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# Camp Alexander Mack

## News from the Director

The official end of summer is Labor Day. Traditionally, lake cottages are sealed until Memorial Day weekend, sweet corn and tomatoes give way to apples and squash, and children begin a new school year. That traditional end of summer hasn't happened for a LONG time.

Folks around Northern Indiana don't close up their lake cottages until October at the earliest. Many have become year-round homes. Sweet corn and tomatoes last longer and share the spotlight with apples and squash in September. Children often begin school as early as the end of July! And while I might be nostalgic for the world in which I grew up, I have to admit that I like the lake in the fall; I'm not at all sad to have fresh sweet corn and tomatoes in September; and, many children do benefit from spreading out the school year.

This change from what we call traditional is not a bad thing, but it does cause us to think in different ways. Changing my weekend activities and fall menus is not a real problem. I don't have to if I don't want to, but the work we do here at camp does have to respond to the change in summer schedules for children.

I remember that, in 1977 when I started volunteering as a counselor, I was at a camp during the third week of August. In those days, we had three weeks of camp in June, four weeks in July, and three weeks in August. Because the calendar isn't even, there was a bonus week, so eleven weeks were available for camp each summer. We currently run our Church of the Brethren camps in six weeks, with rental camps taking an additional two. That is quite a difference, and it makes it difficult for us, because now family vacations also have to fit in to the shorter summer, leaving less time for kids to come to camp and for volunteers to share their gifts.

We must be crazy here at Camp Mack, because even though the summer is shorter, we have set a goal for increasing our camper registrations to 1,000 by the summer of 2021 – double the 500 from this year! That will take a lot of effort from our camp staff and you. We are going to work hard to find campers in a lot of places we haven't looked before. And we ask you to do the same.

The people who have studied how churches grow know that a congregation working together on a project experiences revitalization and excitement. God calls us into the community of faith not just for worship and fellowship, but also for the building of the Kingdom. What would it look like if your congregation spent this year raising money for campers through a variety of fun and meaningful events, and then used that money to send children from your community who normally wouldn't be able to go to camp? Not only would you have the joy of working together, but you would also open your church to new families and make a significant difference in the lives of children. This is our challenge to you.

Let us know the children you are sending, and we will follow up with you, so you can be part of their experience. There is such a need for the ministry camp can offer children. Contact me if you have any questions about this challenge. We have a lot of ideas to share.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



### Anticipation in the Air

Wow, there are so many exciting things coming up the end of this summer into fall. I'm looking forward to Labor Day Family Camp, Manchester University students visiting for Camp Mack Day, Northern Indiana District Conference, the 20th anniversary of the Camp Mack Festival, guest retreats, weddings, conferences, new and returning Get-A-Way-Days, and much more. Anticipation permeates the air here at Camp Mack as we prepare for all of the upcoming events. We do still have some availability, so call camp (574-658-4831) if you'd like to plan an upcoming retreat; event or holiday banquet; birthday, anniversary, or holiday party; church or business retreat; or any other celebration or get-together.

Want to schedule a tour? Contact camp to find a time that would work to come visit.

Your input, comments, and experiences are important to us. If you have a question, concern, or story to share, please email us at [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org).

There are kids, teachers, and other staff going back to school. The weather is cooling down with the rain. The days are getting shorter. Amidst the busyness of the season, I hope you're able to take some time to pause, relax, and enjoy the moment. Here are a couple of camp-related jokes to get you in the mood:

When do you go at red and stop at green?... When you're eating a watermelon.

Where does a rowboat go when it's sick?... To the dock (doc)!

May God bless you in your work and in your journeys, and may you find laughter and joy in the everyday.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



(The Fruit of the Spirit's not a watermelon!)

## Work to do!

As we approach Labor day weekend, we begin to think of finishing up summer projects and putting things away for the winter. The Dekalb Soccer team was here a couple of weeks ago. They give us some volunteer time each year. This year we needed help on the lower roof of Sarah Major. The wind had taken shingles off and it started leaking earlier this spring. The boys stripped off all of the shingles and replaced most of them. We still have a little bit to finish.

