

Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director



As we approach the beginning of March, I wonder what the weather will be like. We've had such a mild February, that I fear we may pay for it in the next few weeks.

One of the joys of this job is the opportunity to visit with people in the churches. In 2016, I had the privilege of visiting six congregations, and I have been in eight congregations since New Year's Day. Each church is different, and it is exciting to see the variety of ways each serves God. I also appreciate the opportunity it gives me to talk to people about Camp Mack and our mission of connecting people with God.

With the retirement of the debt on the John Kline Welcome Center, we now look toward the future. The near future includes several things, like: summer camp registrations due in March, the Annual Dinner in just a few weeks, CIT training in April, and counselor training in May. In the longer view, we have to start addressing some very real needs we have at camp.

There are two particularly important items we have to address soon. First, we have a significant number of facility and maintenance issues we have delayed, and we can't put them off much longer. Secondly, we have a need to expand our opportunities for ministry by increasing our capacity to serve guests in the future.

As I continue to meet with our churches, I want to talk with you about these needs. What do you think we should do? How would you prioritize our needs? What is your vision for the growth and future of Camp Mack? These are important questions, and your thoughts are crucial. Making these decisions requires input and serious deliberation in order to get things right. And you don't have to wait for me to come to your church either! Email me with your thoughts and ideas: gene@campmack.org.

In 2025, we will celebrate our 100th year of providing holy hospitality and vital ministry to our churches, our communities, and most importantly to people who need it. I hope you will help us reach out and provide the love of God by sharing your dreams with us. There is no end to what we can accomplish together in faith.

Please continue to pray for us as we move forward in ministry. May peace and love be found here and everywhere, and may we be the hands and feet of Jesus in making it so!

Gene Hollenberg
Executive Director



New Life



We have had a taste of spring in February this year, and as trees are budding and birds are singing and the robins are back, we know spring is officially just weeks away. I enjoy spring as I see “new life” spring forth in plants and trees. I love the “new life” of babies as well, animals and human. I am also thinking of my “new life” and adventures that await me in 6 months as I retire. Many persons ask me what I have planned, and I do not have a plan. I hope to be able to “stop and smell the roses” and enjoy doing a variety of things and going places that I have not been able to do for a long time. Deb and I are making some plans, but also hope to enjoy some unplanned days.

I will miss the people and the ministry that happens as lives change, but I feel very good about where Camp Mack is, and where it is going in the future. When you put nearly 40 years into a ministry it is rewarding to see persons grow and to continue to see “new life” develop in people and groups and a ministry. It is encouraging to see new generations step up and continue forward with a ministry that has been passed along from generation to generation for over 90 years. I have faith in the generations who are introducing their children to the experience they had at Camp Mack, and pray that the experience their children have in this “sanctuary where people connect with God through faith formation, experiencing creation, and building Christian Community” will give them the desire to introduce their children to Camp Mack. “New life” happens as we plant seeds, nurture, and protect. “New life” happens under the Son shine of God.

I hope to see many of you here at Camp Mack in the next 6 months as there will be “new life” and renewed life as our Church of the Brethren summer campers and some adult retreats will be “branching out, connecting through Christ.” There will be many exciting things happening with a variety of many groups this year. Come be a part of life changing experiences that you will want to pass on to future generations. Be a part of this ministry that can be a set apart place for “new life” for many years and generations to come.



Mike Kauffman,
Guest Services



Sunny Camp Mack

Estate Gift paves the way for Ulrich Facelift

Camp received a very nice estate gift in January of this year. A portion of it is to be spent on Ulrich. We have enough money to side the building and replace the windows. The building has wood shakes on it now and they are in bad shape especially on the south end. We will replace them with a good quality vinyl siding. We will take off the old shakes and do some repairs on the wood underneath and then put on $\frac{3}{4}$ " insulation and cover it with a building wrap to seal it up. This should really help seal the building. The windows will be installed from the inside in March and they will then return later in the summer when we get the old shingles off and the insulation on to wrap the exterior portion of the windows. This is going to make a huge difference in the looks of the building and in the energy use. We are going to take off the old shakes with our own labor and we could use some help. I will have the scaffolding set up in the next couple of weeks and we could start the process. We will have to work around the schedules of our guests, but I think we can work this out. If you would have a group of folks looking for a volunteer project we can take care of you. There will be some on the ground tasks and some up on the scaffolding tasks. Come and help us to rejuvenate this great old building!

