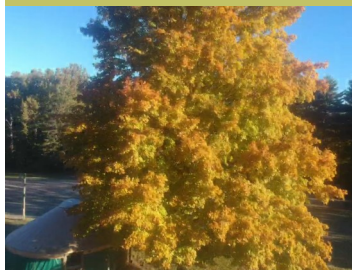


Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director

Impact



It's too early to talk about Christmas; Thanksgiving is yet to come. However, one of my favorite movies – the only one I have to watch every year – crossed my mind the other day. *It's a Wonderful Life* is not the best written movie, nor does it have the best production value, but it never fails to make me cry. It's all about making a difference in people's lives by being faithful in relationships and ideals.

As I was working on stories we plan to tell over the next few months, I thought, "What would the world be like if Camp Mack never existed?" It was actually a difficult question, because, just as George Bailey couldn't grasp that he no longer existed, I don't remember a time when Camp Mack wasn't central to my life in Indiana. What difference has Camp Mack made here?

The easy answer is tens of thousands of children and youth have had their lives changed over the 93 years of service. They experienced committed faithful adults who created welcoming Christian communities showing love, peace, joy, and lives dedicated to serving one another. They learned about the natural world – God's Creation – and the ways we and the environment around us impact each other. They developed life-long relationships and created new interests through the daily activities. Some met God for the very first time. Some committed their lives to faithfully following Jesus.

We don't often think about the thousands of volunteers who have experienced grace, learned about service, and reveled in the joy of sharing God's love with others. Over the years, I have volunteered in over 40 different camps, and I know that my faith has been strengthened beyond imagination by the experience.

Congregations meet and work at camp. Retreats, programs, work sessions, and worship are opportunities to build the community and to connect with God's blessing. Other groups find the holy hospitality of Camp Mack brings them life and connection they may not yet be able to describe.

I don't have the opportunity to see what life would be like if Camp Mack had never existed, but I do know that experiences here sometimes push and other times nudge people in new directions. Like Robert Frost says in his poem, **The Road Not Taken**: *Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.* Thank you for supporting Camp Mack as we make a difference for the people who find sanctuary here.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Wonder...

" The world will never starve for want of wonders, but for want of wonder." --G.K. Chesterton

What does the frog think when it sees this face? I recently had the opportunity to look up at this Great Blue Heron at Camp Mack. We usually see them wading, flying over the water, or perched in a far off tree. But this one was just begging me to creep down the trail a bit, wiggle into the brush, and look up. I wasn't disappointed.

So many times, as adults we take a walk and measure it in miles. Take a walk with a child and you will measure it in moments. Large parks can hold thousands of wonders, but don't overlook the fallen log in your backyard that can hold many wonders of its own. There is so much to be found in one small fallen log that it doesn't take long to get lost in the fungus and lichens, the earthworms and rolypolys, the quick legged centipedes and the meandering millipedes. What does the bright green moss feel like? Grab a magnifying glass quick! There is a whole other community living in the moss. It is amazing how one simple log can turn into an hour long adventure. No walk needed.



Let this be your monthly reminder to take time, slow down, and wonder. Watch a sunrise or a sunset, flip over a log, listen to the crunch of the leaves under your feet, or just maybe look up on a Great Blue Heron. The world is full of wonders, but are you taking the time to wonder? Do it, and you can again be filled with childlike amazement where the learning never ends and the next adventure may be under that old log on the corner of your property.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Be Our Guest

Who has the green grass?

Green grass. It adds to the aesthetic appeal of a country hillside or the perimeter of a woods (though this time of year it may be starting to turn a bit brown). Sometimes we tell ourselves that the grass is greener on the other side (whether it be literally or metaphorically, I suppose). Sometimes we care about what other people think of us and our grass, so to speak, or we compare our lives to those around us. Maybe we judge someone because their grass isn't green. We look over and see the plethora of dandelions or the weeds popping up here and there amidst the tan landscape.

But, Romans 12:19 (MSG) reminds us, “‘I’ll do the judging,’ says God. ‘I’ll take care of it.’” I, of course, need this helpful reminder, too. In pondering these thoughts, I also turn to the question that Matthew 7:3 presents, “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?” We naturally judge and compare, and it's not always bad, but we should spend more time watering our own grass because grass is greener where you water it. Let's plant and water lush gardens, showing others the beauty of God.

