



Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director

What makes Camp Mack special? I'm guessing there may be as many reasons as there are readers of this article. Think about what is special to you.

Over the years, the founders, leaders, and supporters of Camp Mack's ministries have had a clear mission and vision for what Camp Mack is meant to be and how the camp meets the needs of people. Sometimes this was the visionary leadership of one or two people. Other times the vision came from a collective listening to God's call. In any case, mission and vision have changed over the years.

In March of 2007, Camp Mack adopted the following as its mission statement: *A sanctuary where people connect with God through faith formation, experiencing creation, and building Christian community!* Last September, the Indiana Camp Board began examining that mission in preparation for strategic planning. The task was to discover whether or not this mission was still relevant, and if not, what would be the relevant mission of Camp Mack. After a great deal of prayer, examination, and Spirit-led discussion, a new mission statement was created:

Camp Mack provides a sanctuary where people connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian community.

Not much changed from the 2007 statement! That is exciting, because it means that the mission continues to provide the holy hospitality that allows people to find ways to experience the full and joyful life God wants us to have. In surveys, listening sessions, and group evaluations, what we do well is to provide sanctuary through hospitality.

The vision remains similar as well. In 2007, the vision statement was: *All who are served experience a safe, Christ-centered, faith-forming environment where they can learn of Christ, renew their spirit, experience God.* The 2018 version is:

To be a sanctuary where all who are served find a safe environment where they can learn of Christ, renew their spirit, and experience God.

It is especially good to know that, after seriously considering who we are and what we are called to do, essentially we are led by the Holy Spirit to continue striving for the same goal. Some words have changed. Our understandings have been clarified. Our purpose is defined.

On the next page, you will find the full document with the mission and vision statements as well as the values and philosophy that guide how we do our work and shape the ministries we offer. Please read these carefully and help us to be better at following this call by letting us know when we do well and when we fall short.

We provide a sanctuary. We offer holy hospitality. We work so you find what you are looking for here.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Camp Mack Mission, Vision, and Values– Updates April 2018

MISSION STATEMENT

Camp Mack provides a sanctuary where people connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian community.

VISION STATEMENT

To be a sanctuary where all who are served find a safe environment where they can learn of Christ, renew their spirit, and experience God.

OUR CORE VALUES

The following are the Core Values that undergird the mission and operation of Camp Alexander Mack in its ministries of hospitality and summer camping.

- **Spiritual Relationship**

We believe that connecting with God and faith development are fundamental to our mission and vision. We encourage growth in faith and practice in our internal community and in the communities we serve.

- Joshua 24:15
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Micah 6:8
- John 15:1-17
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

- **Caretakers of Creation**

As part of God's wonderful creation, we believe we have a responsibility to be good stewards of God's gifts. Camp Mack uses sound operational practices to limit negative impact on the environment. We encourage our campers and guests to be proactive in protecting and enjoying God's gift to us through personal experiences and educational opportunities.

- Genesis 1:1-19
- Genesis 2:15
- John 3:16-17
- Romans 8:19-23

- **Faithful Community**

We believe that the community we create at Camp Mack is rooted in and shaped by relationship with the congregations of the Church of the Brethren. We embrace Christ-like values and ethics in our operations, hospitality, and programming.

- Matthew 5-7
- Romans 12:9-21
- 1 Corinthians 13
- Philippians 4:8-9
- Matthew 18

