



Menucha Retreat & Conference Center
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MENUCHA . . . Sacred Space, Purposeful Work

CONTACT INFORMATION



You may join our mailing list or update the information we have for you by returning this form to us, or by contacting us:

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Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email address _____
I would like to receive Menucha communications via:
 Email Regular mail

**PLANNED GIVING:
SECURING MENUCHA'S FUTURE**

Remembering Menucha in your estate planning can have positive consequences for both Menucha and you. By setting up a Charitable Trust, you provide Menucha with a source of income in the future while guaranteeing yourself and/or your loved ones a steady income stream now. You may even avoid costly capital gain taxes. It's a wonderful way to support the mission of Menucha for years to come. We have excellent representatives who can speak with you and your financial planner to answer any questions you might have about planned giving or estate planning. Please call our office at 503-695-2243 for more details.

DONATE ONLINE

Now, it's easier than ever to support Menucha. You can donate using your credit card with our secure on-line form. Simply go to www.menucha.org and click on the "Donate" link. You may also print out a Donor Form and mail it to Menucha.

We are grateful for all gifts, large or small. Your gifts help us expand our program, improve our facility and reach out to groups and individuals from around the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Please contact our office if you would like to remember someone special with your gift. Thank for your continued support.

HAPPY 60th ANNIVERSARY TO US!

We are excited to be celebrating sixty years of ministry at Menucha this year. Sixty years! In honor of this milestone, we have a big goal: to put a new roof on historic Wright Hall, built in 1927 by former Oregon Governor Julius Meier as a summer estate home for his family. This project will cost about \$150,000 and will include rebuilding the chimneys as well.



The year was 1950. Dr. Paul Wright was the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in downtown Portland. In his words:

"...let's call it divine providence—a real estate man dropped in here (to First Presbyterian Church); I think his firm was in Seattle. And he had a place he said he thought might be useful for purposes of the church, and wanted us to look at it. It was a place out on the Columbia River, overlooking the river, that once had been an all-year-round home of Governor Julius Meier. When we saw it...it looked very attractive. A group of us in the church felt as if we ought to give it serious consideration, and we were entranced the moment we saw it."

On April 21, 1950 Dr. Wright wrote a letter to his congregation:

"Hindsight has its advantage, and that is probably why it has been given good rating. Time tests values and blows the wind that winnows wheat from chaff. It points things up with clarity and in perspective. It is safe and sound. But hindsight never made one inch of gain upon the future. For that, *foresight* is needed; and foresight is a concentration of vision, hope, daring, will and action. Hindsight is intended to serve foresight, not substitute for it. I hope that we, who are the present generation, gaining wisdom and inspiration from the achievements of our forebears, will anticipate the future of our church with eagerness and imagination. I refer to the great opportunity which now insists upon our careful consideration—the purchase of the Julius Meier estate, a facility incredibly ideal for religious retreats and conferences. Generations yet to come will thank us for acting now without hesitation and competently. Loyally yours, Paul S. Wright."

Menucha was bought by First Presbyterian Church with the vision that it would be a place for people to get away from their daily routine to be refreshed and renewed. It was as true in 1950 as it is in 2010.

During our 50th anniversary celebration in 2000, we prayed a prayer of Thanksgiving for Menucha:

*Dear God,
We come to you with thanks for the ministry of First Presbyterian Church at Menucha.
For the vision that imagined a place where people could go to a beautiful place apart from their everyday life to be renewed and refreshed.
For the people who have come to Menucha.
Those who have been touched by your Spirit and have sensed the wonder of your creation.
Those who have experienced healing and forgiveness, those who have grown to be more whole as persons.
We ask you to continue to bless this ministry with the wisdom, energy and love needed to meet the changing needs and situations in the world, and the unchanging needs for renewal, grace, forgiveness and love.*

Menucha. Still waters. Sacred space for purposeful work. We hope you will take the opportunity to visit us during this year of celebration and see how you can be a part of our exciting program. Let's "Raise the Roof" together in 2010!



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF MINISTRY Rev. Spencer Parks—Executive Director



In 1950 Harry S. Truman was President and the Korean War was just beginning. The credit card was introduced, the first organ transplant was performed, Charles Schulz debuted his classic comic strip *Peanuts*, and Menucha was purchased by First Presbyterian Church in Portland from the Julius Meier estate. The Senior Pastor at the church was the Rev. Doctor Paul S. Wright. (We named Wright Hall after him.) When he was approached with the opportunity for the church to buy the property, he became an enthusiastic supporter of the endeavor. However, such support was not shared by the entire congregation. It seems that it was quite a controversial issue. A number of people pointed out that there were already enough country clubs and they didn't need one more (church owned at that) on the river front in the Columbia River Gorge.

