



Menno Haven Impressions



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

2013 Fall Events

Back to School Party

Aug. 6

Adult Canoe Trip

Sept. 14-15

Fellowship 55

Oct. 1-3

Fall Work Day

Oct. 12

Fall Work Day (Rain Date)

Oct. 14

2014 Winter Events

Jr. High Winter Retreat

Jan. 10-12

High School Winter Retreat

Jan. 17-19

Family Winter Retreat

Jan. 24-26

**IL Mennonite Camp Assoc.
Annual Business Meeting**

Jan. 25

Fellowship 55

We are excited to welcome Elsie Rempel, Mennonite Church Canada Faith Formation Consultant and author of Please Pass the Faith: The Art of Spiritual Grandparenting, as she comes to speak this October. Elsie says "this book is for anyone in the last third of life who cares about the faith growth of those in the first third". Join us for games, worship, a volunteer project, food and fellowship.



Caution: Difficult Path to Follow

This summer we focused on some of the parables that Jesus told. The summer staff performed skits of the parables during morning worship and then discussed them in their cabin Bible studies. The campers learned about forgiveness, reaching out to others, and using their gifts, among other things. Jesus lived and taught about a life that was radically different from those around him and he has called us to follow in his path. We know that it is a difficult journey, but that is what we as Christians have been called to do. Along with



worship, the campers and staff enjoyed playing games, going swimming, and eating!

This summer we had an increase in campers for four out of six weeks of camp, which is more than we have had for the last three summers. We had our third consecutive canoe trip with the Wilderness Camp and were thrilled by its success!



Being Refreshed



I first walked onto Menno Haven grounds the summer after I finished 3rd grade in 2003. This year, 2013, marks my 11th straight year of coming to Menno Haven. To say that Menno Haven has played an important role in my life is simply a huge understatement. I often consider why I return to Menno Haven, year after year, and this is what I have concluded: Menno Haven refreshes me physically, emotionally and spiritually.

This year at camp I was refreshed physically as I walked back and forth from the cabin to The Lodge ten times a day. I was also refreshed when I played ultimate Frisbee, Borrow the Balls, and Persecution all in one day, and as I carried a crate of food, wood, water, sleeping bag, pillow and backpack to Trinity campfire for Home in the Woods.



I was refreshed emotionally as I spent 23 hours a day with energetic kids and my life was filled with positive people, attitudes and perspectives in a positive environment. I took a break from reading textbooks and wrote old-fashioned letters to people I wanted to stay in touch with.



I was refreshed spiritually as I listened to speakers during chapel and campfire, as I led my cabin in Bible study and it really began to click with me and my campers. I was also refreshed as I witnessed the growth that the campers showed throughout the weeks and as I took in God's beautiful creation all around me every day.

As with the last 10 summers, I find myself feeling sad that I will be leaving camp in just a few days. Leaving the place that for me really is a haven; leaving the "real world" and heading back to the "fake world"... but only for a while.

By Sarah Sutter, Head Cabin Counselor

Prayers & Praises

- Praises for our guest speakers: Eduardo Huerta, Grant Miller & Lane Miller. Thanks for sharing with the campers!!
- 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 this ministry.

Wish List

- Forever Stamps
- Laptop Computer
- 20 ft. Extension Ladder
- Dehumidifier(s)
- Assorted pool toys
- Ice Machine
- Pony Beads
- MIG Welder



Rally Day

We had another great Rally Day this year, full of worship, food, and fellowship. The weather was ominous so we held worship inside and made space for many to eat lunch in the dining hall: thankfully the rain held off for most of the day. In the afternoon we introduced 9 Square in the Air, our newest lawn game, and opened the pool and the climbing wall.

This year we started Rally Day early with a 5k Run/2k Walk to help raise money for the camper scholarship fund. The course took the participants all over the grounds and turned into more of a mud run because of all of the rain we had this spring. We had about 35 participants and raised over \$700 for the camper scholarship fund.

We would like to thank Weaver Enterprises of Peoria, IL for donating chicken for lunch. We would also like to thank all who came, and those who donated money as we raised an additional \$1,000 for camper scholarships.