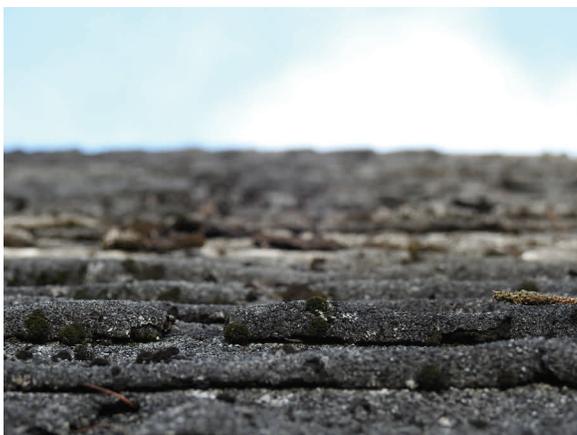
The Ulrich siding project is coming along. We had a Northern Indiana District work day this past weekend and we were able to work on the soffit on the north gable end. Our goal is to get the project completed before winter.

We have had some issues with the roof on Jacob's Well the past few years, so we have begun to take the old shingles off and replace some of the deck before re-roofing it. The roof is pretty steep so it takes more time than it normally would. We hope to get one side cleaned off and the deck fixed and then put felt on it for the winter.

We have had several Eagle Scout projects this summer. We have one scout working on the archery area. He replaced the siding and the roofing on the small storage building and is building a shade out front. We still have some work to do on the shade. We have another scout interested in helping us to rebuild a compost structure beside the John Kline Center. This would help in teaching kids about composting and in keeping up the compost pile. This Eagle Scout project would be our fifth one this summer. This has been a wonderful help for us.

I want to finish with another thank you to volunteers. This all would not be possible without your help. Bless you!!

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Jacob's Well-

Old shingles 3 or more layers thick



Jacob's Well-

Bottom section rebuilt and felted



Jacob's Well-

Lower section repaired

# Nature Nut News— Food Chains ROCK

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“What?, Ewww... AWESOME!” These are just some of the things often overheard on nature hikes before I exclaim, “Food Chains Rock!” I could name this segment, “The Secret Life of Bugs” or “Fantastic Food chains,” but I will instead just talk about insects and food. We all eat, and animals are no different. Many people have taken the path to taking supplements as we no longer get the vitamins and nutrients we need from our diet as we eat more and more processed food.

If I were to ask you, “what do butterflies eat?”, you may reply with, “nectar from flowers.” And that would be partially true. Butterflies eat more than just the sweet nectar, as they need salts and amino acids not found in flowers. Below is a picture of a Red Spotted Purple (along with American Carrion beetles) on a Groundhog carcass engaged in a process called mud puddling. If you have ever seen butterflies around a puddle, gathered around a pile of scat, or on a carcass, they are mud puddling and gathering nutrients essential for life.

The other two photos are of dragonflies who have quite the carnivorous diet. It only takes a dragonfly about 30 minutes to eat it’s body weight in food. And you thought food challenges like a 2 pound hamburger were impressive.

Food is something we think of often, and it is needed to sustain life. What food chains in nature have you observed? Share with me what you have seen and which ones have absolutely wowed you. Food chains ROCK!

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



Dragonfly with Bullhead catfish



Red Spotted Purple butterfly and American Carrion beetles on a groundhog



Dragonfly with Damselfly dinner

## Kitchen News— Generations as a Sanctuary

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I recently spent the afternoon at Timbercrest Retirement Community visiting with my amazing grandmother. We spent some time looking through some old photo albums and I was delighted to find pictures of my family at Camp Mack. There were photos of my dad posing with other campers in front of a cabin in the West side cabin circle; a family photo with my grandparents, my aunts and uncles, my oldest cousin when he was just a baby and my parents; photos of them boating on Lake Waubesa. It was such a blessing to look at camp from their perspective— seeing the differences, but recognizing that camp hasn't changed that much. It's still the same camp I attended as a kid, but now I have the blessing of working here as an adult. It's still that sanctuary, that calm place where we can connect with God.

Vanessa Bohannon, Foodservice Manager





One of my favorite places here at Camp is the artesian well down past Ulrich and Becker Hill. I would often fill my water bottle there as a camper and I still enjoy a quick drink from there, so this summer when I was walking by with a summer staff member I encouraged them to take a drink. Sadly, they did not enjoy the iron taste of the water. This place serves us as a source of wonder in how it works, and why it always flows.

