

Volume 3 Issue 4

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CAMP ALEXANDER MACK

Mackabilia

Camp Alexander Mack

Experiencing God, Community and Nature



Welcome to Sunny Camp Mack

It must be Spring!

I was blessed yesterday to be able to work outside for the afternoon. It was a gloriously warm day. During my work outside I noticed signs of spring here at Camp Mack. The first sign was that we were working in the auditorium. Those rock walls hold the winter cold a long time but Lynn and his crew were putting the finishing touches on the new low wall in the middle and Travis was mounting conduit to take power to the new recepts in the wall. Next sign is that the golf carts are all ready to go. Steve and Dick finished them last week at volunteer work camp. Another sign is Ray and Ellen will be back this afternoon. Wow do we have a list of work for him! I noticed the driveway has dried up and Dana and Andrew finished cutting down four big dead trees. All signs of spring here at Camp Mack. We are at the 60 days and counting mark before campers start arriving. Just 60 days to prepare this sanctuary place for life changing experiences. It takes a tremendous amount of work to make the physical property safe and inviting to our campers. To make it a place where campers can come and began to connect with God. Our sole purpose here is to “..create a Sanctuary where People connect with God...” Everything we do points towards our mission statement. We could really use your help in putting the finishing touches on camp. We have a volunteer work camp slated for April 4-6. Come join us in making our Sanctuary shine!

Galen Jay, Executive Director

Who comes to Camp Mack?

At our last couple Annual Dinners, we wanted to help people hear from some of the groups that come to Camp Mack and we have selected speakers to represent some groups so that a bigger picture might come into view for those attending. Camp Mack from the beginning has been very ecumenical and diverse with the groups that come to this Sanctuary. If you look for example at a Waubee Waves from 70 years ago, besides the Church of the Brethren Summer Camps you will see groups such as:

The Congregational Christian Church, All Mennonite Youth Camps, & Indiana Baptist Assembly.

Elkhart and Lagrange County 4-H, Indiana State Y Teen Conference for girls

Central Region Training School of the Church of the Brethren

Northern Indiana District Conference and Central Regional Council of Church of the Brethren

Elkhart County Farm Women's Camp, Manchester College Freshmen Days and Laymen's Fellowship Church of the Brethren, Mass Meeting of Church of the Brethren Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin

And now 70 years later as we have more winterization, the number of groups are too numerous to name. To give you an idea here is a list besides our Summer Camps, Adult and Family offerings and our Get-A-way days, it looks something like this.

Manchester University, Notre Dame, St. Mary's, IUFW, Goshen, Bethel and Grace Colleges

Boone Grove, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Dekalb, Bethany Christian, Jefferson Elementary, Milford Elementary, New Paris, Sacred Heart, Eisenhower Elementary, Mint City Coop, and St. Anthony

14 weddings scheduled for 2016

7 different denominations of churches and 10 Brethren congregations

13 counties of 4-H Camps, a Deaf Camp and Camp for kids with Arthritis Related Diseases, Episcopal Camp, Church of God Family Camp

There are Quilting, Stitching, Scrapbooking, and Collage Groups. We host Family and Class Reunions, a Heritage Tour, and Elkhart/Kosciusko Homemakers.

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts. 12 step groups and groups working with men and women on Spiritual Growth. We have a number of Youth Groups, Work groups, and banquets and company picnics. We have groups that come to work on Group building. We have day retreats for businesses.

As the need increases for people in all facets of life to find a Sanctuary where "People connect with God through Faith Formation, Experiencing Creation, and Building Christian Community," Camp Mack is here to serve a great variety of people to meet that need.

Mike Kauffman, Guest Services

What is Cookin' from the Kitchen– Cookie Crew News

Spring is in the air and things are beginning to pick up here at camp. With each passing week we see more activity, not only in preparations but in faces young and old retreating with us. It is an awesome thing to watch camp come alive again in the spring. With all of this increased activity the demands on our staff are increasing. We are continuing to do more with less and I am proud to say that we're getting the job done.

