



Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director

For the first time this fall, I had to scrape the windows on my truck before leaving for work. I can't complain. It is late October and usually that task comes earlier in the month. The frost of October tells us that the transition from summer to winter is not far away.

At home we are pulling out the garden, raking leaves, putting away outdoor furniture, checking on windows and heating systems, and making sure the snow blower works. The same is happening at camp. We are closing buildings and putting things away. We are making certain that we are prepared for maintaining heat in our four-season buildings and that we can move the snow when we have to.

At home we are also preparing for holidays and family get-togethers. We are planning vacations to warmer places and hoping to enjoy the fun that can come with winter weather. Camp is preparing too. Last weekend a group of volunteers from Union Center spread out six truckloads of dirt on the hill east of the Becker Lodge site to prepare for seeding grass. They moved over a ton of rocks out of the site and picked up the trash. They cut down weeds and volunteer trees on the west side of the site in preparation for reclaiming it next year. They helped with storing benches, kayaks, and tables for the winter. From November 7 -9, our fall volunteer work days will be another opportunity for people to contribute to our preparation.

While the pace slows down with fewer guests during this period, the work continues. We are already planning for summer camps and thinking about new programs. Our Camp Mack Festival raised over \$12,000.00 for camperships to help families afford summer camp experiences for their children. We want to make certain we use those camperships to fill our programs. The curriculum for summer programs is available, and we are busy preparing it for leaders to use. Training is planned during this time. New initiatives are coming out for us to move forward and reach even more people with our ministry.

November is the month of Thanksgiving, and we thank you for your continued support of the ministries at Camp Mack. We are doing important work, and without you, it wouldn't be possible. We are always in need of volunteers to assist with various tasks; let us know if you would like to help out. There are lots of non-physical ways to help out. Of course, we are also grateful for your monetary donations as well. The period from November through April is a difficult one for us because there is not a lot of income during that time.

The most important job at home is to get the garage cleared of our summer and fall "stuff" so I can put the truck in and avoid any more scraping. I guess the work of preparing for the next season is never ending, but hope is always part of the preparation and blessings are always part of change.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Be Our Guest

I came across a book recently about some history of Camp Mack written by Clarence Sink in 1942 for Bethany Seminary Faculty that I found intriguing. In his opening paragraph he writes “during the last thirty years, organized camp life has been used by Christian churches as a means of training and inspiration for Christian service.” He also said that “camps have become agencies of the church. They are servants of the church and help to do its task.”

Clarence writes in detail about the naming of buildings and monuments that are named after outstanding leaders in the Church of the Brethren. What I especially liked was the qualities of character mentioned and I will list some of the character qualities: humility, zeal, self-denial, charity, good taste, good judgment, deeply spiritual, wisdom and tactful.

Nearly seventy five years later I give thanks for the great leaders that have gone before us. I am thankful for who they are and what they stood for. I am thankful that they stepped out in faith and persevered. I also pray that Camp Mack can continue to be a place and a ministry that is vital in the life of the Church of the Brethren and the larger church. I pray that we may continue to train, inspire, and equip for service as a vital link with the church.

It is my hope that individuals will continue to heed the call to serve as together we can be “a sanctuary where people connect with God through faith formation, experiencing creation, and building Christian Community.”

Mike Kauffman, Guest Services

Sunny Camp Mack

Creating the “Sanctuary”

We had a District work day here at Camp last Saturday. The primary focus was on the Becker site. It had grown up with weeds and small trees in the six years since Becker burned down. We all felt it needed to be cleaned up and repurposed until we can build a building there. With that in mind I ordered in six triaxle loads of dirt to build a slope on the east side that Ray could mow. The guys came and leveled the dirt down the slope. They also string trimmed the west side and cut down the small trees and picked up the chunks of cement and rocks that were left over from the building. We are still mulling over how to slope the west side so we could mow it. That would take a lot of dirt! But the east side is very close to being ready to seed. We are calling this phase one of the Becker site cleanup. Phase two will involve some green grass and a drive on the lakeside part of this site. That will involve the moving of a whole bunch of rocks left over from demolishing the building. We don't quite have all the details of that worked out just yet! Next time you are at camp take a look at this site and ponder what purpose that area might serve for a few years until we can build Becker back.

A second project I want to lift up today is the Q.M. “Good Shepard” window. I spoke earlier of how it needs some major work done on it. We have decided to put a protective covering on the outside of it until we can raise the funds to repair it. Lynn and his crew of volunteers have begun the process of building aluminum frames which will have lexon (clear hard plastic) inserted into them. This will be attached to the frame of the windows. This will protect them from rain and Frisbees.

