



BATHHOUSES...CHECK! KITCHEN IS NEXT!!!

By Valerie Klaassen

Following the incorporation of Camp Mennoscah in 2012, the members of the board of directors, staff and constituents identified three major facility needs: bathhouses, kitchen/dining hall, and staff houses.

Our consideration with each project is to enhance our hospitality and the experiences that guests have as they spend time renewing themselves and their relationship to God at Camp Mennoscah. Thanks to donations of time and money from constituents and funds available through Vision 2012, the bathhouses are complete!

Staff and volunteers have been meeting to plan the remodeled kitchen/dining hall and board members approved a preliminary kitchen floor plan in May. Important considerations for the remodel include locating equipment to maximize worker efficiency, meeting health requirements, updating the equipment, enhancing the working environment (make it cooler!!!), and allowing for better traffic flow. The first

portion of the project is to add 22 feet of space to the east of the current kitchen. We have money in hand that will allow us to complete this phase after the summer camping season 2016. The next phase will be to reconfigure the current kitchen and add new equipment, windows, and air conditioning. In addition to the kitchen space, we plan to update the dining hall whose cornerstone was laid in 1950. Creating an inviting entrance to the building, improving acoustics, replacing windows and adding insulation are all being considered for this space.



Footprint of addition

We do not yet have a firm estimate for the kitchen/dining hall renovation but as plans solidify we will make that information as well as details and floor plans available to you! Watch for information on the web site, Facebook and the newsletter or ask a board member for an update. Please, carefully consider how you might partner with Camp Mennoscah in this much needed renovation project! We appreciate your donations of skills and dollars!

Executive Director Search

By Miriam Krehbiel

Camp Mennoscah sadly announces Jerry Kroeker has officially resigned from his post as executive director of Camp Mennoscah. In a statement from Kroeker he shared “I want to thank the Camp Mennoscah community for the opportunity to serve as the executive director. I am disappointed to announce my resignation at this time. The timing and extended transition were more difficult than I anticipated. I feel truly blessed to have gotten to know so many people who care so deeply about Camp Mennoscah.”

The Board of Directors at Camp Mennoscah is currently accepting applications to fill Kroeker’s position. For more information contact David Weaver at 620-327-0371. In the interim period, Camp Mennoscah will continue its service to campers of all ages.

Valiant Volunteers: Ruth Buller

By Jill Robb

When they come to Camp Mennoscah, most campers are excited to experience the river, swimming pool, and experience God in a natural setting. Many don't think of the food that is lovingly prepared for them or the people who prepare it. However, there is one former head cook in particular who viewed it as her mission to do such a thing.

Ruth (Entz) Buller was a head cook at Camp Mennoscah in the late 80s and into the 90s. While she seemed quiet to those who did not know her, she thoroughly loved to be around people—especially kids. As a child, Ruth attended camp, but being shy in nature, did not enjoy her time as a camper. It wasn't until she came back as an adult to cook that she truly found her passion for her ministry to serve others.



Over the last several years, Ruth battled cancer, passing away in the Fall of 2015. Ruth's husband, Eric, views her legacy at Camp Mennoscah to be one of food and friendliness. Her legacy also involves pranks pulled on former director, Don Troyer. Her legacy lives on with the recipes she has shared in the Camp Mennoscah cookbook. Ruth was a person who not only enjoyed the company of

others but found joy in serving others and giving back to those around her.

The next time you are serving or receiving a meal at camp, remember Ruth and the joy she found in serving others through the ministry of cooking.

You are truly missed, Ruth!

What's Happening at Camp Mennoscah?

By Olivia Bartel

As the weather heats up and the calendar flips over to June, we jump head-first into summer youth camps. We'll be having so much fun, we won't come up for air until August. Our big summer season will end with our Camp Sing on August 7 with much laughter and joyous singing. But our mission of being in relationship with God and nature and others extends beyond those two months of energy and laughter, of course. We have several other retreats coming up this fall. All of them are great and wonderful.

The Young Adult Retreat will be a time to relax and regroup for young adults age 18 and older. Mental Health Spiritual Retreat and Women & Girls Retreat are at the beginning of September. Work & Play Camp has been scheduled over a weekend so everyone who is busy during the week can join us for fun volunteering, worship, and coffee breaks. For a bit of extra fun, our

Annual Meeting will be part of this retreat. Then the Scrapbook and Crafts Retreats in November will finish out our year. What fun we'll have!

Come be part of this sacred place. Come spend time in this sacred space we have for you. Register on line at www.campmennoscah.org.

Young Adult Retreat, July 29-31

Camp Sing, August 7 at 6:30pm
at Grace Hill Mennonite Church

Mental Health Spiritual Retreat, September 4-5

Women & Girls Retreat, September 9-11
(organized by Women in Mission)

Work & Play Camp, September 16-21 with the
Annual Meeting on September 18th—*Everyone Invited!*

Fall Scrapbooking Retreats,
October 28-30 & November 4-6

New Home for the Allis Chalmers Tractor

By Ashlynn Hamm

Camp Mennoscah donated an Allis Chalmers 170 Gas Tractor to the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale. According to appraiser Jerry Toews, the tractor was in great working condition and had a current market value of around \$4400. Camp Mennoscah received this tractor as a donation years ago and was pleased to pass it on to the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale.