We don't often literally water our grass here at camp—we usually leave that up to nature. But, we do try to provide a safe, fun sanctuary to all those who visit. Come be a part of the nurturing of community, the fostering of communication and friendships, the appreciation of creation and our Creator. All are welcome at Camp Alexander Mack.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



Progress!

We are making progress on some of our deferred maintenance issues we have here at Camp. We just completed the siding/window project at Ulrich and we are well on our way to completion on Shultz Chapel. More on those projects later.

We had some leak issues with the lower roof on Sarah Major this spring. The DeKalb soccer boys helped us tear that off and to start putting the new roof on. We just have a little bit on the south slope and the ridge to finish.

Last summer we had the stonework done on the well part of Jacob's well with Lynn Kreider and his volunteer crew building a new roof for that. We finished with putting on a metal roof this spring and it really looks nice. This summer we moved over to the pavilion part of Jacob's well and with the help of Family Camp we took the shingles off the west side, replaced some decking, and covered it with felt. We hope to be able to take the east side off yet this fall and cover it with felt and then we would be ready to put some metal roofing on it next summer.

We have a couple Eagle Scout projects in progress. One is in the archery area. They resided and reroofed the storage building and are in the process of building a shade for kids to stand under while waiting their turn at the archery course. The other project is a new compost bin area just outside the east end of the John Kline Center. This will be a working compost pile but we will use it to educate our guests as well. This project is in the planning stage but we hope to complete it before winter.

These projects represent a lot of work but we have had lot of volunteer help to do them. Without that help we could not have done them. These projects also represent being good stewards of the buildings we have so that we can continue to provide "...a sanctuary where people connect with God."

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Another Way of Giving



Building the Memories

Few places carry quite the memories as Shultz Chapel. With the opening towards the lake, it connects us to both God and nature. It was built in 1948, making it one of the newer buildings at Camp Mack. L.W. Shultz served as the first director of Camp Mack in 1925 until his retirement in 1956. At his side was Cora, his wife, who was also highly involved with the early years of Camp Mack. Now, it is a popular wedding destination, or place to escape the craziness of our world.

In the 70 years since, things have not always been as pristine as they were in 1948. The stonework was falling apart and the roof sometimes leaked. Our sacred space was falling apart. Earlier this year, we asked you to contribute to restore

this building, to make sure it was standing for another 70 years.

You responded with a resounding, “Yes!” We raised \$13,375 to fund these renovations. The gifts ranged in size from \$25 to \$5,000 with all sizes in between. The stonework has been ongoing with many rocks being mortared into place. That work is almost complete with the new roof coming soon.

Construction is exciting, but even more so is when it is finished. Part of our goal at Camp is to be transparent and open to what is going on. You deserve to know the progress we have made in every way, shape, and form. Thank you for supporting this important project not just for Camp Mack’s history, but for our future.

Todd Eastis, Development Communication Specialist



Chocolate Chip Cookie Cheesecake Bars

This recipe is quickly becoming a new camp favorite! We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

Ingredients

- 1 18 oz roll refrigerated chocolate chip cookie dough
- 8 oz cream cheese softened
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg room temperature
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Line a 9-inch square baking dish with parchment paper or non-stick foil. Set aside.
3. Spread a little more than half of the cookie dough onto the bottom of the baking dish and press down firmly creating an even layer.
4. Using a stand mixer or hand held mixer, beat the cream cheese until light and fluffy.
5. Add in the sugar and beat until combined.
6. Beat in the egg and vanilla extract until smooth.
7. Pour the cheesecake filling over the top of the cookie dough base.
8. Crumble the remaining cookie dough over the top.
9. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes.
10. Let cool completely before cutting into bars.
11. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.



Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director

Upcoming Get-a-Way Days

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

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 birder's life list. Meet at John Kline Welcome Center (We will be traveling off site). \$20 (snacks included) 2p—10p



December 1, 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. Be sure to bring gloves. Meet in Ulrich Basement. \$30 (lunch and all materials included). 9a— 3p

December 1, Christmas Ornaments:

Gain new skills in the woodshop and watch sawdust fly as you make beautiful Christmas ornaments to grace your tree or give as gifts. Stain, paint, or wood burn your finished creation. Let your imagination be your guide. \$20 (lunch and all materials included). 9a— 3p



December 1/2, 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 heart's delight. Best of all, camp cleans up the mess! Choose 4 batches of cookies (each batch makes about three dozen cookies). Meet in the John Kline Welcome Center. \$45 (lunch and all baking materials included).

Choice of 3 sessions:

- December 2, 9a– 1p
- December 2, 12p– 4p
- December 3, 12p– 4p

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

Nov. 3	Volunteer Banquet	Dec 8	Children's Christmas Party
Nov. 6-7	Pastor's Sabbath	Jan 12	Camp Rep Meeting
Nov. 12-14	Volunteer Work Days		

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. Spouses are welcome.

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. Call to reserve your spot.

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 Gimbiya Kettering. **November 6-7**. Fee: \$20. Come for a few hours or both days. Encourage your pastoral leadership to attend. CEU's available.

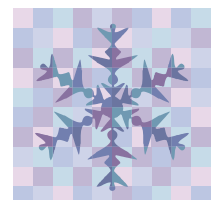


Volunteer Work Days

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 12th-14th**. 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.

Children's Christmas Party

NEW this winter at Camp Mack is a Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 8**, from 11a-7p, for all your children ages 5-12. We will have a full day of fun activities with the kids while you relax, shop, or go on the date you have been waiting for. Camp will provide the activities, supervision, and yummy meals for your kids. Program is \$20 per child. Register today by calling the camp at 574-658-4831 or by emailing info@campmack.org. There is limited space for this event.



Another Successful Camp Mack Festival

Thank you to all of the churches, community organizations, and individuals who made the 20th annual Camp Mack Festival special and filled with wonderful Christian community.

We don't have an exact total of the money earned to support Camp Mack's ministries, but when we do, we will share it with you. Needless to say, CMF is an important source of financial support for us, but it is so much more.

My takeaways from this year's festival include these:

- *Lots of people working with other members of their churches had a wonderful time enjoying their service.
- *Happy children played at children's activities and laughed all the way through the hayride.
- *Musical groups and other entertainers shared God's love for everyone.
- *My wife is thrilled that I don't have to grow a beard!
- *Camp Mack is a place where people connect with God through a wide variety of ministries.
- *The family of God is incredible!

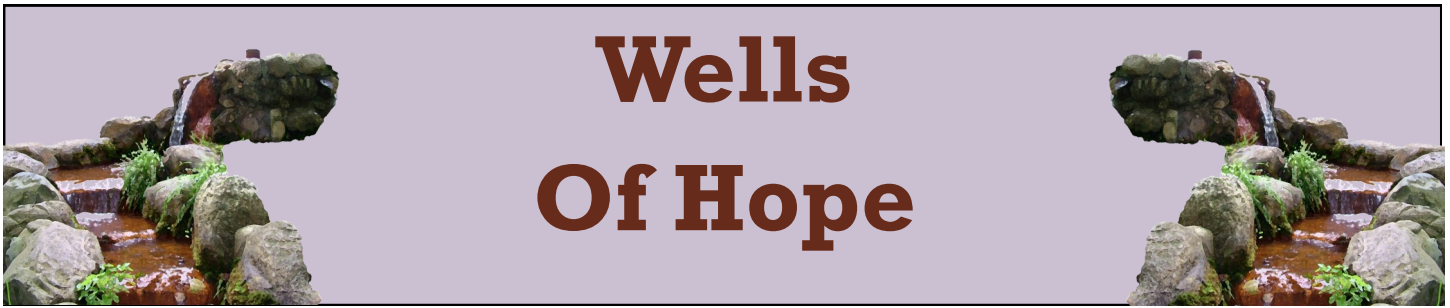
We raised over \$17,000 at this year's festival making it one of our most successful ever. Thank you for tuning in, and I hope you had fun!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

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.



A Lasting Legacy



Sel and Frankie Copeland were great friends of Camp Mack. These two teachers from Nappanee, Indiana came to camp as campers, sent their children to camp as parents, and volunteered their time as faithful members of the Church of the Brethren. Though they have passed away, their participation at Camp Mack continues.

