



Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director

Remembrance and Hope

I have spent the last year listening to the stories of people and their thoughts about Camp Mack. There have been stories of great faith, stories of great discovery, and stories of great connections with God and other people. There have also been stories of pain, some of which have been addressed, and some of which have not.

I feel a special privilege in being the receiver of these stories, and I feel an obligation to make certain they continue to be told. Over the next couple of years, there will be lots of opportunities for people to tell their stories in a wide variety of ways. I hope you will look for ways to tell your stories about Camp Mack to the people around you, and perhaps you will be asked to share with the wider Camp Mack community.

One story I continue to hear is the life-changing experience of the fire that destroyed Becker Lodge in July of 2010. Becker Lodge had been the center of the camp, housing administrative offices, dining halls, kitchen, staff lodging, and retreat facilities. It was situated in a prime location, and nearly everyone had experiences to share about that building.



When Becker was suddenly gone in the middle of a summer camp season, the staff did the impossible, they continued summer camp with no more than a three-hour delay. The focus of 2010 and 2011 was to keep the program going and to replace the essential functions lost in the fire: offices, food service, and dining space. There was not the time to reflect on the intangible elements of Becker Lodge that had been lost: memories, traditions, and relationships.

While many of our camp family have moved on, there are many others who still grieve the loss of such an important touchstone in their lives. In order to help us move forward, we are preparing a *Service of Remembrance and Hope* to be held at camp on September 30, 2017 at 2:30 in the afternoon.

We will start with remembering and acknowledging the importance of Becker Lodge to the life and history of Camp Mack. This is to be a celebration of the many wonderful things that formed our lives through the camp experience.

We will then move to a location east of the John Kline Welcome Center where the bell from Becker has been relocated. There, we will talk about the significance of the platform on which the bell has been placed, and we will celebrate our shared hope for the possibilities we have in the future.

We know that we will never have a Becker Lodge like the one we lost in 2010. One reason is that we have already replaced many of its functions. So, it is time for us to reimagine what we can do with the space that once served the camp so well, and to consider what will be the new role for a Becker Lodge in the future.

Please join us on September 30. This will be a true celebration where we build on the past to create a bright future.

Gene Hollenberg,
Executive Director.



Goodbye and I hope to see you later..

As I write my last newsletter article as an employee at Camp Mack, I want to say goodbye but also “see you later.” For some of you, I certainly will not see you often. For all of you, no matter the frequency of our time together in the past or in the future, I just want to say how much I value our time together, our friendships, the memories, laughs, and encouragement. For some, I thank you for the way you have helped to shape my faith by your words, service, and actions. Thank you all for what you have done for the ministry of Camp Mack in the past and the present and will do in the future as lives are impacted for Christ.

Camp Mack has been a place that has impacted my life and so I wanted also to help impact others by serving as a staff member. I hope that each of you will continue to work toward the common goal of making a positive impact in the world in your service at Camp Mack, with your finances, and with your presence at Camp Mack. I have been fortunate to hear many stories of lives changed, leaders developed, change of focus, friendships made, and love embraced that has been fulfilling to me and given me home and encouragement. I would love to write hundreds of names of persons that have influenced me and that I recognize have influenced others and this ministry, but I won't because I do not want to miss anyone. I will share just a few of many examples with the hope that you will know how you have had a great impact on others by serving in ways that you may have thought were “no big deal.” Volunteers that come for a day or a week and work tirelessly with servant hearts for the ministry they love. For summer staff and staff that could have worked elsewhere for a lot more money and less hours but see this as a ministry. For retreat leaders and Summer Camp leaders and counselors that plan and work many days and hours leading up to the event that no one sees. For those that volunteer week after week for a day or two or those that volunteer summer after summer full time, you may not know the lift, the joy, and encouragement you give to the staff. For those that answer the pleas for financial support, what a blessing you are and what a great feeling we get as staff to know we have so many that love and support and care about the ongoing ministry.

In a few words of a great Ray Boltz song:

Thank you for giving to the Lord.
I am a life that was changed.
Thank you for giving to the Lord.
I am so glad you gave.

One by one they came
Far as the eye could see.
**Each life somehow touched
By your generosity.**
Little things that you had done,
Sacrifices made,
Unnoticed on the earth
In heaven, now proclaimed.

