



## Camp Alexander Mack

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### News from the Director

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As I sit down to write this article for the newsletter, I am in the process of moving into a new office for me. It overlooks the entrance to the John Kline Center, and it is undoubtedly the most spectacular view I have ever had in all my years of employment.

My new job as the Executive Director of Camp Mack begins in three days, and today I had the experience of eating with the staff for the first time. Today I had the privilege of participating in a meeting of the permanent staff. Today I confirmed the incredible optimism I feel for the ongoing ministry of Camp Mack.

I can't express how overwhelmed I am that God has called me to this place, working with this outstanding staff, and at this time in the camp's history. We have so many opportunities to grow and develop, bringing the love of God to people in a way that heals and inspires. Our programs bring light and community to children, youth, young adults, families, adults of all ages, and communities of people trying to find meaning in a world that often lacks hope. That is our ministry – that is our call. And I am filled with incredible joy that I get to be a part of it all.

I want to establish strong communication with our churches, our pastors, and our non-Church of the Brethren friends. That means I will be making myself as available as I can to meet with churches, groups, and individuals who all want to know about our needs, our challenges, and the opportunities we provide.

Finally, it is my hope that you will also find a way to be an integral part of our ministry. Many of you already contribute with your time, talents, and treasure, but I am hoping that your experience of giving will be even more. It is through you that we have a ministry to offer, and it is important to me that you feel and know the blessing of your contributions. I want to hear from you, and I hope you will take the time to come to this beautiful place and share in the peace one can find here.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Camp Mack Festival on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Farmer's Almanac says it will be a beautiful day. Regardless of the weather, we know it will be beautiful here, because so many will share in a communal celebration of this great ministry.

Gene Hollenberg  
Executive Director

### Camp Mack Wish List

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Scholarship Funds- \$5000+

Internet Upgrades- \$25,000

Good Shepherd Window Repairs \$30,000

400 Club to pay off John Kline Welcome Center- \$78,836

Masons to help with repairs to rocks in our buildings structures

Corn Sheller and Grinders

## What is Cookin' from the Kitchen

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Today I am putting all of the details together for this weekends "Labor Day Family Camp". As I work on the staff schedule I am feeling quite stressed. You see most people believe that now that the summer camp season is over things get really quiet and laid back here at camp. In fact this is not the case. Our business now shifts for the most part to being a weekend event and retreat center. For example this past weekend we were very busy. Friday evening we had a wedding rehearsal dinner for 60 people followed by the wedding the following day. Saturday we served over 250 people for this wedding alone. I think I forgot to mention that this was a double wedding; two sisters chose to have a combined service. Saturday we also served the Camp Board and Sunday we served the Bethany COB lunch after their worship service.

Of course there are a lot of details to manage when we have events of this size. Anyone who has helped pull off a church function will understand this. To staff an event like the wedding reception I need people. For example Saturday evening I needed the following: 10 servers, 4 dishwashers and 6 cooks— a total 20 of persons.

Of these 20 people I only have 4 regular hourly staff members. So I must rely on volunteers who are willing to share their time with us. Sometimes this can be a really nerve racking experience, waiting for people to call and let us know that they are willing and able to help us out with a particular event.

The stressful part is not having enough help to get the job done. I always worry about the details and this particular detail is the one that I fret about the most. I usually end up feeling foolish because God working through your willing hearts and hands is faithful. Sometimes much to my surprise volunteers call or just show up and go to work doing whatever we need to take care of our guests. I am very blessed and truly thankful for the many volunteers who love Camp Mack and selflessly share of their time and talents to further this ministry.

In closing you may be wondering how things went with our events this weekend. Friday evening went well; one of the brides came to me Saturday before the wedding and thanked me for the rehearsal dinner. She said that, "This was better than she expected," and that everyone "loved" the Mexican buffet we served.

Saturday evening after the meal was served, the second sister came to me and thanked me for all our help with everything, from working with the florist and DJ to the bakery and the cake table. She said she never expected be given such help in making sure that all of the details came together for their wedding.