Simply put, there is an aquifer under camp and the excess water comes out at the artesian well. The water is under pressure which creates a constant flow that never ends. It took some work to create, but since that work was done, many passerby have enjoyed the trickle of water, even if they didn't enjoy the taste. The work of a small group many years ago helps to provide memories for years to come.

It is with those memories in mind that I am excited to announce *The Artesian Community*. This giving society is for all who have included Camp Mack in their retirement distribution or estate planning. Those who join this community will receive a bi-monthly newsletter, *The Well of Hope*, starting in October with stories and resources. To discuss various estate options, please talk to your financial advisor about including Camp Mack in your planned giving. Our vision is to use planned gifts to further develop endowments for operations, maintenance, and camperships. Planned gifts can also be used for your passions about the future of camp.

Just as the artesian well is a constant source of memories beyond its original construction, gifts from the Artesian Community will do the same. These gifts serve as an inspiration and sustaining gift for the future. Their benefits will flow forth forever. If you have already made a planned gift to camp please let us know so we can include you in this community. We know some who have, but we want to make sure everyone is included. Please connect with me and join this community to be a well of hope for the future sustainability of Camp Mack.

Todd Eastis, Development and Communication Specialist

[todd@campmack.org](mailto:todd@campmack.org)

# Upcoming Get-a-Way Days

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



## **September 8—Sailing 201**

Head to Lake Michigan for the day and sail on a 34' O'Day sailboat. The boat will depart from Michigan City. Learn to rig, trim sails, and navigate as well as relax the day away! Meet at the Welcome Center at Camp Mack before going offsite. \$25 (Sack lunch is included). 9a—7p. Please bring sunscreen and dress for the weather.

## **September 8—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, decoration, and other usable objects around the house, such as a crate. Meet at Jacob's Well. \$30 (Lunch included). 9a—3p.

**September 8—Bible Art Journaling** (CANCELLED for 2018, look for it in 2019)

## **October 20—Scrapbooking**

Come join us for a day of scrapbooking, sharing, and learning with fellow scrappers. Work on current projects. Crop, journal, and finish a page or two. Take time at the swap table to trade excess stickers, scraps, and other materials. Held in John Kline Dining Rooms B&C. \$15 (Lunch included). 9a—4p

## **October 20—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, or learn about knitting for charity. Meet in the Welcome Center. \$15 (Lunch included). If your yarn stash is exploding, bring yarn to swap with other knitters/crocheters.



## **October 20—Beginning 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 and information. If you have a sewing machine available, bring it along and we will learn how to use it. If you don't have one, there will be a few available for you to use. Fabric, thread, and other basics will be provided. Meet in Wampler Lodge. \$15 (Lunch included). 9a—3p.

## **October 21—Fall Nut and Tree Identification Walk**

If you've ever dreamed about chestnuts roasting over an open fire, come along for a day of nut and tree identification. We will focus on edible nuts and their uses. Nuts include acorns, walnuts, hickory nuts, and more. Meet outside of Wampler Lodge for this Sunday hike. FREE. 2p—4p. Come dressed for the weather.

## **October 27—Pumpkin Carving**

Pumpkin carving is an event to bring the whole family together. Bundle up for a fun fall day at camp. We will provide the pumpkins, tools, and stencils for your Jack-o-Lanterns and creatively carved pumpkins. Meet on the Ulrich Lodge Porch. \$20 (Lunch and 1 pumpkin included. Extra pumpkins are \$5). 9a—4p

## **October 27—Children's Drum Building**

You don't have to be a child to enjoy a day of drum building at camp. Bring your children or grandchildren to build a Youth Ashiko drum, or come and design the perfect gift for them. Drums will be preheaded and ready to play. You sand, stain, paint, and wood burn the drum to your creative standard. Bring your ideas, and we will supply the rest. Meet in the Ulrich Lodge Basement. \$15 + \$35 per drum (Lunch included)

*For more information, check out Get-a-Way Days at [www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days](http://www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days) or by emailing [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org).*

## Camp Mack Festival– 20th Year



October will soon be here and that means that we are diligently preparing for the 20th year of our annual Camp Mack Festival! Many churches have already signed up for food booths, our auctioneers are secured, gift cards and certificates are being solicited for the auction, free entertainment has been scheduled as well as many demonstrations, and many other activities are in the works. There will be several new additions of a 3 point basketball shooting contest, a 4 square tournament and a cornhole tournament. Be sure to check out, like, share, and comment on the new CMF Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CampMackFestival](http://www.facebook.com/CampMackFestival).

