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Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director

On our recent Thanksgiving trip to visit my sister in New Mexico, we drove through rural Oklahoma and Texas. I hadn't been on that highway in almost twenty years, so things were pretty new. What struck me as we sped along was the seemingly endless rows of windmills generating electricity. It was particularly apparent at night when the red lights on the hubs blinked in unison as far as we could see.

Windmills are interesting because they are new, and the rotation of the mill is graceful to watch. But as I began looking more closely, I saw oil pumps between the mill posts and farm land all around. Farmers were growing crops around oil pumps and windmills. It was like a working design of three worlds coming together.

Politically, it seems that one cannot support fossil fuels and renewable energy at the same time. "If you support coal and oil, you must be against solar, wind, and tide." Yet, here in the traditionally oil-rich southwest, both resources are being developed side by side. And in the midst of that harmony, the land continues to produce a harvest.

As we enter Advent and approach the celebration of Christmas, we remember that Jesus came into a place and time that was at least as chaotic and difficult as our current experience. There was a great deal of injustice. The poor were abused and powerless. There were warring political factions. Religion was in disarray. Yet, suddenly hope was born in a child of parents who had no power or wealth. God's love was gifted in a baby worshiped by kings and praised by shepherds. A new vision of peace was formed through an infant who was the Word made flesh.

At Camp Mack, we celebrate hope, love, and peace because our faith in the vision of Jesus gives us great joy. As the angels proclaimed to the shepherds, this good news – this gospel – is not news that brings conflict or supports the powers of the world. It is news of great joy for ALL the people. Our mission of providing sanctuary, connection with God, and Christian community is based on the harmony of oil pumps and windmills producing energy simultaneously on working farmland: the lion and the lamb laying together in God's creation.

Our prayer for this season is that we continue to find our common ground in the love of God expressed in the gift of a savior, Christ the Lord!



Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Kitchen News

As things slow down here at camp, I have found a few hours here and there to start exploring some old photographs and documents from the rich, exciting history of Camp Alexander Mack. Along with Todd Eastis, I have been searching through old Waubee Waves, Annual Reports and copied family photo albums for any and all information about the camp kitchen and the men and women who have been in charge of it. From Cora Shultz to Kate Warstler to Tony Keck I have been piecing together the history of the Food Service Director position. I have always been interested in the stories of those that came before me. While there are some grayer areas that I may not be able to completely fill, I feel like I have made a lot of headway in the last year. Knowing that these men and women have helped shape our ministry into what it is today, I have enjoyed trying to learn as much as I can about how the camp kitchen has changed. We have changed leaders, buildings, and menus, but we have always had the goal to feed our campers and guests so that they can continue to grow and learn in this sanctuary.

1. Cora Shultz 1924-1955
2. Mary Dowty 1956-1969
3. Martha Steury 1970-1976
4. Kate Warstler 1977-1982, 1984-1988
5. Janeen Atkins 1988-1989
(No picture available)
6. Jan Shipe 1989-1990
7. Grace Bollinger 1990-1992
8. Gregg Dewey 1992-1999
9. Christine Phelps 2000-2004
10. Shannon Kahler 2004-2009
11. Tony Keck 2009-2016
12. Wanda Gall 2016-2017
13. Vanessa Bohannon 2017-present



If you had the pleasure of knowing any of these men or women, or if you know of someone who is not on my list, please share your stories with me:

foodservice@campmack.org

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director

Another Way of Giving

In my years as a camper, I heard stories of Camp Mack wanting to build a swimming pool. The reason given was that someone had donated money specifically for that purpose. What I did not realize until recently, was this was not a onetime idea. The pool dates back to 1991, in a brochure from that year described an activities building and enclosed swimming pool that would “provide a place for year-round recreation, exercise, and skill development.” (1991 Master Plan). The picture below is of this building which would have been located where Mission Village is now.

