



MENUCHA
Sacred Space - Purposeful Work

The Menucha Meander

Menucha is an
ecumenical community-
based mission of First
Presbyterian Church,
Portland, OR

DECEMBER 2004

Second Annual Harvest Dinner a Success



Even the weather cooperated to make our second annual Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction on October 24th a spectacular event. Thanks to a great combination of guests, staff and volunteers, we raised more than \$12,000.

Wright Hall, decorated in shades of burgundy, gold and green, sparkled as more than 80 guests arrived to the beautiful music of Jennifer Craig, principal harpist for the Oregon Symphony. The hors d'oeuvres and ciders, along with 58 items attractively arranged for the silent auction, contributed to an evening of spirited bidding in support of Menucha. Items donated included jewelry, get-aways, one-of-a-kind items donated by artists who have been to Menucha, gift baskets, catered dinners...and a 1995 Oldsmobile Cutlass!

As the silent auction came to a close, guests were ushered into the dining room for dinner. Tables were bathed in candlelight and gold, with a small jar of Menucha's homemade jam at each place. The dinner, prepared by the Menucha kitchen staff, was delicious, as always...right down to the chocolate peanut butter pie for dessert.

After dinner, several guests spoke, sharing what coming to Menucha has meant for them personally and for the groups they bring here. Speakers included: Judy Teufel (Creative Arts Community), Charyl Cathey (Oregon Episcopal School) and Lindsay Hill (EnCompass). Spencer Parks, Menucha's Executive Director, shared the vision of Menucha as we head into the future.

Nanita McIlhattan, Chair of the Menucha Commission, announced

the official launch of the Friends of Menucha Foundation, which will work to perpetuate and enhance the ministry of Menucha so that future generations can make their own discoveries in this remarkable place. She also gave guests an opportunity to support Menucha financially.

We especially thank the Menucha staff for all their hard work. In addition, we gratefully acknowledge the support of the following businesses and individuals for their wonderful donations. We couldn't have done it without you!

Bonneville Hot Springs, Wes Burden, Bev Butterworth, Choral Arts Ensemble, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, Trina Denson, Dolce Skamania Lodge, Carol duBosch, Ralph & Janet Eastman, EnCompass, End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, EnneagramPortland.com, First Presbyterian Church of Portland, Friends of Vista House, Katherine Hall, Ginny Bistodeau Kaufman, Lyle Hotel, Carolyn McCall, David and Debbie Trant McCall, Nanita McIlhattan, Clarence Mershon, Kerri Morehead and Rian Hanby, Mt. Hood Railroad, Oregon Repertory Singers, Spencer and Sarah Parks, P & C Meats-Don Shimek, Sally Penley, Virginia Perry, Portland Spirit, Candace Primack, Susan Scott-Young Shakespeare Players, Tom Showalter and David Leatherwood, Jon Stuber, Jaki Svaren, Sysco Food Services-Scott Saunders, Pete & Bonnie Taylor, Ed and Phyllis Thiemann-Brickhaven Bed & Breakfast, Rebecca Wild, Nancy Winter, Joyce vanHaeften, Jeri Yoder

**Next year's event
will be held on SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11th.**

We hope you'll be able to join us!



LEADERSHIP SEMINARS INSTITUTED

The Session of First Presbyterian, Portland, has established the Paul S. Wright Seminar for Church Leaders, which will offer an annual event held at Menucha for both clergy and lay leaders of congregations throughout the Northwest. Paul Wright served as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church from 1941 until 1973. He was committed to the ministry of the local church and spent his entire career as a parish pastor. Under his leadership Menucha was purchased, and the church's retreat and conference ministry initiated.

The first of these annual events is scheduled for February 1-4, 2005. Dr. Edward A. White will be the seminar leader. Ed is a senior consultant with the Alban Institute and a Presbyterian pastor. His present vocation is to assist congregations that will embrace change in order to be faithful and fruitful for the Gospel.

Leading Change and Managing Conflict: The Challenge of Ministry in a Post-Christian Era will focus on the monumental cultural shifts of the 21st Century and both the opportunities and challenges those changes present to the church. It is often said that it is easier to start a new congregation than to transform an old one. What a challenge! How can pastors learn to lead change and manage conflict so that congregations can be transformed to be the vehicle for transformation in the lives of people? This workshop will address such questions as:

- How does a congregation best diagnose its health, strengths and vulnerabilities?
- How does a congregation become clear about its identity and mission? How does a congregation discern God's vision for its life?
- What does it mean for a pastor to lead change? What are the factors that cause change efforts to fail?
- How does one create high trust, high energy, and high creativity in a congregation? Can discipleship become a joy instead of a duty?
- How do we reach the 20-35 year olds?
- How is conflict managed in a healthy congregation?