And I know up in heaven
You're not supposed to cry
But I am almost sure
There were tears in your eyes.
As Jesus took your hand
And you stood before the Lord.
He said, "My child, look around you.
Great is your reward."

I thank God for the chance to work in a place that makes a difference, which provides hope, love and joy. I have seen God at work in the good times and the times when things were very tough. It is another glimpse into the promise God has given us that “he will never leave us nor forsake us.” God has been my comfort and strength knowing he is always there and loves me unconditionally as I try to serve him in the valleys or on the mountaintops of life.

As I write this, I have just a few more days at Camp Mack as an employee, but these will not be the last days at Camp Mack, as I love this ministry, the people, and the friendships of this “sanctuary where people connect with God through faith formation, experiencing creation, and building Christian community” today and I pray for many many years in the future.
Goodbye for now,

Mike Kauffman, Guest Services Director

Sunny Camp Mack



THE “Summit”

Camp Mack has a water slide sitting about 20 feet beyond the swimming piers on beautiful Lake Waubee. The slide is 16’ tall and 30’ long and is the source of much fun during the summer. At least once a summer, God sends a strong wind down Lake Waubee and moves our nice slide. The slide is anchored to the lake bottom with eight old truck tires filled with concrete. We calculated that each one of these weighs about 450 pounds. Therefore, the slide is dragging 3600 lbs. of concrete across the bottom of the lake as it moves. You would think 3600 lbs. of concrete would be very difficult to drag

anywhere, but that slide has been blown somewhere every year we have put it out. Last year may have been the worst. The wind blew it clear across the lake to the south. It must have twirled it around a couple of times in the process because the chains connecting the slide to the concrete were all twisted up. We thought we were never going to get it all untangled. The interesting part is that we built a contraption to move the weights back into place. We took two 16’ 4x4’s spaced 4’ apart and put a row boat on each end. We put a deck on the 4x4’s, built a mast in the center of it, and put a chain hoist on the mast. We then put a motor on one of the row boats and off we go. If we are lucky, we can straddle one weight, and with the help of a couple of lifeguards in the water, we can hook the hoist chain to the weight chain and pick it up and move it back in place. Last year was so bad that it took us a couple of weeks to get it all done. We thought we had lucked out this year. With only two weeks left before we take the “Summit” out, we had not had the first problem with it moving. Alas, Monday morning last week we had a very small rain storm and away our “Summit” went. It did not move far this time, and we were able to move it back with the help of our famous lifeguards in about three hours. We are quite a sight on the lake with our contraption! Well, at least it never gets boring at beautiful Camp Mack.

Galen Jay, Facility Director

Special Note from the Executive Director

We Want to Listen

As Executive Director, one of my highest priorities over this last year has been to listen. I have visited nineteen churches in a variety of roles, and I have five scheduled already for this fall. Additionally, the Indiana Camp Board sponsored two listening sessions in July and an online survey in early August. At some point this fall, we will be sharing the results of our conversations and survey online.

The result of all this listening is that there is a clearer picture of who creates our base of support (you) and what our guests, volunteers, and campers think is important about who we are. With that information, the Board has decided to enter a strategic planning process.

Strategic planning includes identification of broad outcomes by the Board. Other constituents will work with the Board to set goals in order to meet the outcomes. Once goals are set, there will be a collaborative process to recommend strategies and steps toward achieving the goals.

Our hope is to complete strategic planning around the first of the new year, so we can begin implementing our strategies and next steps.

It is important to me that we honor who we are and the traditions that made us a premier camp and conference center, creating programs for the Church of the Brethren and serving the needs of other denominations and community groups. However, we also need to think clearly about our needs for the future, so we are prepared to end our first century of connecting people with God with a strong foundation and plan to do the same for a second century.

Thank you to each one of you who has shared in the success of this sanctuary place. We will count on your help to set us up for an even brighter future.



Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Eclipse Moments

Nature is mostly unpredictable, but sometimes we know what is coming. With the solar eclipse that we just experienced, we knew when and where it would happen for years. I prepared ahead of time by buying a solar filter for my camera. The only thing I couldn't predict was the weather that day, which ended up just fine. Afterwards, I saw others' photos that have me thinking forward to 2024. I saw some homeschoolers' experiments to watch the eclipse through pinhole views, colanders, and my favorite, seeing the eclipse through the holes in a Ritz cracker.