Frankie loved working with youth, and her passion caused her to create and lead an all-state travel camp that served high school youth over several years. Many remember her dedication and love in those special days.

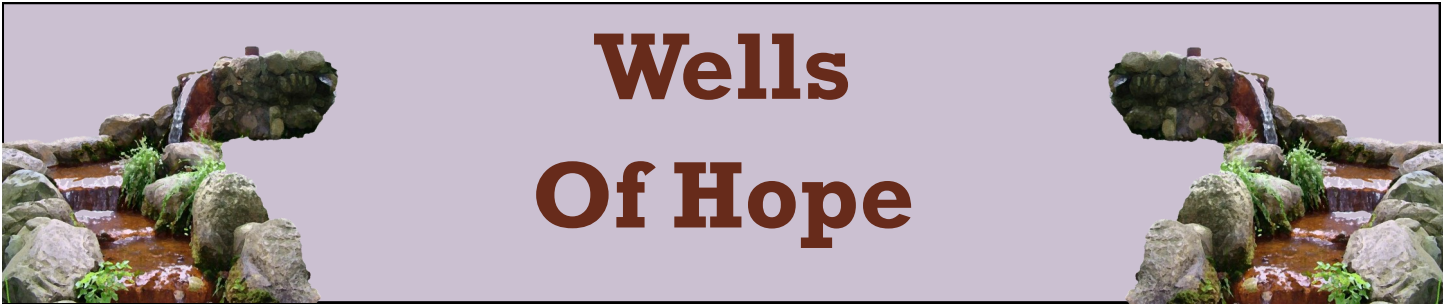
Sel volunteered in facility and truly enjoyed building and repairing facilities over the summers. He was proud of pointing at his work and enjoyed knowing that he had made a difference.

After the estate for Sel and Frankie was settled, their children wanted to make certain their passions were continued, and they made a large contribution from the estate to keep their legacy alive. Part of the money was used to replace windows and reside Ulrich House. This building was built as a staff house, but over the years, it combined for staff in the summer and retreats during the rest of the year. The windows were in disrepair and drafty. The shingle siding was falling off. Now, because of the memory of the Copelands, Ulrich House has beautiful working windows, high insulation, and low maintenance siding that will last for years to come making our guests feel welcome and comfortable.

The rest of the bequest was designated for camper scholarships. This money was put into an endowment with the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. The foundation matched 25% of the donation making the full endowment \$100,000! This is a permanent fund that will grow and send children to camp every year. In fact, **you** can contribute to this fund and CFEC will continue to match your gift 25%. Contact Todd at our office to find out how.

Many thanks to the commitment of Frankie, Sel, and all of the Copeland family for their many gifts through the years – gifts that continue to connect people with God.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



**The Artesian Community:
Sustaining Camp Mack For the Next Generation**

The Artesian well serves as a sustaining fountain of water on the base Becker Hill. This well would not be possible without the work of those before us. This landmark serves as symbol of planned gifts, gifts that keep giving to sustain Camp Mack for the next Generation.

What is Planned Giving?

There are many different forms of planned giving, here at Camp Mack we have two main ways to give: as a bequest in your will, or as a beneficiary on your life insurance. Camp Mack can be added as either, call Todd Eastis at the Camp Mack Office at 574-658-4831 or email: todd@campmack.org for specific language.

What do you do with Planned Gifts?

We have three endowments that support Camp Mack. One is the Sel and Frankie Copeland Endowment that Gene described, which is used for camperships. One is for maintenance and one is for operations or regular expenses.. By putting these gifts in endowment they serve as a well for the future. If you have other areas that you would like to support with your planned gifts, you may designate as you wish.

What is the Artesian Community?

The Artesian Community is our planned giving society. Being part of this society means receiving the Wells of Hope newsletter (like you see here) every other month, invitations to special events, and recognition for your role in Camp Mack’s future. You join by telling Camp Mack that you have included this special place in your planned giving.

Have you included Camp Mack in your Planned Giving?

Please print this lower section out and send it to camp or give us a call!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

How have you included Camp Mack in your planned giving:

Please Send to
Camp Mack
PO Box 158
Milford, IN 46542