The pool also appeared in the Vision 2020 Master Plan, with the building moving to where the East Cabin circle is currently. This activity center was in 2 phases, the first containing a gymnasium, stage, and some smaller rooms with the pool being a future edition to the building. One change was the pool was not going to be enclosed. The pool was not just the idea of one person, but a need brought up by summer camp leaders, retreat group leaders, while others “believe a pool would be out of place” (Vision 2020).

Regardless of your own feelings on the pool/lake swimming debate, someone felt very strongly on the pool side and made a large donation to be used only for the construction of the pool. It is unclear when this was donated, but my guess is the 80’s or 90’s. In 2010, the anonymous donor reached out to Camp and gave permission to use this money to fund a new endowment for maintenance. This endowment enables us to keep up to date on many maintenance projects around Camp.

Sometimes the vision we have must adapt. Maybe it is just moving from a pool near Ulrich, to one near the entrance. Maybe it is something larger that calls us in a completely new direction. God is constantly calling us, and sometimes it is a new direction. These changes can be difficult and frustrating as we have our minds set on a certain path. When God calls us on this new path, we are not leaving God, but getting closer.

Todd Eastis, Development Communication Specialist



The Pool in the 1991 Master Plan

Preserving the Sanctuary

For the last couple of years we have been working on the wilderness area. We are trying to do some forest management. This past week-end we made a giant leap forward. We had a mulcher come in and work on the bush honeysuckle. The mulcher is a large grinder mounted on the front of a skid loader. As the skid loader move forward he raised the grinder up and came down on the bushes, and this really grinds them up. This was a pretty amazing change to the five acres we treated. We have NRCS funding for a total of three years to accomplish our goals on the fourteen acres of woods and the five acres of wilderness area. The five acres were completely overgrown with bush honeysuckle and vines. They will come in and spot spray for the next couple of years and then it will be up to us to keep up with it. An interesting question we face now is what a good use for these five acres is. Do we let it grow back, without the invasive species of course, or do we mow some areas for program and plant some native trees in places? Probably several options are open at this point. If you have some ideas let us know.

Another issue we faced this fall was a lot of cold air in the upstairs bedrooms of Sarah. We had a group in early November and the outside temp was in the lower 20's with a big wind coming across the lake and we could hardly hold 50 degrees upstairs. That should not have been a problem. The following week we decided to remove some of the wood siding on the lake side of the middle room and see if we could find the problem. We found some missing insulation and other issues. We reinsulated the walls and part of the ceiling, put heavy plastic sheets and window tape to seal all the joints. This really helped the air that was flowing in. We used car siding on the lower half of the wall and dry wall on the upper. We have two more rooms to go and we hope that helps to keep our guests just a little more comfy. A warm bedroom in the middle of winter sure helps to contribute to the "sanctuary" experience our guests have come to expect here.

Galen Jay, Facility Director





What is this story?



A line of tracks breaks through the unbroken landscape of the fresh fallen snow over the field. What has been here? What were they doing? Is there evidence to be found beyond the line of tracks in the snow? What is the story?

Friday, a group of homeschoolers will be doing nature investigations to determine the stories found in animal tracks, scat, and other evidence found in nature. In studying these tracks and other evidence, we begin to learn more about the animals that live among us. We learn their habits, diets, predator-prey relationships, where they rest, and how they interact with each other. The story is right there in front of our eyes, we just need to take the time to read it.

So it is with each other. Do we take the time read the stories of others whom we interact with on a daily basis? Too often in life I hear others say, "I just don't get that person" or "I can't understand what that child wants." It can be hard to read someone, but their stories are waiting to be read.

During summer camp, counselors check in with each camper individually every day, often while walking to the next activity. These set-aside times allow them to read each child a little each day. Doesn't it feel so good to be noticed? For someone to serve you a larger portion of your favorite food? Make your bunk banner in your favorite color? Take the time to notice.

