

Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director



CAMP ALEXANDER MACK

Mackabilia

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Anticipating what is to come

I have motion sickness which is really difficult for me because I love carnival rides and rough water boating. One of my greatest disappointments is that I can no longer take the roller coaster rides I enjoyed as a teenager and young adult. I love the feeling of coming to the top of the hill and hanging there for just a moment before the car takes its dive down the track. As the car starts up the next hill, there is barely time to catch a breath before the next mad rush begins.

Please don't get ahead of me on this illustration. I'm not suggesting that the daily work and life at Camp Mack is like a roller coaster – far from it! However, right now there is a little of the feel of being at the top of the track, just before the ride really begins, anticipating what is to come. It is exciting for us to think about our short- and long-term future here. We have worked through a very difficult climb, and through the work of many, we have come to the crest of the hill.

That is the excitement I feel. Camp Mack is moving into a bright future with many new opportunities to impact the lives of children and adults. The scariness comes from what we don't yet know, and ironically, the joy we will find in the coming months comes from the same place.

Please journey with us as we continue to raise money for significant maintenance projects and begin strategic planning. I promise you: there is no motion sickness in this car. However, there are many wonderful surprises, incredible opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and a wide open space for praying and dreaming about the future.

I really appreciate when members of our Camp Mack family call to talk and offer suggestions. Stay connected with us, and give me a call or stop by the office. I would love to dream with you!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director.



To Everything There Is a Season

Change is an important part of life. Some sorts of change are often inevitable or predictable, and other kinds of change take people by surprise. There's a spectrum of how well people handle change, but certainly some changes are more difficult to tackle, too. Summer recently transitioned into autumn, summer camp season transitioned into retreat season here at Camp Mack, and Mike Kauffman helped me transition into the role of Guest Services director as he retired.



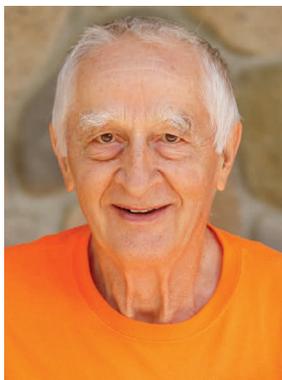
I'm beginning to see the changing leaves on the trees, and though the temperatures feel more like summer lately, it still feels like a new season is settling in as the already fallen leaves dance on the streets as I drive past them and the sunrise slowly breaks the darkness later and later. The song "Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)" written by Pete Seeger came to mind the other day. Adapted from Ecclesiastes 3, the words of the scripture and song in some ways serve as a reminder of the balancing act of life, and as one thing comes, another different thing may soon follow. We don't have much that is truly permanent on this earth, but God is steadfast. Faith in God gives strength and stability, an anchor when everything else seems uncertain or fleeting. We can sometimes even see God's work within the changes, but God's love and presence is unwavering and unmatched.

I experienced a change in my life when I began working at Camp Mack. For those of you who have been to camp or have been in touch with camp in the last month, I have appreciated your patience and kindness more than you know. This time of transition has been a learning experience, and I'm sure it will continue to be, but it's been wonderful to be back at camp and to be able to see many familiar faces and connect with several new ones. It's exciting to work at such a special place where we keep the fun and meaningful camp traditions but also make some beneficial changes along the way.

So, here is a callout to all of you reading this. Please share with others your memories of camp. Share about what you experienced and what you see for the future of camp. Give us feedback on how we can improve our services. Visit camp. Send potential weddings, reunions, retreats, and other events to camp to experience what it's like to be in this sanctuary where people connect with God in nature. One thing we don't want to change around here is having guests. Camp Mack is meant to be experienced and shared, and YOU are the life of camp. Camp may undergo needed and natural changes, expected and unexpected changes, and temporary and lasting changes, but those who hold camp in their hearts are the ones who truly make Camp Mack what it is. Thank you! May we continue the ever-changing work with the guidance of a steadfast God.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director

Sunny Camp Mack– Ray



Thank you Ray

I will miss having my good friend Ray Swihart at camp after this weekend, as he and Ellen move to Greencroft and begin a new life. Ray and Ellen started volunteering at Camp Mack in June of 1990. In the course of 27 years, Ray estimates they were here at least 21 years for summer work. Ray and Ellen have been here all of my years except for five of them when they took care of Ray's dad in Florida. Ray's primary responsibility has been mowing the lawn, which is a huge task in the spring of the year. It takes 3-4 days to cover the lawn just on the main campus and another full day to get the trails in the wildlife area mowed. A few years ago, Deb, our office manager, got Ray some shirts with "Ray's Lawncare" written on them. They are neon orange and lime green, and along with his IH red hat, we always can tell where Ray is. Ray is the kind of volunteer who is willing to do whatever it took to help. As a result of that, I have used Ray in a lot of different ways. Ray is also one of those folks who could see things that needed done. In

the evening he would see that the mini dumpster needed dumping and would go do it. Ray turned 86 this spring, and it's time to try some new things. We will surely miss him and his wife, but we wish them well in their new life. Bless you Ray and Ellen for being such excellent examples for the rest of us to follow.

