharge! Come and relax! Come and connect with others throughout IMC who share your same passion and calling.

[Register online](#)



## God's Own Child: Called to...**Be Peculiar**

Throughout this summer, we have been looking through 1 Peter 2:9 and Jesus' ministry to see the many ways that we as Christians have been called to be a peculiar people. For our daily themes we have been looking at how Jesus taught his followers to be peculiar in their actions, reactions, thinking, interactions, and beliefs. During the days and weeks this summer we have found various examples of each of these daily themes and talked about how we, as Christians, can be peculiar like Jesus in our everyday lives.



This summer we have seen over 240 campers, and 25 summer staff members truly grow and learn to be different than the world around them. It has been a joy and an honor to work with each and every one of the campers and summer staff members who have walked through this camp this summer. It has filled me with great joy to play, pray, worship, and just be silly... peculiar even, with everyone. Thanks to all of you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers this summer! We greatly appreciate it.



- Scott Litwiller, Program Director



## A Very **Peculiar** Summer

Despite hiccups this summer, this summer has been such a blessing to me. This is my third year at Menno Haven, but my first as a counselor, and I've found that counselling is both more challenging and more rewarding than I ever imagined. At this point in our camp season, I've kept 29 campers alive (not without tremendous amounts of help, of course). An alive camper, however, is not necessarily a happy camper, or an engaged camper, or a camper who will go home with hundreds of fun stories to share with friends and family. This is where the true challenge of the job lies, but more importantly, it's where I've found the greatest reward. Utensil meals, singing silly songs, and home in the woods are all great fun, but my personal highlight has been talking with one of my campers at the Thursday night cross campfire and hearing that she also wants to work at Menno Haven in the future. I thank God every day that He continues to draw people to this wonderful ministry.



Our theme this summer is "Be Peculiar," and I can't help but think that a junior high camper finding a summer working in the woods more enticing than a summer full of family vacations and relaxing by the pool with friends is exactly the kind of peculiar thinking God (and Scott) is looking for. I'm so blessed to get to interact with so many people with this mindset, and I'll never forget this summer that I get to share with them.

-Leah Landes, Head Cabin Counselor

## Prayers & Praises

- Thank you to all the campers and staff who helped us have another successful summer
- Prayers for the campers and staff as they return home, that they may remember what they learned and share it with others
- Prayers for the Menno Haven Staff as we enter into another time of staff transitions
- Praises for all of the donations given to help improve and sustain Menno Haven

## Wish List

- Forever Stamps
- Dehumidifier(s)
- Assorted pool toys
- Pony Beads
- Tractor mulch bucket
- Loppers
- Copy paper  
(white, 8 1/2 x 11, 20 lb)

## Menno Madness

We had another great turnout for Menno Madness this year. There were 17 participants who all had a good time playing in the basketball tournament. Thank you to all of those who participated in and supported this event to help make it a great success.



# Rally Day

We had another great Rally Day this year, full of worship, food, and fellowship. Thankfully, the weather was great and the rain held out until the very end, so we were able to enjoy staff dedication, lunch, and activities outside. In the afternoon people were able to play lawn games, swim in the pool, go on a hayrack ride, or use the climbing wall. We also had a Kindermusic class taught by Pekin's Maggie Kalm available for all children who were interested.

Rally Day started early again with a 5k Run/2k Walk to help raise money for the camper scholarship fund. The course took the participants all over the grounds through the trails. We had 43 participants and raised around



\$1,100 for the camper scholarship fund.

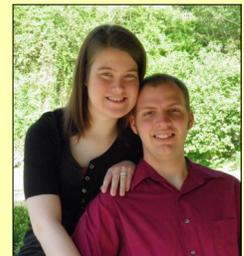
We would like to thank Weaver Enterprises for donating chicken for lunch. We would also like to thank all who came, and those who donated money as we raised an additional \$1,500 for camper scholarships, allowing 14 more kids to come to camp this year!



## Staff Transitions

### Welcome Kenny and Angela Lane

Kenny Lane joined the Menno Haven staff in mid-June as the Guest Group Coordinator. In this position he coordinates everything before and after each guest group retreat as well as coordinate office related tasks. He graduated this May from Huntington University in Indiana with a major in youth ministry and missions. Kenny says "camp is where I grew the most in my faith and I wanted to give back to others in the camp setting". On this past June 7<sup>th</sup> Kenny married Angela who also attended Huntington and majored in youth ministry and missions. They are a wonderful addition to the full time staff.



### Welcome Beverly Mercer



Beverly Mercer of Tiskilwa joined our staff as Housekeeper in the beginning of June. Before Menno Haven, Beverly was working independently cleaning houses and was feeling dissatisfied working alone. She is amazed every day by how everyone here works together for a common cause and feels honored and privileged to work at Menno Haven. She would like to thank Steven and Boo Graham for their love and support that has brought her to this point. We are so excited to welcome Beverly here and we appreciate all of the hard work she is doing.

### Goodbye Melissa Cook

At the end of April, Melissa left Menno Haven to follow her passion of caring for others. She is currently a nanny for 4 children. We thank her for her caring heart, her acts of service and her commitment to us for the last two years. Blessings to you!