This winter, as the sun disappears a little earlier each day, remember to keep telling your stories. During the summer, we often talk about the stories told around the campfires. Bring them inside, and continue those stories around the Christmas tree, around the fireplace, or in the pillow and blanket fort you build on a snowy day. What will you notice? What is the story that is waiting to be read? Enjoy this season of storytelling.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Be Our Guest

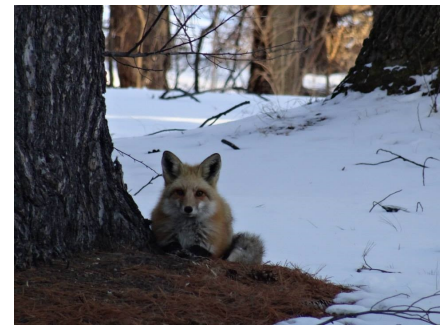
Macky the Duck's Snowy Adventure

Along the banks of Lake Waubee stood Macky the duck.
He was in a bit of a pickle because his feathers were stuck.
They were pinched between two big rocks right there by the dock,
And his toes were getting chilly, so his ankles began to knock.
“What will I do?” he thought, bewilderment on his face.
Snow was falling in great big flakes, as Macky’s heart began to race.



Two groundhogs were nearby and scurried over to see.
“I’m Digs,” and “I’m Holes,” they bumbled to Macky, rounding the small tree.
Digs offered their services as he let out a shout,
“We can try to dig you loose, dear friend! Maybe that’ll get you out.”
Macky accepted graciously, desperate to be free.
They went to each side of the duck, and Holes said, “Ready? Go on three!”

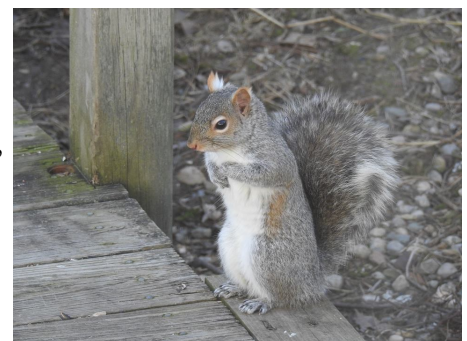
They burrowed the best they could right next to the two rocks.
As they worked their way through the hard soil, along pranced a friendly fox.
“What’s going on?” she asked, hoping she could lend a paw.
Macky replied, “Some of my feathers are stuck in rocks!” He guffawed.
He laughed about the predicament he’d gotten in.
What a way to spend this snow day. All he could do was stand and grin.



“My name is Rosie Jo,” the fox politely proclaimed.
“How about I nudge this rock? We’ll work till your feathers are reclaimed!”
Digs and Holes popped up with smiles, “We’re getting closer here,
but could use help. Can you get the front of the rock? We’ll get the rear.”
“Sounds like a plan! I hope it works.” announced Rosie Jo.
“Cool!” piped Digs. “Great!” chimed Holes. Macky interjected, “Thank you! Let’s go!”

The groundhogs shoved and the fox gave a heave. On they pushed.
The rock began to give way, but a couple feathers were still smooshed.
Macky leaned out to help, but they needed something more.
Maybe what they needed required not just three of them, but four.
Luckily, there was a squirrel passing by with a nut.
Macky called out, “Dearest squirrel, will you please help me out of this rut?”

Pausing with big puffs for cheeks, she replied to him, “Sure!”
“Thank you for your willingness to join.” Macky was grateful for her.
“Carrie’s the name. What can I do? I have nuts to spare.”
Holes said, “That’s fantastic! We can use them for leverage under there.”
“Good idea!” praised Digs. Rosie Jo showed Carrie where.
She propped the nuts under the rock and said, “That’s kind of you to share.”



As the piled nuts pushed the rock up, Macky winced a bit.
He assured the group he was fine, so they readied, mustering grit.
Rosie Jo took a side next to some wintery grime.
Carrie sat on top so she could push the rock tips apart when time.
Holes and Digs took either side of the back largest rock.
Macky leaned forward and quacked, “When the rocks shift, I’m ready to walk.”

