

# Camp Alexander Mack

## Greetings from Camp Mack!

Mural #13: Continuing the Work of Jesus Peacefully, Simply, Together. 1950-2000. Mural 13 is the latest mural painted by Margie Petry. At the beginning Jesus invites us to continue the work he started. The issues are represented as well as some of the Church of the Brethren Ministries that help to care for these such as Art for Hunger and BVS. Many people who have served with the Church of the Brethren are shown and include Mattie Dolby, Homer Burke and Eugene Roop. *Mural books (\$5) and mural tour dvd's are available in the Camp Mack Gift Shoppe.*



## Welcome to Sunny Camp Mack

### Fearless Faith: Courage in Community

I am sitting here at the end of 2015 looking straight ahead at 2016. The header above is our theme for next summer's camps. I think it is a great theme. You can see how it applies to summer camp. Each week we form new "families" and they draw courage from that community to move forward in faith exploring God's call on their lives. I think the same theme could be applied to all of us, the "family" of Camp. We attempt to move forward in faith and we get courage from our community. Jessica led us in devotions the other day in Management Team using Evelyn Dick's new book "Life on the edge". It's a book about faith. We spent some time just talking about our own faith journey in the life of camp. It quickly becomes apparent how important the camp "family" is to our faith journey. We draw courage from that community, courage to move forward even though we can't see the end goal. 2 Timothy 1:7 is the scripture to go with this theme. "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." As we all draw courage from the camp community, we are called to move forward with God's spirit of power, of love and self-discipline. I thank you all for being a part of the community in the past and I look forward to 2016 in eager anticipation of working with you to carry out God's call for this sanctuary of His.

Galen Jay, Executive Director

## Be Our Guest

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### New Year and new possibilities to leave a legacy

What does the New Year bring? New opportunities, new learning possibilities, new ways to help other people to be all they can be.



After watching “It’s a Wonderful Life” last evening I had to think about how you and I and the Camp Mack ministry has had an impact in the past, and how we can have an impact in the future. How would life be different if Camp Mack would never have been thought of? How would your community, your family be different if you were never born? Take a few minutes to ponder that question and look back at ways that life has been impacted by the Camp Mack Ministry. Look at the “Vocational Discipleship” that has happened over the years at Camp Mack and I hope continues to happen. I was fortunate enough to hear David Kinnaman who is president of the Barna Group, speak to those of us gathered at the National Christian Camping Conference a few weeks ago, say “one of the ways we can best influence this group of persons that are now in their 20’s and 30’s is to address Vocational Discipleship in our Camps”.

Many of us have may have Guardian Angels in our life, but few of us have a “Clarence” for a Guardian Angel, “looking for his wings”, that gives us a chance to see what life was like without us or “Camp” and then be given a second chance. We all do have that second and third chance though because of God’s Grace.

We also have a chance every day to make choices to leave a legacy or just make a difference how great or small it may be. As we look at the New Year and new ways we can influence the future world, let us be cognizant of the daily decisions we make in our families, our church, and our vocation. Let’s make the decisions that will leave a legacy in a positive way for our children and grandchildren.

Mike Kauffman, Guest Services

# What is Cookin' from the Kitchen

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I happen to be kind of a sentimental kind of guy. So the holidays bring to mind many special memories. I remember the excitement of all of us loading up in the car for that trip to Grandpa and Grandma Straw's. Of the times that our Grandpa and Grandma Keck shared Christmas Eve with us in the old farm house that we grew up in. Memories of family, friends and neighbors who shared in our special events and holidays. Of the family traditions that accompany each celebration. The most special of these memories have little to do with gifts but more so of the time that we shared with all of these special people. For me these memories always include good food. Food that was prepared with love, the most important ingredient.

As I said, I am sentimental and tradition means so much to me. The turkey for Thanksgiving or the ham for Easter and Christmas, My dad's famous BBQ'd chicken on Mother's Day. These are some of the food traditions that have been in my family for years. We never really celebrated the New Year with any special get together or family meal or other food tradition.

When I began my career as a chef I was exposed to many new and different food traditions from other cultures. One of the first I learned was the preparation of pork for the New Year. Eating pork is a symbol of good luck because pigs root forward, which is obviously the direction you want to go in the New Year.

So coming from a geographical area of the country where pork is a big deal. (I state this purely based on an observation of the number of pork producers in my home church congregation.) I thought that I would share my wishes for good fortune and prosperity with a simple pork recipe. May God richly bless you and yours throughout this coming New Year.