Wright had a different vision. In an interview in 1989 recalling those early days Wright stated, "We decided that whatever uses were made of it (Menucha), it had to center in on the enrichment of human life. It could be social service agencies, educational groups, anyone interested in the enrichment of life would be able to come there....We felt it was sort of a mission which we (the church) were undertaking on behalf of the enrichment of the entire community."

A lot has happened since 1950. The world has changed more radically than any of us could have imagined at the time. There are issues now that weren't even on the horizon then. We are much more the global community than we ever were. The ways in which we communicate with one another have exploded. The advances in technology have affected every facet of our lives and of our society. And yet, many things remain the same.

People still need to form strong social and personal connections. People still need to find an outlet for their creativity, and answers to their problems. People still need to feel human, spiritual, grounded and enriched. This means that the vision with which Menucha was founded 60 years ago is as important and valid today as it was then — perhaps even more so. With all our advances in technology and our progressive ways of thinking and acting have come new ways to make people feel small and unimportant, disconnected, and enslaved. In other words, we need human enrichment now more than ever.

We feel that throughout the past 60 years we have remained faithful to our mission. We have hosted countless people trying to address a variety of addictions. We have had an army of artists parade through our gates seeking a place of inspiration for their work. We have had innumerable people who have been spiritually uplifted, formed or deepened personal relationships, experienced emotional healing. The list goes on and on, but the common theme is always one of "the enrichment of human life." I think Dr. Wright would have been proud of what we have been and what we are today.

Sixty years is a pretty huge milestone for a place like Menucha. We look forward to the years to come and pledge that we will continue to be that place that enriches human life.

Come visit us and help us celebrate our special anniversary; allow our staff and our facility to enrich your life.



SAVE THE DATES!



3rd ANNUAL MENUCHA INTERNATIONAL CROQUET TOURNAMENT and LAWN PARTY at Menucha

Saturday, July 17
9:30 am—4:00 pm

Can you think of a better place to spend a lovely summer day than Menucha?

Our annual croquet tournament is fun for the entire family! Friendly competition, live music, fun door prizes for young and old alike, and a barbecue lunch by the pool overlooking the spectacular Columbia River Gorge are all included in your ticket price.

Come as a participant and challenge reigning champion Joe Whittington, or as a spectator cheering on your favorite player. Feel free to wear your croquet whites and fancy hats if you'd like, or just come as you are.

Tickets will go on sale later this spring.



8th ANNUAL MENUCHA FUNDRAISING DINNER "RAISE THE ROOF" Sunday, September 12 in Historic Wright Hall at Menucha

We invite you to join us as we continue to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the purchase of Menucha as a conference center. Our focus at this year's dinner is to raise funds to put a new roof on Wright Hall.

Our guest speaker will be Gerry Frank. Julius Meier, who owned Menucha and sold it to First Presbyterian Church in 1950, was Gerry's great uncle.

Tables and individual tickets will go on sale mid-summer.



CONGRATULATIONS, CHIP AND NANITA!



We are thrilled to announce the marriage of Chip Sammons and Nanita McIlhattan. The two were wed on Sunday, January 17th in an intimate ceremony and reception with family and friends.

Nanita served as the President of the Friends of Menucha Foundation from its inception in 2004, and is currently the Secretary of the Foundation. Her contributions to the Foundation and its success are innumerable, and we are grateful for her leadership and support. In addition, she has served on the Menucha Commission and as a volunteer for many events and activities at Menucha.

We are so happy for Chip and Nanita, and welcome Chip into our Menucha family. Congratulations, and best wishes for many joyful years together as husband and wife!



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Menucha would like to unveil for you our new website. Our address is the same, so you can still click on your existing bookmark to find us. We hope efforts to make our website simpler and easier to navigate will also give you additional ways to keep tabs on us, and for us to serve you. Point your browser to www.menucha.org, and check us out!

We'd like to draw your attention to three new features of our website, found on the home page and most of the other main pages as you navigate through our site.

On the right hand side are three fields where you can enter your name and email address that will allow you to find out more information about our site.

- The first button on the right at the top allows you to get quick information about booking your retreat with Menucha. Simply click on it, and on the next page enter your name, email, physical address, and phone number and you will instantly receive an electronic packet of information on how to go about booking your retreat.
- The second button on the right is specific to Menucha programs. Simply click, then on the next page enter your name, email address, phone number, and which program you would like to learn more about, and we will contact you the next business day.
- The third button on the right enables you to sign up for our quarterly newsletter, the Menucha Meander, and you will receive an electronic copy, in color, each time it comes out during the year.