# Facility Updates

## Oak Lodge and Hickory House Dorm Renovation

The renovation of Hickory House will begin October 11, 2014 at Fall Work Day and be completed by Winter Retreat 2015. Instead of the old bunkhouse style it will have an updated dorm style providing more privacy for groups with the ability to have a built in meeting/break out room. Each of the four new dorm rooms will sleep 9 or 11 people and will have a private bathroom for each room. The common meeting room in middle will have a shared handicap accessible bathroom as well and space for the entire group to kick back or a place for the older ones to relax after the younger ones go to bed. Renovation of Oak Lodge will begin in the fall of 2015.



## Memorial Garden Renovation



The Memorial Garden was renovated this summer by the summer maintenance team. It gives an updated look as guest groups walk up

to the office, some for the very first time. A drain, new split rail fence, and new retaining walls were installed to



repair and modernize the look. The team finished off the project by re-planting hostas and mulching. Come out to camp and encounter God in this newly renovated space!



## Bridge Building



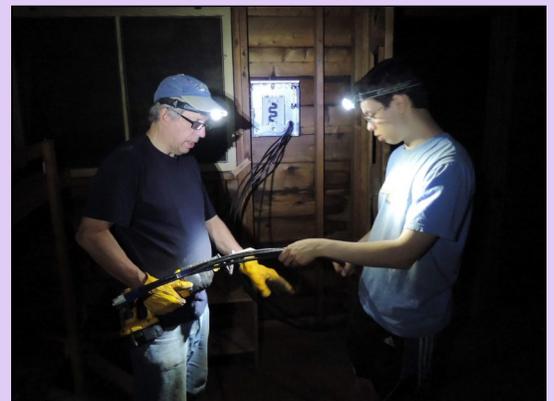
Siloam Mennonite Fellowship youth and sponsors of Goshen, Indiana came out 4th of July weekend and helped build a bridge from the campground to Eagle Wing Activity Center. The bridge will not

only serve as an easier passage way between the two locations but provides a gathering area for smaller groups. Thank you to Siloam for all of your hard work. We encourage everyone else to come check out their work!



## Cabin Electrical Upgrade

This spring Lombard Mennonite Church youth and sponsors donated supplies and work to give the cabins in the west village a new electrical upgrade. The cabins went from a 30 amp service for all 4 cabins and the bathhouse to 200 amp service with 60 amp service per building. The 200 amp service also now includes the craft barn which was previously on 20 amp service. We would like to thank all of the people involved in this project. We appreciate all of the help!



**Summer Staff:**

**Back Row:** Kenny Lane, Evie Yoder, Paul Yoder, Morgan Cole, Allie Litwiller, Scott Litwiller, Sophia Lanier, Andy Lanier, Brandie Lanier, Nathan Hilleson, Hunter Pratt, Becca Hovde, Lukas Amstutz, Rachael Hovde, Bryn Hovde

**Middle Row:** Angela Lane, Lydia Johnson, Katelyn Cole, Emily Gibson, Meredith Satchwell, Hannah Wright, Ella Lubienski, Michelle Moyer, Hannah Bachman, Anna Lanier, Simon Weaver, Ryan Miller, Kerry Bush, Eryk Hovde

**Front Row:** Doc Johnson, Caleb Johnson, Sheena Johnson, Ashley Pribble, Leah Landes, Abbie Kaser, Jessa Turner, Jakob Landes, Alex Delgadillo, Beverly Mercer

Not pictured: Mickey Davis, Sawyer Biddle, Sierra Comer, Sam Carton, Rudy Litwiller, Melika Hershberger, Jacob Landis, Seth Kraybill, Susan Cater



**Menno Haven**

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Join us in August for a  
**Back to School Party**

Come enjoy Menno Haven as a **family** one last time before school starts! Our Back to School Party will take place on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 and include many activities such as swimming, boating, hiking, playing in the gym, lawn games, and more. We will provide a grill out for supper, followed by a campfire to end the day. Feel free to bring your own sack lunch for a picnic on our grounds. Check our website for more details.

**Looking for New Ministry Partner**

We are seeking a full time **Facilities Director** to be responsible for maintaining and improving all facilities, grounds, systems and equipment for our 230 acre/220 bed year-round ministry. General skills in the areas of carpentry, electrical, plumbing, mechanics, and grounds-keeping are needed. Candidate must have a heart for service and a deep commitment to the organization's mission; possess strong organizational, planning, interpersonal, and leadership skills. Available fall 2014. Salary, housing, and benefits.

Submit letter of interest and resume to Doc Johnson,  
[doc@mennohaven.com](mailto:doc@mennohaven.com) or call 815-646-4344

Menno Haven  
Year Round  
Staff

Doc (David) Johnson  
*Executive Director*  
Paul Yoder  
*Facilities Director*

Scott Litwiller  
*Program Director*  
Andy Lanier  
*Food Service  
Manager*

Kenny Lane  
*Guest Group  
Coordinator*  
Rebecca Hovde  
*Guest Group Host*

Beverly Mercer  
*Housekeeper*  
Evie Yoder  
*Grounds-Keeper*