So, I'm finding my need for volunteers increasing. This summer we will be serving tons of cookies, large sheet cakes, Camp Mack Cinnamon Toast and other breakfast pastries. All of which are baked fresh in Camp Mack's kitchen. We need your help! As I've shared in the past all of these items require a lot of time to prepare and bake. Almost all of this time is donated by volunteers. Volunteer members of our Camp Mack Cookie Crew who lovingly share their precious time baking with love, all of these items for the guests of Camp Mack. Won't you please consider how you could help by becoming a member of the Camp Mack Cookie Crew?

Everything Cookies..... A Camp Mack favorite.

This makes a large batch, 12 dozen

12 eggs	1 T. corn syrup
4 C. granulated sugar	8 t. soda
½ t. salt	1 # soft margarine/butter
1 T. vanilla	
18 c. oatmeal	2 c. M&M's
2 c. Chocolate Chips	3 # peanut/soy butter regular or crunchy
2 c. sunflower seeds	2 c. coconut

Note: I have also added raisins and dried cranberries to this recipe.

Cream together margarine and br. Sugar stir in peanut butter and corn syrup and white sugar. Add vanilla, salt and soda; beat in eggs, two at a time.

Mix in oats, M&M's, choc. Chips, seeds and coconut until well combined. Use ice cream scoop to drop onto parchment lined baking sheet.

Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes, about 6 cookies to the sheet pan.

Makes 6 dozen huge or 12 dozen regular cookies.

Tony Keck Food Service Manager





What is God calling you to do? If you are feeling maybe this is the year to be a volunteer counselor for a week or a Team Leader for Sailing or Eco Adventure, fill out the application (1st step) and attend Counselor Training. Here are some qualifications for a counselor from the eyes of the campers: They helped me feel safe, gave me a bandaid when I got a boo boo, helped me make my bed, helped me when I was homesick, helped everyone make good choices, motivated us, answered questions, taught us more about God, woke us up for morning dip, did the right thing and more. See, campers already think you are cool. Did you know the average age of a counselor is 35? And counselors have been as young as 18 or over the age of 80! Campers are looking for that person who will care for them and role model God's love. What is God calling you to do this summer? We are looking for around 70 counselors right now. Sign up today and be blessed as you counsel at camp this summer and make an impact in the lives of campers. See "Counselor Needs" under the employment tab at www.campmack.org for current counselor needs.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



Program Wish List

CRAFTS: Camp Mack is blessed to have a great craft program for campers and guests to be able to be creative. Crafts are not just a summer activity. We use many of the supplies for retreats and events such as CMF, Mother Daughter, Father Son and Build-a-Drum. Below are supplies we use the most.

- Glitter
- Acrylic Craft Paint
- 4 qt round Crock Pots
- Tie Dye Supplies
- Lanyard Lacing
- Elmer's Glue
- Wooden folding clothes drying racks
- Colored Pencils
- Small Paint Brushes
- Wood burners
- Candles, wax, broken crayons for candles
- Beads
- Craft supplies/kits you no longer use



Indiana Camp Board

“Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. Faith is the belief that God will do what is right. God is always near and always available. Just waiting for your touch so let him know. Do something that demonstrates faith. For faith with no effort is no faith at all. God will respond. He has never rejected a genuine gesture of faith.” By Max Lucado.

I read these words from Max Lucado recently. As many of you know the Search Committee has been working and praying on finding a new Executive Director for Camp Alexander Mack. This committee presented to the Camp Board on Saturday, March 19th, the person who we felt the Lord led us to offer the position. The board called Gene Hollenberg for the position.

Here is some of his background. Gene has been an Interim Pastor, a teacher for 16 years, and a principal for 20 years. He has had several major accomplishments over these years.

His experience at Camp Mack has been extensive. Team Leader and Designer of Creative Arts Camp, Team Leader and Counselor for 38 years, Assisted Program Director with Team Leader, Counselor, and CIT training, consulted with Executive Director in the development and writing of summer camp program outcomes, and visited churches on behalf of Camp Staff to develop relationships and promote camp programming.

Gene is very involved with Union Center Church of the Brethren and Northern Indiana District.