Watching the solar eclipse hasn't been my only eclipse moment this year. On a recent trip to Brown County, I made a side trip to Sodalis Nature Park near Indy to view the Mississippi Kites that were nesting there and had a tree off the trail that they often sat in. Here are photos of an adult and a juvenile Kite at Sodalis.

I encourage you to sit in nature and observe the seemingly random moments that happen, but to also sometime follow one of those eclipse moments to view something spectacular that you may not see everyday. Research it, talk about it with your kids, and experience all nature has to offer.



Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Build a Drum Workshop

Build a Drum Weekend Workshop and Kids' Day

Djembes, Ashikos, and Native Frame Drums are all a part of our annual Build a Drum Workshop and Kids' Day. Join expert drum maker, "Stan the Drum Man," and use your creative skills to make your own unique drum. These are high quality drums that are made and designed by you and will bring you many years of enjoyment. At Kids' Day, kids will decorate and assemble their own youth Ashiko drum. **All drums must be ordered and paid for by September 28. Spread the word to friends, family, and drum circles in your community!**

Date: October 27-29, 7 p Friday - 5 p Sunday.
Kids' Day, Saturday, October 28, 9 a - 3 p.

Fee: \$112 per person for full workshop (2 nights/5 meals) plus cost of drum. Day rate available.
Kids' Day, \$40 for adult and child plus cost of drum.

**If you have drums of your own that need to be reheaded, contact us to order skins and bring your drums to the workshop.*



Proverbs 16:24

“Kind words are like honey, sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.” NLT

Honey isn't exactly a sugar, but it is a natural sweetener. For thousands of years, we have used honey not only as a food, but also as medicine. It's a great remedy for a sore throat. Whenever my husband has even a slight tickle in his throat the first thing he does is get a hot cup of green tea and put a few teaspoons of honey in it. It's a sweet, soothing combination and always seems to help him feel better.

When I think of honey in the Bible, I usually think of John the Baptist, but this verse in Proverbs came up one day this summer while I was trying to find a weekly verse for our kitchen bulletin board. It ended up staying on the board almost all summer long. It reminded the kitchen staff to speak with kindness and love, even in the midst of crisis and stress. I would often think about its meaning as I worked. Working in a kitchen is often loud and sometimes chaotic. In many non-Christian kitchen environments, there is usually a lot of yelling and sometimes some inappropriate talk, but in our kitchen here at camp, we are focused on helping our guests connect with God, and the way we talk and interact with each other reflects that. We treat both our coworkers and our guests with love and strive to always speak with kindness. We love sweetening our souls!

HONEY LOLLIPOPS

Makes: 1 dozen small plus 8 large molded lollipops

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/3 cup light corn syrup
- 2 Tablespoons water

Candy Molds and Candy Thermometer (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Prepare candy molds by spraying lightly with cooking spray.

In a medium bowl, combine ice and water to create an ice water bath and set aside.

Add sugar to a small saucepan. Carefully pour corn syrup, honey, and 2 tablespoons water on top of the sugar, avoiding splashing or dripping on the sides of the pan.

Over a medium low heat, bring to a boil, stirring gently without splashing, only until sugar dissolves.

Boil for about 10 minutes, until a candy thermometer reads 310 degrees. (If not using a candy thermometer, drip a bit of the mixture into the ice water. If it forms a hard candy ball it is ready. If the ball is still soft, cook a few moments longer and repeat.)

Remove the pan from the heat and immerse the bottom of the pan in the ice water bath for about 20 seconds to stop the cooking. Carefully wipe dry all water from the pan before proceeding.

Pour syrup into candy molds. Add lollipop sticks and twist the stick so that the tip is coated in syrup.

Allow to cool and harden at room temperature. The lollipops should be hard, shiny, and ready to pop out of the molds and wrap in plastic in about 15 minutes.

Store lollipops wrapped individually in plastic (bags or wrap) at room temperature in an airtight container or freezer weight Ziploc bag for at least 2 weeks.