You see, I find in dealing with those who choose to have their events here at Camp Mack that I am often quite humbled, humbled; because I know that without all of you Godly saints who love the Lord and believe in the ministry of Camp Mack, events like this wedding could not happen. Once again thank you for selflessly sharing your time and talents with us. We could not continue to do what we do without your help.

Tony Keck FSM  
Food Service Manager

# Sunny Camp Mack

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I thought I would share some of the Facility issues that have been solved this summer with the help of our wonderful volunteers. In late July we had a first time volunteer group from the Chalmers Community Church in Chalmers, Indiana. They painted the fronts of the W cabins and completely repainted E-1. At the same time they took the roof off of cabins C & D and reroofed cabin C. We hope to finish cabin D roof this labor day with Family Camp. When D is done this completes the letter cabin roofing project. The W circle was completed three years ago by the DeKalb School Soccer boys. We have just begun the E-circle cabins.

In early August, Jed Freels brought the DeKalb Soccer Team to Camp for some training and volunteer time. Jed has been doing this for several years. This year we finished the other half of the Wampler roof and started the lower auditorium roof. Family camp and Colony camp had given us some money for the Wampler project and a donor had given the money for QM. We did about a third of the lower roof on one side so it is going to take us a while to finish the project, but so far we are ahead of the leaks! On the inside of Q.M. we installed new LED lights on the back half. Dick Fife, Steve Phelps, and John Sonafrank from the Kokomo COB came in late July and installed them for us. When you come to C.M.F. make sure you take a good look at the new roof and lights.

Last winter Lynn's crew built 30 new screen doors for the cabins. Wayne Vardaman has been installing them this summer. It is a pretty tedious project. Some of our cabins are not exactly square anymore! When Wayne comes, his wife Kate comes and works on the JKC flower bed. That really helps.

We also had a group from Pleasant Dale Church come this summer and paint the deck on the JKC. The church had raised the funds and Dan and Linda Steele led a group to put it on. This was a project that we have wanted to do for the last four years. It was good to get it done.

It has been a good summer for volunteer groups and our projects. We have invested a little over \$21,000 in Capital projects this year. For our volunteers we are very grateful.

Thank You-Thank You!! Galen Jay, Facility Manager

## Nature Nut News

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This past fall, just days after Evelyn Dick's book *Life on the Edge* (I encourage all to read it) was released, I was reading the first chapter that described their call to Haiti. It really fit my life at the point and also made me think of the theme for Day 1 at Camp Mack this summer. Our theme for the summer was Fearless Faith, Courage in Community. Day 1 was the Courage to Show Up and the story of Abram. We thanked campers for having the courage to follow God's call to camp for a week this summer while leaving some of the comforts of home behind.

I first learned of the Vine Ministry when I was young. Leroy and Evelyn Dick spoke at my home church, Blue River Church of the Brethren, many times and I was always was interested in their stories and what was new for the ministry in Haiti. One part of the Vine Ministry is sponsoring school children in Haiti. It costs \$360 a year to sponsor one student and provides their tuition, uniforms, books and supplies. I chose this as our summer service project with a goal to sponsor three students and spread the word of the Vine Ministry through a Haitian theme meal where we learned facts about Haiti and even learned a couple of phrases in Haitian Creole to use and practice during the meal. We met our goal of sponsoring three students the last week of camp and with Grand Camp coming we said, why not see if we can sponsor four? In the end we raised \$1666.99, enough to sponsor 4+ students for school. As of August 19, 150 students in Haiti are being sponsored through the Vine Ministry, with 10 of them being post high school. Thank you to all who have worked to support the Vine Ministry in Haiti.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

# Indiana Camp Board

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It is hard to believe that summer camping is over and the children are back in school. It seems like the camping season goes by faster each year.

The Board would like to thank all of the volunteers that have helped over the summer. We could not do it without you. Also, summer staff we appreciate how you stepped in to do the jobs that needed to be done each and every day.

Staff members we appreciate your diligent dedication to your jobs at camp. We thank you for showing Holy Hospitality to everyone who has been at camp over the summer.

