



Camp Alexander Mack



News from the Director

As February begins, the planning and work for our summer camping program is in full swing. Brochures have been mailed, camp representatives have met, church packets have been distributed, summer staff is being interviewed and hired. At the beginning of March, we have our team leader meeting. It is exciting to envision the life-changing experiences that will occur at camp this summer.

We are also looking for ways to expand our ministry beyond our current summer camping program and retreat offerings. At this time we are working on two new ways to increase our impact and connect people with God.

First, we are challenging every congregation to sponsor two children, who are not currently connected, to come to camp this summer. Each of these children should be children who are either associated with your church but not strongly connected, or children who are in the community of the church but not connected with a church family. What the church does is to identify the campers; make arrangements to get them to camp, including getting camperships and providing for the rest of their camp fees; and, designate the camper as a community camper on the registration form. What we will do then is contact the church pastor to find out who this person is and what connection they may have with the church. After camp, we will contact whomever the pastor has asked us to contact to share back some of the camp experiences of the camper, so that the church can work on building relationship from there. It is our hope that we can help the congregation make these connections stronger over time. If the congregation wishes to sponsor more than two children, that would be terrific, we will work with whatever number of campers sent, but for now we are only challenging each church to sponsor two.

Another exciting ministry will take longer to implement, but we hope it will have a big impact. In the summer of 2018, we plan to run a pilot camp for children with behavioral and/or emotional disabilities. This would be a small camp to make certain we are prepared for the unique challenges these children will bring. If all goes well, we would create a full camp program beginning in the summer of 2019. Planning for this starts now, so we are looking for people who have professional experience with behavioral and emotional disabilities to help us begin the process. If you would like to assist in the planning process, please contact me by calling the camp office or emailing me at gene@campmack.org. This is an important opportunity for us to meet a real need in our communities.

God calls us to be light and salt in the world, and we will continue to explore ways that our ministry and yours can work together to make it be so.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Be Our Guest

As we turn the page of the calendar to February or you walk into the grocery store or shopping mall you will notice Valentine's Day is 2 weeks away. When we think of Valentine's Day we think of love. I hope that each of you do something special for your sweetheart. I also hope you think about love in other ways.



At Camp I have seen 3 types of love displayed. I think of Eros and the many summer staff I have seen eventually get married. I have worked with many couples as they plan weddings and we see them happen at Camp Mack. We also have the many marriage retreats as they work at strengthening their marriage.

There is also Philos or friendship which is very prevalent at Summer Camp as perfect strangers come together for a week, and leave as friends; many times it is a friendship that lasts for decades or a lifetime. Summer staff working together for a summer create strong bonds of friendship as they work and live together for a summer for a common purpose and goal of making Summer Camp a special experience for hundreds of children and adults. There are groups like Family Camp, Colony Camp, Scrapbook, Quilt Retreats and many others that see each other once or twice a year and have that great love of a friend.

Most of all I know of many persons that feel Gods love for us and the Agape love we show to one another. It is the love that Jesus had for us as he hung on the cross to die for our sins. It is the love that counselors have for campers. It is what I hear people describe as they put words to the feeling they have as they spend time at Camp Mack. I heard it again today as a young lady described how her relationship with God seems to flourish when she is at Camp Mack.

Yes love is in the air at Camp Mack, and in the trees and the lake and all of God's creation including the people that come here year after year or spend a summer or a week or weekend. Love for people, love for God, being loved by God.

Mike Kauffman, Guest Services

Indiana Camp Board

As I am setting here in my sun room the wind is blowing and the snow flying; it is not very sunny. But in my heart there is great joy, the "400" Club is officially closed. On January 6th we made the final payment on the mortgage.

Gene emailed me and asked how I felt we should announce this great joy. I told him to shout it from the mountain tops, which he has done through Facebook.

The Board would like to thank everyone who has contributed towards this mortgage with your prayers, money, and time. We are praising the Lord for each and every one of you. Thank you! Thank you!

Since the camp is debt free we are now able to look on how to repair and upgrade our buildings. We are also looking at the future for potential growth for our camp.

God's Blessings,
Sue Freel, ICB Chairman

Sunny Camp Mack

I thought I would take a little time to talk about our work in our buildings in the winter here at Camp. This fall we completed a remodel on the upstairs women's restroom in Ulrich. We had a small water leak this summer behind one of the john's. By the time we discovered the problem it had done some damage to the flooring. Therefore, we pulled out the stall dividers and pulled up the john's and replaced the flooring. At the same time we replaced the exhaust fans with some new ones with L.E.D. lights in them. This makes a big difference in the amount of light in the shower stalls. We finished with some painting and that restroom looks a lot better. Our restrooms take a beating in the course of a summer. Over a ten week summer of camps each shower stall can be used 400-500 times. We experience quite a bit of iron in our water so we need to clean and replace shower heads regularly. We have the same issues with sinks. Faucets and drains need to be regularly cleaned and replaced. A slow draining sink can be pretty disgusting.

We have also been replacing some older florescent light with some of the new L.E.D. lights. The savings in energy and the increased quality of light is wonderful. I think our scrapbookers and quilters will appreciate the better light.