Galen Jay, Facility Director





You walk down a wooded trail and all of a sudden it feels like an invisible force has hit you in the face as you jump back and wipe the spider webs off your face while praying the spider isn't attached to it. Have you ever experienced that? Spider webs are so unique.

The other day, we had a very foggy morning where the exquisite spider webs around camp were perfectly on display. Most showy were the circular webs of the orb-web spiders that look like spokes on a wheel with a spider sitting in the center waiting for its next meal to land somewhere on the sticky surface. Their webs look like they would take a great amount of time to build, yet many of them rebuild their webs each night while some just repair them. Many even eat their old webs as a way of recouping some of the energy that went into making the web and recycling it as they build their new web. Spiders are fascinating!

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



Special Note from the Executive Director

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.

Kitchen News– APPLES!

It happens every year around this time- we get the first hint of fall, and BAM! All of a sudden there is pumpkin spice EVERYTHING!! There are pumpkin spice lattes, pumpkin spice candles, pumpkin cheesecake ice cream (which does sound yummy), and even pumpkin spice flavored cereal! I love a good pumpkin pie every now and then, but I feel like in all the pumpkin craze, people are forgetting the one thing that makes me personally think of fall...APPLES!

I love apple cider and the smell of fresh picked apples or a delicious apple pie baking in the oven. When I was living in Pennsylvania, I drove by an apple orchard every day on my way to work. I loved seeing those red shiny apples on the apple trees, and I couldn't resist stopping at the store on the corner for a fresh jug of apple cider every now and then. If you ever go to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA, they have a delicious apple cider slushy that is almost heavenly. (I bet the Branson, MO theater has one as well, but I've never been there.)

The restaurant I worked at in Lancaster served a lot of Pennsylvania Dutch favorites, and I loved getting a slice of their apple crumb pie. Pairing the warm pie with a scoop of vanilla ice cream before heading home after a long shift was a great way to end the day. There is just something about eating warm, sweet apples on a chilly fall day. And who doesn't love dipping a fresh apple slice into smooth caramel sauce? The sugary crunch is absolutely delicious. Apples really are the perfect fall treat!

Pioneer Woman's Dreamy Apple Pie

Ingredients:

1 whole pie crust

Filling:

3 whole large (4 or 5 Small) Granny Smith apples: peeled, cored, and sliced thin

1/2 cup Brown Sugar 1/2 cup White Sugar

1 Tbsp All Purpose Flour 1 cup Heavy Cream

2 tsp Vanilla Extract 1/8 tsp Cinnamon

Topping:

7 Tbsp Butter 3/4 cups All Purpose Flour

1/2 cup Brown Sugar 1/4 cup Pecans (more to taste)

Dash of Salt



Instructions:

Preheat Oven to 375 degrees

Roll out pie dough and place in a pie pan. Decorate the edges as desired.

Add apple slices to a large bowl. In a separate bowl, mix together heavy cream, brown sugar, white sugar, flour, vanilla, and cinnamon. Pour over apples. Pour apples into pie shell.

In the bowl of a food processor (or you can mix by hand), combine butter, flour, sugar, pecans (chop if you're not using a food processor), and salt. Mix until everything comes together in clumps. Pour topping over apples.

Attach foil to the edges and lay a pieces of flat foil loosely over the top of the pie. Place pie pan on top of a rimmed cookie sheet and bake for one hour. At the end, remove foil and allow to finish baking and browning. Can bake for up to 15 or 20 minutes more if necessary.

Remove from oven when pie is bubbly and golden brown.
Serve warm with hard sauce, whipped cream, or ice cream.

**I should probably confess here how much I love The Pioneer Woman: Ree Drummond. I have her cookbook, watch her show, and just love her recipes!!*

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Service Director



19th Annual Camp Mack Festival

Saturday, October 7

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FREE Admission and Parking!

