



Menno Haven Impressions



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

2014 Spring Events

Menno Madness
3on3 Basketball Tournament
March 1

Spring Work Day April 12
(Work Day Rain Date) April 14

Rally Day May 26

5k Run/2K walk May 26

2014 Summer Events

Facilitator Workshop
June 3 – 5

Summer Staff Orientation
June 8 – 14

Summer Camps
June 15 – July 23

Back to School Party
August 5

Spring Work Day

NEW DATE

April 12, 2014

Bring your work gloves & a friend out to Menno Haven and help us prepare the camp for summer. It has been a hard winter and we need your help. If you have any special skills or have interest in leading a project please call or email us at info@mennohaven.com.



Junior High Winter Retreat

We had 87 youth and sponsors representing 10 different Mennonite Churches join us for a fun weekend. Bryan Miller, pastor at Roanoke Mennonite Church spoke on "Stories We Believe: Making Sense of Ourselves." Bryan used scripture and personal experiences to encourage us to own our stories as a piece of who we are. By doing this, we are able to recognize that God loves us no matter what, including our pasts. Then by sharing our stories with each other we are also able to connect in a deeper and more personal way. Along with listening to Bryan, the participants



enjoyed playing in the abundance of snow on camp and using the Activity Center.

High School Winter Retreat

We were joined by 69 youth & sponsors from 10 different Mennonite churches, along with representatives from 6 different Mennonite Colleges in the US & Canada. The participants enjoyed sports tournaments in the Activity Center, playing in the snow, and listening to Michael Danner, pastor at Metamora Mennonite Church speak on "Practicing Chastity." Michael stated that sex is something that is on the minds of teenagers and adults alike, yet it is something that few are prepared to talk about in the church. Danner encouraged the youth to ask questions and engage adults that they trust in conversations. We also enjoyed worshipping with a band from Bluffton University. About the weekend, one youth said "I had a very spiritual and God-like experience. I always feel that at Menno Haven. Christ is there and everyone feels it too!"



Family Winter Retreat

We had a small but lively group of 24 participants from 6 different Mennonite churches join us for Family Winter Retreat. We had a great time worshipping with River Bend, a blue grass worship band from East Bend Mennonite Church in Fisher, IL and listening to Charlotte Lehman, pastor at Reba Place Church in Evanston, IL, along with her husband Karl, speak about "Building Joyful Connections". Charlotte and Karl spoke together about emotional and psychological ways to build connections with others. They affirmed the fact that God is a relational being and that we were created to also be relational. On Saturday, we were joined by IMCA members and we enjoyed tubing, the climbing wall, and doing puzzles. One family said "It was great being at Menno Haven again! It's always a blessed and refreshing time!"





Illinois Mennonite Camp Association Annual Meeting

We had a good turn out at this year's IMCA Annual Meeting. Everyone was invited to join in the Family Camp activities where we had a good time playing games and getting to know one another.

The business meeting went well; it is always nice to share that we ended the fiscal year with a small profit. This profit has since been used to pay for projects from the past that were never fully funded.

After the business meeting, we shared a meal together and then had worship with River Bend and enjoyed listening to Karl & Charlotte Lehman speak on being relational.

We would love to have more members in our association. Call the office or email us to see how you can join.



Rally Day

Join us on **May 26** for our annual open house. Come early and participate in the second annual 5k Run/2k Walk to raise money for the Camper Scholarship Fund. Then stay to meet the 2014 summer staff, share a potluck lunch and enjoy Menno Haven for the afternoon.

Staff Transitions

Welcome Scott Litwiller



Scott joined the staff this past December as the Program Director and we are appreciating the enthusiasm he is bringing to Menno Haven's Programs. Scott graduated from Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, Manitoba with a Bachelor's degree in Biblical & Theological Studies in May 2010. He spent the past 2 years in Colombia serving with Mennonite Mission Network before moving to Menno Haven.

Welcome Andy Lanier & Family

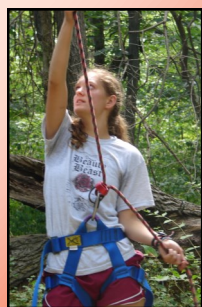
Andy Lanier joined the Menno Haven Staff in the beginning of January as the Food Service Manager. Andy has years of experience working in commercial kitchens and we look forward to the new menu ideas he will bring and his passion for food. Andy, his wife Brandie, and two daughters, Anna & Sophia, currently live in Princeton but will be moving out to the camp in the spring.



