Menno Haven Impressions

THE NEWSLETTER OF MENNO HAVEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER ~ SUMMER/FALL 2016

Mark Your Calendar!

Fall Events

IMC Practical Ministry Leadership Conference
September 23-24
Silence & Solitude Retreat
September 26-28
Fall Work Day
November 5
IMC Youth Leaders' Retreat
November 11-13
IL Mennonite Camp Assoc. Annual Business Meeting
November 19

Winter Events

Family Service Week
December 18-23
Young Adults Winter Retreat
January 6-8
Bureau County Youth Retreat
January 13-15
Junior High Winter Retreat
January 20-22
High School Winter Retreat
January 27-29
IMC Practical Ministry Leadership Conference
February 10-11

Spring Events

Menno Madness
March 11
Spring Work Day
April 8
IMC Women's Retreat
May 5-7

WHO IS YOUR SHEPHERD?

Who is your Shepherd? This was the question we asked this summer at Menno Haven, guided by John 10:1-18. Campers were challenged to be aware of the different voices calling out to them, wanting them to follow. For some, the voices may be success in sports, academics, and money; others may hear the call of popularity, influence, and fame. Among these voices is the voice of Jesus calling out for us to follow. Our speakers this year, Tyler and Kendra Yoder for Junior High camp, and Hillary Watson for High School, helped us to see deeper and from different angles into what is going on in the passage from John that we studied. Campers were impacted by camp. In one conversation with their counselor, a camper realized that they also had a voice that influenced others, and they could use their voice to help others follow Jesus, or be a distracting voice. Another camper realized that they should maybe re-evaluate their relationship with athletics and success. 285 campers came to Menno Haven across 6 camps this summer. We pray that their lives were touched in some way by their time here, and that God may continue to be at work in their lives as they continue to discern who their true shepherd is.

Solitude & Silence Retreat September 26-28

"In silence we not only withdraw from the demands of life in the company of other but also allow the noise of our own thoughts, strivings and compulsions to settle down so we can hear a truer and more reliable Voice. ... It is in silence that we habitually release our own agendas and our need to control and become more willing and able to give ourselves to God's loving initiative."

"In solitude God begins to free us from our bondage to human expectations, for there we experience God as our ultimate reality. ... In solitude our thoughts and our mind, our will and our desires are reoriented Godward so we become less and less attracted by external forces and can be more deeply responsive to God's desire and prayer in us." -Ruth Haley Barton, *Invitation to Solitude and Silence*

This fall at Menno Haven we will be hosting a Solitude and Silence Retreat. Retreatants will be invited to about 36 hours of silence across an evening, a day, and a morning (September 26-28). There will be guided meditations/devotions and resources to help enter into silence and listen for God at work in the heart. All of Menno Haven's 231 acres are open for those searching for deeper solitude as well. Much of the time is unstructured to allow for time to pray and be with God. Space is limited. See our website or contact Jacob for more details.

Family Camp & Rally Day

This year Family Camp was again the weekend going into Rally Day. We had 45 people for Family Camp, staying in RV's, hotels, tents, and dorm rooms. All had a good time fellowshipping, enjoying activities, and listening to our speaker, Matt Hickman. Matt, Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Life at Mennonite Church of Normal talked about the alternatives to violence found in the teachings of Jesus. When we do something unexpected it makes the other person's brain go *bzztt*. In that moment they become open to new things, and doors can be opened that lead to new relationships and not violent solutions. Some other highlights included Kettle Korn at the Hayfield under a gorgeous sky, and a nature hike led by Matt.

As family camp ended, Rally Day began. The day's events started with a 5k trail run and 2k walk. Jonathan Landis took home first on the guy's side, and Lucy Unzicker won gold for the women. It was a hot and grueling trail race, but about 14 people toughed it out to the end. The day continued with the summer blessing service on the patio, followed by the delicious BBQ chicken potluck. Over 250 people took in the grounds, and enjoyed fellowshipping, bidding on desserts, boating, swimming, and zip-lining. $1,270 was raised for campers to attend camp. This year we handed out 14 scholarships for campers to attend camp that otherwise could not afford it.

