



Menno Haven Impressions



THE NEWSLETTER OF MENNO HAVEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER ~ SUMMER 2017

Mark Your Calendar!



Fall Events

Volleyball Tournament
October 21
Fall Work Day
November 4
IL Mennonite Camp Assoc.
Annual Business Meeting
November 18

Winter Events

Young Adults Winter
Retreat
January 5-6
High School Winter Retreat
January 12-14
Junior High Winter Retreat
January 19-21

Spring Events

Spring Work Day
March 17
Lifeguard Workshop
May 21-23

WISH LIST

- Ventrac
- Forever Stamps
- Sing the Story Hymnals
- Sing the Journey Hymnals
- Digital Cameras
- Corelle Coffee Cups
- Spike Ball



Fearless Faith: Trust in God



This summer we had 239 campers. This summer there were many meaningful small group interactions with counselors, staff, and other campers. We explored the theme of Trusting in God through our chapels, bible studies, and evening campfires. For Junior High Camp we had Jacob Landis as speaker, and for High School Camp Aaron Yoder, pastor of First Mennonite Church of Morton, was our speaker. Both led the campers into a deeper level of what it means to Trust God in our lives and the various challenges that go along with that. If you are interested in the Bible Studies we used this summer or dates for next summer go to www.mennohaven.com to learn more!



Family Camp & Rally Day

This last May we had 35 campers join us for Family Camp. Randal Koehler led the worship and discussion sessions. It was a more relaxed atmosphere during our speaking sessions this year, with much of the time devoted to guided conversations in groups. Time was also spent playing group games, boating, and enjoying good conversation. Join us next year **May 25-28** for a Family Vacation like no other!



More than 100 people enjoyed the beautiful weather at Rally Day this year. The day began with the 5k race. It was a bit muddy around the lake thanks to our wet spring which led to some slight course alterations! Later in the morning all gathered for our blessing service for the summer. We sang songs, prayed, heard about the upcoming summer theme, met our summer staff, and had a good time! By the time the service ended it was time for lunch. The smell of fresh BBQ chicken was in the air. (Our Food Service Manager said it just might have been the best chicken we've ever made thanks to some nifty hickory smoking!) As the meal began we enjoyed fellowshiping with those gathered which continued on through the afternoon as people spread out to take advantage of such activities as climbing on the rock wall at the Activity Center and boating. Join us next year on **May 28** for our annual open house and celebration of summer!

Summer of Growth

Coming into this summer I did have some uncertainties. I wasn't sure how the staff from last year would be different and how I would interact with the new staff. The summer staff from this year was quite a bit different but I really enjoyed being with all of them this year. We had a fun summer together. This summer I brought a new confidence in knowing that I was doing exactly what I did last year and that I already had a year of this under my belt. I knew how to spend my time and how to make the most of it for the campers. I think this year I really started to notice how big of an impact camp really has on the campers and how many of them look forward to this week for the calendar year. This week of camp for them is a true break from the regular year. The campers all have friends here from previous years and making the most of their time together and making memories is very important to many of them. This year I was not as worried about how to get to activities on time but instead focus more on building relationships in and around camp, especially with the boys in my cabin.

I found there were three things that stood out most about this summer. The first would be the increase of just listening to camper's stories and past experiences and many would ask about my past and how I dealt with things or my opinion about different topics. This was a way to mentor and share how I've matured and the way I went about making decisions. The second would be compassion. Compassion in just knowing that by being with these kids you could potentially have an effect on them that could last a lifetime and the memories they make this one week can affect their whole world and how they could treat others. The third would be direction. Many of these kids had started their walk with Christ but just didn't know what they should do next. Many of the bible lessons had tasks for the day and items to think about, and these small reminders every day showed these kids that there are little tasks we as individuals can do to show the love of Jesus through our actions and the way we treat others.

This summer was a beneficial experience. I know I learned a lot about myself and grew in many ways. The knowledge from the year before helped me focus on new aspects of interactions with campers. I am very blessed by the decision of Menno Haven to have me back for another summer this year.



Wes Crandall
Head Cabin Counselor, Summer 2016, 2017



It is odd to think that a few short months ago, I did not know anything about Menno Haven, except that it was a camp. It caught me by surprise how quickly the summer flew by and how easy it was to fall in love with camp life at Menno Haven.

Towards the end of March, I was starting to panic because I had no idea what I was going to do all summer. School would be out in a month and I had no plans. So when I heard that Jacob was looking for summer staff, I thought that this was something that I could have a lot of fun doing for the summer. The only thing that was holding me back was that I knew nothing about Menno Haven. I had never gone as a camper and my family had no connections to Menno Haven. I was going in blind.

Even though I was hesitant, I still told Jacob that I would come for the summer. That turned out to be a great decision. My summer was filled with laughter and learning. I learned firsthand what it meant to live out my faith fearlessly. I learned that kids will be kids, and sometimes you just have to embrace it and roll with it. Those improvised moments can lead to more fun and, potentially, growth than anything that could be planned.

After my summer at Menno Haven, I feel refreshed and ready to take on whatever this next year will hold. Even if I only spent 2 months at Menno Haven, it will now hold a little piece of my heart and I will always look back at my time there with fondness.



Hannah Wheeler
Head Cabin Counselor, Summer 2017



THANKS

Thank You, Tim, For Your Service!