RIDES: Train and Hayrides are only \$1. Purchase tickets from the Hospitality Booth. Train will run from 9-2:30 and hayrides will run from 10-2:30.

FOOD: Food will be available from 9-2 or until sold out. Beef Stew, cinnamon rolls, coney dogs, soft drinks, baked goods, and more are available.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: Children's activities will be located in Sarah Major Lodge with games, prizes, and crafts. Milford Library will be reading books to children from 9-noon.

FLEA MARKET: A flea market will run outside from 10-1, where you can purchase cash-and-carry items.



AUCTIONS: The **silent gift card auction** will run from 9:30-3. Many local businesses have donated gift cards and services for the silent auction. The **live auction** will begin at 1:30 and run until all items are sold. Quilts, antiques, theme baskets, furniture, Persian rugs, and many other treasures will be available to bid on. Remember, bid high and bid often as you support the Camp Mack ministry.

ENTERTAINMENT: A variety of musical entertainers will be performing in the auditorium from 9:30–1:30. A balloon artist will be making creations at 1 p.m. in John Kline. A banjo/mandolin player will be roving the campgrounds during the day.

DEMONSTRATIONS: Demonstrations and displays will be found around the site. Some of the demonstrations/displays available are a quilt show, spinners, a pottery wheel, rope making, candle making, woodworking, wood turning, and animals in the teepee. Special this year is an appearance by Les Gustafson-Zook who is an autoharp champion who will be here from 10-noon.



Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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

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 you're 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.**

November 11, Sandhill Cranes Trip: Travel with camp to the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife area to observe upwards of 10,000+ cranes in the fields as they fly in and dance while traveling along their migration route. Cost is \$20 (snacks included). Come dressed for the weather. Bring binoculars. We will stop for dinner at Christos on the way home (Dinner not included in the trip cost). **2:00 p–10:00 p.**



December 2, Wreaths and Swags: Get started decorating for the Christmas season as you make a traditional Williamsburg Wreath, Christmas Wreath, or a swag using fresh greens and fruit to grace your door. Cost is \$30 (lunch and all materials included) **9:00 a–3:00 p.**

December 2, Christmas Ornaments: Gain new skills in the woodshop as you make beautiful Christmas ornaments on the lathe. Cost: \$20 (lunch included) **9:00 a–3:00 p.**



December 2/3, Christmas Cookies: Fill your cookie jar for the holidays! Camp provides the ingredients and supplies. You mix the dough, sample cookies, and decorate to your hearts delight. Best of all, camp cleans up the mess! Choose 4 batches of cookies (each batch makes about three dozen cookies). Cost is \$45 (lunch and all baking materials included) **Choose from 3 sessions (December 2, 9:00 a--1:00 p/12:00 p-4:00 p and December 3, 12:00 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	Nov 4	Volunteer Banquet
Oct 16-19	Seasoned Citizens Retreat	Nov 7-8	Pastor's Sabbath
Oct 19-22	Quilt Retreat	Nov 13-15	Volunteer Work Days

Father Son Retreat

EVERYDAY HEROES 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 heroes 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**. Cost is \$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, UFOs, and quilting supplies. **October 19-22, 6 p Thursday (early arrival) to 3 p Sunday**. Cost is \$122 per quilter (arriving Fri Night), \$137 (Friday morning), or \$166 (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 on 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**. Cost is \$116 per scrapper (Fri Night), \$130 (Friday morning), or \$145 (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.*

Volunteer Banquet



You are invited to our annual volunteer banquet in recognition of all those who have volunteered in any capacity in the last year (November 2016–October 2017). There is no charge for this event. Join us at Mexico Church of the Brethren (4460 N Mexico Rd, Mexico, IN 46958), **Saturday, November 4**. Appetizers begin at 4:15 p and dinner begins at 5 p. Enjoy great food, fellowship, and special entertainment.

Pastor's Sabbath

The Sabbath experience at Camp Mack is a time of reflection, fellowship, personal meditation, and recreation for Church of the Brethren pastors. There will be plenty of time for fellowship with a balance of structured and free time. Guest leadership is Gene Hollenberg and will be sharing on the topic of Adult Education. **November 7-8**. Fee: \$20. Come for a few hours or both days. Encourage your pastoral leadership to attend.



Volunteer Work Days



Volunteers will work with the Camp Mack staff as we make preparations for winter and do projects around camp. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. **November 13-15**. Come for a couple hours or all three days. Meals and lodging are available during this event. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. There is no charge for this event.