For more information, or to register for the event, please go to the Menucha website, www.menucha.org or call us at 503-695-2243. Early registration is recommended.



Presents for Christmas



Rev. Spencer Parks
Executive Director

Thanksgiving is behind us and there is a new crispness in the air. The smiles on people's faces seem brighter, children seem happier and more excited, even the music on the radio is noticeably different. The reason, of course, is Christmas. It's that wonderful time of year when families are reunited, gifts are exchanged and the world generally feels good about itself.

I especially enjoy watching kids at this time of year. Their excitement is contagious and unbounded. They carefully shake every new present that appears under the tree (whether it is addressed to them or not). Small fingers are busy gluing googly eyes to cotton balls and pinecones, making what will eventually become heirloom Christmas ornaments. Long lists are made, checked twice and then letters are carefully drafted and sent to Ole St. Nick in the hope that Christmas wishes will become Christmas realities.

In my heart of hearts I know the real reason I enjoy children so much at this time of year is because of their ability to remind me of my own childhood. With each delighted face, with each painstakingly penned letter to Santa, with each carefully hung stocking I am taken back to a much younger age and I am reminded of how it felt to receive a present. How wonderful it was! A popular movie of some years ago termed it as time spent in "unbridled avarice."

As an adult, my stance towards gifts has changed considerably. I realized this some years ago when my mother called for my annual Christmas wish list. At her request I began to wrack my brain about what I really wanted for Christmas. I finally came to the conclusion that I really was quite content and didn't want for anything. It was at that time I realized that for me the real joy of the season was not so much in getting as it was in giving. I would spend hours looking for that special gift,

hand-crafting that special item, dreaming of how the intended recipient's face would look when he or she would open my present to them. In the end, my giving was an expression of my emotional connection to the people I loved. It was always nice to receive a present, but it was glorious to give one.

I think that this kind of attitude applies to other areas of our lives as well. Our giving is an expression of our connection to either someone or something else. Whether it's for special occasions, special seasons or just for a show of support, our gifts are always where our hearts are. So if you enjoy giving more than receiving, I would invite you to join with me this season and remember the people and things which are closest to your heart.

Many of you receive this newsletter because Menucha holds a special place in your life. If you believe in what we do and who we are, if Menucha has a place in your heart, then please give and give generously. By giving to Menucha, your gift will, in turn, reach out and touch the lives of the many people who visit us. What's more, I promise that we will be delighted with your gift. We will use it wisely. And we will keep you informed of our progress.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. There is information about how to give to Menucha on our website (www.menucha.org) or you can make your checks payable to Friends of Menucha Foundation and send them to us at PO Box 8, Corbett, OR 97019. I hope your holiday season is filled with joy and peace. May you receive what you need, and give to your heart's content.



THE COOKTOP...a favorite recipe from the Menucha Kitchen

COUNTRY MUFFINS — Makes approximately 24

We've had guests tell us these are some of the tastiest muffins they've ever eaten — enjoy!

2 cups sugar	3/4 cup raisins	3/4 cup walnuts, chopped	3/4 teaspoon nutmeg
3 eggs	1 1/2 cups carrots, grated	3 cups flour	1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup vegetable oil	3/4 cup coconut	1 teaspoon salt	1 teaspoon baking powder
1 Tablespoon vanilla	2 1/4 cups apples, sliced (fresh or canned)	1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon	

Cream the sugar, eggs, oil and vanilla. Add raisins, carrots, coconut, apples and walnuts; mix well. Mix the dry ingredients together and add to the creamed mixture. Grease muffin pans (or line with paper baking cups), fill 3/4 full.

Bake at 325° for about 20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.



Menucha and EnCompass Collaborate to Bring You a President's Day Family Weekend in 2005

Family is the context in which all children live and grow. When time is taken to nurture family well-being, the whole community is cared for.

In August 2004, EnCompass presented a Family Enrichment Weekend at Menucha. The program was successful for the families involved and a great new relationship for two organizations that are working from a similar vision was born. Now EnCompass and Menucha are teaming up to bring you this exciting program in 2005

During the weekend families are engaged in cooperative games, problem-solving initiatives, low ropes elements and other activities that build relationships quickly. The schedule is constructed to increase family engagement with support. After the weekend we did in August of 2004, family members reported increased affection, positive communication, and a deeper sense of self-knowledge. Adults gained confidence in parenting with a clear appreciation for the developmental moments of their children and how to nurture them most effectively. Families had fun while learning together.

