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CAMP ALEXANDER MACK

# Mackabilia

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## Camp Alexander Mack

### News from the Director

We lived in Fort Wayne in 1999. I was in my second year as principal of an elementary school. It was also the first year of the Camp Mack Festival. My wife, Pam, was one of the organizers of the food booth for Beacon Heights. They made stew. Since then, we have moved from Fort Wayne, changed jobs, and graduated children from school, but she and I have been involved in the festival every year in some way. Now it is 2018, and we are at the 20<sup>th</sup> Camp Mack Festival!

The Festival is a terrific community event, but it is also a fundraiser. When I served as the chair of the banking committee, I saw many people who donated the change from their food or craft purchases. Items won at auction come back year after year to be sold again. Churches and individuals work together to offer their best to those who come to enjoy the day.

A couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the South/Central Indiana District Conference. It was a day of worship, reports, conversation, and taking care of required business. In the midst of the routine agenda, the district conducted a dessert auction for outreach. Each congregation had contributed a dessert, and the assembly bid on them for the purpose of giving. I don't think I saw any dessert sold for less than \$30, several sold for around \$100, and one even sold for over \$250! Husbands and wives bid against each other. People bid against each other for the fun of it. The purpose of the auction was not to get dessert. It was to give.

Very close to Camp Mack, Bethany Church of the Brethren conducts an auction as part of their Fall Festival. Sometimes there are bargains to be found, but more often than not, the same thing happens, people will pay much more than the earthly value of an item, because the purpose is giving. We see the same phenomenon at Annual Conference with their quilt auction and the Mennonite Relief Quilt Auction in Elkhart County. People come to these auctions to have fun and to give.

There are many reasons we host the Camp Mack Festival each year. We have fun getting together, sharing with one another, celebrating this wonderful place, and inviting the community to see who we are and what we have to offer. But one of those reasons is to raise money for the ministries we provide through summer camp and our year-round programs. The food booths, displays, tournaments, voting opportunities, flea market, silent auction, and the live auction are available for you to enjoy, but the money raised provides hospitality to people in need of healing. It brings new understanding of God's love to children who may have never heard of it. It develops community that allows people to live and work together as Jesus taught us.

We are hoping the 20<sup>th</sup> Camp Mack Festival will be bigger and better this year. After all, it is a celebration, and it supports an important ministry. Please come to play. And come to give.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

### Did I Hear Someone Say Festival?

Ahh! I'm really excited! I try to make it to the Camp Mack Festival every year, and I've been fairly successful so far. This year it's even more exciting with it being the 20th anniversary and there being more activities and ways to spend time with friends and family. Throughout the years, I've invited new friends to come and taste the food and enjoy a day at Camp Mack with me. I had a nice collection of festival shirts for a while and I am looking forward to adding another.



A long time festival favorite of mine is the North Winona Church of the Brethren booth where they make fresh spiral potato chips and serve them with IBC Root Beer. Some years I've helped out with my church's booth (Columbia City Church of the Brethren) where we serve delicious home-made pies. Both booths and some others have been around since the first festival in 1999! Many churches have come in since and have added some new flavors and energy to the festival food scene; all put in loads of effort to make their booths a success. We at Camp Mack sincerely thank the churches and others who have put in their time, talents, and resources throughout the years so that the festival can continue and can support the efforts of Camp Mack. You've pro-

vided food, donated items to auction, led children's activities, sang on stage, and so much more. The Camp Mack Festival (formerly known as the Alexander Mack Festival) may look a bit different than it did in 1999, but it's certainly just as fun.

For me, the festival is a perfect way to kick off the fall season (though some, I'm sure, will already have been geared up for fall once Labor Day passed). With pumpkins, hay bales, mums, and fall delectable, it is easy to get in the mood for red and orange leaves and breezy weather. The festival is ideal for introducing others to camp, but we'd also enjoy seeing you other times of the year! Consider visiting camp and bringing a friend to a Get-a-Way Day coming up. There are some crafting days (scrapbooking, knitting and crocheting, beginning quilting, nature-inspired wreaths and swags, and handmade wooden Christmas ornaments), adventures around camp and away (fall nut and tree identification walk and the annual trip to Jasper Pulaski FWA to see the Sandhill cranes), and other fun activities (pumpkin carving and children's drum building).