The Camp Board is excited about working with Gene as our Executive Director. Gene will officially start on September 1, 2016. As a board we are praying for guidance for Gene, staff, and ourselves as we enter into this new experience. We ask everyone to also be in prayer as we work together for Camp Alexander Mack. God’s Blessings, Sue Freel, ICB Chairman

Summer Staff

Applications are available and we are starting to set up interviews for 2016 Summer Staff. Summer Staff is the hardest job you will ever love. Summer staff works in the areas of kitchen, facility, housekeeping, lifeguarding, climbing tower, nature, night hikes, low ropes and more. Make lifelong friends, grow in leadership, gain new skills, get trained in new areas, and grow memories that you will share the rest of your life. Apply today for Summer Staff 2016!

We will also be hiring a Challenge Course Manager, Waterfront Director and Camp Photographer for the summer. Contact Jessie Kreider at jessk@campmack.org for more information on these positions.



Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

April 4-6	Volunteer Work Days	April 21-24	Quilt Retreat
April 5-6	Pastors Sabbath	May 1	5K
April 9	Prairie Restoration	May 2-5	Seasoned Citizen's
April 9	Volunteer Work Day	May 5-7	Birdwatcher's Retreat
April 15-17	CIT Training	May 13-14	Counselor Training



Volunteer Work Days

Work with Camp Mack's staff as we do jobs around the site. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. Come for a few hours or all three days. Meals and lodging are available. No charge for this event. April 4-6 and April 9. Call the Camp Mack office for reservations.

Prairie Restoration

Join us in the recovery of five acres of native prairie in the Wilderness area. Great progress has happened in past years in the control of Autumn Olive and Sumac in this area and the flowers and prairie grasses are beautiful during the summer. April 9, 9a- 3p. Lunch is provided and there is no charge for this event.

Pastors

Please encourage your Church of the Brethren pastor to attend this event. Carl and Roxane Hill from Nigeria Crisis Response will be the speakers and will share three sessions on "How to get a grasp on your Bible," "Accepting the gift of God's grace," and "Our Nigeria Crisis Response." April 5-6. This event is free of charge. Food and lodging provided.



CIT (Counselor In Training) Training

Learn to be a camp counselor by attending this training weekend. The weekend will give you training in games, cookouts, Bible studies, child development, problem solving and more and end the weekend by leading worship at a local church. April 15-17, \$50, ages 15 and older. CIT application required.



Spring Quilt Retreat

This is a time for quilters of all ages to gather at Camp Mack and share their love of quilting. Bring your sewing machine, UFO's and quilting supplies. April 21-24. \$120 per quilter arriving Friday evening, \$134 for those arriving Friday morning and \$166 for those arriving Thursday evening. Fee includes housing and meals.

5K Run/Walk

Lace up your sneakers, grab your friends, and participate in the 3rd Annual 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run. This is an event for the entire family to participate together. Race shirts guaranteed for early registrations only. \$20 for 5K, \$10 for Kids' Fun Run or \$75 per family (early registration only). Registrations after April 18, add \$5 late fee



Seasoned Citizens' Retreat

Join this group of life experienced people who gather to meet old friends and make new ones. Special programs, crafts, vespers and Bible studies will be offered along with plenty of free time for fellowship, "joke time," indoor and outdoor activities, hiking, puzzles and naps, too! Handicap accessible sleeping and meeting rooms as well as dining options for those on special diets. May 2-5, 3p Monday- 1p Thursday. \$168 per person or \$113 per person if not staying overnight.

Birdwatcher's Retreat

Enjoy the spring migration with birdwatchers of all ages. Great for new and experienced birdwatchers. We will explore the various habitats of camp as well as travel to other location to see birds not usually found at camp. May 5-7, 6:30p Thursday- 2p Saturday. \$113 for 2 nights and 5 meals or \$71 for 1 night and 2 meals.

Counselor Training

Counselor Training is for all Counselors and Team Leaders. Get hands on experience with Bible studies, cookouts and camp resources. Gain new insights into tough topics such as homesickness and bullying. Also, be up to date on emergency procedures at camp and more. You don't want to miss this training. Friday evening May 13 to Saturday afternoon May 14. Meals and lodging provided at no charge.