- **Holy Hospitality**

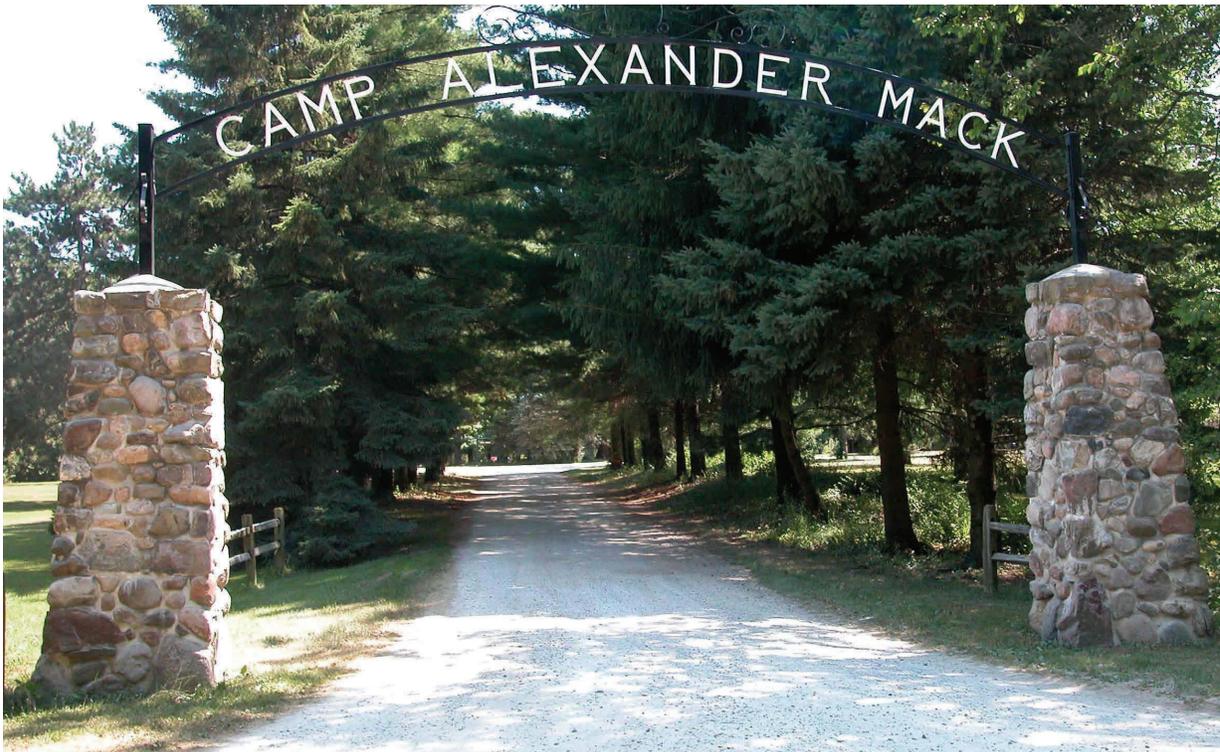
We believe hospitality is a way of living. Camp Mack serves our campers and guests by being the hands of Christ as they pursue the purposes for which they came.

- Genesis 18:1-8
- Matthew 14:15-21
- Luke 10:38-42
- John 13:3-17

In addition to these core values, Camp Mack searches for ways to help the individual grow in his/her spiritual journey through relationships that build, activities that are fun, and an environment that is safe and secure for the building of faith.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

- BELIEVING that the quiet beauty of a natural setting creates a strong sense of the reality of God, we will develop this center in ways that will enhance its use as an environment in which persons are moved into a closer relationship with our God and all of creation.
- BELIEVING in our deep connections to all living things, we will share that belief so that through our programs, persons will be challenged to take added responsibility for the human and natural world in which God has placed them.
- BELIEVING that the closeness of shared life at this set-apart place can provide a model for what it means to be the body of Christ, we will seek to involve leaders, who themselves, earnestly seek to know and share God's love and are able to shape experiences in which that love can be reality for others.
- BELIEVING in the God-gifted value of each person, we will seek ways to help persons value themselves and to discover and develop their own skills. We will provide quality Christian education, including serious Bible study, encouraging them to hear the call to a deepened faith and discipleship to Jesus Christ.
- BELIEVING in the shared ministry of the church, we will nurture strong relationships with congregations, districts, the denomination, and ecumenical groups. We will also seek to help persons of all ages understand and internalize the values of the church, attempting to strengthen their ties to local churches and encouraging a greater sense of identity with the Church of the Brethren and believers everywhere.