Of course at this time of the year we do a lot of painting. We go into each building and find the scrapes and nicks from the summer and put some stain and polyurethane or paint on them. This really helps the looks of our buildings. We are doing a little experimenting this winter on some of our old tables. We salvaged 20 of our MityLite tables from Becker after the fire. We have used them in the auditorium the past six years and they were showing some serious wear. We found a primer and a paint that seems to stick to our tables so we are bringing them into our shop and painting them. They sure look better and we hope the paint will not nick and scratch too quickly. Our volunteers continue to build benches and desks and stain and poly them also.

We hope to complete one more remodel in the upstairs women's restroom of SM before spring. All of this is a part of creating the "...Sanctuary where people connect with God."

Galen Jay, Facility Manager

Camp Mack Wish List

Internet Upgrades- \$25,000

Good Shepherd Window Repairs \$90,000

Stone Masons to help with repairs to rocks in our buildings structures

Corn Sheller and Grinders



There's Treasure Everywhere! Yes, I love the appreciation for the small things that Calvin has in this strip. Ever notice when you start reminiscing about your childhood, the stories that begin to be shared and the happiness and laughter that comes from it? There's no reason moments like these need to stay in your childhood. My niece and nephews, campers, and getting to go outside and play with other kids gives me so much joy. I love their expression and curiosity as they pick up a slimy slug, taste an unripe persimmon for the first time, examine scat and tracks along a trail, see where a deer has rubbed its antlers on a tree trunk, see the dew drops on a spider web, feel the tickle of a perfect snowflake landing on the tip of their tongue, see a carp jump and splash in the lake, or when we run and splash through a giant mud puddle and fall face first into it before erupting in a fit of giggles. Sound like fun? Then take the time to get outside and be sure to let me know what treasure you find.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



Summer Staff and Program Assistants

We are interviewing for 2017 Summer Staff, A Summer Photographer, Summer Challenge Course Manager, and the Summer Waterfront Director. Summer Staff employment begins at Camp Mack in mid to late May. Lifeguards have the opportunity to attend/ be trained as part of their job. Summer staff works in the areas of Facility, Housekeeping, Kitchen, Program, Lifeguarding and more. Lodging and meals are part of the summer staff package as well as opportunity for college scholarship. Summer staff will change your life! Email info@campmack.org if interested. Applications are available at www.campmack.org/employment.



Kitchen News

“Pass It On”

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That’s how it is with God’s love once you’ve experienced it;
you spread His love to everyone;
you want to pass it on.*

By Kurt Kaiser

From the United Methodist Hymnal No. 572

“Pass it on” was written by Kurt Kaiser on a Sunday evening as he was sitting in his family den by the fireplace with the remnants of a fire glowing. He says, “ it occurred to me that it only takes a spark to get a fire going... and the rest came very quickly. My wife suggested that I should say something about shouting it from the mountain tops, and that ended up being the third verse. It only took about 20 minutes to write the lyrics.” *

If you are a baby boomer and attended any camp as I did growing up, this was a personal favorite that I sang as a Camp Mack camper but also as a summer staff member of '69 and '70 in the kitchen. It has a powerful message but is easy to sing and harmonize to the catchy melody. This song always tugs at my heart strings that connect to this camp, a place that people connect with God, where I connected with so many friends. The friendships continue to grow and glow like embers as I work in the kitchen or dining room I look around for the faces and the memories. I hope Camp Mack holds happy memories for you as it did for me in my youth and builds on as an adult. And while you are watching the embers glow in your fireplace please get out the graham crackers, marshmallows and candy bars and enjoy!

“Pass on” the s’mores, memories and maybe make new memories to treasure “because once you’ve experienced it; you spread His love to everyone; you want to pass it on”

Wanda Gall, Food Service Manager

Welcome Our New Food Service Staff

We are happy to announce that Wanda Gall will continue as our Food Service Manager through the summer camping season. When that ends, Vanessa Bohannon, our current shift supervisor, will take over.

Wanda has been our interim FSM since late September, and she has provided welcoming and tasty hospitality since. Having her work through the camping season will give us some continuity and make our transition to a new FSM smooth and seamless.

Vanessa has experience from our summer staff, a school cafeteria, restaurant cooking and management, and banquet service. She took the full-time shift supervisor role in October.

It is exciting to begin the new chapter of our food service at Camp Mack as we provide *Holy Hospitality* and serve you in meeting our mission!



Summer Medical Staff

During the summer, we need medical staff for approximately 3 hours on check in days and volunteers to spend the week in the health office. Medical staff may be a MD, NP, PA, RN, or LPN. Check in staff are responsible for collecting health forms, checking in camper meds, or doing health checks. Weekly medical staff are responsible for passing camper medications, providing care for minor illnesses and injuries, and general care of campers. Staff are provided with lodging and meals. If you are interested or would like more information, email jessk@campmack.org for a list of dates and needs.