Tony Keck Food Service Manager

## New Year's Day Pork with Kraut.

2 to 3 lb. pork roast, loin, country or spare ribs or chops.

1 or 2 pkg. of kraut. Canned or bagged your preference. I like the bagged texture best.

Fresh cracked pepper to taste.

1 cup of water or chicken stock.

1 Tablespoon caraway seeds

1 or two thinly sliced apples

1 medium onion (sweet)

## \*Variations

Corn starch to thicken

6 garlic cloves

2 Tablespoons apple cider vinegar

½ to 1 cup of wine your choice. (I like Marsala)

## Method

In a crock pot start by putting some of the kraut, sliced onion and sliced apple on the bottom. Add the pork roast and cover with remaining kraut, onion and apple mixture. Sprinkle on the seeds and cracked pepper. Add the water/wine and cook 6 to 8 hours until pork is fall apart tender.

I like a thicker sauce so I remove the pork turn up the heat and add the starch to thicken.

Serve with mashed potatoes and a crusty bread to sop up all the yummy juices.

## Note

If you are on a salt restricted diet, just rinse the kraut before cooking. Notice that there is no added salt to this recipe.



The eerie cry of the loon... Not exactly what you think of when you think of the winter bird migration and birds flying south for the winter. Usually we think of migration as the Red Winged Blackbirds leaving or Geese flying south overhead in a distinct V formation. We think of the south they fly to as Florida, Texas, Mexico or other tropical climates. Well, for some birds, we are that tropical climate away from the harsh winters north of here. Winter is an amazing time to get out and do some birdwatching or watch the birds at your feeders. So keep an eye out for Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings, Loons, Black Capped Chickadees, Siskins and Dark-Eyed Juncos. Hawks, Kestrels, Owls, Woodpeckers, and Finches are also popular winter birds in Indiana. Time spent watching your birdfeeders from a kitchen window provides a very relaxing winter activity for you and your family. Try feed such as suet cakes, black oil sunflower seed, nyjer seed, peanuts, or a mix. Happy birding.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



Common Loon on Lake Waubesa

## Program Wish List

We are in need of tools to enhance our Pioneer and Native American Living skills classes which are very popular at Camp Mack. We teach students how to use the tools properly and their significance as they make benches, turn ropes, grind corn and more. Please contact us for donations.

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|---|----------------------------|
| -Flint and Steel Sets                                   | -Corn Sheller and Grinders |
| -Froe and Maul  | -Rope Maker                |
| -Augers   | -Draw Horse                |
| -Toe Adze   | -Axes/ Broad Axe           |
| -2 Person Cross Cut Saw                                 | -Buck Saw                  |
| -Drawknives   | -Kitchen Tools             |
| -Other tools that would enhance these popular programs. |                            |

# Indiana Camp Board

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I was reading the “Inspirational Thoughts for Each Day” book from Max Lucado. Here are some statements from one of his days. It starts saying Don’t Miss God’s Answer. In Genesis 18:14, “Is anything too hard for the Lord? No!” The God of surprises strikes again. . . God does that for the faithful. Max uses three words. Don’t give up. . .

Is the road long? Don’t stop.  
Is the night black? Don’t Quit  
The apology may be in the making  
The job contract may be on the desk.  
Don’t quit. For if you do, you may miss the answer to your prayers.

God Still Moves Stones

As a Board we looked back at the work we have done over the last year. There were many ups and downs throughout the year. The one major item I would like to bring up is that through the 400 Club we felt the love and support from many of you through your donations. We were blessed by your giving. We are praising the Lord for everyone that felt the Lord’s leading.

Also, I would like to inform everyone that the Search Committee for the new Executive Director has been working on finding the person that the Lord wants to be at Camp Mack. We have had 40 applications for the position. At this time we have set up two interviews from the applications. Please be in prayer for guidance from the Lord as we have these discussions. Our team is praying for the Lord to show us through these discussions the person He would want to serve at our camp.

May everyone have a Happy New Year and receive Grace from the Lord.

Blessings, Sue Freel Indiana Camp Board Chairman



# Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

## Camp Mack Calendar

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Jan. 16	Camp Rep Meeting	Feb 18-21	Scrapbooking Retreat
Feb 13	Sweetheart Banquet	March 5	Team Leader Training
Feb 18-21	Quilt Retreat	March 11	Annual Dinner

### Camp Rep Meeting

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Encourage the Camp Representative from your church to attend the Camp Rep meeting January 16, 2016. We will supply them with posters and promotional materials for the 2016 camp year. Camp Mack is so much more than a summer camp. Come and get to know all the programs offered at Camp Mack and how we can help you join in with the ministry of Camp Mack.

