



Menno Haven Impressions



THE NEWSLETTER OF MENNO HAVEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER ~ WINTER 2012

2012 Spring Events

Spring Work Day
April 14

Renewal Retreat
-and-
Scrapbooking Retreat
May 4-6

Rally Day
May 28

Thank you!

to *all* of you who have gifted the ministry at Menno Haven with your gifts of volunteer time, resources and prayers! We could not do all that is done here at Menno Haven without *all* of your help!

Winter 2012 Retreats



Over 100 H.S. youth, sponsors, and college representatives gathered at Menno Haven January 13-15 to worship, fellowship, eat, and play. Cyneatha Millsaps, pastor at Community Mennonite Church, provided the input. She challenged youth to live like Job and know who we are as a child of God. (con't on page 3)

Despite a winter snow storm, 60 plus Jr. High youth and sponsors gathered at Menno Haven January 20-22. Although 3 groups did not arrive until Saturday am, it could not stop the spirit and energy of the youth throughout the weekend. Samuel Voth Schrag, pastor at St. Louis Mennonite Fellowship, spoke about our relationship with God, others, and ourselves. (con't on page 3)



Family Winter Retreat was a wonderful gathering of families ranging in age from 1 to over 50. About 40 people gathered to play, interact, eat, and worship. Menno Haven staff led the worship times; these times included songs, skits, devotionals, crafts time, and even a colored egg hunt! (con't on page 3)

Donors put New Tractor in High Gear!

After seeing the need on Menno Haven's wish list for several years and their own firsthand experience when volunteering onsite, two donors decided to work together to raise funds for a new tractor. After much research and consultation with several knowledgeable Menno Haven constituents, a 2010 John Deere 4520 4WD 60hp diesel tractor with a mere 130 operating hours was chosen as the best fit for our needs and price range. On December 9th, the new tractor was delivered!

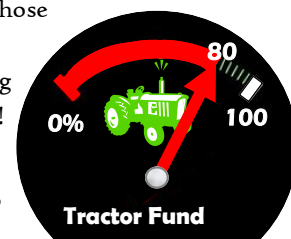
In its short time here, this new tractor has assisted in many different projects and tasks: from pulling out numerous vehicles from the snow (with the help of its front wheel assist)...to moving gravel to low spots on the driveways...to using the pallet forks attachment to putting the new compost bin in place. The new tractor has allowed Paul Yoder, Facilities Director, to focus more on the jobs at hand and increase productivity by significantly reducing the amount of maintenance time spent repairing the old tractor. Paul states that the purchase of the John Deere is "a great move forward...that will benefit Menno Haven for years down the road."



Many, many thanks to the generosity of several donors and the "Alice" trade-in, 80% of the total cost has been covered. Please consider being a part of this exciting project by making a donation to "The New Tractor Fund" and helping Menno Haven to quickly pay off this much needed tool!



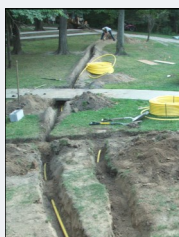
December 9th was also a sad day as we said good-bye to "Alice", the orange Allis-Chalmers tractor, who has served Menno Haven's needs faithfully for 15+ years. Thanks to those who have worked on "Alice" through the years, she was able to be traded-in reducing the price of the John Deere tractor by 20%!





Menno Haven Trivia

1. How many feet of gas line was put in this fall?
2. What approx. savings has it already brought to Menno Haven?



From Our Kitchen to Yours

RACHEL'S CHEESECAKE

- 1 lb 2 oz. cream cheese
- 3 eggs
- 1 c sugar
- 1 1/4 tsp vanilla
- 3 graham cracker crusts



Beat cream cheese in a mixing bowl until smooth & creamy. Add sugar & vanilla. Mix until creamy. Add eggs 1 at a time while mixing on low. Pour mixture into graham cracker crusts and place on sheet pans. Place pans in the oven then add hot tap water to sheet pans. Bake @ 325F for about one hour (or until center is firm & top is golden brown.) Let cool. Serve & Enjoy!



Prayers & Praises

- ◆ A new John Deere tractor!
- ◆ For successful Winter Retreats!
- ◆ For upcoming 2012 Summer Staff & Campers

Wish List:

- Front Loading Washer & Dryer
- Pressure Washer
- Wireless Microphone
- Cross Country Skis
- Wooden Hockey Sticks
- Laptop Computer (5 years old or newer)
- Volunteer Guest Hosts

Renewal & Scrapbooking Retreat



One Weekend-
Two Great Programs!
May 4-6, 2012



The Renewal Retreat will take place Friday to Saturday.