Sincerely, the Menucha Staff

THE COOKTOP

A Favorite Recipe from the Menucha Kitchen—Enjoy!

RANGER COOKIES — makes 50 large cookies

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup butter | 1 ¾ teaspoon baking soda |
| 1 cup shortening | ¾ teaspoon baking powder |
| 1 ¼ cup sugar | ¾ teaspoon salt |
| 1 ¼ cup brown sugar | 2 ½ cups quick oats |
| 3 eggs | 2 ½ cups corn flakes |
| 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla | 1 ¾ cups coconut |
| 2 ½ cups flour | 1 ¾ cups chocolate chips |



Preheat oven to 325°. Cream butter and shortening; add sugars and mix well. Add eggs and vanilla and mix well. In another bowl, mix flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Add flour mixture to butter mixture, a little at a time, until just mixed. Add quick oats, corn flakes, coconut and chocolate chips. Mix until just combined.

Drop by large tablespoon onto parchment-lined cookie sheet. Bake for about 13 minutes, checking periodically.

NOTE: Cindy Wheeler is our Head of Housekeeping, and this is her absolute favorite Menucha cookie. If she had her way, however, the recipe would contain three times as many chocolate chips!



Photo courtesy of Tamae Shiiki

OUR VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR Bruce and Barbara Purdy

For the third year in a row, Menucha has nominated outstanding dedicated volunteers to receive the prestigious Golden Note Award. The Awards Luncheon, presented by the Gresham Chamber of Commerce, honored 30 volunteers from area non-profit agencies in the community.

At the luncheon on January 26th, Bruce Purdy received this award for all his and wife Barbara's volunteer work at Menucha.

Bruce and Barbara have volunteered their time and talents at Menucha steadily for the better part of ten years. Their history with Menucha actually started much earlier, however. As young adults, they met at Menucha fifty-three years ago, which led to their marriage and dedicated involvement with Menucha and First Presbyterian Church of Portland.

Bruce is always eager to do whatever is asked of him, from raking leaves and picking up windblown branches and sticks to mowing lawns, painting, washing windows, and a variety of other projects. Bruce, having a recent hip replacement, still brings Barbara up for volunteer days in and around the office while he works on the grounds.

We thank you, Bruce and Barbara, for your years of love and dedication. You are a blessing to us and to the guests who come to Menucha.



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AT MENUCHA Sunday, April 4th 6:30 a.m.

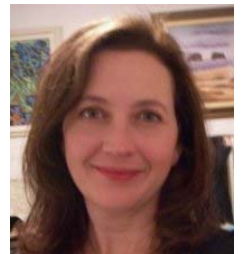
We invite you join us for our annual Easter Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 4th. This community service, sponsored by Menucha and the Presbyterian Churches of East Multnomah County, will begin at 6:30 am. Our own Scott Crane will deliver the message.

Weather permitting, we will gather at the pool area. If the weather is poor, we will meet in Wright Hall. Coffee, tea, hot cocoa and pastries will be served following the service.

All are welcome. We invite you to gather with us as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

WELCOME, MARGARET!

Margaret McShea joined our office staff in February replacing Jessica Kennedy, who was offered a position as a flight attendant — an opportunity she could not turn down. Pat Haffner came out of retirement to train Margaret, who will eventually assist Christine Olsen with bookings. In addition, Margaret will work closely with groups coming to Menucha, helping them to plan successful retreats.



Margaret grew up in Texas. She and her husband, Greg, love the Pacific Northwest and live in Portland with their son. Both Margaret and Greg are accomplished musicians, and play with many local symphonies. Margaret enjoys gardening, and likes camping and hiking in the great outdoors with her family and friends.

Margaret brings many skills and a wonderful sense of humor to her job, and we hope you will get to say hello to her on your next visit to Menucha.



MENUCHA SPRING PROGRAMS GEARING UP

Programs offered at Menucha are quite varied this year. Our new webpage, www.menucha.org/programs shows a snapshot of our offerings through November.



SPRING RETREAT FOR WOMEN WITH CANCER April 18-20, 2010

This spring, we have a retreat for women with cancer, facilitated by Susan Hedlund, director of Washington County Hospice and Palliative Care. Susan has led these retreats before with other organizations, and Menucha has happily been able to adopt this into our own offerings.

