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Camp Alexander Mack

News from the Director

After a record-setting December for warmth, we have set records for cold in January. Schools are closed around here because it is dangerous to be outside for any amount of time. I felt that as I walked from my truck to the John Kline Welcome Center at 6:15 this morning. I had covered my head, but didn't bother covering my hands for the forty or fifty foot walk. That was not a good decision!

For now, I am sitting in my office where it is nice and warm. There is no real awareness of the bitter cold outside. In fact, it actually looks quite pleasant with sunshine and blue skies. It tempts me to get out into the fresh air and take a walk. That would not be a good decision either.

The out of doors, usually a place of joy and pleasure, is dangerous today. The danger can't be seen until we have committed to entering it. If we decide to risk it, we can turn around early, but the longer we venture out, the more dangerous it becomes, and the more difficult it is to return to safety. The world is like that. There is so much beauty and wonder in this life God has created, but there is danger too. The farther we go from the security God provides us, the more difficult and threatening life becomes. Our focus shifts from enjoyment and wonder to fear and defense, causing us to separate further from God, even as we try to return.

While I sit at my desk, I don't think about the warm air that surrounds me, the softness of my chair, the friends who smile as they pass my office, the light that makes it easy to do my job, the quiet that allows me to think and write, and the ever-present spirit of love that is part of our community together. When all of this is happening for me, I can find the beauty in this dangerous day, and I can prepare to enter the cold with safety.

This is the ministry of Camp Mack! We are the sanctuary. We provide the unseen and often unnoticed elements that allow for our guests to connect with God. As they are fortified by the hospitality they find here, they find strength that can be worn like protective clothing against the cold as they enter back into the world.

On these cold winter days, stay connected to the lifelines that keep you safe. In these difficult, and often dangerous times of life, stay connected to the power and strength you receive freely from God, and remember, we can help with that.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director





2019 Resolutions

We are one month into the new year. Did you make any resolutions or goals this year? How are you doing on them? I've heard it said that, "One should sit in nature for 20 minutes each day... unless you are too busy, then sit for an hour." That quote seems about right for me. I spend time each day, no matter the weather, walking outside and just taking in the beauty of nature. On days when the pressure is more or I have big questions to answer, I may take a five minute walk each hour to refresh my mind and body. Then I take a longer walk in the evening. None of this tires me out - just the opposite. Walks always energize me mentally and physically.

Looking back on 2018, a few of my nature goals including seeing 125 bird species in Indiana and visiting a number of state parks. I reached and exceeded both of them. My goals this year include upping last year's goals and also completing some of the trail systems within the state parks. I encourage you this year to set goals that are attainable. 20 minutes in nature is a great one to work on. Miss a day or a week, no worries, it's not failure. Just make it a goal to get out more. Enjoy some of my favorite moments from 2018 and look forward to what 2019 brings.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director





Comfort Zones

When I worked on summer staff a few (10+) years ago I remember the Program Director instructing us in proper climbing tower and ropes course procedures. He was talking to us about encouraging the campers and guests and how to push them to meet their goals, gently nudging them past their comfort zone into their “stretch” zone without pushing too far and getting into their “panic” zone. I often come back to this idea of embracing your stretch zone when I am working on new things or have a new challenge placed in front of me. A few weeks ago Gene approached me about this year's annual dinner, which is coming up next month on March, 8th. He had been in contact with Maple Leaf Farms, a local company (they are located less than 3 miles from camp) who specializes in quality duck products. Duck is not a food that I have cooked before, but when Gene asked if I would be willing to serve it for this year's dinner as an **entree** option, I agreed. Even though this is something new and different, I am using all the resources I can to make sure it will be a delicious **entree** option. I have been talking to my mentors and reading through recipes and even watching YouTube videos about cooking duck. I haven't started dreaming about duck yet, but I'm sure before the dinner is over and done with, I will. I am so excited to try out the recipe that I found for this year's dinner, and I'm sure the staff are excited to be my guinea pigs for the next few weeks, as well.

New recipes and ideas are always coming into the camp kitchen, and I like to think that I embrace them with open arms, sometimes having to step into my stretch zone, because new things can be intimidating. Will it turn out right? Will everyone like it? What if I accidentally add salt instead of sugar? What if I burn it and catch the kitchen on fire?! These are the thoughts that can keep me from pushing forward sometimes. I really don't think I will catch the kitchen on fire, but playing the worst case scenario in my head helps me realize how irrational my panic about a new thing can sometimes be.

Pushing yourself out of your comfort zone can be challenging, there is always that fear of failure. But if you don't try, how will you know what you are capable of? Maybe balsamic and honey glazed duck breast will be a new favorite recipe. Maybe it will be such a hit that it becomes a regular on our banquet menu. But I won't know unless I try!

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



Snow!

