

Camp Mennoscah will also be working toward becoming its own non-profit organization. Talk about going over a waterfall. This will not change how we relate to our churches and constituents. It won't change what our mission is and it won't change the programs that we offer. It's mostly a legal change. You, as camp constituents, will have a greater involvement in what camp is. As the camp community, we will all have more opportunities to do amazing things with camp and a greater responsibility to camp. There are always unknowns, but we are working our hardest to make this a smooth transition.

So, in the midst of this tipping season, we pray for wisdom, grace, mercy, and a whole lot of energy. We pray, too, that you will come experience some of God's creation here at Camp Mennoscah.

Neverending wishes

There is the song that never ends, the neverending story, and the Camp Mennoscah wish list. We're wishing for the following items --



- Feet-scraping mats—the kind that take a beating and keep on going
- Copies of Sing the Story in new/good condition
- Subscription to Kansas Wildlife & Parks magazine
- Fishing gear of all sorts
- Postcard stamps (approx. 500)
- A set of Allen wrenches/Hex keys for the Retreat Center
- Good, durable hoses
- A sturdy, well-padded barrel for going over Niagara Falls (we're kidding)

--Olivia Bartel, Camp Mennoscah Director

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WDC News

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Camp Mennoscah Swimming Pool Moving Right Along

The new Camp Mennoscah swimming pool is going swimmingly! The pool is completely formed with a floor and walls and stuffed with enough rebar to build a zoo-full of cages. We're ready for backfill, wiring, plumbing, and the pool deck. After that, we're looking at painting the pool, putting up the fence, and building the equipment shed. We're sure there are a myriad of details that we don't even know about, too. It's absolutely thrilling to see. The pool is at that point where it looks very much like a pool, even with the many details yet to come.





It's the point at which the barrel tips and tumbles over the edge of Niagara Falls. You teeter back and forth for awhile, getting materials, confirming with workers, double-checking figures, and then...splash! Everything starts happening all at once and everything moves very quickly. We've never gone over Niagara Falls in a

barrel, but we imagine that it's quite exciting and at least a little bit scary. This pool project is wildly exciting and definitely a bit scary. It's exciting because the pool is something new and because we know we're going to be better equipped to give folks those good old Camp Mennoscah fun times. Cool those campers off, get rid of those grumpy pants, and throw them back into being part of God's community. That's what we say.

But it's scary, too. We knew the old pool. That pool had problems, but we knew to expect the unexpected. Now we're going to have a new pool and new things to fret about. There will be a whole new system and way of caring for the pool. There will be new gadgetry to play with, like the robot pool sweeper. (It's like a mechanical algae eater.) Down the road, we may even have problems. Perhaps most of all, however, we'll be praying that the new pool gets the use it deserves.

Our fundraising through Vision 2012 has been going well. Over \$103,320 has been generously given from allowances, from savings, and in the belief that the Camp Mennoscah program is valuable and that the pool is a valuable part of that program. There is a challenge grant in which a friend of Camp Mennoscah will donate \$25,000 if 25 people will donate \$2000 or more to the pool. On May 1, friends of the camp and youth groups will gather at Bethel College's Memorial Hall for a Camp Sing. It's a hymn sing with camp songs and a fundraiser for the pool. Gifts have been given from across the United States of America from past campers. So folks are helping us reach our goal of \$300,000, square foot by square foot. Contact Western District Conference at 316-283-6300 for more information about how you can take part in this exciting project. (\$150 equals one square foot of pool. How many square feet would you like?)

Diving boards. We forgot to mention that there will be diving boards. Just one more thing to be excited about!

The Tipping Point

The camping season has a tipping point, just like a barrel over Niagara Falls, when everything seems to happen all at once. In late fall, the season slows down somewhat at Camp Mennoscah, with the focus turning to cleaning up after the summer hilarity and getting ready for the next summer (hello, paperwork). We're bobbing along briskly in our barrel, but the falls are far ahead. But now, in the spring, we are very near to those treacherous falls. Weekends are packed with church groups and families, summer staffers are hired, previously unknown repair needs are discovered, and camper registrations swamp the office. We clean out the dust in buildings as much as possible and we dust off our shorts and swimsuits.

There are things that can make our trip over the falls less frightful. People who cheerfully clean the areas they used—and clean thoroughly—are a blessing that cannot be rivaled. Offers to work in the kitchen during a camp week are music to our ears. Hearing about problems when they happen instead of getting complaints after a group has gone home helps us make your stay more enjoyable. Opening the mail and finding a generous gift to buy new can openers for the kitchen or new feet-scrapin' mats lessens the roaring of the falls. Seeing Camp Mennoscah tee shirts wherever we go and hearing about how neat people think camp is has us standing up in the boat and cheering. (Don't stand up in a boat. It's not safe. Especially not in a boat going over Niagara Falls.)

Sometimes we get pulled under by all the demands on our time. The dishes need washing, the phone needs answering, the septic system is plugged, the next group is coming in an hour. We depend on you to help us keep our heads above water and to grant us mercy when we flounder. This year, we especially ask for understanding. There are all sorts of new things going on.

We already blathered on about the pool, but did you know we also have a new maintenance coordinator? **Mike Albright** from Pretty Prairie joined the Camp Mennoscah staff in March. Mike is many things—a dad, a basketball coach, a prankster (or so we hear)—and he will be many things for us, too. Give him a hearty welcome and tell him “howdy” when you see him around.