### Sweetheart Banquet

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Let Camp Mack take the guesswork and stress out of planning your Valentine's weekend night out. We provide the food, atmosphere, entertainment and even a flower for your special someone. So, make your reservations now for your night out and we will do the rest. Saturday, February 13. \$70 per couple.



### Quilt Retreat

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Quilters of all ages are encouraged to come to Camp Mack to gather and share their expertise and love of quilting. Bring your sewing machine, UFO's and quilting supplies. Space limited to the first 40 quilters. February 18-21. 6p Thursday early arrival to 3p Sunday. \$118 per quilter (Fri eve arrival), \$132 (Fri AM arrival), \$148 (Thurs eve arrival). Housing and scheduled meals included.



## 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 to start. Spread out your supplies and enjoy an uninterrupted time with fellow scrappers. Bring your extra stickers, scraps, paper and more to swap at the swap table. February 18-21. 6p Thursday early arrival to 3p Sunday. \$110 per scrapper (Fri eve arrival), \$120 (Fri AM arrival), and \$136 (Thurs eve arrival). Housing and scheduled meals included.

## Upcoming Get-A-Way Day

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Feb 14 Eagle Watch

Join us on Sunday, February 14 from 1p- 10p for an afternoon watching Bald Eagles in Indiana. We will travel to the Salamonie Nature center for a brief program on Bald Eagles and then travel as a caravan around the Wabash area to popular eagle locations. In past years we have seen over 80 Bald Eagles. Dress for the weather. We will stop at a fast food restaurant on the trip home. \$20 (includes snacks).





# A Quiet Place

## Mission Statement

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The mission of A Quiet Place is to offer solitude and spiritual guidance in a holy place for all those seeking to come away and discern ways to answer the invitation of Jesus.

A Quiet Place, a house for both personal and group contemplative retreats located at Camp Alexamder Mack responds to the invitation of Jesus in Mark 6:31, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." A Quiet Place is a relaxed, quiet environment on Lake Waubee for persons to come and spend time with God. Some come for spiritual direction provided by Director Norma Miller, some participate in the year long creating community groups, and some come to simply get away for a day or so of solitude and prayer. Whoever comes, upon entering, soon discovers the book shelves containing a cloud of witnesses, persons who have followed Christ as contemplative disciples such as, Gerald May, Richard Foster, Henri Nouwen, Desmond Tutu, Eugene Peterson, John of the Cross, C.S. Lewis, Max Lucado, John Ortberg, Osswald Chambers, Elizabeth O'Conner along with numerous music CD's. While most bring their own reflective resources for meditation, these resources expand ones consciousness of the many ways in which God's life is experienced and lived out in the daily of life.

The Advent/Christmas season is a time when many renew their covenant with God to live more faithfully. Often this takes the form of New Year's resolutions most of which are soon broken. A Quiet Place offers an environment of Presence where persons can be in continual conversion/renewal throughout the year as they follow their desire for God. Again in 2016, pastors are given a free day for solitude and prayer. All are welcome to come for spiritual direction, for days of solitude, and to participate beginning each Fall in the Creating Community spiritual formation groups. Persons interested in coming to A Quiet Place and making it a place apart should contact Norma Miller for information about schedule and fees.

It was because so many people were coming and going that they did not have even enough time to eat that Jesus said, "Come apart." A Quiet Place is for all those who experience this burden of busyness in their own lives and desire a place to come and rest in God

Larry Fourman

Member of A Quiet Place Steering Committee

Leader of Group Spiritual Direction

### **Scheduling a Retreat**

Norma Miller, Spiritual Director

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Website: [www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org)



Camp Mack is a wondrous place in winter. The snow coats the trees, the bushes, and the fence rails with a magical, white coating. Driving in under the arch on a winter morning with the sun just coming up transports me to another place, a sanctuary where God showers his love on all.

Last November, we had a winter hors d'oeuvre with five inches of snow. It was wet, cold...and beautiful. The following Monday I came in under the arch for work and noticed a pine tree with limbs bent under the snow. That in and of itself is nothing new. Our trees bear the snow every winter, some better than others. What caught my eye was *how* it was bearing the weight.