Next year's Family Camp will be May 26-29 and Rally Day will be May 29th!

Working for Christ's Kingdom and God's Creation

For several years now I have been thinking about Menno Haven and all it has meant to me since I counseled there in the early seventies. Discontented with my regular job, and feeling that I was just a cog in a corporate machine, I wondered how it might feel to get back to an institution that aligned with my values. My general thought was, "I started out at Menno Haven; what would it feel like to end up there?" Little did I know that I would have a whack at that idea sooner rather than later!

Visiting the camp on Rally Day of this year, not long after I had been laid off, I heard that Jacob was still looking to fill vacancies on the summer staff, and I thought I could help out perhaps in the kitchen or on maintenance. But when I talked to him, he told me that he needed counselors even more than kitchen help. So with a gulp I said yes. After forty five years.

What did I learn? I learned that children can always stump you once in a while – no matter how old and wise you think you are. I learned that young adults are sometimes disappointed that you are not really that much wiser with age. I learned that I can still run faster than most third graders – beyond that it's a toss-up. I re-learned how much I love sharing life with others, outside in God's creation, especially sleeping outside under the stars with a soft night wind blowing over your face and waking up at dawn when the sky lightens. I revisited what a delight it is when everyone stops as one to look at a blue heron flying directly overhead to roost in a tree nearby, or when a barn owl hisses from the night woods.

I realized that no matter what job I did for Menno Haven, from cleaning hotel rooms to spreading wood chip mulch on trails to counseling cabin groups, it was sheer joy to serve a place and people that put such thought and effort into the embodiment of Christ's kingdom and stewardship of God's creation. We talked this summer about the loving voice of our Good Shepherd Jesus, about finding that voice among the many others in the cacophony that surrounds us in our busy electronic lives. Sometimes the Good Shepherd's voice can be found in a crazy idea that pops into your head when you are unhappy or discontented. Most of all, I learned that Jesus wants to sneak into the cracks of your armor and infiltrate your life with peace and purpose. And God's grace will be with you no matter what voice you are listening to at the time, no matter how imperfect or inattentive you are, and no matter what voice you are talking to God with.

Kate Kortemeier
Summer Staff 2016

Interested in Helping?

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

Help host guests during a weekend • Do trail maintenance • Learn how to lead on the adventure course

• Build a retaining wall • Clear invasive plants • Split wood • Help with a mailing • Wash windows

Oak Lodge: Dorm and Hotels Renovation Update

Are you ready? We are! Starting October 10, 2016 the sounds of demolition will return to Menno Haven as we begin the renovation of the bunkrooms and hotel rooms in the Oak Lodge. It has been a long time coming.

Like the Hickory House Renovation, the 2 bunkrooms will transition into 4 dorms rooms that each sleep 9-11 people with an attached bathroom, a commons room, and a centralized handicapped bathroom with walk-in shower off of the commons room. In addition, every dorm *and* hotel room will receive individually controlled heating and cooling units. This renovation will also address maintenance issues such as moisture control, improved lighting, and increased electrical outlets, etc. If you want to see what it will look like, come see the already renovated Hickory Dorm Rooms and Hotel Rooms which were completed the winter 2015. Our guest groups have LOVED these updated rooms!

In order for this renovation project to succeed, we need you. First and foremost we need your prayers. We desire to have every day prayed for during the project. Go to www.mennohaven.com to sign up for a day(s) to pray. This will also sign you up to receive regular updates about the renovation process.

We need your physical help. Paul Yoder, the Project Manager, has asked for 4 volunteers a day to get the project done on time by the beginning of January. We need people with skills for demolition, plumbing, electrical, framing, hanging insulation, heating & cooling, dry walling, finish carpentry, and final cleaning. See the tentative calendar on the right. Talk with Sheena Johnson, the Volunteer Coordinator, by emailing sheena@mennohaven.com if you are interested in lending a hand or coordinating a group. Working with friends makes any task fun!