The Road of Faith

One morning this week, I encountered a road block on all three sections of my route to work, one of which had me turning around to go a different direction. From car accidents to road construction, the encumbrances got me thinking about faith and the roadblocks one can experience along the way. My dad likes to watch the show *The Amazing Race*, and in the show, sometimes the pairs participating come across “Roadblocks” which they have to perform before they can move onto the next task. I think that can apply to one’s faith—it can be a tough thing, and it takes work, trust, and an abundance of love. There can be people along the way that help, but also people that can get in the way or help us make the decision to go in a different direction, whether it be for the better or worse. There can be life experiences that influence someone to go one way or the other, to slow down or speed up, to appreciate life more or make some mistakes. Sometimes there are caution signs, and sometimes it takes being in the road block to realize it’s there. I’m not sure what’s fueling you or burdening you right now, but I hope you are able to make your faith stronger because of it. I hope that each day brings new challenges and joys, and that you live through them with God.

As an exercise to communicate our faith, I had each person of the Camp Mack management team write a stanza of a to-be-assembled poem with each line ending in the sound “oh.” They did a wonderful job expressing themselves in these short lines, and it came together with heart and creativity, so I thank them for their participation. This was the final piece:

Praising the heavens above to the nature below
God shelters me from the storm, I know
I’m on the verge of finding a place to grow!
It’s STILL okay that I don’t know
It’s amazing all of the things God will show
As God calls, we must always go!

May we learn and grow from the roadblocks, praying and trusting that God will guide us. Thank you for making Camp Mack part of your road of faith. We hope to see you again soon!

Blessings and peace to you,
Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



Becker Hill

Under the guidance of a vision by Gene, we are putting the finishing touches on what is now being called Becker Hill. This is the area where Becker once stood. For the past several years we have had two walls, a gaping hole and a huge pile of rocks at this site. A week ago we had Don's Excavating of Syracuse come in and put the finishing touches on creating Becker Hill out of this mess. They dug a big hole just below the walls, pulled the walls, and put the rocks in the hole. Then they began hauling in many loads of dirt and with a bulldozer began sculpting Becker Hill. With the conclusion of shaping the hill they volunteered their time and equipment to run a power rake over it and then seed it to grass. We now have a nice, almost grass covered, bowl shaped hill facing our beautiful lake Waubee. The slope is such that a lawn mower can mow it easily and kids will be able to run up and down it. It is an incredible change.

This past Saturday I worked with a group of volunteers putting grass mats down to protect the grass seed and to hold moisture better. The group was from our NA Memorial Day weekend family camp. They have been coming to camp for about 25 years and this is a very special place for them to come and to heal. We spent about six hours on the hill that day and I had several opportunities to hear some of their stories. In particular it was very interesting and encouraging to hear the stories of the role Camp Mack has played in their healing and rediscovering God. As we worked on the side of that hill we spoke of the "good old days" of the community that developed each meal time on the front porch of Becker and of many cups of coffee while sitting at the dining room tables. The spirit of Becker just seemed to seep out of that Hill and to refill our very souls. I think this place is going to be a wonderful place to continue our "sanctuary where people connect with God".

Galen Jay, Facility Director





A Springtime Symphony

Spring, I believe, is the most unique season of the year. One moment it can feel like you are in a winter blizzard and the next you are shedding off layers to feel the warmth of the sun on your arms as you wear a t shirt outside. And the birds— it begins with those simple chirps and songs and all of a sudden the outdoors are a loud chorus of beautiful songs. Weeks later there are little kinglets bouncing all around the forest, fuzzy goslings walking single file to the lake, and the Red-winged blackbirds loudly announce their return. This is spring.

Spring is a symphony for the senses. The other night, it was watching the first sliver of the full moon peek above the horizon as the giant quickly rose. It is the sound of night crawlers moving under the dried leaves of fall on a warm night after a rain. It is the earthy aroma that greet you after an afternoon rain. Spring is watching the dead earth of winter green up in an instant. This is spring.