Consider also visiting camp for several other fall and winter events the rest of this year, including FLYE (an interactive youth leadership event), the Father Son Retreat (celebrate your generations with some fun at camp), quilt retreat (you can bring your UFOs—unfinished projects), scrapbooking retreat (designated time to create with friends), seasoned citizen's retreat (for the young at heart to enjoy laughter and some time at camp together), pastor's Sabbath (a retreat for those leading us in ministry), and more. Many of these are listed at the end of this newsletter, but please feel free to call camp with any questions or to register! Camp Mack's phone number is 574-658-4831. You may also email us at [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org). Want to create your own event? Call or email us to schedule your banquet, retreat, party, night hike, wedding, conference, reunion, etc. We're open for business year round! It's better to enjoy every season together, so we hope you are able to gather at Camp Mack—come say "Hello!" and spend some time in this sanctuary that God has blessed us with.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director

### The Wilderness Area

A couple of weeks ago I spent some time in our wilderness area. Milford Elementary School does a two mile fun run through it and the trails needed some serious trimming. Ray used to do this every time he mowed and that work has fallen on me this year. The wilderness area is about 112 acres with 14 being woodland and 98 acres being wildland. We have a two mile path around the outside and many other paths crisscrossing the rest of the area that equal about four miles of trails. We mow it with an International 584 utility tractor and a flail mower. The goal is to be able to drive the tractor and mower through the trails and not get whacked by any branches. We never meet this goal!

Anyway, my facility crew and I spent several days cutting branches and clearing the outside trail for the Milford schools. In the process of all this time in the woods, I realized how much I enjoy time spent alone in the woods. There is so much to hear and see of God's natural world. It also feels good to be a part of an improvement process of this woodland. About three years ago it was suggested to us that we should be doing a better job of managing that area. There were probably some trees that needed harvested and the 98 acres was being taken over by Asian bush honeysuckle. At that point we began a relationship with Chris Egolf, a professional Consulting Forester. With Chris's help, we set about developing a Woodland Management Plan.

This plan works at our forest stewardship goals: improving the environment and protecting the watershed, to improve the wildlife habitat, to produce an economically valuable timber crop and to improve and maintain the health and productivity of the forest. With this plan, we were able to obtain some cost sharing funds from NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture). The first step in the plan is to rid the 14 acres of woodland and 5 acres of wildlands of the invasive species. Randy Showalter and his crew sprayed the first time this spring and will come back two more times to finish it. At that point it will be our responsibility to keep up with the spraying in that area. Over the next several years Randy will continue to spray additional part of the wildlands. Once we have the invasive species under control we can consider a very selective harvest of some over mature trees. This will allow for some regeneration of our woodland.

When you think about our mission here at Camp, this woodland becomes an excellent "...sanctuary where people connect with God". To be able to walk into this complicated and beautiful ecosystem, you begin to get a sense of God's love for us and how he wants to care for us. It feels good to be a part of this and thank you for partnering with us in the care of our woodlands.

Galen Jay, Facility Director





## Nature Nut News— Spark Birds and Fall Confusion

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Go on any number of bird walks, and the first questions many birdwatchers will ask as a get to know you question is, what is your spark bird? A spark bird is that bird you saw that changed the course of your birding journey. It was at that moment your world opened up and you started using descriptions such as rufous instead of orangy brown, Song sparrow instead of sparrow, and warbler/vireo/kinglet instead of little bouncy bird in the bush.

My spark bird happened on a Camp Mack Birdwatcher's Retreat field trip. It was at Porter (Rea) Cemetery at Potato Creek State Park. We had just stepped out of the van when a distinctive croaking call was heard. And there it was, a Yellow-Billed Cuckoo crouched down on a branch with the vivid tail spots giving away its position. It was the first time I had heard a call, found the bird with my binoculars, and was able to make an ID. My spark bird was also a lifer (first time in life seeing that bird species).

Spring forward a number of years and you end up where I am today, in the midst of warbler fall confusion. Trust me, it's a thing. The warblers aren't confused; I am. You see, in the spring they are decked out in glorious colors. In the fall, to the untrained eye, everything looks like a Goldfinch. Enjoy a couple (stock) photos of some warblers I have seen both this past spring and fall, then take a walk and enjoy all the birds sporting their autumn yellows.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



Blackburnian  
Warbler



Magnolia  
Warbler



## Kitchen News— Baking a Classic

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Warm baked oatmeal is the perfect breakfast food for a chilly fall day. I have started adding fruit, like cinnamon apples, or dried cranberries to my baked oatmeal muffins. They just add an extra sweetness to a yummy comfort food of mine. Feel free to add all kinds of things like fruit or nuts to this recipe.