A Quiet Place

Mission Statement

The mission of A Quiet Place is to offer solitude and spiritual guidance in a holy place for all those seeking to come away and discern ways to answer the invitation of Jesus.

I'm writing this article on Ash Wednesday, February 10th. Cold and breezy, a reminder that I'm ready for spring. Ash Wednesday will set the season of Lent in motion and before we know it, Easter.

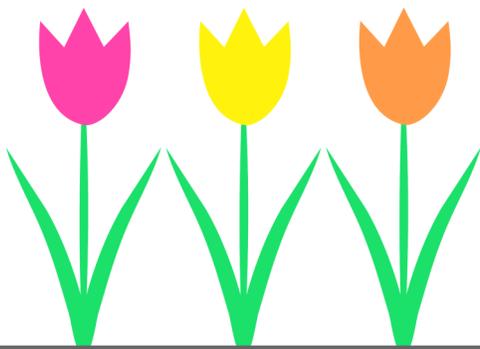
Came across Luke 9:51-62 today. Jesus is setting out for Jerusalem and he is resolute about it. He goes on to describe the priority of the life of a follower of Jesus. There's no place to lay one's head in his service, no time to bury one's dead. No time to say good bye. If you're going to plow a field, don't look back!

And don't be distracted by inhospitable folks either. Why, because the kingdom of God is the priority over anything else. Sounds harsh, but is it really?

I'm officiating at the funeral tomorrow of a man who, to my knowledge, didn't claim to be a Christian, someone I barely knew – I know his son. I was always taught that if you didn't know the state of someone's relationship with Christ, their salvation, preach the gospel. That's what I'll do. At the Quiet Place we're about helping people in their spiritual journey. To facilitate times for quiet, rest, reflection and prayer. And perhaps to hear God speak into our lives. But what of someone who has done life without the benefit of knowing Jesus Christ? Was there something missing and they couldn't put their finger on it.

Jesus encountered folks who were good intentioned but had excuses about when they could join him. The Lord wasn't impressed. I don't think he was being critical when he said "Once the hand is laid on the plow, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" he was simply speaking truth, speaking reality. If we would engage in the Lords work of telling others about the kingdom of God, one needs to be committed to it. We can't share what we don't have. And we're not quitters, once we start something we want to finish it, or should right? Jesus is asking us to be sure of what we commit to that we might be fulfilled ourselves and in that be able to bear witness to this kingdom.

What is the Holy Spirit revealing to you at this time in your life? How are you preparing for Easter? What is your priority?



Scheduling a Retreat

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Website: www.campmack.org

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

**Leaders needed for a few events. Please contact Camp Mack if interested in leading and we can set you up for success with any information you may need.*

Apr 2 Flintknapping- Gain new skills in shaping stone into useful tools.

Apr 2 Youth Ministry Workshop- Day for youth leaders to explore the partnership between camp and the local churches.

Apr 30 Nature Photography- Enjoy the spring wildflowers at camp as you improve your nature photography skills and begin your artist journal.

Apr 30 Scrapbooking- One day crop for beginner scrappers and those with limited scrapping time. Lots of supplies for your use.

Apr 30 Archery - Great day for the beginner archer to focus on basic techniques and play games like tic tac toe.

May 7 Canoe the St Joe River - Eight relaxed miles canoeing the St Joe River, Mottville, MI to Bristol, IN.

May 7 Wildflower Walk (LEADER NEEDED)- Learn more about the wildflowers in the woods at Camp Mack.

May 7 Dutch Oven Cooking (LEADER NEEDED)- From appetizers to desserts, you won't leave this night hungry.

Camp Mack Festival

Would you like to help raise funds for our campership fund? Do you have some new ideas to bring to the festival? Do you love Camp Mack? If you answered YES to any of these questions then you may be a good addition to the Camp Mack Festival Committee. We are looking for four new committee members to fill the Banking, Facility and Demos & Displays Chair positions. We meet five times a year and the festival is the first Saturday in October. If you have any questions about the chair position job descriptions or about the festival please contact Lauren Carrick at lauren@campmack.org or 574-658-4831.

