

The 50th Year Celebration Campaign Update

Pledged/in-hand: \$225,000

1st Silent Auction: \$4,150

Campaign goal: \$400,000

Components:

Barn Raising: \$30,000

Facility Improvements &

Upgrades: \$120,000

Elimination of debt:

~~\$120,000~~ ... \$60,000 remaining

50th Celebration Exp. &

Operating fund: \$130,000



Upcoming Events:

Summer Camps:

High School ~ July 13-18

Speaker: Michael Danner

Adventure ~ July 20-25

Cottontail ~ July 27-30



3rd Annual "Bike for Menno Haven" ~ July 19

Fellowship 55 ~ Oct 7-9

Fall Work Day ~ Oct 27

IMCA Annual Retreat ~ November 21-22



See web for color version of newsletter!

Rally Day Weekend – Celebrating 50 Years ~

Saturday: Service & Stewardship

Menno Haven was a veritable bee hive of activity on Saturday, May 24th. All around the property transformation was happening to the glory of God by approximately 130 volunteers. Sounds of hammers, saws, drills and lively conversations could be heard from the ball field to the campground and points in between. So, what was all the commotion about? Along with celebrating 50 years of existence is the realization that good stewardship is required to ensure a healthy future. Menno Haven is blessed with wonderful facilities and natural resources, but these need constant upkeep. Saturday's "Barn Raising" work day was designed to give us a face lift if not an extreme makeover. It was a feast for the senses!



If you were a squirrel scampering around Menno Haven that day here is some of what you would've witnessed:

- ⊗ A 10 ft. x 12 ft. shed took shape at the ball field; this will be of great benefit to our summer program as equipment can be stored in a more organized and accessible fashion.
- ⊗ The "Prairie People" (statue along the driveway) were visited by kind folks who gave them a bath and a new layer of sealant to protect from the elements.
- ⊗ An intergenerational crew wielded paint brushes to beautify the inside of Lakeview Lodge.
- ⊗ Those not daunted by high places were on the roof of Hickory House (the south hotel building). Continuing the project begun on Friday, they removed two old layers of shingles and placed new shingles down.
- ⊗ On the patio, a small cluster of people chatted as they delicately painted in the engraved names of campfire sites onto hand-made rough board signs. By the end of the day 19 signs were posted from Pine Point to Trinity.
- ⊗ The view of the lake became less obstructed as truckload after truckload of honeysuckle brush was cut out and hauled away. This also cleared the path to the new bridge that leads to the boating area.
- ⊗ As invasive plants were removed, native varieties were being planted near Eagle Wing Activity Center. This is an effort to restore some of the natural prairie plants common to this area, and a testimony to our concern for all of God's creation.
- ⊗ And we all would've fainted away had it not been for the caring efforts of the kitchen crew. Tasty snacks and hearty meals provided physical rejuvenation as well as time for rest and fellowship.



... continued on page 2 column ...

Saturday continued ...

- ⊗ At the campground 20 picnic tables and 12 cedar benches were built. These will be placed at various locations to serve our campers and guests as they enjoy time spent outdoors.

All of these projects, some very visible, some less obvious, will have long-term benefits to the life and ministry of Menno Haven. They will help preserve the resources we have and improve the services we can offer to all who come. Thank you, thank you - to those who prayed for this day, to those who came with their energy and expertise, to those who provided funds for these projects. To God, the giver of all good, thank you!



GET TO KNOW US ☺

Full-time Staff:

Doc (David) Johnson,
Executive Director
Jennifer Kaufmann,
Program Director
David Horst,
Facilities Director
Rachel Bastian,
Food Service Manager
Rebecca Kauffman,
Administrative Assistant
Dennis Alm,
Custodian
Dani Larson,
General Aide (VS)



Menno Haven
Camp & Retreat Center
9301 1575 East St
Tiskilwa, IL 61368
Ph: 815-646-4344
Fax: 815-646-4301

info@mennohaven.com
www.mennohaven.com



Menno Haven hosts Illinois Annual Assembly ~

Menno Haven was pleased to host the Annual Assembly of the Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC), April 4 – 6, 2008. Speakers, congregational singing, discussions and business centered on the theme "Speak & Live the Reign of God." It was especially meaningful to have

delegates and friends here to help celebrate 50 years of ministry and partnership between Menno Haven and the churches of the conference. Conference minister Wayne Hochstetler presented a plaque on behalf of the churches of IMC to Menno Haven executive director Doc Johnson (center in photo). It reads: "With deep appreciation for 50 years of faithfully planting & nurturing seeds of Christian faith, and in recognition of the multitude of campers who have flowered into church leaders and faithful members throughout this conference, this country and around the world. May God continue to richly bless your ministry."

Rally Day Sunday: Worship & Story Telling

Sunday's events were a feast for the spirit. Approximately 165 people gathered for morning worship under and around a large tent on the front lawn, making good use of the new benches and tables. Alton Horst, former Menno Haven director, brought an encouraging message: faith serves as a deep resource from which we can face life and move forward with vision, just as the founders of Menno Haven did. The afternoon offered a variety of activities for people to choose from: a hymn sing, a memoir writing workshop, ball field games, boating, zip line, and simply enjoying the grounds.



As evening came people gathered again for a good old-fashioned ice cream social and story telling time. Interspersed and framed by camp songs led by Phil Kaufmann and Phyllis Horst (see photo left), the mic was passed around for former campers, staff and families to reminisce about Menno Haven experiences. There were stories about canoe trip experiences, food, sleeping outside, and many more. If you have a story you'd like to tell or write we are still collecting them – send an email to 50th@mennohaven.com.

Rally Day Monday: Celebration & Dedication

About 200 people came on Monday to enjoy the grounds, see old friends, observe the changes of the past year, and help usher in the 2008 summer camp season. In the morning, full time and summer staff were commissioned for service of the campers. An update was given on *The 50th Year Celebration Campaign*. Winners of the silent auction items were announced. A second silent auction will run from now till November 21st. (see website for details)

One highlight of the day was the dedication of a "Founders Grove" of trees that will line Prairie Lane driveway. Four trees have already been transplanted from the tree field and more will be added. These symbolize the seeds of faith planted in many lives over the past 50 years, and the seasons of flowering that have been experienced – and are yet to come. Elton Ulrich (photo left), Alton Horst, Rod Detweiler and others spoke about the founding and growth of Menno Haven – the vision, challenges and fruitfulness of the early years.



~ Rebecca Kauffman, Administrative Assistant