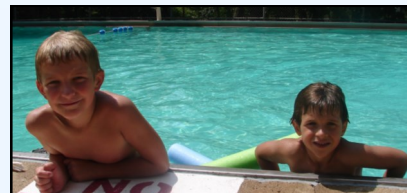
Goodbye Ben & Yasi Bouwman

Ben & Yasi will be moving to Elkhart, IN at the end of May. Ben is enrolled as a student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and will start in the fall of 2014. Yasi hopes to find a job working in the Goshen school system. Ben & Yasi enjoyed their time here and will miss being a part of this ministry.

Facilitator Workshop ~ June 3-5



This program is open to anyone 16 and older who is interested in learning more about Menno Haven's Adventure Education Course. Learn how to lead people through cooperative activities, initiatives, on the high ropes or belay them up the climbing wall. Once you have completed your training, you can be hired to facilitate for guests group here.



Join us on **August 5, 2014** for the **Back to School Party**

We had a great time last year and encourage you to come and join the fun this year! Enjoy Menno Haven as a family one last time before school starts; hang out during the day, then stay for a cookout and campfire with S'mores.



**SAVE THE
DATES**

Pine Grove Staff House Receives Update



Since we had a staff transition, we have taken this opportunity to do some much needed updates on Pine Grove Staff House. Forced-air gas heat and central air conditioning were installed in both the upper and lower apartments. The lower apartment is being renovated to include 3 bedrooms with egress windows, and an updated kitchen & bathroom. If you have



Prayers & Praises

- We are thankful for our new staff and pray that they have a good transition to Menno Haven
- We are thankful for the 150+ youth, sponsors, and families that came to the Winter Retreats
- Pray for the campers that will join us this summer; that they will experience God's world & Christ's kingdom
- We are very thankful for all of you who have supported Menno Haven with your gifts of volunteer time, resources & prayer; we couldn't be the ministry we are without you
- Pray for those considering being a part of this years summer staff

special skills with electrical or hanging drywall and have time to volunteer, please call the office to schedule a time to come. We would love your help!

INTERESTED IN HELPING?

Come volunteer anytime! Just give us a call at (815) 646-4344 or send an email to info@mennohaven.com.



You could:

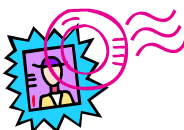
Help host guests during a weekend • Remove Honeysuckle
Learn how to lead the adventure course • Cut & stack firewood

And much more!



Wish List

- 20 ft. Extension Ladder
- Loppers
- Gas gift cards
- Front loading washer & dryer
- Dehumidifier(s)
- White Corelle® Serving Bowls
- Washable Paint
- Pony Beads
- Forever stamps



Kitchen Retaining Wall & Water Intrusion

This fall, with the help of Fellowship 55 and Fall Work Day participants, we took down the retaining wall behind the kitchen and then rebuilt it! The wall was slowly pushing out and becoming a potential hazard, so it was time to fix it. We also took this time to seal off the cement on top of the cooler (picture bottom left). There has been a water leak into the kitchen, and this allowed us to care for it before it became a bigger problem.



Join us for a Summer Ministry Opportunity!

Interested in working in an outdoor Christian setting? Join 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, and 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 Scott for more details.



Menno Haven Year Round Staff

Doc (David) Johnson
Executive Director
Paul Yoder
Facilities Director
Scott Litwiller
Program Director

Andy Lanier
Food Service Manager
Ben Bouwman
Retreat Coordinator
Evie Yoder
Grounds-Keeper

Melissa Cook
Housekeeper
Rebecca Hovde
Guest Group Host
Yasi Bouwman
Admin. Assistant



Menno Haven

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God's Own Child: Called to be Peculiar

2014 Summer Theme

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.

Throughout the week, we will look at 1 Peter 2:9 and Jesus' ministry where we are called to be peculiar in our actions, reactions, thinking and beliefs.

We will look into the life and ministry of Jesus and hear about his seemingly "peculiar" teachings and actions. We'll learn more about turning the other cheek, the last being first, and about people like the Roman centurion who believed so strongly (and peculiarly) that Jesus only had to say a word and his servant would be healed.



We would love to have you come for a week this summer. Check out our website for more details on specific camps.