So, in this next month, sit outside one evening and listen to the birds, squish your bare feet around in the cool mud, jump in the puddles, marvel at the wildflowers in bloom, watch a full moon rise, and just enjoy the symphony of spring.

-Jessie Kreider, Program Director



Honorary Staff Member: Meet Oliver (Ollie)

May is such a beautiful month. Sunshine. Flowers. Birds singing their songs. Warmer temperatures. All these things just lift the spirits. May for me is also a time of celebration. In May we celebrate my son, Oliver's birthday. I can't believe he will be TWO already!

For anyone who has been to a weekend retreat in the last year, you probably know who Oliver is. For those who have not had the pleasure of meeting my energetic toddler, he's the little blonde curly headed boy who sits at the staff table and follows Mama around the kitchen. He's also the little "staff member" who likes to take everyone's bowls and silverware up to the dirty dish cart, although he has been known to accidentally throw them into the trash instead of the bus tub every once in a while.

When our little family moved to camp, Oliver was only 6 months old and was just learning how to move around. Now he is running all over the place, and is almost tall enough to push our handicap accessibility buttons for our automatic doors. You may see him "helping" push carts around the kitchen, or trying to convince Daddy that he needs "MORE" cinnamon toast or baked oatmeal and ice cream at breakfast. It's been such a privilege to watch him in the last year as he explores camp. I treasure these moments and can't wait to see what camp adventures he will enjoy in the next year.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Service Director



SUMMER JOBS– APPLY TODAY!

Apply today for summer work at Camp Mack. We are looking to immediately fill 8 Summer Staff positions. Summer staff work in the areas of kitchen, facility, housekeeping, waterfront, program, and wherever they are needed. Lifeguard Training begins on May 21 and Summer Staff Training begins the evening of May 28. Staff may begin as early as May 10. Summer Staff ages 18+ live on site and are provided room and board. Starting pay is \$750 a month with a college scholarship of half their summers wages up to \$1000 being awarded at the end of the summer. Lifeguards receive a \$100 a month bonus after their first month. Applications can be found at www.campmack.org/employment. Email them to info@campmack.org, mail them to camp, or drop by the camp office. Get ready for a life changing summer at Camp Mack!



39 Volunteer Counselors Needed! Where can we sign you up?

Camp	Date	Male	Female
WEEK 1: June 3-8			
Samplers	June 3-5	2	THANK YOU!
Seekers	June 3-8	2	THANK YOU!
Beginners	June 6-8	1	1
WEEK 2: June 12-16			
Archery	June 12-16	1	1
WEEK 3: June 17-23			
Survivor	June 17-23	2	1
WEEK 3: June 24-29			
Eco Adventure	June 25- 30	1	THANK YOU!
WEEK 4: July 1-7			
Finders	July 1-6	2	1
WEEK 5: July 8-14			
Seekers	July 8-13	3	1
Followers	July 8-13	THANK YOU!	3 (Age 21+)
Splash	July 8-13	THANK YOU!	2
Creative Arts	July 8-13	1	THANK YOU!
Dadirri	July 9-14	1 (Age 25+)	1 (Age 25+)
WEEK 6: July 15-20			
Seekers	July 15-20	2	2
Culinary	July 15-20	1	1
Finders	July 15-20	3	3

Medical Staff Needed!



Volunteer Medical Staff are needed to staff the health office at camp during the summer. They are responsible for passing meds, administering minor first aid, responding to emergencies, and communication with parents and staff. Med staff must have current CPR and First Aid Training. Room and board are provided. Medical staff can be the following: MD, DO, PA, NP, or RN.

Contact us about other levels of training. **Dates needed are June 6-8, July 1-7, and July 8-10.**

Check in medical staff are needed on June 3, July 1, July 8, and July 15. Please contact Jessie Kreider at jessk@campmack.org for more information.

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP!