Our Mission Statement is – “Camp Mack is a Sanctuary where people connect with God”. Our Board believes that statement and it takes all of us to make this happen. Even if you are baking cookies, cleaning toilets, life guarding, working on the buildings, working on the yards, working in the office or kitchen or camp store, or volunteering to be a Team Leader or counselor.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

As many of you know August was the last month that Galen was our Executive Director. Galen you have done a wonderful job for stepping into that position. The Board has enjoyed working with you and would like to thank you for your dedication to Camp Mack.

Gene Hollenberg, starts as our new Executive Director on September 1<sup>st</sup>. He has already told us many ideas that he has been thinking about. The Board is looking forward to working with Gene.

I was at a concert a couple of weeks ago. We sang this song as a closing “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”. I would like to share the chorus with you.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy had hath provided-  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

God has been faithful to Camp Mack. He has given us what we needed maybe not all of our wants but He has provided for us. Each day we see new mercies that God gave us to continue to move forward with making “Camp Mack a Sanctuary where people connect with God.”

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

## ***Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:***

### Camp Mack Calendar

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September 2-5	Labor Day Family Camp	October 8-9	Father Son Retreat
October 1	Camp Mack Festival	October 10-13	Seasoned Citizen’s Retreat
October 7	Build a Drum Registration Deadline	October 13-16	Quilt Retreat



## Labor Day Family Camp

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This popular camp offers something for the entire family! Swimming, boating, crafts and community worship are available along with age-appropriate classes and discussion groups. \$96 per family. Additional fees for lodging and meals.

## Camp Mack Festival

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Join us for the annual Camp Mack Festival. There is fun for the entire family with children's activities, demonstrations, food vendors, entertainment, hay rides, train rides, a live auction... This fundraiser provides support for scholarships and special projects. FREE admission and parking. Handicap parking and transportation available



## Father Son Retreat

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A firm foundation in Christ is the base for building relationships between father and son. Have fun creating in the woodshop, playing with Legos and Lincoln Logs, singing around the campfire and more. 1 Corinthians 20. \$131 per father/son pair, \$60 for each addition person. All fathers and son invited. October 8-9, 9a Saturday to 1p Sunday.

## Seasoned Citizens Retreat

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Seasoned Citizen's Retreat is a group of life-experienced people who gather twice a year 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," hiking, puzzles, and naps, too! We offer handicap-accessible sleeping and meeting rooms, as well as dining options for those on special talents. \$168 per person (\$113 if not staying overnight). October 10-13, 3p Monday- 1p Thursday.



## Quilt Retreat

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Gather with quilters of all ages to share your love of quilting and expertise while enjoying the tranquil scenery of Camp Mack. Bring your sewing machine, UFO's and quilting supplies. Space is limited to the first 40 fully-paid quilters. \$120 per quilter. Early arrival fee: \$134 per quilter arriving on Friday morning, \$166 per quilter arriving on Thursday evening. Includes housing and scheduled meals. October 13-16, 6p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday.



## Scrapbooking Retreat

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Crop 'til you drop with a weekend of scrap therapy. Bring the scrapbook you need to finish or may have been waiting for the perfect time to begin. Spread out your supplies and enjoy an uninterrupted time with fellow scrappers. Bring you extra scraps, paper, stickers and more to trade and swap. \$115 per scrapper. Early arrival fee: \$126 per scrapper arriving on Friday morning, \$143 per scrapper arriving on Thursday evening. Fee includes housing and scheduled meals. October 27-30, 6p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday.

## Build A Drum Workshop

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Meet "Stan the Drum Man" as he leads you through the steps in creating your own unique Djembe, Ashiko or Native Drum (more drum styles available). These one of a kind drums will bring years of enjoyment and the quality is amazing. *Drums must be paid for and ordered by October 7.* \$110 per person for the full workshop (2 nights/ 5 meals) plus cost of drum. Day rate available. November 4-6, 7p Friday- 5p Sunday. More information found at <http://campmack.org/celebrating> or by emailing [jessk@campmack.org](mailto:jessk@campmack.org)



