

Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director

At the annual dinner, I talked about change. That is appropriate since we are at the changing from one season to another. Not only are we changing from the hibernation of winter to the new life of spring, but we are also celebrating the transforming victory of Easter! Change happens around us all the time, and while we might not always like it, change is an important part of maintaining a healthy life. That is true for people, and it is true for organizations like Camp Mack too. Galen has been talking about the work we are doing at Ulrich House. The changes there will be wonderful in providing a better building to share with our guests, but it won't look the same. There will be changes in our summer program too. They aren't big changes; however, it will mean doing some things differently. In a month and a half, our annual counselor training will be upon us!!! While it doesn't sound like it, this is a very exciting announcement. That program is changing too! For the last several years, we have followed the same basic pattern in our training, but we are moving in a new direction this year. We want our counselors to have all the tools they need to lead children toward faithful living, but we want the training to be fun and engaging too. Here is a preview:

1. Friday evening is for people who are new to counseling. Here we will cover the basics and give an orientation to counseling.
2. On Saturday, attendees will attend three different seminar-like sessions: Bible study/curriculum, developing positive behavior, and camp games and activities. Each of these seminars is created to be fun, engaging, and helpful, even for experienced counselors.
3. There will be the required videos, so you don't have to view them on the weekend right before camp. This gives you more time to prepare for the campers.
4. We will preview the cookout, and share new information.

I guarantee you will have fun at training this year. Every time you visit, that should be the rule! Even if you haven't decided whether or not to counsel, sign up for the training. Let us help you decide.

I am excited about the future of Camp Mack, and we are just beginning to move forward into new growth and development. Of course it means change, and it can be hard to let go of our traditions, but if we live out of the New Testament, we know that Jesus was all about changing things. We aren't changing just to change. Instead we are looking at what we need to do to provide the best ways of connecting all of our guests and volunteers with God.

Join us in making a real difference in the lives of children, and in yours!

May 12th is the orientation, but all are invited. May 13th is the full training for everyone – new and experienced. I sure hope I see you there!

Gene Hollenberg
Executive Director

Be Our Guest

“Many Hands make Light Work”



The above quote which I remember hearing for the first time by a BVS staff person assigned to Camp Mack has stuck with me for the past 35-40 years. I am once again reminded of the saying as I have been receiving and receipting Camper registrations for the summer of 2017. I want to thank the parents and grandparents and Camp Representatives for all the work that it takes to register Campers for Camp. It also takes parents, grandparents, churches, and many

others who raise funds for camperships to help pay to get the campers to camp. Thank you to those of you that have been so instrumental in contributing to scholarships (camperships) for boys and girls to come to Camp. Many of us know the value of a summer camp experience but when you take the next step to help get campers to camp with finances and paperwork and encouragement it lessens the load on everyone.

As many of you know we are not just a summer Camp and today as I write this we have 3 retreat groups here. As I work with many of the groups from setting the date to sending deposits and working through the details for the retreat, to communicating details to those attending, it takes a lot of time and effort. I just want to say thank you to those retreat leaders and summer camp leaders that work together with us to make these events possible.

To the volunteers that are such a blessing to Camp Mack we also say thank you for the many hours of effort and the many dollars of gifts that help us to be the “Sanctuary where People Connect with God through Faith Formation, Experiencing Creation, and Building Christian Community”.

Many hands make light work at Camp, at home, in your community, and in your church. Won't you lend a hand and make a difference where you find yourself? If it has been at Camp Mack in the past or will be in the future we thank you.

Mike Kauffman,
Guest Services



Camp Mack Wish List

- Recreation equipment: Beach Toys (pails, shovels, sand molds, etc...)
- Crafts: Flat Plastic Lanyard Lacing, Hot glue sticks (mini and regular), #6 plastic to use for Shrinky Dinks
- Outdoor Education: Binoculars, Draw Knives



Indiana Camp Board

Thoughts from Sue Freel, Camp's Board Chair

A couple of weeks ago I had to do the worship service at our church since our pastor was ill. I had a reading that I found about 15 years ago so I took thoughts and ideas from the reading. I would like to share these thoughts with you for the newsletter.

I talked about a pencil. I thought about how a pencil can be used.



A pencil can be used for many great things but only if you hold it in your hand.

A pencil will experience a painful sharpening but you need to sharpen it to be able to use it.

A pencil can correct mistakes we might make.

A pencil can make a mark on every surface but we need to leave our mark.

As a camp and the board we can do great things with our pencil if we let God hold our hands as we make decisions for our camp.

As many of you know we have experienced a painful sharpening in the last several years but as a group I felt we sharpened our pencil with God's help leading us on the issues.

In a sense we have the ability and capacity to do some pretty awesome things as long as we are in the right hands. In the hand of God, our possibilities are endless.