Every once in a while we get a little snow up here at beautiful Camp Mack. For instance, this morning we had about an inch of snow. It was pretty cold. The snow was light and fluffy, and the sidewalks were clean and cold, so I could use our trusty backpack blower and get it off. However, last weekend was a different story. The temperature was about twenty five degrees and the ground under the sidewalks still had a little heat in it. We received four to five inches late Friday night and all morning on Saturday. We had a group of eighty senior high youth in Sarah Major and Ulrich House so we needed the sidewalk clean between the two buildings as well as sidewalks and walkways to John Kline Welcome Center. We also needed some parking lots cleaned out with cars in them. The temperatures on Saturday began to drop pretty quickly and the wind began to blow. When the wind gets a good blast across beautiful Lake Waubee and then moves five inches of snow across your sidewalks, it can get sort of messy in a hurry.

We essentially have three pieces of equipment here at Camp to move snow with. The first and nicest is our new F 250 with a new Boss snow plow. We used to use our utility tractor and a seven foot snow blower. It did not make any difference what direction the wind was blowing you were covered with snow before it was over. Add in some parking lot gravel going through it and it became miserable work. Back when Becky was our Executive Director she decided it would be a good thing to upgrade to a blade on our truck at that time. Wow, was that ever nice. A warm truck with the radio on and no snow down your neck. Life was good!

The next piece of equipment we use is our 584 IH utility tractor and a Tractor Supply blade. This works pretty well on our sidewalks. It does get a little nippy up there especially on the sidewalk just up the hill from the lake. The last piece of equipment we use is a snow shovel. We all try to avoid this but in the end there are just a lot of sidewalks and decks that have to be shoveled. Camp can be a beautiful place covered with snow but our guests need clean dry sidewalks to get from place to place. It is all a part of “Holy Hospitality.”

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Another Way of Giving

The murals of Quinter Miller Auditorium are one of my favorite parts of Camp. A pet project of mine has been the creation of a new mural video to help tell the story of the Brethren for everyone. The first section depicts Alexander Mack and the other 7 who were first baptized and began what would one day become the Church of the Brethren. I had always pictured this as Mack and his neighbors. In my mind, Mack read about these radical theologies and shared with his friends who joined him. However, this group gathered out of their shared convictions for another way of living.



Top Row (Left to Right):

Joanna Bony- We do not know much about her, but she journeyed to America in 1729

Anna Margaretha Mack- Mack's wife who was from a prominent family

Alexander Mack- had to flee his previous home when authorities raided a meeting of like-minded people

John Kipping- expelled in 1706 from his hometown for refusing to have his child baptized

Joanna Kipping- John's wife who had to spend two years taking care of their children before reuniting with John

George Grebi- sent a letter with Mack to an Anabaptist leader asking if they should be baptized as adults

Kneeling Men (Left to right):

Andrew Bony- Joanna Bony's husband, fled persecution for not joining the military and not taking oaths

Luke Vetter- We do not know much about him either, but he migrated to America in 1731.

For many of these people, Mack supported them using the wealth that he and his wife had. He provided Holy Hospitality to people in need of a safe and warm places to experience God. Being hospitable is not just being kind to your neighbors, but also to those around you needing help. As we continue this goal of providing Holy Hospitality to our broken world, the story of Mack and the others serves as an inspiring tale.

Todd Eastis, Development Communication Specialist

Be Our Guest— Happy Registration Day



There's something coming up that you won't want to miss. It starts with an "R" and ends with "egistration," and we can't wait to see who will be joining us for an exquisite summer! Here at camp we have been reminiscing fantastic memories, but we know there will be even more made this summer, and we want you and your family and friends to be a part of them.

There are some new things to be aware of this year:

- Camp fees have gone down overall! That's definitely something to celebrate, so check out what the rate is for your summer camp program.
- To ensure there is a place held for you/your child to enjoy time at Camp Mack this summer, a \$75 deposit is required when you register. (Those requesting a campership need to register on the paper form in the brochure and notify camp as soon as possible so that we can help you register quickly. Please send this in with a letter from your pastor requesting the campership—call camp for questions and options.)
- We highly encourage you to register online. Many summer camp programs fill up, and we want you/your child to be able to attend, so sign up early. To avoid late fees, register between February 18 and March 18. Costs will go up following this time. There are instructions for how to register online in the 2019 brochure.

Check out the "hot off the presses" 2019 brochure for more details. If you do not have a brochure and would like one mailed to you, please contact camp by calling 574-658-4831, or emailing info@campmack.org. Or, swing by Camp Mack to say hello and pick up one for yourself (and 20 of your closest friends). We look forward to seeing you soon!