### **\*Baked Oatmeal**

2 Cups Applesauce or Apple Butter  
1 ½ Cups Brown Sugar  
8 Eggs  
4 Cups Milk  
12 Cups Quick Oats  
3 Tablespoons Baking Powder  
2 Teaspoons Salt  
2 Tablespoons Cinnamon



Mix all ingredients on medium speed until blended.

Pour mixture into a greased two inch hotel pan. Bake in a conventional oven at 350 degrees or a convection oven at 300 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Serve with vanilla ice cream.

Can be made into muffins, yield 50 muffins. Bake 15 to 20 minutes at the above temperature until centers are firm.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



## In our End is our Beginning

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Have you ever heard of Pleasant View Chapel Church of the Brethren? No, not Pleasant Chapel in Ashley, or Pleasant View that was out near South Whitley, but Pleasant View Chapel. It was originally at the southern point of the Solomon's Creek, which is now the location of Bethany up near 6 and 15. It became its own congregation in 1915. Even though it was its own church, it only had 35 members and a very small area from which to draw new members. Thus it closed only 15 years later in 1930.

When Pleasant View Chapel closed, they had an empty building. Given the church was very close to Camp Mack, they donated the building materials to Camp Mack. In 1931, people donated 61 and half days of work to move the material from the old church over to Camp, then this material was used to build Becker Lodge.

I am sure that the closure of Pleasant View Chapel was not a fun experience, probably had a fair amount of pain and tears when the building closed. It had been a preaching point for 38 years and an independent congregation for 15, for a grand total of more than 53 years of ministry. However as the material for Becker Lodge, it was able to minister for 79 years. Just when things seemed to be at the end for Pleasant View Chapel, it was the beginning of a new adventure and ministry for Camp Mack.

One way of thinking about this is that Pleasant View Chapel created an endowment. We could not sell the supplies, but we used the interest and ability they gave us for many years. Their gift at the end of ministry was transformed to give back for years to come. It is gifts like this that will continue to transform Camp Mack for years to come. We hope that you will consider including Camp Mack in your future plans to give a gift that can grow and provide longer than you could have imagined. If you have already included Camp Mack in your planned giving, please let us know so we can welcome you into the Artesian Community, with its own special events and newsletters.

Todd Eastis Development Communications Specialist

(Drawn from the Brethren Encyclopedia and The History of Camp Alexander Mack 1920-1975 by Roger Sappington)





## Upcoming Get-a-Way Days

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

### **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 for adults and \$15 for children ages 3-8 (Lunch and 1 pumpkin included per person. 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) 9a-4p

### **November 10—Sandhill Cranes Trip**

Travel with us to the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area. Observe upwards of 10,000 cranes in the field from the observation platform as they fly in and dance while traveling along their migration route. The event should be on every birders life list. Meet at John Kline Welcome Center (We will be travelling off site). \$20 (snacks included) 2p-10p

*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. 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!.



Quilts for the Auction



## **All New Activities for Camp Mack Festival**

Ever wanted yet another fun thing to do at the Camp Mack Festival? We are proud to announce our first every cornhole, 4 square, and three point shot tournaments! Compete for bragging rights and small prizes as part of this all new activity. Entry is \$5 per person per tournament with the kids 4 square costing only \$2.

**Cornhole– 10am**

**Three Point Shot– 11am**

**13 and older 4 Square– 12:30pm**

**Under 13 4 Square– 1:30pm**

We have many amazing artists that have come through Camp Mack over the years. Many of them will be bringing their artwork to feature in the first ever Camp Mack Festival Art Gallery. Come to the Turkey Creek Conference Room in John Kline Welcome Center!



## **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 business, church, community groups, and more.

# Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

## Camp Mack Calendar

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
Oct. 17-21	Quilt Retreat		

### 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.

### 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. **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.*





## Quilt Retreat

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.*



## 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. **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.



## Volunteer Banquet



This banquet is Camp Mack's Recognition of all volunteers that served with us throughout the year. Our guests will enjoy special entertainment, fellowship, and great food. Join us at the John Kline Welcome Center **November 3rd** with appetizers at 4:15p, and dinner at 5p.

This is for all volunteers, whether you came to help with lunch one day in the kitchen, or spent half your summer as a counselor. You should receive an invitation in the mail. Call us if you do not receive an invitation.