The largest limb was supported by a limb beneath it. The top limb was longer and had a larger network of branches and twigs than anything under it, so it was carrying quite a bit of wet snow. It probably would have snapped off if not for the support.

As I looked closer, a smaller limb two below the snowy limb *had* snapped off from trying to support the other limbs above it. It was leaning against the tree trunk as if it wasn't ready to give up trying to support the limbs above it. Being a pastor, I immediately thought of the theological application of the scene.

The writer of Ecclesiastes has something to say about support:

Two people are better than one.

They get more done by working together.

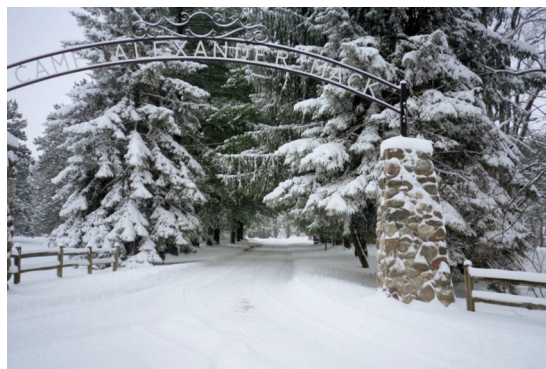
If one person falls, the other can help him up.

But it is bad for the person who is alone when he falls.

No one is there to help him.

If two lie down together, they will be warm.

But a person alone will not be warm. An enemy might defeat one person, but two people together can defend themselves. A rope that has three parts wrapped together is hard to break. (International Children's Bible)



I've known that passage for a long time, and have even preached on it. But I've never seen a clearer image in nature than that pine tree after a snow.

And that broken branch on the bottom? It sacrificed itself for the others. Sound familiar? Two are great, but "a rope that has three parts wrapped together is hard to break."

Beloved, we are created and called to be Christ in our world. May we be supporting limbs for one another and for the world around us.



## Start Planning for 2016

ATTENTION all Parents, Team Leaders, Campers, Counselors, CIT's, Grandparents, etc... Starting praying about how you can volunteer and support Camp Mack in 2016! Mark your calendars now for the camps you would like to attend in 2016. We are looking forward to another great year of camping!

### Retreats & Events

Camp Rep Meeting	Jan 16	5K Run/Walk	TBD
Sweetheart Banquet	Feb 13	Camp Mack Festival	Oct 1
Quilt Retreat	Feb 18-21	Father Son Retreat	Oct 8-9
Scrapbooking Retreat	Feb 18-21	Seasoned Citizen's	Oct 10-13
Team Leader Training	March 5	Quilt Retreat	Oct 13-16
Annual Dinner	March 11	Scrapbooking Retreat	Oct 27-30
Volunteer Work Days	March 14-16	Pastors Sabbath	Nov 1-3
Mother Daughter	March 19-20	Build a Drum	Nov 4-6
Volunteer Work Days	April 4-6	Volunteer Banquet	Nov 5
Pastors Sabbath	April 5-6	Volunteer Work Days	Nov 7-9
Prairie Restoration	April 9	New Years Eve	Dec 31-Jan 1
Volunteer Work Day	April 9	Camp Rep Meeting	Jan 14, 2017
CIT Training	April 15-17		
Quilt Retreat	April 21-24		
Seasoned Citizen's	May 2-5		
Bird Watching Retreat	May 5-7		
Counselor Training	May 13-14		
South Central Women	June 2-4		
Colony Camp	August 12-14		
Golf Outing	August TBD		
Labor Day Family Camp	Sept. 2-5		



### SUMMER CAMP 2016

Samplers	June 9-11	Youth Camp	July 3-9
Beginners	June 12-14	Culinary	July 5-9
Archery	June 12-16	Seekers	July 10-15
Eco Adventure	June 12-17	Splash Camp	July 10-15
Grand Camp	June 16-18	Sailing	July 10-15
Dune Challenge	June 19-25	Followers	July 10-15
Seekers	June 26-July 1	Creative Arts	July 10-15
Finders	June 26-July 1	Grand Camp	July 31-Aug 2
Survivor	June 26-July 2	Dadiri	July 31-Aug 6
Samplers	July 3-5		
Seekers	July 3-8		
Finders	July 3-8		
Pedal & Paddle	July 3-9		

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**A Camp, Conference & Retreat Center**

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." II Timothy 1:7 NLT*



## Celebrating the season

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Below are some pictures from the Christmas Get-A-Way Days and banquets. Let Camp Mack take care of your holiday meals and events in the future.