In May there are two events taking place:

WAY-POINTS PROGRAM: Wildflowers and Waterfalls May 3-7, 2010

Hike and explore trails and waterfalls in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Seek out hidden wildflower treasures of this pristine area of natural beauty.

Way-Points is a cooperative of Presbyterian Camp and Conference Centers committed to providing high-quality experiences for adults. Way-Points programs vary from educational to religious; from travel to training; from large group conferences to small group experiences. Way-Points programs are unique in that they all provide for a spiritual experience as well as quality adult programming. Your time at our event will be a Way-Point on your life's journey.



PRAYING THE LABYRINTH May 13-16, 2010

Learn more about the labyrinth and how it can enrich your prayer life. Make your own labyrinth design. Create finger labyrinths. Walk indoor and outdoor labyrinths.

Menucha celebrates its 60th year as a retreat and conference center in the Presbyterian Church (USA) this year. We plan to make this celebration last the whole year through, with original program tour offerings incorporating history and education, local flora and fauna, and family fun. We invite you to join us!



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS: FROM THE ARCHIVES

Samuel Lancaster, engineer of the Columbia River Highway, wrote some years ago:

"God shaped these great mountains round about us, and lifted up those mighty domes into a region of perpetual snow. He fashioned the Gorge of the Columbia, fixed the course of the broad river, and caused the crystal streams both small and great to leap down from the crags and sing their never-ending songs of joy...The Columbia River is peerless. Its grandeur speaks to men, and tells of Him who gathered the waters together in one place, and lifted up the mountains."



Mr. Lancaster perhaps did not realize in 1916, when he was asked by the later Governor Julius L. Meier to choose a site for an estate affording the best location and most spectacular view on the South rim of the Columbia Gorge, that his choice would ultimately become a place of recreation and retreat, of Christian fellowship and worship, of study and conference, for thousands of people in this Northwest area.

Dr. Paul S. Wright and Mr. Donald Leonard first viewed the Meier property on January 6, 1950, and on March 10, the official family of First Presbyterian Church unanimously voted to take option to purchase the property. The option papers were signed on April 14, and the deeds were recorded on June 30.

The real estate brochure that was distributed portrayed Menucha as a place of rest, of peace, of quiet and of great beauty. The asking price was \$200,000 unfurnished, or major improvements and 55.31 acres for \$100,000. The church purchased Menucha for \$60,000. Included in the brochure was the following description:

"This superbly developed property, undoubtedly one of America's most beautiful estates, was created by the late Julius L. Meier who, while serving as Governor of Oregon, made it his official residence. Up to the present time "Menucha" has remained in the Meier family. Located on U.S. Highway 30, two miles east of Corbett and 22 miles east of Portland, overlooking the Columbia River, magnificent views extend 30 miles to the East up the famous Columbia River Gorge and 30 miles West down the Scenic Valley. There are 167 acres mostly in its natural beauty rising to 800 ft. above the river. All of the land, except the grounds surrounding the residence, lies forested with mixed deciduous and evergreen trees, including cedars, maples and dogwoods. A back ground of mountain scenery stretching into the far horizon accents the picturesque woodland. The five acres of handsome landscaping that fan out about the house have been skillfully arranged to encompass wide sweeps of well-groomed lawns shaded by lovely white birch, pine and other fine old trees, rare specimen shrubbery and two orchards. A formal rose garden is planted with Golden Emblem, Seniors, Pernet and many other of the finest species in existence. Further brightening the scene are cutting gardens, vegetable gardens, lily and goldfish ponds. Approximately five miles of hard-surfaced private roads run throughout the property. The finest materials and workmanship were employed in the construction of the buildings which were planned for convenience and permanence. Much thought and care were given to the landscaping which resulted in a setting of dramatic beauty and grandeur."

The First Presbyterian Church newsletter, *The Spire*, further described the property in the April 21, 1950 issue:

"The formal developments are reached by a winding private entrance road, and consist of seven buildings with a wide lawn and magnificent view both up and down the Columbia and across into the hills of Washington. The main house, built in 1928 and unoccupied since 1941, is built in a rustic manner, befitting the environment, and contains eighteen rooms, with ample cooking, dining and living accommodations. There is an eight room guest house with ample dormitory space. The caretaker's cottage has a greenhouse adjacent, while another building near it contains more dormitory rooms, the laundry, and garage. Down a sloping lawn from the main house is the swimming pool, located on the rim of the promontory overlooking Crown Point. Other buildings include a barn and kennels. Construction of the buildings alone originally cost over a quarter of a million dollars, and they are worth far more than that today."