Worship times will include Singing & Spiritual Disciplines/Practices to try. Between worship times, the time is yours! Do what you enjoy & what will renew you to tackle life once Monday hits- whether it's reading, walking, or playing games!

Feel free to hop in on each other's activities!



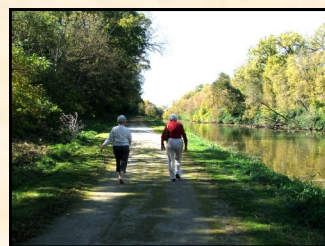
Come to the Scrapbooking Retreat from Friday thru Sunday!

Dig out those Scrapbooking projects that you have been putting off for too long & enjoy getting them DONE along with other Fun & Crafty Scrapbookers!

Fellowship 55 2011: Awakening to the Spiritual Invitations of Our Later Years

Often a program's success is determined by the number of attendees. Indeed, numbers do have their place. If we would consistently get only 50 campers a summer, Menno Haven's summer program would experience some significant challenges. However numbers are not everything; this year's Fellowship 55 retreat at Menno Haven, a retreat designed but not limited to those 55 and older, had only 13 adults including the speaker and music leader. Having said this, it is impossible to calculate what truly happened here by only reporting that number. A group that small allows an intimacy among each other that would not have been possible with even 25 people.

Honest and heartfelt sharing took place among the participants as they wrestled with the following topics: making peace with themselves, others, and God; thinking about the importance of mentoring the next generation; and preparing for our return home to God. Todd Friesen & Curtis Funk (resource leaders from Lombard Mennonite Church) created a space for that sharing and included relevant input.



Those who started this program 5 years ago truly created a wonderful program. Many fun activities were packed into the three days, while still allowing time to be restful and reflective. Some of those fun activities included a hay rack ride, kettle corn over the fire, service projects, the Cotton Patch Gospel performance, and taking a field trip to the Hennepin Canal Visitors Center. Although I will continue to work for higher numbers, the Lord was truly in this place.



Come join us at Menno Haven next year Oct. 2-4, 2012 for the 6th Annual Fellowship 55 Retreat to hear JAN GLEYSTEN, well-known Mennonite Historian, provide the worship time input!



IMCA Retreat 2011

Members of the Illinois Mennonite Camp Association (IMCA) gathered on November 19, 2011 for their annual retreat & business meeting. After a morning of assisting in various projects around camp, all gathered together for a delicious lunch & time of fellowship. Lunch was followed by a Hayrack ride tour of updates to the facilities from the finished & furnished Deer Run East apartment to the completed Founder's Grove to various other projects. At 3:00 pm, the Annual IMCA Business Meeting was conducted where the fiscal year was reviewed and Summer 2012's program theme was introduced. In addition, the long awaited 50th anniversary book, MENNO HAVEN: Celebrating 50 years!, was unveiled! Outgoing board member, John Stoltzfus, was recognized for his outstanding service of 9 years on the board and a new board member, Steve Stewart, was introduced.

We are excited to announce that next year's IMCA Annual Retreat will be held in conjunction with Menno Haven's Family Winter Retreat January 25-27, 2013!

MENNO HAVEN

Celebrating Fifty Years

Stories from across the years

Brief History & Timeline

50 Contributors/Authors

Over 200 Pictures

Some in full **COLOR!**

178 pages

\$15.00

Mark Your Calendars for Next Year's Winter Retreats!

Junior High Jan. 11-13, 2013
High School Jan. 18-20, 2013
Family/IMCA Jan. 25-27, 2013



The Arrival of MENNO HAVEN: Celebrating 50 years!

*We are thrilled to announce the arrival of
the long awaited 50th anniversary book,
MENNO HAVEN: Celebrating 50 years!*

This unique 178 page book contains stories, memories and reflections from across the 50 years by 50 different contributors and authors. Also included is a brief history and timeline of major events at Menno Haven including the 2008, 50th celebration year. As you read, enjoy over 200 pictures of Menno Haven through the years, some in full color!