Up & Coming: Adult Canoe Trip

Bring a spouse, sibling, or friend and enjoy some time away. Trust us, you will have fun! This new programmed event will take place September 14-15, 2013. We will meet on Saturday and canoe down the Rock River, spending the night at Castle Rock State Park. Visit www.mennohaven.com for more details.



Spring Work Day 2013

This past March, volunteers of all ages came out to help rake the lawns, clean the pool, clear trails and clean the dining hall. We also had two exciting projects going on. One project was building a new game called 9 Square in the Air (see picture at top of page). It is a

large outdoor game that is a mix of volleyball and four-square. The second project was renovating the cabins. The volunteers cut the bunk beds down so we have 6 bunks that have two beds each. Now the bunks are safer and hopefully the campers will have cooler nights since they will not be up so high. Join us on **October 12, 2013 for Fall Work Day** and help us get ready for winter.



Facility Updates

Lake Menno Haven Flooded

We had some significant flooding this April. The lake rose at least 7 feet and overflowed the path between Lakeview Lodge and Eagle Wing Activity Center. It washed out the gravel, wood chips and a lot of soil. Only the top knob of the hill on The Island was visible in the lake. The channel bridge was also washed out of place, but Ben and Paul used the new kayaks to float it back into place. We are very thankful to our Lord for only minor building damage!



Noah's Ark Playground

This spring we had families from Arthur Mennonite Church raise money and build a new playground. We took out the old one and built Noah's Ark in its place.

Highlights of the new playground are its 5 swings, two trapeze bars with rings, two slides, and fireman's pole.

This is such a blessing and a welcomed change to Menno Haven's grounds. The

Ark has been enjoyed by guests of all ages; campers flock to it during free time. The old playground will be moved to the campground as an update to the current structure.



Cabin Stairs

Our cabins received a make-over this summer. New stairs and decks were built to replace all of the old ones. These decks are now up to safety code and should last for many summers!



Interested in Helping?

Come volunteer anytime! Just give us a call at (815) 646-4344. You could:

- Help host guests during a weekend
- Remove Honeysuckle
- Learn how to lead the adventure course
- And much more!



New Lights in the Upper Lodge

Willow Springs Mennonite Church donated all new lights for the upper lodge. The lights are LED so they are brighter and less noisy, consume less energy and should last for over twenty years. They are also mounted flush to the ceiling, which helps to open up the room.



Summer Ministry Team

Back Row: Ben Bouwman, Ryan Miller, Lydia Johnson, Rachael Hovde, Melissa Cook, Rebecca Hovde, Bryn Hovde, Rachel Bastian, Elizabeth Henrikson, Evie Yoder, Paul Yoder, Elisabeth Porter, Leah Landes, Ella Lubienksi, Aysia Graham, Meredith Satchwell, Aaron Kaufmann, Christian Engel, Ryan Miller

Front Row: Sarah Sutter, Yasi Bouwman, Eryk Hovde, Caleb Johnson, Sheena Johnson, Amanda Cox, Doc Johnson, Gary Shelton, Nathan Hilleson, Kate Vendrely, Matthias Joireman, Josh Landis, Jeremiah Graham, Brad Sandlin



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 new Back to School Party will take place on Tuesday, August 6, 2013 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 Ministry Colleagues!!

We are seeking to fill two positions:

- 1) A full time **Program Director** who oversees summer youth camps, as well as year-round programs for all ages, Adventure Education program, and works with guest groups. Available fall 2013. Salary, housing, and benefits.
- 2) One or more individuals to fill **voluntary service positions** in a variety of areas. A commitment of at least one year is preferred. Stipend, housing and food provided.

Submit letter of interest and resume to Doc Johnson, doc@mennohaven.com or call 815-646-4344. See www.mennohaven.com for more details.

Menno Haven
 Year Round
 Staff

Doc (David) Johnson
Executive Director
 Paul Yoder
Facilities Director

Ben Bouwman
Retreat Coordinator
 Rachel Bastian
Food Service

Yasi Bouwman
Admin. Assistant
 Rebecca Hovde
Guest Group Host

Melissa Cook
Housekeeper
 Evie Yoder
Grounds-Keeper