Team Leaders Needed

Team Leaders are needed for Creative Arts (July 9-14) and Pedal Paddle Camp (July 2-8, Age 25+). Team Leaders are a crucial link in forming the leadership team for each camp. We also have a few Team Leaders who would appreciate an assistant. They are Finders (June 18-23), Dune Challenge (June 25- July 1, Male- age 25+), and Archery (June 11-15). Training is scheduled for March 4. Email jessk@campmack.org if interested or in need of more information



Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

February 16-19	Quilt Retreat	March 18-19	Mother Daughter
February 23-26	Scrapbooking Retreat	April 3-5	Volunteer Work Days
March 4	Team Leader Training	April 4-5	Pastor's Sabbath
March 13-15	Volunteer Work Days	April 19-23	Quilt Retreat
March 17	Annual Dinner	April 21-23	CIT Training



Quilt Retreat

The first quilt retreat of the year is a unique opportunity for quilters of all ages to gather and share their expertise and love of quilting while enjoying the tranquil scenery of Camp Mack. Bring your sewing machine, UFO's, and quilting supplies. February 16-19, 6p Thursday- 3p Sunday and April 19-23, 6p Wednesday- 3p Sunday. \$122 per quilter (\$137 per quilter arriving Friday morning, \$166 per quilter arriving on Thursday evening, \$190 per quilter arriving Wednesday evening*.) Fee includes housing and scheduled meals.
**April only*

Scrapbooking Retreat

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 your extra scraps, paper, stickers and more to trade and swap.

February 23-26, 6p Thursday- 3p Sunday. \$116 per scrapper (\$130 per scrapper arriving Friday morning, \$145 per scrapper arriving on Thursday evening.) Fee includes housing and scheduled meals.

** Can't make the whole weekend? Sign up for the scrapbooking Get-a-Way Day February 25.*



Team Leader Training

Team Leader Training is the first of our leadership trainings for summer programs. March 4, 9a-3p. See the Team Leader needs under Summer Needs in the newsletter if you are interested in being a Team Leader.



Volunteer Work Days

Work with Camp Mack staff as we prep for the summer camp season. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. March 13-15 and April 3-5. Come for a few hours or all three days. Meals and lodging are available. There is no fee for this event. Please contact the office at 574-658-4831 for reservations.

Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner is set for March 17th, and what a great time it will be! There is a lot to celebrate this year. Soon, your invitation will arrive in the mail, and for those who purchase a table, we have a great opportunity. Each person who buys a table for the dinner will have their name placed in a drawing for the quilt pictured here.

This is a king-size quilt hand-stitched by Sue Charlwood. She has donated it to the camp to help us promote our annual dinner. We are hoping this will be the biggest dinner yet, and now there is even more incentive for you to bring a group. The night of the dinner, we will make the drawing, and someone (maybe you!) will return home with a beautiful quilt. Be sure to turn in your reservation for a table at this year's Annual Dinner!

Fee: A donation of \$25 per person, \$300 for a table of six, \$350 for a table of seven, or \$400 for a table of eight. Additional contributions are gladly accepted! Appetizers begin at 6:15p, dinner begins at 7p. Contact our office for reservations.



Mother Daughter Retreat

“Camping or Glamping?” Learn from the wilderness from the comfort of camp and the lodge. Hone your crafting skills, enjoy an afternoon tea, spend time sharing your story with other women and girls, and leave with resources for camping or glamping. All women, mothers, daughters, and grandmas of all age are invited. \$163 for each mother and daughter pair, \$72 for each additional person. Includes housing and meals. March 18-19, 9a Saturday to 1p Sunday.

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!**

- February 12 Eagle Watch Travel to Salamonie to view migrating Bald Eagles at the roost. Some years we have seen over 80. \$20. Includes travel and snacks. We will stop on the way home for dinner.
- February 25 Scrapbooking Great day to work on your scrapbook or glean new ideas from the scrappers at the weekend retreat. Stop by the swap tables to get some great supplies. \$15. Includes lunch.
- April 1 Primitive Utensils Make bowls, spoons, and other utensils using primitive techniques such as fire to shape and form them. \$20. Includes lunch.
- April 29 Container Gardening Learn techniques and tricks for successfully growing vegetables in enclosed spaces such as pots, pools, and tires. \$20. Includes lunch.
- April 29 Target Sports Archery target shoot, let paintballs fly with a slingshot at a target, and hear the noises as you throw rocks at hanging pots and pans. \$15. Includes lunch.

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

Summer Camp Schedule



BRANCHING OUT <i>Connecting Through Christ</i> SUMMER CAMP 2017			
Samplers	June 4-6	Pedal & Paddle	July 2-8
Beginners	June 11-13	Samplers	July 9-11
Archery	June 11-15	Seekers	July 9-14
Grand Camp	June 15-17	Followers	July 9-14
Seekers	June 18-23	Splash Camp	July 9-14
Finders	June 18-23	Creative Arts	July 9-14
Survivor	June 18-24	Culinary	July 11-15
Eco Adventure	June 25-30	Dadirri	July 23-29
Dune Challenge	June 25-July 1	Grand Camp	July 30-Aug 1
Seekers	July 2-7		
Finders	July 2-7		
Youth	July 2-8		