**Please use caution when cooking sugar at such high temperatures.*

Vanessa Bohannon,
Food Service Director

Be Our Guest: Welcome from Deanna



It was an indelible view. Looking up, viewing what could only be God's creation, I felt like I was in a good place. Cocooned by the humble warmth of my sleeping bag, I tried to pull it up to hide my body (for the warmth and from bugs). I was supported by the cool, slightly damp ground and surrounded by friends who had made the week what it was—a wonderful time at Camp Alexander Mack. One year at camp, my cabin had decided to sleep out under the stars in the soccer field, which now holds the incredible space of the John Kline Welcome Center where I sit today. It's memories like that that surface in my mind when I think about camp and the years I've spent here in various capacities and remind me of the importance of the work that's to be done to give all a positive experience. I thank camp, and especially the people who have served here as staff and volunteers, who continue to make camp a special sanctuary for every guest. Before I give you a glimpse into why I'm here, I want to thank Mike Kauffman for the service he has given camp. His smiling face, humor that can catch you off guard, and attention to the needs of all guests is a legacy that he has left in the fabric of camp. It takes time and work to be a guest services director, but it takes heart, focus, attention to detail, faith, and perseverance to do this job well, and Mike did.

I feel at home here at camp, as I've been coming since I was a director (team leader) in training with my parents, so it feels like it has come full circle as I have begun working on staff. I

want to give back to a place that has provided so many good memories to me and my family and friends. I have some big shoes to fill and am continuing to learn every day, and I'm sure I'll continue to learn—from Mike, from other camp staff, from the guests, from experience, from God. I come into this position following earning a communication studies degree at Manchester University and a two year term of Brethren Volunteer Service where I was a coordinator for the 2016 and 2017 national Brethren workcamp ministry, which multiplied my skillset, introduced me to many new friends across the country, and touched my life in ways I still can't completely explain. We were even able to bring a workcamp to Camp Mack about a month ago. The workcampers mentioned again and again the kindness of camp staff and how much they enjoyed their week here, and I believe that to be a testimony to the amazing people that continue to serve at camp. I hope to preserve the holiness of camp and provide new ideas for bettering this space and experience for all who visit. Thank you for welcoming me in and for your patience and guidance as I work my way through these initial steps. I am blessed to serve at this once cornfield that has grown into so much more.

-Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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



September 9 Pallet Crafts: Let your Pinterest ideas come to life as you upcycle wooden pallets. Learn how to quickly disassemble a pallet and use it for signs, decorations, and other usable objects around the house. Cost is \$30 (Lunch and supplies included) **9:00 a– 3:00 p.**

September 9 Bible Art Journaling: This workshop will cover not just journaling in a Bible but other ways to integrate doodling/art/color into your faith life. Bring your Bible and an empty sketchbook as well as any materials you really want to learn/practice using, or just bring yourself. Cost is \$15 (Lunch included) **9:00 a– 3:00 p.**

September 23 Sailing 201 (NOTE DATE CHANGE): Head to Lake Michigan for the day and sail on a 34' O'Day sailboat. The boat will depart from Michigan City, and it's a great way to experience sailing a larger boat on big open water. Learn to rig, trim sails, and navigate, as well as relax the day away! Limited Space. Cost is \$25 (Sack lunch included) Age: 16+ **9:00 a– 7:00 p.**



October 21 Scrapbooking Come join us for a day of scrapbooking, sharing, and relaxing with fellow scrappers. Work on current projects. Crop, journal, and finish a page or two. Find treasures at the swap table, a great way to trade out excess supplies and find new ones for your projects. This will be held with the fall Scrapbooking Retreat. Cost is \$15 (Lunch included) **9:00 a– 3:00 p.**



October 21 Knitting and Crocheting Get your daily dose of fiber at camp. Whether a beginner or advanced in the world of knitting/crocheting, bring along your yarn and needles/hooks and share a relaxing fall day at camp. Learn how to knit/crochet, learn a new stitch, finish a project, help teach someone else, and learn other unique tidbits in the world of fiber arts. **If your stash is exploding, bring yarn to swap with other knitters/crocheters.* Cost is \$15 (lunch included) **9:00 a– 4:00 p.**

October 21 Beginner Quilting If you want to be a quilter but don't know how to get started, join us for a few hours of basic instruction. Bring your sewing machine if you have one, and we will learn how to use it. Fabric, thread, and other basics provided. This is held during the Fall Quilt Retreat so you will get to experience all the projects being created and learn from other quilters. Cost is \$15 (lunch included) **9:00 a– 3:00 p.**

