



Aging Facilities Require Attention

By: Isaac Entz and Jeffrey Graber

A church is more than just a building, or a physical location. It's also the people who gather. The same can be said for Camp, but the location and the buildings certainly add to the experience. This past summer camping season, the physical part of camp presented some new challenges and headaches.

Your generous support is always appreciated, especially as we continue our vision to make Camp an intersection of God, nature, self, and others. As the vision continues to grow, upgrades and

significant repairs to vital parts of Camp are currently needed.

The Retreat Center has served as the hub for many small group retreats but is currently without central heat or air conditioning. From Mental Health and Scrapbooking Retreats to church groups and summer program staff housing (not to mention staff offices), the Retreat Center is an integral part of Camp all year long.

For most campers, the miracle of modern plumbing goes unnoticed, unless it's not working properly. After 50+ years of thankless service and years of minor repairs, the septic system in

the main camp area needs significant improvements. Also at main camp, the mechanical and electrical systems in the kitchen area need updates due to recent mechanical failures.

There are many ways you can support camp, including end-of-the-year donations, but also your continued support through rental of camp facilities. There are numerous dates available, and we invite you to contact the Camp office for retreat and donation information. Camp Mennoscah is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, and your donations may be tax deductible.

Blessing Camp Mennoscah with End-Of-Year Donation

This year has been exceptional in so many ways. We forged our way through the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic (we hope) and had successful summer youth camps. Church and family groups found their way to Camp Mennoscah for rediscovered face-to-face community. Camp Mennoscah was uplifted and blessed by the numerous donors, volunteers, and people praying for good things for the ministry.

The journey is not yet finished. We know, whatever else may be, there will be renewed faith and connections with God, nature, and others. Absolutely, this will be. With the prayers and efforts of dedicated leaders, there will be testimonial statements and baptisms speaking to the success of camp's faith formation and relationship building. There will be friends made, smiling faces, peace, hope and deeper understandings of God. This will also be.

Part of the journey is not in the unknowns but in the known twists and turns. We know there were unexpected expenses and repairs this past year. Broken septic pumps, heaters, freezers, air-conditioning, rusty diving boards. Some of the issues have temporary fixes, but those are not sustainable. To keep the great God experiences happening at camp, permanent fixes must be made.

These needs are not part of the dreaming into the future. These needs are the here and now. The fixes have a financial cost. We don't know what the final cost of the repairs will be yet. Prices are going up on everything from food (the beloved zweiback and verenike casserole!) to water meters and pumps (working toilets are necessary!). Possible costs could be more than \$200,000.

You will be what makes the amazing continue to happen at Camp Mennoscah. As you consider making a donation to Camp Mennoscah or volunteering, remember the stories of life-long camp friends, baptisms in the river, and the memories of sunsets and starry night skies. Send a prayer for camp, while you're at it. We all need a space to seek God's peace.

[Gifts to support Camp Mennoscah's mission can be made online at www.campmennoscah.org](http://www.campmennoscah.org). Make your online donation go further by clicking to cover the processing fees!

Volunteers Build New Bridge

By: Darrin Hiebert

Camp has many ways to enjoy nature. One of the popular ways is to get out and enjoy the nature trails. The trails snake all over the perimeter of camp. But there's always been a problem with the trails. The trails had a bridge crossing that would not allow any equipment to pass thru to the other side. That meant maintaining the trails by hand, and not with a riding lawn mower, or any power equipment for that matter.

Over the last 18 months, that all changed! Many volunteers, individuals and groups, have contributed time and money to replace the old and tired foot bridge that we had. Remember that

mowing problem? No longer a problem. It is possible to not only drive a mower across the bridge, but the tractor can traverse the bridge as well! Now, it will be much easier to do the necessary maintenance on the other side.



Thanks to everyone for helping maintain the mission of camp:

“A place where people of all ages come to renew themselves, their relationships, and their connection with God. In this most sacred space, we intentionally seek the intersection of God, nature, self, and others.”



Camp Mennoscah Wish List

Thank you so much for the many gifts and prayers that you shower on us throughout the year. If you need some gift ideas for camp, here is a list of items we would love to find under our Christmas tree this year. Or if you have some time to give, there are always volunteer opportunities. Please go online to www.campmennoscah.org wish list to make sure the correct item is purchased.

[50 Foot Extension Cord](#)

[Standard/Queen pillows](#)

[Spikeball](#) (3 sets)

[Giant 4 in a Row game](#) (either 3' or 4')

[Volleyball Net](#)

[Volleyball](#)

[Basketball](#)

[Soccer ball](#)

[Craftsman Mechanics Toolbox](#)

[Air Conditioner Fin Comb](#)

[Quik-Mark Striping Wand, Krylon, 34 inches, \\$38.00](#)

[Extension pole, Purdy, 6 to 12 feet, \\$42.78](#)

Contact us at office@campmennoscah.org or call us at 620-297-3014 for many volunteer opportunities.

Saying Goodbye to Long-time Directors

After countless years of being directors of one of the Junior camps, Allen Jantz and Janet McGillivray made the decision to step down from that role. Their many years of service are so greatly appreciated. We asked Allen and Janet to share some words with us...