## Kids Build A Drum Day

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At Kids' Day, kids will decorate and assemble their own youth Ashiko drum. All drums must be ordered and paid for by October 7. \$38 for adult and child (includes lunch) plus cost of the drum. Saturday, November 5, 9a- 3p. More information found at <http://campmack.org/celebrating> or by emailing [jessk@campmack.org](mailto:jessk@campmack.org)

## Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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**\*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!**

September 10 Sailing 201- Spend the day sailing on Lake Michigan aboard a 34' O'Day sailboat

September 10 Pallet Crafts- Deconstruct wooden pallets and turn them into Pinterest worthy craft projects

September 10 Mixed Medium Painting- Build a textured layered mixed medium painting

October 15 Knitting & Crocheting- For beginner to advanced, enjoy a day filled with fiber at Camp Mack

October 15 Wooden Pen Turning- Turn blocks on wood on a lathe into beautiful pens

October 15 Beginner Quilting- Get started in the world of quilting with your first block

October 16 Fall Nut & Tree ID Walk- Come along for an afternoon of tree and nut identification

-For more information, check out Get-a-Way Days at [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org) or by emailing [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)

# Camp Mack Festival

Attention all festival goers, the festival is sneaking up here quickly!!! There are a few changes this year we are moving the live auction time to **10:30 a.m.** so come get some breakfast and find some great treasures at the auction. Here are a few items that have been donated already

## Rock Run Comforters



## Two exterior doors

(value of \$800 each)



## Manchester University Year Books



## American Girl Doll Clothes & Accessories



## Plant Stand



**Also this year we are going to have a CAKE WALK instead of scarecrows.**

ATTENTION, all baking aficionados! It's a "CAKE WALK"!

Put your culinary talents together for the first Cake Walk to be held at Alexander Mack Festival on Saturday, October 1st!

The main attraction will be homemade\* goodies such as --

CAKES, PIES, COOKIES, YEAST ROLLS, SWEET ROLLS, FUDGE, BROWNIES, NOODLES

This event is to help Camp Mack and to have a time to enjoy fellowship with others who love camp and to have fun while financially boosting Camp Mack.

\*NOTE: Homemade doesn't have to be made by you, just "homemade!"

For information, contact Mackfest Board Member, Linda Starr [lls0527@gmail.com](mailto:lls0527@gmail.com)



# A Quiet Place

## THE BETTER THING

In my devotional time I have been reflecting on the passage from Luke 10:38-41 which is probably very familiar to you. It is about Jesus visiting in the home of Martha. Since Scripture states clearly that it was Martha's home, we can assume that she felt a greater responsibility to have things prepared for his visit. When she became irritated that Mary was not helping and complained to Jesus that he should tell her to help, Jesus replied, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Many times we have heard more negative comments about Martha, but what is important to remember is that service is empty and anxiety producing when one has not taken time first to prayerfully listen to what Jesus is saying.

"Mature disciples are those whose prayer and work are so integrated that they experience life as, *contemplation in action*," says the writers of the *Take and Receive* series of books. They go on to say that, "Their lives are a rhythmic balance of and continuity between prayer and activity. One flows freely into the other. Neither becomes a distraction for the other. On the contrary, they nurture each other."

As many of you know, I make an annual week of silent retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemani in KY. While I am there, I do not see the monks just sitting around all day but rather they get up at 3:15 AM to pray and chant the Psalms and after doing spiritual reading and breakfast they all have jobs and chores to do. They call it, "*ora a labora*," prayer and work, but always the prayer comes first. It is a beautiful balance that we can all learn to integrate into our own lives.

A Quiet Place was established to be a place where one can find the solitude and silence to really listen to God and then go back into the work world with renewed energy. Try it sometime...we would love to have you as a guest in our "home,"

Norma Miller, Director

We invite you to check out our new website at [www.aquietplaceprayercenter.org](http://www.aquietplaceprayercenter.org) .

We are also taking reservations for the day retreat, **On the Threshold**, with Marlene Kropf on Wednesday, October 5 that will be held at Camp Mack.

You can register on the website or contact Norma Miller, Director at [njmillier567@gmail.com](mailto:njmillier567@gmail.com) .

**Scheduling a Retreat:** Norma Miller, Spiritual Director  
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