Menucha provided a space that everyone



commented on as being comfortable, beautiful, practical, nurturing and inspirational.

A strong sense of community often emerges during these Family Enrichment Weekends—many people say sharing

with other families in such a beautiful environment is important. Letters from clients tell stories of renewed relationships with their children. One client wrote: *"We learned to develop trust, appreciate each family member, and opened to new and healthy ways of relating."* Another mother wrote, *"It [the weekend] was life changing in a very deep, spiritual way."*

This family weekend will provide an enriching experience for the whole family. The EnCompass staff offers the experience and content of the program while Menucha provides the ideal space in which to accomplish these goals, as well as comfortable housing with an atmos-

phere of warmth, and home-cooked meals. The outdoor areas are great for playing games, enjoying relaxing family moments, and rejuvenating the spirit. We are very excited about this new joint offering in 2005. When the camp is over, families go back to their lives with practical tools to increase family connection. They are energized after a weekend at this incredible retreat setting.

EnCompass has been a non-profit organization since 1985, whose mission is to support the well-being and wholeness of children and families through fresh insights, experiential learning and the creation of community. Strong families who live in well-being, and love one another, make a better world.

Rates for the weekend:

Adults: \$175.00 per person
 Children 12-21: \$125.00 per person
 Children under 12: \$ 85.00 per person
PLUS Program fee: \$185.00 per person

Prices includes meals, lodging, linens, materials and all instruction.

If you are interested in this incredible program, please fill out the following form and send it in to Menucha (PO Box 8, Corbett, OR 97019) or visit our website at www.menucha.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone# _____

Who will be attending? # of adults _____ # of kids (please include ages) _____



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: ERNIE YODER

Greetings from Menucha. My name is Ernie Yoder.

I have been given the opportunity to tell a little about myself and my involvement serving with the ministry to guests at Menucha.

My wife Jeri and I arrived at Menucha in April of 1980. Before coming to Menucha, I had been working at Good Samaritan Hospital as a dialysis technician for 11 years. Our two children, Rebekah and Daniel, were both born within the first two years that we came to Menucha. Rebekah, now 24, worked at Menucha in

the kitchen and was a cook for a few years. She currently lives in Alaska and is a chef in a restaurant south of Anchorage. Daniel, now 22, also worked at Menucha with me in maintenance for a number of years. He is currently in the U. S. Coast Guard aboard the Polar Star, an icebreaker, which is currently headed for the Antarctic to open up shipping channels for supply ships.

In the early years at Menucha Jeri worked in housekeeping and the kitchen, where she taught our daughter to cook. These days, she is involved in

several ministry-related activities and takes care of her mother in our home.

My work involves maintaining buildings and grounds at Menucha, as well as guest services and some supervisory duties. There are about 100 acres and 14 buildings to take care of, as well as several thousand guests each year. One of the things I enjoy most about my job is the variety of opportunities to minister at Menucha. This includes lawn care, landscaping, painting, tree care, keeping a swimming pool clean and safe for three months in the summer, and keeping our water supply and septic system in good order. Some of the buildings are more than 75 years old, so you can imagine the challenge this presents.

I was born in Ohio in 1950. My father died when I was six months old, which left my mother with six children to raise. My older siblings went to live with extended family, and at age twelve I went to live with an uncle in Indiana. Besides being a Mennonite minister, my uncle was also very mechanically inclined. I attribute my maintenance bent to his influence in my growing up years. My uncle also set an example by how he treated people, which greatly influenced me in the way I treat the people I work with and the guests that come to Menucha.

One of my dreams for Menucha is to see a new dining room, kitchen and meeting hall built to better meet the needs of our guests and enhance the ministry of Menucha.

I hope to see you at Menucha sometime soon!

Ernie

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Menucha Retreat and Conference Center
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CONTACT INFORMATION



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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email address _____

Phone: 503-695-2243

Fax: 503-695-2223

Email: office@menucha.org

Mail: PO Box 8
Corbett OR 97019

I would like to receive Menucha communications via:

Email Regular mail

Is this a change of address (mailing or email) notification?

Yes No

OUR WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK!

Our website has had an extreme makeover — it is user friendly and filled with lots of information

Photos of our buildings with printable floor plans • Pictures of our grounds and views of the spectacular Columbia River Gorge

Ways to give to Menucha • Current newsletter • Sign up to be on our mailing list • Upcoming events and ways to register

Menucha's history • Job openings • Volunteer opportunities • Our mission, vision, and use policy • Contact information

We invite you to visit us at www.menucha.org — we think you'll like what you see!