So off they heaved, pushed, and shoved together as a team.
With a few grunts and some hard work, they were stronger than it would seem.
The rocks gave way and fluffy snow puffed into the air.
The cold flakes painted their faces and gave them a bit of a scare.
But soon they all were laughing and shouting out their cheers.
“Thank you all so much for your help! “ Macky said as he wiped his tears.

“You are surely some of the nicest new friends-what luck!”
They all noted their words of kind welcome to their new friend, a duck.
All began to part ways but would remember this day.
Each looked back, waved, and smiled a smile that went to their hearts right away.
The fox pranced off for some fun in the woods before dark.
The groundhogs went back to their digging at the Arky Parky ark.
The squirrel gathered more nuts to stash for a meal later.
And Macky waddled on, wondering if he’d had a day greater.

By Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director

Merry Christmas to you all! We hope you stay safe and wish you and your family and friends many blessings. May you find peace and love this season!

Upcoming Get-a-Way Days

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



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 and 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.*

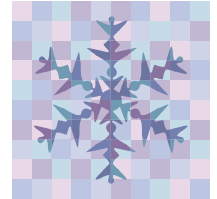
Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

Dec 8	Children's Christmas Party
Jan 12	Camp Rep Meeting

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.



Camp Rep Meeting

Talking about summer camp and all the programs that happen at Camp Mack throughout the year starts now. We want all camp reps to attend the camp rep meeting on Saturday, **January 12, 2019 at Camp or at Union Grove Church of the Brethren in Muncie, Indiana**. We will be sending out response cards closer to Christmas. When you attend, you will have breakfast provided for you, you get all the print resources, camp staff will let you know about important changes coming to the registration process, and most important, you get to network with other camp reps to see what special things they are doing within their churches.

Let us host your Holiday Party!



Let Camp Mack host your next holiday gathering or celebration! We are here for your 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.

Camp Mack Christmas List:

Beginning at the first of the year, Camp Mack will have basic supplies in each of its lodges for rental groups. Up to this point, a rental group that planned to cook its own meals would also have to supply any of the cookware, utensils, and dinnerware it needed. For a family reunion from across the country or a group serving students or other young people, this could be difficult. So, in meeting our goal of providing Holy Hospitality, we are stocking the kitchenettes to make it more useful to our guests.

This means that Camp has a Christmas list to help us achieve our goal. If you have any new or nearly new, clean items on this list to donate, your gift will increase our ministry opportunities and provide welcome to people throughout the year. Our Christmas list includes:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 – 10” non-stick skillets | 3 – toasters |
| 3 – 1 1/2 qt. sauce pans | 3 – manual can openers |
| 3 – 3 qt. sauce pans | 6 – cutting boards |
| 3 – 4 qt. stockpots | 3 – 9x13 baking dishes |
| 3 – rubber scrapers | 3 – colanders |
| 3 – plastic spatulas | 3 – cookie sheets |
| 3 – metal spatulas | 3 – mixing bowl sets |
| 3 – plastic ladles | 3 – dry measuring cup sets |
| 3 – slotted plastic cooking spoons | 3 – measuring spoon sets |
| 3 – unslotted plastic stirring spoons | 3 – 2-cup glass measuring cups |
| 6 – metal serving spoons | 3 – large pitchers |
| 6 – metal slotted serving spoons | 3 – dish drying racks with mat |
| 3 – tongs | 12 – dish towels |
| 3 – whisks | 6 – dish cloths |
| 3 – vegetable peelers | 12 – hot pads |
| 3 – paring knives | 6 – trivets |
| 3 – chef’s knives | |
| 3 – long serrated knives | |

If you are able to provide any of these items, we will have a tree set up in the John Kline Welcome Center. You can bring them in and place them under the tree, or you can send them to us, and we’ll put them there. We also have all these items listed on our Amazon Wish List under Camp Mack You can order, pay, and ship from your easy chair! On the day after Christmas, we’ll post a video on Facebook of our tree and the gifts you have given.

This is a fun way to participate in the continuing growth of our ministry. Thank you for your prayers and all the gifts you have shared through the years. Merry Christmas.