The goal for this festival is to reach \$20,000 for the 20 years. You can help by planning to be here and planning a goal for spending that day. You can help by bringing quality items for the flea market. You can help by donating new or gently used larger items for the auction. YOU CAN HELP! We would love to have you send pictures of your items to [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org), so that we may post them ahead of time.

Exciting things are happening at Camp Mack! Come and be a part of the fun!.



Teddy Bears for auction



Rope Making

## Camp Mack Festival– 20th Year

### Just look at these fabulous shirts!

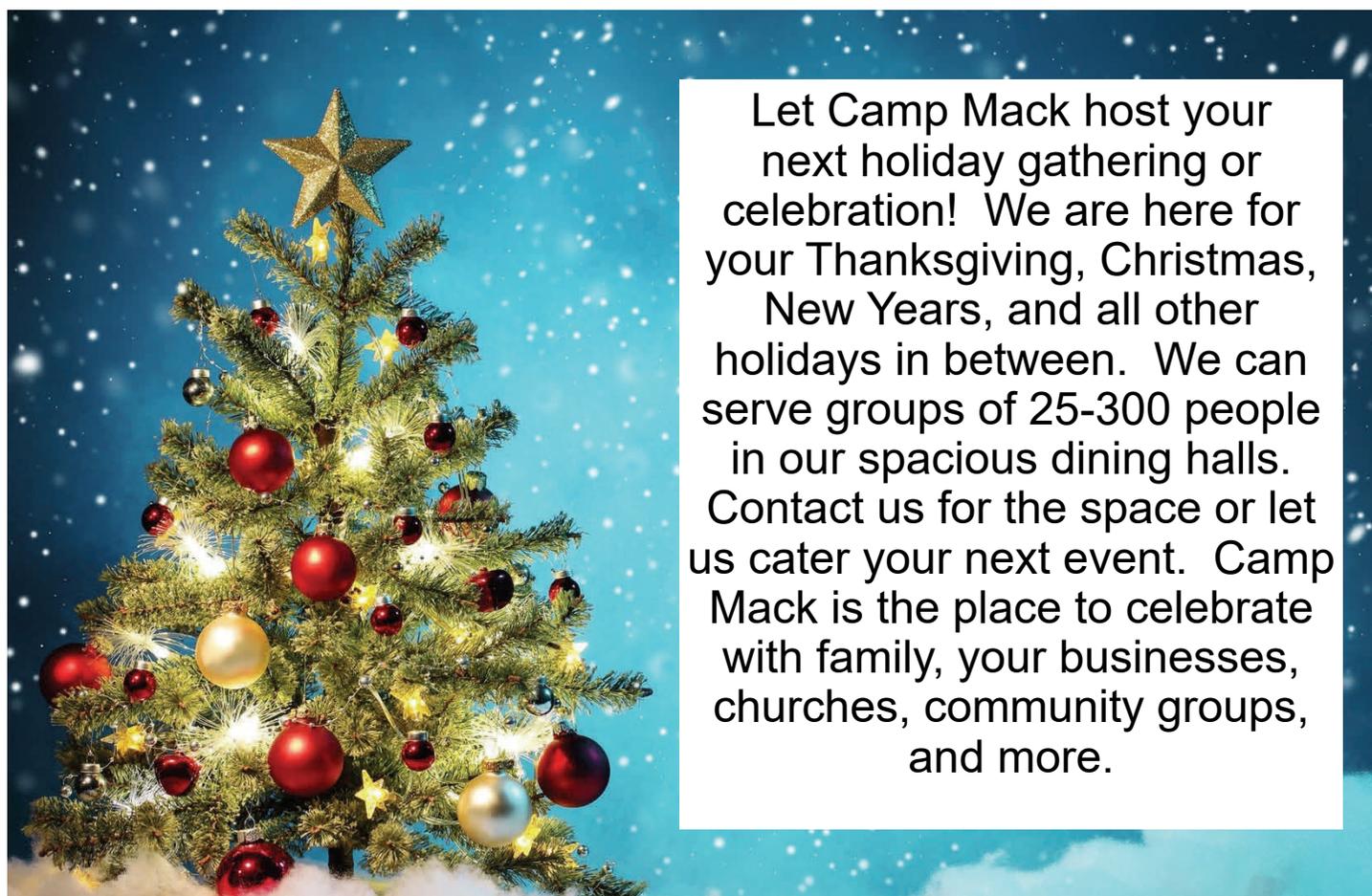
A special 20-year celebration t-shirt will be available for pre-sale for a short time. A very limited supply of shirts will be available for sale during the festival, so the only way to guarantee your shirt is to order in advance. Call Camp at (574)658-4831 to order yours **before September 15!**