I think both of these projects will help us to live out our mission statement. How could you not stand in Q.M. and see the sun streaming in through that beautiful window and not contemplate your connection to God? Same for the Becker site looking over beautiful Lake Wabec. First and always Camp Mack is “a Sanctuary where people connect with God.”

Galen Jay, Facility Manager

Kitchen News

Watching my “Grandma D” cook at Camp

Mary Dowty was head cook at Camp Mack for 18 years while I was growing up. Coming to camp for me was going to Grandma and Grandpa’s house of Virgil and Mary Dowty. The winter months were especially fun with my cousins playing games all over the campground plus sleep overs in the then “Staff house”. But spending the day with my Grandpa Virgil Dowty going after milk and some groceries in the summer time and getting to watch my Grandma cook are treasured memories. Watching Grandma make French toast on the “big” griddle and her staff of summer helpers make cinnamon toast were highlights.

At age seventeen I came to work on the summer staff as Grandma and Grandpa were retiring that year. But the legacy of how to make cinnamon toast and many other recipes lived on with Martha Steury and our summer crew in 1970 and 1971.

As Interim Food Service Manager for Camp Mack it is my honor to renew some of the memories in food service that were part of my up-bringing and influenced my lifetime of cooking. I honor the memory of some beloved camp cooks... my grandmother Mary Dowty, her co-worker Bertha Moneyheffer, and Kate Warstler for whom the dining room is named in memory.

Enjoy the toast! Thanks for the trip down memory lane.

Wanda Gall, Food Service Manager

The original Camp Mack Cinnamon Toast

1 loaf sliced white bread (in recent years camp has used Texas Toast bread)
1 cup melted Butter
2 cups White Sugar
¼ cup ground Cinnamon

Mix sugar and cinnamon and place in flat container. Melt butter and set beside cinnamon container with a pastry brush. Swipe a slice of bread with butter to cover all areas and then dip bread into cinnamon sugar, shake off excess sugar mixture and lay bread on baking sheet. Bake at 350 for 8 – 10 minutes just until the bottom of toast is lightly brown when you carefully lift the slice and the tops look set with butter and sugar.

Original recipe used by Mary Dowty and Bertha Moneyheffer 1955-1970's

Also used by Kate Warstler

Reproduced and Updated October 2016 by Wanda Gall (granddaughter of Mary Dowty)

Camp Mack Wish List

Scholarship Funds- \$5000+

Internet Upgrades- \$25,000

Good Shepherd Window Repairs \$30,000

400 Club to pay off John Kline Welcome Center- \$46,000

Masons to help with repairs to rocks in our buildings structures

Corn Sheller and Grinders

Indiana Camp Board

What a beautiful fall day! I was at camp on Friday and Saturday for meetings and I just could not stop thinking about the beauty that God gave us in the fall. With leaves turning to brilliant colors, crispness of the fall air and yes even the leaves falling and walking thru them.

The board has been working with Gene as he has moved into the position as Executive Director. It has been exciting to see his excitement about what he would like to see happen at camp.

I would also like to thank the people who came to camp to help clean up the area where Becker Lodge was located. They did a great job!

The board will be meeting on November 4th and 5th for our winter retreat to reorganize. We will be discussing our projects on a new Lodge Building and the Timber Stewardship.

Please continue to pray for the board members, the staff and Gene as we enter a new year as a board.

In closing Thanksgiving is the season when the earth displays her finest works of art, and the poetry of thankfulness is written in the heart.

Happy Thanksgiving! Thank you for your support to the board.

God's Blessings and continue to pray for Camp and the leaders.
Sue Freel, ICB Chairman



Nature Nut News

As we give thanks this November, here are a few of my favorite moments in nature at camp this year. They include the two fawns that spend the evening in my yard, the dew on the Garden Spider webs in the mornings at the boardwalk, a harvest moon rising over the field, seeing over 20 Snapping Turtles hatch from their nest, the sweetness of baby Goslings in the spring, and seeing the Pileated Woodpeckers at camp. Thank you God for your beautiful creation and thank you for letting me experience it each day at camp.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



400 Club Update

Our Camp Mack patrons are the most wonderful people in the world. In the spring of 2015, it seemed that it was going to be an impossible task for us to retire the \$414,000 debt on the John Kline Welcome Center. We were either going to pay tens of thousands of dollars in interest for a long-term mortgage or we were facing crippling monthly payments that would, out of necessity, shrink the programs we could offer. However, you stepped forward and made the difference. Now, in the fall of 2016, we have a debt of a little more than \$46,000.00.

You need to know that we continue to make a monthly payment out of our operational budget over and above what is collected in the 400 Club. When this debt is finally retired, we will no longer have to make that payment. That means that, not only will we be debt-free for the JKWC, we will also have more funds available each month for operations.