October 22 Fall Nut and Tree Identification Walk If you don't know your Shagbark from a Pignut Hickory, come along for an afternoon of nut and tree identification. We will focus on edible nuts and their uses. This event is FREE. Come dressed for the weather. **2:00 p– 4:00 p.**

-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

Oct 7	Camp Mack Festival	Oct 19-22	Scrapbooking Retreat
Oct 14-15	Father Son Weekend	Oct 27-29	Build a Drum
Oct 16-19	Seasoned Citizens Retreat	Oct 28	Build a Drum Kids' Day
Oct 19-22	Quilt Retreat		

Camp Mack Festival

Invitation to Attend

Free Admission! Free Parking! Invite your neighbors, family, and friends to attend the Camp Mack Festival, **Saturday, October 7, from 9 a– 4 p.** This is an event for our entire community. Enjoy a variety of foods, crafts, demonstrations, activities, entertainment, train rides, and hayrides. Check out the live auction featuring quilts, comforters, theme baskets, hand-crafted items, and antiques. This fundraiser provides support for the camp. Handicap parking and transportation are available for those with special needs.



Volunteer Your Time and Talents!

With nearly a month to the festival, it is time to decide how you will help with this annual fundraiser. Plan now to be a part of the Camp Mack Festival on October 7th. Here are some of the ways you can help: Get a group together and run a food booth. Churches and groups, please contact us about Food Court ideas and what you would like to sell and serve. Donate extra produce to the harvest booth. Donate items to the flea market and auction. Please send us pictures and descriptions of larger items for the Camp Mack Auction so we can start forming a sale bill to advertise ahead of time. We already have donations of antique Persian rugs, an antique marble-top bureau, and a number of other items! We also need someone who can observe children's activities this year and take over the planning of them in 2018. Thank you for helping to make this the biggest festival yet!

For questions regarding the festival, email Deb Roe at debra@campmack.org and she will forward your questions to the appropriate committee members.

Father Son Retreat

EVERYDAY HEROS— Heros come in all shapes, sizes, and ages. Learn new skills in the woodshop, build relationships, and do hero themed activities to discover your skills and physical/mental abilities. Bible study will cover heros of the Bible and what qualities we can look up to. This weekend is for all fathers, sons, and grandpas, too.

Cost is \$134 per father/son pair, \$62 for each additional person
October 14-15, 9 a Saturday to 1 p Sunday



Seasoned Citizen's Retreat



Join this group of life-experienced people to meet old friends and make new ones as you enjoy special programs, Bible studies, joke time, time outdoors, free time, and more. We offer handicap-accessible sleeping and meeting rooms, as well as options for those on special diets. October **16-19, 3 p Monday– 1 p Thursday**. \$171 per person or \$115 if not staying overnight.

Quilt Retreat

Gather with quilters of all ages to share your level of expertise and love of quilting while enjoying the tranquil scenery of Camp Mack. Bring your sewing machine, UFO's, and quilting supplies. **October 19-22, 6 p Thursday (early arrival) to 3 p Sunday**. \$122 per quilter (Fri Night), \$137 (arriving Friday morning), or \$166 (arriving Thursday evening).

**If you are new to quilting and need basic instruction, check out the Quilting Get-a-Way Day on Saturday, October 21. It will be held alongside the quilt retreat so you can check out all the great projects being worked by our quilt retreat participants.*



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 at the swap table. If your friends scrap and you craft, sign up and come along, too. **October 19-22, 6 p Thursday (early arrival) to 3 p Sunday**. \$116 per quilter (Fri Night), \$130 (arriving Friday morning), or \$145 (arriving Thursday evening).

**If you don't have all weekend to spend with us, sign up for the Scrapbooking Get-a-Way Day on Saturday, October 21. You will be able to join all of the other scrappers.*

Mike Kauffman Retires

Around 200 people gathered at Camp Mack this past Sunday to celebrate Mike Kauffman's 38 years of ministry of camp. Speakers included Mike's children, Erin Berkepile and Kent Kauffman, former summer staff co worker, Tim McFadden, Indiana Camp Board representative, Sue Freel, and Camp Mack staff representative, Gene Hollenberg. Mike was presented with a number of gift certificates to be enjoyed during his retirement and a t-shirt quilt made by Lauren Carrick from his staff shirts. Thank you Mike for your service and we look forward to you returning as a camper.