“Draw near to God and God will draw near to you” (James 4:8)

By Willmar Harder

At a recent Board meeting we were reminded that from its beginning this scripture has influenced and guided Camp Mennoscah’s development and programming. But is it really true-I mean the promise from scripture? I recently attended Men & Boys Retreat and it sure seemed true for the first day when nature was beautiful. But after a rain-soaked night in our tent, I was not so sure the next morning. Maybe that’s the point. It’s easy to “draw near” God when things are going well and everything is nice and sunny, but when it gets messy how does God “draw near” us? Several weeks have passed and as I think about God’s presence in my soggy tent experience (with four boys), maybe God did “draw near” in ways more mundane than I at first noticed. After all, our camping neighbors gave us something hot to drink and helped us pack-up.

The new bath-houses--built with the generous donations of time and money--had consistent hot water that cured our hypothermia. When I got home my wife helped me hang the tent out to dry. All said and done, the boys and I still talk about the night in our “waterproof” tent, not necessarily as a bad memory, but instead a memory that has become part of our journey together. So yes, God did draw near, and even in unpleasant circumstances and in unexpected ways. As I think about being wet at Camp Mennoscah, I also think of the joyful news I received this week. Eight people in our church have requested baptism-baptism in the river at Camp Mennoscah. Seven of the eight, named camp as a “significant experience that has helped me grow as a Christian.”

May Camp Mennoscah continue to be a place where God draws near to us all.

Troyer House

By Jon Miller



Don and Mary Troyer, former Camp Mennoscah directors (1988-2000) have donated their house and property in Murdock to Camp Mennoscah. The house will serve as home to Camp Mennoscah volunteers.

After leaving Camp Mennoscah, Don and Mary moved to La

Junta Colorado, where Don worked for the National Park service at Bent's Fort National Historic site and Mary as an RN in Public Health. In 2012 they decided to retire and purchased the house in Murdock. In the fall of 2015, they moved to their present home at Mennonite Friendship Communities in South Hutchinson as both have relatives in

the area. Upon learning of their move, members of the Camp Mennoscah board approached them about possibly purchasing their property. Instead of selling the property, Don and Mary graciously donated it to Camp Mennoscah .

The following are highlights of their time at Camp Mennoscah:

- When they came, summer camp attendance was 300-400 campers; when they concluded their time attendance was 600-700.
- The number of camp weeks increased from 8 to 9.
- Work and Play camp attendance ranged from 70-90 people. Don and Mary noted that many of these attendees at Work and Play Camp were in their youth when the camp property was obtained .
- Fund-raising events included dinners and quilts that were made and sold.

Thank you, again, Don and Mary!

We have so much we want to share with you! The items on our wish list will keep you happily in your “camp zone” whether that’s relaxing under the shelter or splashing through the river. The prices listed are from smile.amazon.com (pick Camp Mennoscah as your charity and we get a percentage back!) unless otherwise noted. We added the Amazon items to our Camp Mennoscah wish list (search for office@campmennoscah.org). You may be able to find better prices elsewhere and we always suggest folks shop local! ***Thank you for the many gifts we have already received!***

- New refrigerator for pop/juice break, \$600
- Archery target cover, \$16
- Soccer ball, \$13
- Hymnal: A Worship Book* with vinyl cover (50) @ \$2.19 each at <http://store.mennomedia.org/Hymnal-Cover-P340.aspx>
- Canoe, 15.6’-The least expensive one we found so far is at <http://www.saleawayscabana.com> for ~\$400 including shipping. It appears to be very similar to the ones we currently own.
- 56” and/or 40” double loop bow strings for recurve bows, \$23 + shipping at <http://www.campexpress.com/double-loop-bow-strings-3-pack>





Camp Mennoscah

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The board wants to thank our year-round staff for all they do to make Camp Mennoscah a place where people of all ages come to renew themselves, their relationships and their connection to God. During this busy time at camp we acknowledge again how important Olivia, Gardell and Deborah are to Camp Mennoscah! We are grateful as well for our temporary and volunteer staff and the tremendous amount of time and energy they will spend over the summer providing a safe, fun, hospitable place for our guests!

THANK YOU ALL and blessings to each of you this summer!

Camp Mennoscah Board Members

Meet the Summer Staff!



"If I were a type of cheese, I would be fresh mozzarella."
-Roxy Gehring, Music



"If I were a puzzle piece, I would be an edge piece."
-Amy Wedel, Office Assistant



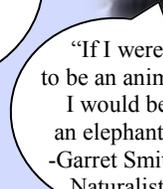
"If I were an ice cream flavor, I would be Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough."
-Josh Carlgren, Asst. Lifeguard/Maintenance



"If I were a bear, I would be a polar bear."
-Kate Jolliff, Crafts



"If I were a bird, I would be a peacock."
-Ashlynn Hamm, Media-Office Assistant



"If I were to be an animal, I would be an elephant."
-Garret Smith, Naturalist



"If I were a bear, I would be a panda bear."
-Adam Voth, Maintenance



"If I were a pair of shoes, I would be Texas."
-Keri Kauffman, Head Lifeguard



"If I were an animal, I would be koala-because they like to cuddle, sleep, and make friends."
-Hannah Carlgren, Asst. Lifeguard/Maintenance




2016 T-Shirt design by Jesse Graber





www.campmennoscah.org