Whether you have been involved with Menno Haven extensively or not, you will enjoy reading these stories and reflections from former campers, summer staff, year around staff, board members and others who have been involved in Menno Haven's beginning and development. Many themes grace these pages including stories of growth, disappointments, hurdles, challenges met, learnings, and close friendships. Experience nature through the eyes of an author and walk alongside another as they become aware of God through their experience at Menno Haven. Hear personal testimonies of former summer staff who both learned the joys of working with youth and experienced the most challenging times in their young lives. Throughout each writer's stories and reflections appears a common thread of the recognition of God's guiding Hand in their lives and in this ministry during their time here at Menno Haven, whether it was a couple days or a couple decades.

This fascinating, informative, and enjoyable book shouldn't be read by just yourself; this book also makes a wonderful gift for your friends, children, or grandchildren!



Cyneatha connected with youth by talking about the pros and cons of modern social connections like Twitter and Facebook. Students from Goshen College provided music throughout the weekend. EMU, Bluffton, Goshen, Hesston, and Bethel all sent representatives to relate to the youth and share with them about their respective colleges. The youth had plenty of activities to choose from. Highlights included volleyball, the Trapeze Jump, and the Talent Show. It was awesome to see the talents of the Mennonite youth in Illinois, from playing the saxophone to acting out funny skits!



The Junior High youth were invited to ask any questions to Samuel, either about him, God or something random. The fourth session involved Samuel answering those questions. Those present enjoyed hearing what questions the youth of today are asking from "Have you ever not believed in God?" to "Is God as confusing as He seems?" to "How do you feel about Albert Pujols leaving the Cardinals?" The Menno Haven staff provided the music for the weekend. The youth filled the rest of the time with activities such as playing on the ice, rock climbing, snow tubing, outdoor games, and sports tournaments.



Families were encouraged to consider the purpose of their family and to begin thinking about a mission statement. Ideas were then put on a poster in collage form and shared with the group. Games, a picture search, volleyball, hockey, the climbing wall, a Talent Show and even winter carpet ball were all part of the weekends activities. Set aside this weekend next year and come join the fun!

Answers to Trivia ??

Over the last couple years, we noticed an increase in propane usage. We determined the lines were leaking underground. Thanks to a loaned trencher we were able to replace the lines relatively inexpensively!

1. Volunteers laid 2,360 feet of new yellow propane gas line from the bulk tank to all of the east campus buildings in September 2011. Several years ago we replaced the lines going to the west side of the property.
2. We have saved about \$6,100 since October 1, 2011. Praise God for great things He has done!



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FULL- TIME STAFF

Doc (David) Johnson,
Executive Director
Paul Yoder,
Facilities Director
Ben Bouwman,
Program Director
Rachel Bastian,
Food Service Manager
Rebecca Hovde,
Admin. Assistant
Melissa Cook,
General Aide

Jan Gleysteen:

Mennonite Historian,
Artist, Humorist
& Author

Menno Haven is excited & honored to have Jan Gleysteen as our guest speaker for our sixth annual Fellowship 55 Retreat this fall!



For over 50 years, Jan Gleysteen has dedicated himself to the Anabaptist churches as author, artist, tour guide, humorist, and traveling lecturer. He was born in Amsterdam, Netherlands and grew up the son of a Mennonite bookseller, where his love of books began & was nurtured. He went on to author books of his own such as Mennonite Tour Guide to Western Europe. He is also a co-author of Colonial Germantown Mennonites. He blends his passion for the history of the Anabaptist faith & its churches into his concern for the future Anabaptist community, its members, & their faith as evidenced in his question: "Who are the traveling minstrels of today, going about to proclaim the church as a community committed to peace & justice, and to make sure that the great-grandchildren of our courageous ancestors don't trade their rich spiritual heritage for a mess of popular evangelical potage?" Gleysteen also emphasizes the world's need for Discipleship Christianity, where all of our life is placed under the Lordship of Christ. Please consider joining us this fall to hear this special guest!

Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

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Encountering Jesus 2012 Summer Camps

Blue Jay	June 17-22
Junior High:	
Trailblazer	June 24-June 29
Sports	June 24-June 29
Family/Bike	June 29-July 2
Night Adventure	July 8-13
High School:	
Cardinal	July 15-20
Wilderness	July 15-20
Cottontail	July 22-25

Join us this summer
as we walk alongside various New Testament
characters as they encounter Jesus ...

...from Zacchaeus as he goes
from cheating people on their taxes
to giving back 4x what he had taken
after his encounter with Jesus ...

...to the Samaritan Woman
as she encounters Jesus at the well...

We will also consider our own
encounter with Jesus.

Join us this summer as we play, worship,
meet new friends, eat some good food,
and hang out with the summer staff!

Summer Camps 2012

Encountering
Jesus

