



Camp is a Passion of Mine

By Olivia Bartel

The span of my life so far has held numerous and changing passions. French fries. Books. Fuzzy blankets. Superhero movies. Theatre. Rubber ducks and those blue, squeaky Pixar birds. I have a passion, too, for camp.

I run into a lot of people who have a passion for camp and for its mission, a likely happenstance because of where I work. My passion stems from my years as a camper, counselor, and staff person. It's because of the counselor who sat with me in 5th grade during free time when I desperately wanted to play 4-square but was too scared. It grew with the cooks who flicked tea towels at me and guided me when working in the kitchen at age 15. I found that passion in the whisper of God in the campfire, coyotes, and the tumbling water over the dam. The passion for camp was bolstered as I saw grumpy kids refusing to be part of activities turn into "happy campers" with the care of the staff.

Over the years, my passion to be at camp morphed into the desire to share camp with others. I see this same desire in the staff and volunteers with whom I work every summer. This further translates into a passion for caring for the people around us. In terms of faith, you'd call this sharing God's love and walking Christ's path.

Each and every camper gets to be part of this over-pouring of love and care from the staff. The campers get to share in the lives of mentors of different skills, ages, and backgrounds while they are at camp. They are part of devotions, Bible study in cabin groups, silly singing and worship singing, campfire, and activities like canoeing, lanyard making, and swimming all meant to stretch the mind, heal the body, and build community.

Camp Mennoscah's Mission

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

If you have a passion for camp, a passion for sharing Christ, or a passion to care for others, come to camp. Send a camper to camp to experience all these awesome things and start building a passion for sharing that awesomeness with others. Truly, being part of a camp community has great potential to change your life and the life of a youth. This summer is a great time to start building on the rock and playing in the sand.



Upcoming Events at Camp Mennoscah

Refresh and Renew at the Retirees Retreat April 23-25

Family Weekend June 30-July 1

Register online at campmennoscah.org, with the form available at your church or give us a call for a brochure.
Questions about a retreat? Call 620-297-3014.

Volunteers Key for Ongoing Projects

By Michael Unruh

This summer, campers will encounter some differences at camp just about as soon as they step out of the car! For the past two years, construction activity has really amped up after the camping season. This year, we have continued kitchen and dining hall renovations and developed a timeline for completing the new playground. Check your church bulletins, Camp Mennoscah's website, and camp social media for more

updates, pictures, and opportunities to be involved this spring! Here are some pictures and updates on our progress!



Kitchen and Dining Hall

Completed:

- Removing equipment, gutting kitchen*
- Removing tile floor*
- Installing plumbing, electrical*
- Cutting window, doorway openings
- Framing interior walls
- Framing welcome area, covered entrance
- Removing shingles, replacing shingles*
- Insulating walls*

In Progress/Coming Soon:

- Insulating ceiling*
- Installing kitchen drywall
- Finishing electrical, plumbing, floor surface*
- Installing new appliances, equipment*
- Painting inside and outside*
- Sidewalk construction*

Look for upcoming Volunteer Dates in the first two weeks of March. Get your paint brushes ready!

Entrance and Welcome Area
Feb. 2018



Kitchen
Dec. 2017



Kitchen
Feb. 2018



*Starred items were/will be completed entirely or in part using volunteers! This has been a HUGE benefit to camp, keeping costs down while involving more people. Thank you!!

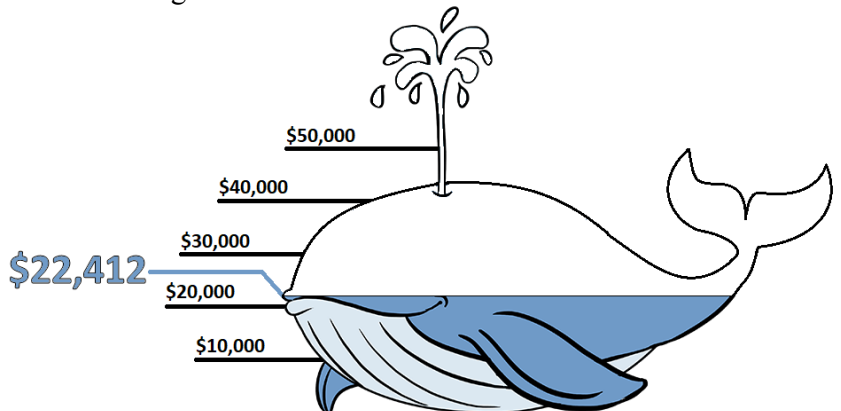
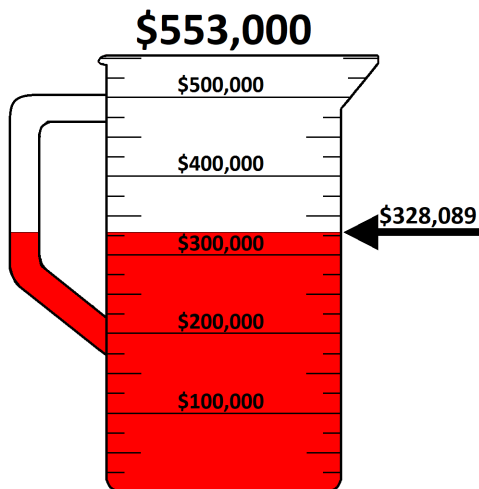


New Playground

- Architect drawings* submitted to structural engineer
- Construction to begin in mid-April!*

Project Funding Updates

With so much activity going on, we are still in need of financial support for the two projects. Take a look at the Whale and Pitcher and consider how you might be able to help Camp Mennoscah reach its funding goal for each of these.