Samplers	June 3-5	Dadirri	July 8-14
Seekers	June 3-8	Seekers	July 8-13
Beginners	June 6-8	Creative Arts	July 8-13
Archery	June 12-16	FULL	Followers
Grand Camp	June 14-16	Splash Camp	July 8-13
Survivor	June 17-23	Seekers	July 15-20
Eco Adventure	June 24-29	Culinary	July 15-20
Finders	July 1-6	Finders	July 15-20
Youth	July 1-7	Grand Camp	July 29-31
Samplers	July 8-10		

Register online at www.campmack.org or with the paper registration in the brochure. Registrations are being received now with late fees. Scholarship help is available. Please contact us with any questions about summer camp at info@campmack.org or by calling 574-658-4831. We are looking forward to great campers and leaders alike. Who will you invite to camp this summer?



Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

May 3–5 Birdwatcher's Retreat
May 6 5K Run/Walk
May 7–10 Seasoned Citizens

May 11–12 Counselor/CIT Training
May 31–June 2 South Central Women's Camp

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 3–5, 6:30p Thursday to 2p Saturday. Cost: \$116 for 2 nights and 5 meals or \$73 for 1 night and 2 meals.



5K Run/ Walk and Kids' Fun Run



Grab your friends, form a team, and participate in the 5th Annual 5K Run/Walk to raise money for camp improvements. The 5K course is mostly flat with a finish lap around the Camp Mack property. Kids' Fun Run will be on Camp Mack property. Prize categories for all ages. A traveling trophy goes to the church with the most registrations. Race t-shirts for early registrations only. Sunday, May 6, 2:30p Fun Run, 3p 5K. Cost: \$25 for 5K, \$15 for Kids' Fun Run,

Seasoned Citizens 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 plenty of free time for fellowship, "joke time", indoor and outdoor games, hiking, puzzles, and naps too! Our facility offers handicap-accessible sleeping and meeting rooms, as well as dining options for those on special diets. Bring your special talent, humor, Bible, bedding, and games... and be refreshed at Camp Mack. May 7–10, 3p Monday to 1p Thursday. Age: Older Adults. Cost: \$172 per person or \$116 if not staying overnight; please contact camp for shorter lengths of stay.



Counselor/ CIT Training



Leadership training is for all Team Leaders, Counselors, and Counselors in Training. It is a packed weekend that covers emergency procedures, schedules, Bible Study, age group dynamics, program ideas, and time to network with other leaders. Binders will be passed out at this time. Come and prepare yourself to make a difference in the life of a camper today. May 11–12, 7p Friday to 4p Saturday. Cost: FREE! Overnight lodging provided.

South Central Indiana Women's Camp

Gather with Church of the Brethren from South Central Indiana for a time of worship, reflection, and fellowship. Guest speakers, swimming and boating, campfires, night hikes, and time spent in fellowship are all part of this retreat. For registration information, contact the South/Central District office at 260-982-8805. May 31–June 2, 4p Thursday to 1:30p Saturday.



Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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



May 5— Canoe the St Joe River— CANCELLED due to low enrollment.

Canoe the St. Joe River from Mottville to Bristol on this relaxed, beginner level canoe trip. Watch as Blue Herons fly overhead, Smallmouth Bass swim below, and keeping with tradition, do a turtle count— some trips we have seen over 1000! We recommend bringing an extra set of clothes, shoes that can get wet, and sunscreen. We will meet at camp in the John Kline Welcome Center before going offsite. Saturday 9a—4p. Cost: \$20 (Sack lunch included)

May 5— Dutch Oven Cooking

From appetizers to desserts, you'd be amazed at what you can cook in a Dutch Oven. Food cooked over the coals always tastes better. Explore a variety of recipes and techniques for cooking in a Dutch Oven. We bet you won't leave here hungry. We will meet in the Northwest Shelter by Wampler Lodge at Camp Mack. Saturday 3p—7p. Cost: \$15 (Dinner included)



June 2— Campfire Jam

Come on over to camp for the first campfire of the summer season. Bring your guitar, rhythm or other instruments, and your voices. Sing old favorite campfire songs and learn a few new ones. Saturday, 7p—9p. Cost: FREE. Popcorn in the kettle included.

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