Some 50 years ago, as a child growing up in Western Kansas, there were two youth my immediate age in my small, Mennonite church. My church, however had strong ties to Camp Mennoscah and so as a youth, I began early participating the range of offerings at camp. As I look back over my life, Camp Mennoscah has been one constant in my life; while I have experienced transitions in my life, camp has consistently been a part of those changes, from getting married to raising my own children with camp being a natural part of "what we do." I believe that camp influences people, and the influence it has is unique to each individual person. That influence makes us become better people.

That is the strength of Camp Mennoscah. As we retire from directing, neither Janet nor I see this as a complete break, but we look at this as being part of the evolution of experiences with camp. We're not done volunteering at camp, it will now just look different. If you volunteer at camp, I know you know what I'm talking about! -Allen

As I write down my thoughts, we're experiencing the coldest week of weather I can recall, but thinking about Camp Mennoscah brings so many warm and wonderful memories. It's hard to know where to begin to share our love for the camp, but for both of us it does begin with being campers many years ago. In college we got the opportunity to begin serving on the staff and found camp spoke to us in new and different ways. We have met and hope to continue to meet many amazing people over the years. It is so rewarding to see young people become impassioned with the camp and its ministry. Providing youth the opportunity to have the experiences we had as campers has always been very important.

Camp Mennoscah will always be a home away from home for us, a place of spiritual renewal, and a place where we can help others experience and know God better. -Janet



Janet and Allen, front row 3rd and 4th from right. (1990)



Allen and Janet, front row 1st and 2nd from right. (1982 or 1983)

Allen and Janet, you have given us decades of summer youth camp weeks filled with silly skits, lanyards, thoughtful Bible lessons, and generosity. We have benefited from your connections to the Newton area and Bethel College--what great counselors you found! It seemed ridiculous to ask every year if you wanted to direct another year since you both have been so dedicated to Camp Mennoscah's ministry, but we did, and each year we were thrilled to have you back. Thank you for sharing your gifts and the blessing of your presence with so many.

We offer you heaping basketfuls of thanks, joyfulness, and camp memories. We can't wait to see how you will next be involved at Camp Mennoscah!

The Camp Mennoscah Staff

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 Women and Girls Retreat
 Women in Mission (WDC)
 Zion Mennonite Church

Progress on Amphitheater Continues

By: Marcus Loganbill

Hope Mennonite Church and Working Men of Christ* utilized a Camp Mennoscah work day in May to get to know each other better and at the same time serve the needs of the camp. Plans were to



work on the amphitheater project, but the morning proved to be too wet, so the crew set out cleaning out the storage shed and separating items into “trash”, and “good enough for a Mennonite to use again”. In other words, very little was thrown away. Mid-morning, the mist subsided and the group moved to the amphitheater.

One worker remarked, “I realize Jesus told us about the wise man who built his house upon the rock, but I’m not sure amphitheatres have to be built with 400 lb. boulders!” Connie Luty and Vicki Howard drove out at noon with a great lunch, after which, work continued until mid-afternoon. Under the direction of Jordan Miller, the crew managed to put in almost three rows on what turned out to be a beautiful day. The gentlemen from Working Men of Christ were favorably impressed with the camp and WMOCC director, Dustin Stalder, said the camp may be a great place for future retreats.

*Working Men of Christ offers housing and mentoring to men coming out of incarceration. They help former inmates to follow the way of Jesus and become productive, healthy members of the body of Christ. They renew lives and restore hope.



Volunteers from Hope Mennonite and Working Men of Christ place new rock “benches” for the amphitheater.



The Hesston College Men's Soccer Team volunteered their time in August and continued placing rock “benches”. Volunteering at camp has become an annual event as part of their pre-season training.

CHECK OUT WHAT'S COMING UP...



Christmas Gathering at Camp Mennoscah
Youth Volunteer Weekend
Spring Scrapbook & Crafts Retreat
WDC/SCC Men & Boys Retreat
Work & Play Day

December 18, 2021
TBD
March 18-20, 2022
April 1-3, 2022
April 23 and May 21, 2022

Go to www.campmennoscah.org for more information.

Camp Mennoscah

P.O. Box 65
9458 SE 40th Street
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Phone: 620-297-3290
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NINNESCAH NEWS



Christmas Greetings from the Staff and Board of Camp Mennoscah

But the angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:10-11 (NRSV)

Searching for Summer Staffers

Camp Mennoscah's Mission is...

- To encourage all to follow Jesus Christ
- To live as a people of healing and hope
- To seek God's peace
- To practice love, forgiveness, and hospitality
- To affirm diversity and heal brokenness
- To experience God's creation

It may not feel like summer, but we are searching for the 2022 Summer Staffers! If you are 18 years old or older, want to spend the summer sharing your gifts and enjoy working with youth, you may be just the person we are searching for.

As a summer staffer you would have the opportunity to hone your leadership skills and sharpen your compassion and understanding all while having a blast with all ages! Summer staff positions include crafts, grounds/maintenance, lifeguards, media, music, naturalist and office. These positions receive a weekly volunteer stipend of \$250.

Go to www.campmennoscah.org for more and information and to apply.



2021 Summer Staff pose for a semi-serious group picture.