Courageous Cook: Becky Pohl

By Michael Unruh

During a week of summer youth camp, learning about God and developing friendships works up quite the appetite, so campers depend on delicious meals to sustain their bodies for the busy schedule. Ensuring that all campers and staff are adequately fed is a challenge in the summer heat, and few have been more up to the challenge than Becky Pohl.

Becky, who passed away in November, loved to serve others and was a head cook at Camp Mennoscah for many summers, most notably taking on the daunting task of leading meal preparation for an ever-increasing group of senior high campers. Last summer, this included nearly 200 people per meal! "I always looked forward to working with Becky," said Les Schrag, another long-time camp head cook. "It was a fun time, with much time spent laughing until we cried! Sometimes we probably kept the summer staff up with our laughing (and/or snoring!)."



Always having a desire to cook for anybody and everybody, Becky wanted to cook everyone's favorites, and there never was a special diet she couldn't find a recipe for. She loved camp, its mission, and especially the campers. Becky enjoyed many jokes with them, including a few food surprises! This past summer, due to not feeling well, she basically had to be forced by other staff to go home--that's how much she didn't want to let the campers down.

We are grateful for the time Becky spent at Camp Mennoscah doing what she loved to do. She was a wonderful cook, a dear friend to several camp cooks, campers, and staff, and we will miss her presence at camp in future summers.

Exciting Things and Challenges Ahead for Camp

By Michael Unruh



Over the past two years, many exciting things have been happening at Camp Mennoscah! We're continuing to build on the strength of our summer youth camping program, building new buildings like the new cabin Sandbar, renovating existing buildings like the dining hall and kitchen, and much more.

However, the past two years have not been without challenge. Due to a number of factors, Camp Mennoscah was significantly short of meeting its budget in 2016 and 2017.

In 2018, we have been working hard as a board and staff to broaden our constituent base, search for new grants, and reduce our expenses without sacrificing the best possible camping experience. We will also depend on additional support from people like you.

Here are some simple things you can do to help Camp Mennoscah this year:

- Consider an increase in your donation to camp, or make a first-time donation. Even a small amount per person will have a huge effect!
- Talk to your friends and family about donating to camp.
- Join our community rewards programs: Dillon's Community Rewards,

AmazonSmile, or Best Choice Save-a-Label (campmennoscah.org/how-to-help/donate).

- Take a look at the wish list in this issue.
- Reserve camp facilities for a retreat with family and friends.
- Encourage the children and youth you know to attend summer camp!

Everywhere I go on behalf of Camp Mennoscah, I hear about how camp has played an important role in the faith development of children, youth, and adults. By partnering with churches and camp supporters in our community (this includes you!), Camp Mennoscah will continue to be this place of spiritual growth. We are so thankful for how you have been involved in camp's ministry, and we are looking forward to a great year as 2018 continues! If you have any questions, please contact Michael Unruh:

michael.unruh@campmennoscah.org
or 620-382-6560. Thank you for keeping Camp Mennoscah in your prayers.

Thank you for your support!





Camp Mennoscah

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*“So if I, your Lord and Teacher,
have washed your feet, you also
ought to wash one another’s
feet.” - John 13:14*



It’s coming on summer! We’re looking at all the ways we can create AMAZING experiences for youth campers and all the awesome churches and family groups headed to Camp Mennoscah. Below is a “shopping cart” of goodies that we need for activities and office work. Volunteers are also needed!

Links offer options and show size/colors, etc. Items can be purchased wherever you choose. Buy items at smile.amazon.com and set your charity of choice to Camp Mennoscah. We’ll get an extra donation from Amazon! Or—hey—shop local and support your favorite store in town!

- ⇒ White Postcard stock, Avery 5689
- ⇒ Brochure/flyer paper, matt or satin, 44 lb. paper
- ⇒ Copier paper, white (any brand)
- ⇒ Advanced strength duct tape (stronger than general use)
- ⇒ [SD card, 32 GB](#)
- ⇒ [Brother P-touch M tape M-231 black print on white tape](#)
- ⇒ [Black sharpies](#)
- ⇒ [Lanyard lacing](#) (bright and sparkly colors)
- ⇒ [Lanyard hooks, 7/8” or 1”](#)
- ⇒ [Painter’s tape](#)
- ⇒ [Pilot B2P Bottle 2 Pen Ballpoint Pens, Medium, Black, 12/pk](#)
- ⇒ [Breakaway Lanyards \(Assorted Colors\)](#)
- ⇒ [CPR Keychain Face Shields with One-way Valve Breathing Barrier](#)
- ⇒ [2”/5cm Carabeaner Assorted Colors D Shape](#)

Volunteer positions

- Contact Camp Mennoscah to help!
- ⇒ Kitchen staff and general volunteers for summer youth camps
 - ⇒ Volunteers for tree removal or grounds work
 - ⇒ Weekend hosting help—assist groups with dishes, making popcorn, campfires, etc.
 - ⇒ Custodial and housekeeping help, weekdays



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www.campmennoscah.org