We also need your financial help. The approximate cost to renovate the dorm and hotel rooms is $190,000, less if professionals volunteer their time rather than needing to hire skilled professionals. Our goal is to have 75% of the funds in hand by January 2017 with gifts or pledges being given through December 2017. This could be supplemented by no interest loans to assist with cash flow through December 2017. We currently have raised $40,000. Talk with Doc Johnson, if you are interested or able to give financially at this time.

October 2016

Oak Guest Lodge Renovation 2016-2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9	10 Bunk Bed Removal	11 Demolition ---------|	12	13 Removal of cement for plumbing	14	15 Menno Ch. of Normal Jr High boys & dads
16	17 Dig trenches for plumbing lines -|	18	19	20 Install plumbing lines ----------|	21	22
23	24 Prep and pour cement ----------|	25	26 Frame interior walls & install concealed beam and remove old beam - ---------->	27	28	29
30	31 Continue framing ->					

NOTES
** We need 1-2 people for 2 weeks to plane/ sand trim
** We need heating and cooling persons for 2-3 weeks for heating and cooling installation in October.

Tentative schedule

November 2016

Oak Guest Lodge Renovation 2016-2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31 Continue framing ---|	1	2 Plumbing rough in (4 volunteers) -----|	3	4	5
	Electrical rough in - finish by November 12 (4 volunteers) ------->					
6	7 Frame exterior (east) wall & install windows (4 volunteers) ----------|	8	9	10	11	12
	Demo Hotel Hallway - (4 volunteers)----- ----------|					
	Metamora Mennonite bringing 5 volunteers ----------|					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Hang insulation ----------|					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Hang drywall ----------|				Mud sheet rock--->	
27	28 Mud sheet rock	29	30	1	2	3
		Paint ----------|				

December 2016

Oak Guest Lodge Renovation 2016-2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
		Paint ----------|				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Finish Plumbing - with 4 volunteers ----------|					
	Finish Electrical - with 4 volunteers ----------|					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Install flooring in bathrooms & commons ----------|					
	Stewart Flooring ----------					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Install trim/baseboard, hang doors, install countertops & mirrors --|					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Install carpet ----|		Move in bunk beds and do final cleaning ---|			

Tentative schedule

(New pictures are from the Hickory House Renovation)

Summer Staff:

Back Row: Cameron Ponce, Eli Schrock, Annika Myers, Jordan Hodges, Isaac Tice, Jacob Landis

Second Row: Clayton Cina, Cynnandra Luttrell, Katie Landes, Auriel McKnight, Beverly Mercer, Andy Lanier

Third Row: Raychell Thomas, Wes Crandal, Zack Begly, Kate Kortemier, Leah Roth, Dustin Sutton

Front Row: Abbie Kaser, Jess Raffel, Abina Redmond, Sheena Johnson, Doc Johnson, Lydia Johnson, Caleb Johnson, Anna Lanier

Not pictured: Dean Bachman, Hannah Bachman, Susan Cater, Alex Delgadillo, Samuel Flannigan, Beth Gerig, Matt Hickman, James Kang, Aaron Kaufman, Trevor Kaufman, Kendra Kelly, Joshua Landis, Angela Lane, Kari Lane, Kenny Lane, Brandie Lanier, Sophia Lanier, Ella Lubienski, Janet Luttrell, Nathan Miller, Stanley Mercer, Michelle Moyer, Dallas Spencer, Rachel Stella, Hillary Watson, Evie Yoder, Kendra Yoder, Paul Yoder, Tyler Yoder

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WISH LIST

- Ventrac
- Heavy duty white shower curtains

- Zippered pillowcase protectors
- Basketballs & volleyballs
- Forever Stamps

- Sing the Story Hymnals
- Sing the Journey Hymnals

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

Menno Haven Year Round Staff

Doc (David) Johnson
Executive Director
Jacob Landis
Program Director
Beverly Mercer
Housekeeper
Isaac Tice
General Aide
Tim Gale
Facilities Director (On Medical Leave)
Kenny Lane
Guest Group Coordinator
Andy Lanier
Food Service Manager
Evie Yoder
Grounds-Keeper
Vic Archer
Interim Facilities Director