We can leave our mark on every surface from being on the Camp Board, working as staff at camp, being volunteers as counselors, team leaders, and volunteers just helping at camp. Just think how all of us effect people who come onto the property of camp for an hour, day, or week.

With God's help Camp Mack will leave a mark in everyone that has experienced being at camp as a child, teenager, adult, or a senior citizen. That is our goal as a board and my personal goal as Board Chairman.

In Colossians 3:17 – "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Sunny Camp Mack

Water Issues Solved!



I had the privilege of working in a trench behind an excavator this week. Last fall we started to have some drainage problems in the low area of Mission Village. Instead of flowing through the tile to Hammond ditch, it was bubbling out of the ground about 100' before the outlet and running over to an overflow pipe and then to the ditch. I called my good friend Ellsworth Everest of Everest Excavating and we determined that the pipe was plugged with roots. He opened it up last fall and we let it drain all winter. It finally dried out enough this

week to fix the problem. The tile is a 12" clay tile that begins at our service drive on our east property line and goes across the low area and under Mission Village. It then turns south and crosses under the service drive just behind the compost pile and empties into Hammond ditch just before our wooden foot bridge. This tile is of vital importance to us not only because it drains the low area of Mission Village, but it also collects the waste geothermal water from JKC and the North Residence. The JKC waste geo-water flows under the softball field in a 3" line and empties into a manhole on the service drive. The water from the North Residence is pumped up to the same manhole and from there it flows through a 4" line down the side of the service drive to the 12" tile. Without the 12" tile functioning properly, we could be in some serious trouble! Therefore Ellsworth came back this week and we replaced the first 120' of clay tile with beautiful 20' sections of plastic pipe that tree roots won't be able to get into. As Ellsworth sat in his excavator digging out the old clay tile I just had to wonder what it was like laying that tile. It wasn't very deep but if you were digging it by hand it probably looked a bit deeper to them than to me standing on the side watching! Anyway life is good again, the JKC geothermal units can continue to run and the kids can stay cool this summer. It sure does take all kind of folk for Camp Mack to continue to be "a Sanctuary where people connect with God".

Galen Jay, Facility Director

Spring Fever

Spring Fever has hit the Wild Turkey population at Camp Mack. The Toms are strutting their stuff and their loud gobbling has caught me off guard more than once on the trail. Pictured below is a group of Toms trying to impress the Hens the other night in the camp cornfield beside the farm house. I spent about an hour in the field taking pictures and just observing the behaviors of the turkeys. Fascinating fact, their head color can change depending on their attitude and level of excitement and can be light pink, to red, and even blue. If you have never seen a turkey on the run or in flight, it is a sight to see and quite a racket at times. They roost in trees. The Kentucky Coffee Tree at Camp Mack in the wilderness area is a favorite roosting area. In the winter they form large groups and this past winter over 100 were counted one evening in the field across from the camp service drive. Later this spring they will lay a clutch of 7 to 18 eggs that will hatch about 4 weeks after the last egg is laid. The poults will be out of the nest and hunting tons of insects only a day after hatching. Weeks later they will develop more of a taste for plant matter such as seeds and nuts. Spend time in nature and you never know what you may see some day.

Jessie Kreider,
Program Director



Summer Staff and Program Assistants

We are interviewing for 2017 Summer Staff. Current openings are for five summer staff, a Summer Camp Photographer, and a 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

April showers bring May flowers (and flours of many kinds)....

Variety of FLOURS have become the new fashion in Food Service Industry.

This month we will explore wheat flours and next month experience in gluten free flours.

There are 9 types of wheat flours and we use a few of them at Camp Mack in various forms:

- All-purpose flour; the most commonly used flour in baking
- Bread flour; made entirely from hard wheat generates high gluten
- Cake flour; used in many cakes here for the Annual Dinner
- Pastry flour; made with soft wheat and is finer than all-purpose flour
- White whole wheat flour; has the same nutritional value as whole wheat
- Oat flour; does not come from wheat and is made from oats and is gluten free
- Self-rising flour; is a blend of all-purpose flour, baking powder and salt
- Semolina flour; is made from coarsely ground endosperm of durum wheat

Though we use mostly all-purpose flour in our baking at Camp Mack the other types of flours have a time and a place in our variety of menus. We bake cakes, rolls, cookies, bar cookies, cobblers, crisp and too many things to name them all so the many forms of flours have their specific uses.

Here's a recipe that you might enjoy from all-purpose flour.

Texas Sheet Cake Cookies

For the cookies:

- ½ cup room temperature salted butter
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 and 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or silicone mat and set aside.

In a large bowl beat soft butter and sugar together until light about two minutes.

Add vanilla and egg mixing until incorporated.