Facilities Director, Tim Gale and his family left Menno Haven to begin a new adventure at the end of May 2017. We wish Tim and his family the best as they continue to serve the community in a new capacity. Thank you, Tim, for sharing your gifts of ministry the last two years.

Oak Lodge: Dorm and Hotels Renovation Update

“[The] dorms are fantastic! So grateful!”

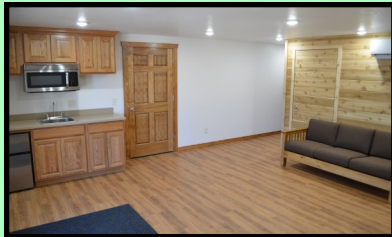
Remarks like this are typical from guests who reside in the new dorm rooms and can remember the old style bunkrooms. Additional comments about the hotel and dorm renovations include:

- “Great remodeling job, very cozy feel. Enhanced. Overall better look.”
- “New dorm rooms are comfortable and clean.”
- “Own temperature control & no air vents [into the hallway] are nice to have.”

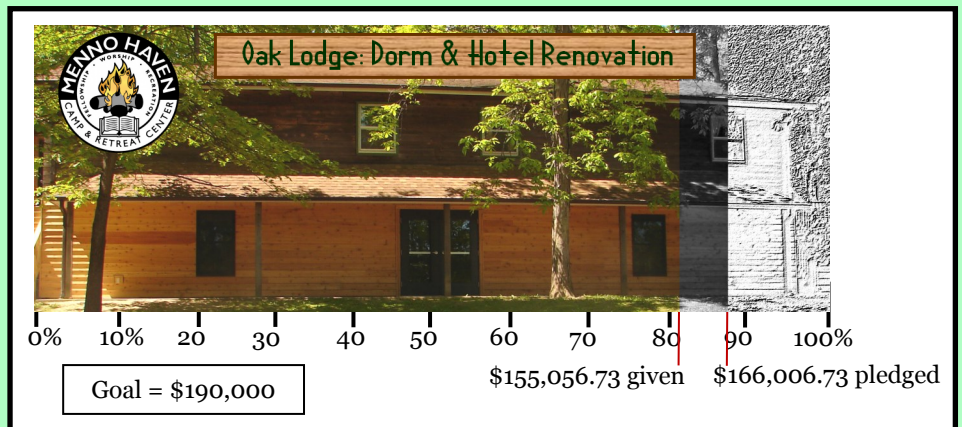


Improved layout and light, more private bathrooms, and upgraded furnishings and finishes all lend to a much improved stay. Thanks for those who helped to make the Hickory House and Oak Lodge renovations possible.

In the last six+ months close to 2000 individual people have benefitted from the renovations and upgrades completed in Hickory House and Oak Lodge's hotel and dorm rooms. These individuals have been part of: family reunions, youth groups, men's groups, women's groups, church groups, and youth camps. Were you one of these individuals?



Currently 87%, or \$166,000, has been raised towards the \$190,000 goal for the Oak Lodge Renovation. We would like to have this project fully funded by December 31, 2017. Contact Doc Johnson, Executive Director, (doc@mennohaven.com, 815-646-4344, www.mennohaven.com/donate) if you are feeling called to help bring this project to a close and be part of the group who funds the last \$24,000!



Welcome

Welcome Archer Family!

In June, Vic Archer's position of Interim Facilities Director transitioned into the permanent Facilities Director. Vic, his wife Jennifer, and two children, Owen (10) and Macy (6) moved to Menno Haven from Kalona, Iowa. After driving truck for 24 years, Vic & Jennifer decided it was time for a more family-friendly job. God opened this doors for them to join the staff at Menno Haven and the Archers are enjoying being together every day as they serve the ministry of Menno Haven.



Summer Staff:

Back Row: Paul Yoder, Kenny Lane, Sawyer Gray, Gabrien Graham, Tony Bender, Joe Kabira, Vic Archer, Andy Lanier, Doc Johnson, Sheena Johnson

Middle Row: Caleb Johnson, Evie Yoder, Angela Lane, Katie Landes, Clara Unzicker, Annika Myers, Abbie Kaser, Jennifer Archer, Owen Archer, Eli Schrock, Wes Crandell, Max Dumyahn

Front Row: Anna Lanier, Beverly Mercer, Jakob Landes, Jacob Landis, Lydia Johnson, Macy Archer, Sophia Lanier, Morgan Graybill, Charlotte Bender, Hannah Wheeler

Not Pictured: Dale Bastian, Dana Bastian, Zach Begly, Dianna Black, Tray Fisher, Michelle Harris, Rachel Hovde, Rebecca Hovde, Briana Jungnickel, Emily Kettering, Jonathan Landis, Brandie Lanier, Nellie Sherrick, Tom Sutter, Raychell Thomas, Roy Thomas, Aries Thompson, Lucy Unzicker, Luke Wheeler, Simon Zehr



Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

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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
- Clear invasive plants
 - Split wood
- Help with a mailing
- Wash windows

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
Andy Lanier
Food Service Manager

Kenny Lane
Guest Group Coordinator
Evie Yoder
Grounds-Keeper
Vic Archer
Facilities Director
Sheena Johnson
Volunteer Coordinator