Galen Jay
Facilities Manager



Camp Mack Wish List

- Recreation equipment: Basketballs, Soccer balls, Footballs, Volleyballs, 4 Square balls, Beach Toys (pail, shovels, sand molds, etc...)
- Crafts: Flat Plastic Lanyard Lacing
- Outdoor Education: Binoculars



Camp Has What Kids Need

Friday, February 24, at the Albuquerque, New Mexico Airport. Sunrise reveal coming in 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.... Only seconds after this picture, the bright sun peeked over the mountains and rose quickly. A splendid ending to an information filled week. When people ask does camp close in the winter, the answer is a big no. We have many retreats and events. The off season is also a time of growth for our staff as we travel to conferences to be challenged and for personal growth. I attended the American Camp Association (ACA) National Conference this past week in Albuquerque. One reason was to attend a Standards Course to get ready for our ACA

Accreditation visit this summer. I also was involved in workshops that covered the areas of making camp the best for campers with special needs, improving staff trainings, how to build a breakout/puzzle room at camp, teambuilding activities, life skills from camp, and so much more. My brain will spend plenty of time processing the week in the coming days. I will leave you with a thought from our opening Keynote speaker, Dr. Shimi Kang. "Camp has what kids need to be healthy; unstructured play, regular sleep, regular physical activity, time in nature, social bonding, and down time." See you at camp this summer!

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 receive free (re)certification 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 the opportunity for a college scholarship. Summer staff will change your life! Email info@campmack.org if interested. Applications are available at www.campmack.org/employment.



Kitchen News

Ice in the Cave

When my Dad, John E. Gall was a boy he would have thought of “freezers” for food service in a whole different way than I do. Fred W. Gall, my grandfather, and several other area farmers used to drive their teams of horses in the winter to Camp Mack from their family farms several miles away. They would drive their teams out on to Lake Waubee and cut huge blocks of ice out of the lake. They would haul them into the cave with plenty of sawdust and place them several layers deep. This kind of refrigeration was common back then and would last most of the summer.

But not today! This certainly would not have been a possibility at Camp this year in this winter of 2017. We have had very little ice on the lake, barely enough for a “cube” let alone a “block”! The cave no longer exists. It perished in the Becker fire but in its later years was used in other ways as the freezer room and recycling room.

I’m always amazed at all the different connections that my family has to Camp Mack. I hope you can all find a way to celebrate with your loved ones at Camp Mack, or somewhere like it, that brings you a positive experience in a place to connect with God.

Wanda Gall,
Food Service Manager



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 distributing 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. Dune Challenge, June 25- July 1, also needs an assistant (Male- age 25+). 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

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
March 18-19	Mother Daughter		
April 3-5	Volunteer Work Days		

Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

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. Invitations have been sent 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!



If you did not receive an invitation, but would like one, please contact us right away.

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.

Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Mother Daughter Retreat



“Camping or Glamping?” Learn from the wilderness in 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.

Pastor’s Sabbath Retreat

The Sabbath experience at Camp Mack is a time of reflection, fellowship, personal meditation, and recreation for Church of the Brethren pastors. Plenty of time for fellowship with a balance of structures and free time! Guest leadership will be Mike Overpeck. April 4-5, \$20. Encourage your pastor(s) to attend.



Quilt Retreat



Sign up to join quilters of all ages as they 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. 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.

Counselor in Training (CIT) Weekend

Learn to be a Camp Counselor by attending this training weekend. Get on-the-job training as you work side by side with a cabin counselor during the summer. Practice your leadership skills, be a role model, and just have fun with the campers. Join us for a weekend of experiential training and brainstorming and leave with the tools to be a great leader. April 21-23, \$50. Ages 15 and older. Application required.



Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

**Please sign up for Get-a-Way Days 1-2 weeks in advance.*

- 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.
- May 6** **Canoe the St Joe:** Canoe from Mottville, MI to Bristol, IN with this relaxed float. Count the turtles along the way. \$20. Includes a sack lunch. Meet at camp before going offsite.
- May 6** **Dutch Oven Cooking:** Food over the coals always tastes better. Explore a variety of recipes from appetizers to desserts. We bet you won't leave here hungry. \$15. Dinner included.
- May 6** **Wildflower Walk:** Experience the spring flower show in the Camp Mack wilderness area and get to know your spring wildflowers. FREE. Bring a snack to share.

-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



The graphic features a light blue background with green vine and leaf illustrations. At the top, the text "BRANCHING OUT" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. Below it, "Connecting Through Christ" is written in a stylized, black, cursive font. Underneath that, "SUMMER CAMP 2017" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The bottom of the graphic shows a cluster of purple grapes.

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		