In a separate bowl mix together baking powder, salt and flour and then slowly add to above mixture.

In a microwave safe bowl heat chocolate chips on high in 30 second increments stirring between until melted. Add melted chocolate into cookie batter and stir until combined.

Scoop out dough in Tablespoon size balls and place on baking sheet.

BAKE for 7 minutes. They will be very soft on the inside but DO NOT overbake. Allow to cool.

For the Icing:

- ½ cup salted butter
- 2 TBSP cocoa powder
- 3 TBSP milk
- 2 and ½ cups powdered sugar
- 20 pecans, optional

Add butter, cocoa powder and milk to a saucepan.
Heat over medium heat whisking until melted together
Stir in powdered sugar.
Pour icing over cookies and apply nuts if you wish
Allow to cool 2 hours and ENJOY!!!!



Wanda Gall,
Food Service Manager

Summer Medical Staff



During the summer, we need medical staff for approximately three 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, must be age 25+). Team Leaders are a crucial link in forming the leadership team for each camp. Email jessk@campmack.org if interested or in need of more information.



Summer Camp Schedule

BRANCHING OUT
Connecting Through Christ
SUMMER CAMP 2017

Samplers	June 4-6	Pedal & Paddle	July 2-8
Beginners	June 11-13 3 SPOTS	Samplers	July 9-11
Archery	June 11-15 7 SPOTS	Seekers	July 9-14
Grand Camp	June 15-17	Followers	July 9-14
Seekers	June 18-23	Splash Camp	July 9-14 FULL
Finders	June 18-23	Creative Arts	July 9-14
Survivor	June 18-24 8 SPOTS	Culinary	July 11-15 7 SPOTS
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		

*In **RED** are **SPOTS REMAINING** in camps that are filling up quickly*

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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

- 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.
- June 10** **Pumpkinvine Bike Trek:** Load up your bike at Camp Mack and head to the Pumpkinvine Rails to Trails pathway. Ride from Goshen to Shipshewana. This is a beautiful trail with little road traffic. \$20 (Sack lunch included)

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



Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

April 3-5	Volunteer Work Days	May 1-4	Seasoned Citizen's Retreat
April 4-5	Pastor's Sabbath	May 4-6	Birdwatcher's Retreat
April 19-23	Quilt Retreat	May 7	5K Run/Walk
April 21-23	CIT Training	May 12-13	Counselor Training
		June 1-3	South Central Women's Camp

Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:



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. 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.

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 structured 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

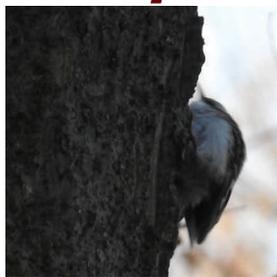
Learn to be a Camp Counselor by attending this training weekend. Get on-the-job training as you work side by side with a cabin counselor during the summer. Practice your leadership skills, be a role model, and just have fun with the campers. Join us for a weekend of experiential training and brainstorming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



Seasoned Citizen's Retreat

Join this 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 free time, "joke time," and more. Handicap accessible sleeping and meeting rooms as well as dining options for special diets. May 1-4, 3p Monday- 1p Thursday. \$171 per person staying overnight or \$115 if not staying overnight.

Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:



Birdwatcher's Retreat

Enjoy the spring migration with birdwatchers of all ages. New and experienced birdwatchers will experience the various habitats and birds at camp. We will also travel to other locations to see birds not usually found at camp. May 4-6, 6:30p Thurs. to 2p Saturday. \$115 for 2 nights and 5 meals or \$72 for 1 night and 2 meals.

5K Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run

Will you take the challenge?

The Annual Camp Mack 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for May 7th. The Kids' Fun Run begins at 2:00 and the 5K begins at 2:15. This annual event is a great way to get going for the spring and summer, and now we have a challenge!

Bethany Church of the Brethren brought 50 participants last year, and they had so much fun, they're doing it again. However, this time, they are challenging the other churches and organizations to **beat their number** of people registered. There is a traveling trophy involved.

Think of the fun and fellowship you could have if you could get a group from your church to come out on a beautiful day in May to enjoy the fresh air and support Camp Mack! Registration is \$20 for the 5K, \$10 for the Kids' Fun Run, and \$75.00 for a family. Registrations after April 17, add a \$5 late fee. Family registration only available during early registration.



Counselor Training Weekend



We are looking for around 50 more great volunteers to be counselors at camp this summer for 3-7 days. Check out Gene's article on page 1 for all the great changes coming to Counselor Training. At this training you will receive a manual with all the camp procedures and the Bible Study curriculum, as well as having the time to tour camp and do lots of hands on training. Counselor applications may be found under the employment tab at www.campmack.org.