As you consider your end-of-year giving, please give some thought to the 400 Club once again. It would truly be an answer to prayer for us to pay off that loan before the end of the year. If you are unable to give again to this, we sure understand, but would you pray for a successful push to the finish line? We know that God is faithful, and we know that our friends are faithful as well. Thank you for all you do!

Remembering Camp Mack

As you prepare for the season of giving, please consider your giving to Camp Mack. Our ministry reaches thousands each year. Children, youth, and adults have the opportunity to connect with God in a supportive Christian environment, where we provide the hospitality and love of Christ.

Gifts can be given in whatever manner is most convenient for you, and they can be given in honor of a loved one or church if you desire.

It is also important to note that appreciated assets can be donated through our donor stock account, providing tax benefits. Just contact our office to get the process started.

The fees of our guests cover their costs during the time they are at camp, but the ministry goes on. For us to grow and reach out, we need your help. Thank you for all the ways you have already contributed to this ministry, and Happy Thanksgiving.

Ted and Company Fundraiser

We have a terrific announcement to make! On Sunday, December 4th at 3:00 in the afternoon, Ted and Company will return to the Union Center Church in Nappanee to do a one-time only presentation of their advent show: *Just Give 'Em the News*. Tickets for the event are \$12.00 each to cover the cost of the show, and there is no place anywhere near here you can see Ted and Company for that price!

Ted and Jeff will present a wonderfully funny show that will also bring home the beauty and awesome wonder of Advent. You will love this brilliant duo as they perform again in Northern Indiana.

The event is a fundraiser for Camp Mack, so there will be a free-will offering taken at the end of the performance to help with the overall camping and retreat ministry.

You can get your tickets by phone at 574-658-4831 or online. Just go to www.campmack.org and click at the top right: "Register Online."

Come enjoy a wonderful addition to your Christmas celebration and help the ministry of Camp Mack!

Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

November 1-2 Pastors Sabbath

November 4-6 Build a Drum Workshop

November 5 Build a Drum Kids Day

November 5 Volunteer Banquet

November 7-9 Volunteer Work Days

Dec 31- Jan 1 New Year's Eve Retreat

Pastors Sabbath

Pastor's Sabbath is a time of reflection, fellowship, personal meditation and recreation for Church of the Brethren pastors. There is plenty of time for fellowship with a balance of structured and free time! Guest leadership: Jeff Carter, Future of ministry and the church. There is no charge for this event. November 1-2.



Volunteer Work Days

Work with the Camp Mack staff as we prepare for winter and work on other ongoing projects. Come for a few hours or all three days. Meals and lodging are available. Contact the office for reservations. There is no charge for this event. November 7-9.

New Years Eve

Why spend the New Year sitting at home when you can gather with other youth to reunite with friends from summer or introduce someone new to camp? Count down the minutes until the ball drops at our very own "Times Square" event. Overnight event for all youth 6th -12th grades. \$59 per person early registration (\$69 after Dec 6), \$10 scholarship available during early registration. Dec 31, 2016- Jan 1, 2017. 2p Sat- 1p Sun.



Volunteer Banquet

Camp Mack's annual Volunteer Banquet is coming up on November 5, 2016. If you were a volunteer during 2016 and did not receive an invitation, it is because you didn't register as a volunteer when you were here! We still want you to come! Your help is important to us and we would like to honor you with a meal and some entertainment by Pam Kirkdorffer. We will also hear a few words from our new Executive Director, Gene Hollenberg. Please call the Camp Mack office right now if you and your guest are coming. The number is 574-658-4831. You may prefer to e-mail your response to mike@campmack.org. Here's hoping we see you!

Hors d'oeuvres start at 4:15

Stuffed mushroom caps

Spinach puffs

Pineapple and water chestnuts wrapped in bacon

Cheese and cracker tray

Punch and Iced water

Meal begins at 5:00

Mixed green salad

Baked ham

Kate Warstler's oven baked chicken breast

Homemade dressing

Roasted red potatoes

Hot vegetable blend

Homemade rolls and butter

Assorted homemade pies

Lemonade, tea, water, coffee



Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

Upcoming Get A Way Days

***Please sign up for Get-a-Way Days in 1-2 weeks in advance. We have had to cancel a couple of events when we have had no registrations and then find out we had numerous people interested in an event. Thank you!**

November 12 Sandhill Cranes- Trip to Jasper Pulaski FWA to see 10,000+ Sandhill Cranes

December 3 Williamsburg Wreathes and Swags- Make a wreath or swag from fresh greens and fruit

December 3 Christmas Ornaments- Make Christmas ornaments on the lathe

December 3 and 4 Christmas Cookies- Stir, Bake and Decorate 12 dozen cookies and we clean up the mess

-For more information, check out Get-a-Way Days at www.campmack.org or by emailing info@campmack.org