**Short sleeve:** \$17 for S-XL, \$19 for XXL, and \$20 for XXXL

**Long sleeve:** \$22 for S-XL, \$24 for XXL, and \$25 for XXXL



### Holiday Planning Begins Now!



Let Camp Mack host your next holiday gathering or celebration! We are here for your Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and all other holidays in between. We can serve groups of 25-300 people in our spacious dining halls. Contact us for the space or let us cater your next event. Camp Mack is the place to celebrate with family, your businesses, churches, community groups, and more.

# Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

## Camp Mack Calendar

Aug. 31—Sept. 3	Labor Day Family Camp	Oct. 17-21	Quilt Retreat
Oct. 5-6	FLYE Weekend	Oct. 18-21	Scrapbooking Retreat
Oct. 6	Camp Mack Festival	Oct. 22-25	Seasoned Citizen's
Oct. 13-14	Father Son Retreat	Nov. 3	Volunteer Banquet

### Labor Day Family Camp



Offerings for the entire family! Swimming, boating, crafts, and community worship are available, along with age-appropriate classes and discussion groups. **August 31—Sept 3**, 6p Friday to 1p Monday. \$100 per family with additional fee for lodging and meals.

### FLYE Weekend

Attention all youth ages 14-17, this weekend is for you. Join for this Fun Leadership Youth Event, **October 5-6**, as we grow in leadership through team building, discussion time, and assisting with the Program Demonstrations and Children's activities at the Camp Mack Festival. Fee is \$25 and covers all meals. 5p Friday—3p Saturday.

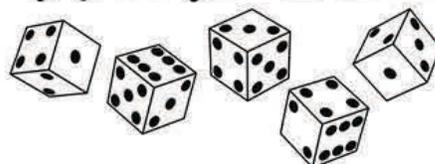


### Father Son Weekend



**“LET THE GAMES BEGIN!”** Games are more than competition. They are a way to teach, build each other up, share common experiences, and open up conversation in a relaxed setting. Board games, building yard games in the woodshop, and survival style competition between fathers and sons will create great memories that will last a lifetime.

# YARDZEE





## Quilt Retreat

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This is a unique opportunity for quilters of all ages to gather and share their expertise and love of quilting while enjoying the tranquil scenery of Camp Mack. Bring your sewing machine, UFO;s (unfinished objects), and quilting supplies. All levels of quilters, from novice to expert, are invited! Due to facility limitations, space is limited to the first 36 fully paid quilters. **October 17—21**, 6p Thursday to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$167 per quilter arriving Thursday evening, \$138 for Friday morning arrival, or \$123 for Friday evening arrival. *\*New to quilting? Sign up for the Beginning Quilting Get-a-Way Day on Saturday, October 20.*



## Scrapbooking Retreat

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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. **October 18—21**, 6p Friday to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$146 per scrapbooker arriving Thursday evening, \$131 for Friday morning arrival, and \$117 for Friday evening arrival.

*\*Can only come one day? Sign up for the Scrapbooking Get-a-Way day on Saturday, October 20.*

## Seasoned Citizens Retreat

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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. **Oct 22—25**, 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.