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



Samplers	June 5-7	Samplers	July 7-9
Beginners	June 9-11	Followers	July 7-12
Archery	June 9-13	Splash	July 7-12
Seekers	June 9-14	Samplers	July 10-12
Finders	June 9-14	Seekers	July 14-19
Grand Camp	June 13-15	Finders	July 14-19
Dadirri	June 16-22	Creative Arts	July 14-19
Eco Adventure	June 23-28	Culinary	July 14-19
Seekers	June 30-July 5	Survivor	July 21-27
Youth	June 30– July 6	Grand Camp	July 28-30

Camp Mack Wish List

We are now recruiting team leaders, counselors, counselors in training, and summer healthcare personal.

Team Leader needs:

Finders Camp– June 9-14: 2 leaders

Followers Camp— June 7-12: 1 leaders

All other volunteer needs are at campmack.org/volunteer-opportunities. Please contact Jessica Kreider at jessk@campmack.org if you are interested in joining!



Annual Dinner: Planting the Future

The annual dinner is a special occasion in our spring schedule. The kitchen staff creates memorable Hors d'oeuvres and meals to share with our wonderful friends. One of the highlights of the evening is the opportunity to hear the stories of our ministry and its impact on so many children and adults. This year we will kick off our new initiative to grow our ministry: ***Planting the Future***.

This fundraiser provides support for special projects and operations. The cost is a donation of \$35 per person, \$300 for a table of six or \$400 for a table of eight. Additional contributions are gladly accepted. Please contact our office to reserve your table now. We invite you to join us on Friday, March 8.



Hors d'oeuvres begin at 6:15p. Dinner begins at 7p.

Now Hiring!

Apply now for summer staff at Camp Mack. Spend a summer living in community. You will work in the areas of housekeeping, kitchen, and facility as well as opportunities in program areas that include lifeguarding, belaying at the climbing tower, leading night hikes, recreation, campfires, crafts, and more. Benefits include on site housing, camp meals, training, and college scholarship. Apply now for a summer you won't soon forget.

Applications are available at www.campmack.org/employment or stop by the camp office.





An Exciting Opportunity for Growth!

In Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew (a Church of the Brethren favorite), Jesus tells three parables. In the first, he tells of bridesmaids who were not prepared when the bridegroom arrived. He is telling us to be prepared and to watch for opportunities around us.

The second parable is about investment. Three servants entrusted with the master's resources make different decisions about the money, receiving different results. The one who buried it, had nothing to show when the master returned. Jesus warns us that we need to use what God has given us.

Most of us know the third parable well. Jesus tells that he will sit on the throne in heaven and divide the people into groups: sheep and goats. The actions of each individual toward people who have no power and few resources will determine if they are to receive eternal life.

All three of these stories work together to help us understand that we are called to be active – to do something. To be the wise bridesmaids and servants and to be the sheep means that there is work to do. Camp Mack has an idea for you. Our 2019 program brochure has been sent out. In it, you will see all of the schedule for the year, and our feature will be the summer camps. We count on many of you to volunteer, but we also know that volunteering is not always possible. What if you could participate in sending a child to camp?

Everywhere are children who need the Christian community and activity found at camp. What would it look like for you to organize a fundraiser and use those funds to send a child from your neighborhood to Camp Mack? Not only will you have the shared fun of working with others in raising funds, but you will also make a difference in the life of a child, or perhaps several children. They will find a place where love and family will welcome them, and they will return to your community changed.

We are challenging individuals and our churches to join together to make this possible. Find children who need this experience at your local schools or organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs. Send them to camp and let us know that you have sponsored them. When you do, we will contact your pastor after camp to let him or her know about the camper's experience. This can help you to build a long-term relationship with the child and his or her family.

Think about the impact you can have on your church and your community when you sponsor a child for camp!

Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

Feb 14-17 Quilt Retreat

Feb 21-24 Scrapbooking Retreat

March 2 Team Leader Training

March 8 Annual Dinner

March 8-9 FLYE Weekend

March 11-13 Volunteer Work Days

March 23-24 Mother Daughter Retreat



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. February 14-17, 6p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$122 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$137 for Friday morning arrival, and \$166 for Thursday evening early arrival.

Scrapbooking Retreat

Crop until 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.

February 21-24, 6p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$116 per person arriving Friday night, \$130 for Friday morning arrival, and \$145 for Thursday evening early arrival.



FLYE Weekend



FLYE weekends (Fun Leadership Youth Events) will train youth to be leaders through team building, service, and leadership. FLYE participants will help serve our Annual Dinner this year. These weekends will help youth grow in leadership and may lead them to serving as a CIT (Counselor in Training) or counselor at Camp Mack. The first FLYE weekend is Friday–Saturday, March 8-9. Ages: 14–17. Cost: \$25.

Volunteer Work Days



Volunteers will work with the Camp Mack staff as we make preparation for the summer camp season and work on other projects. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. Monday, March 11—Wednesday, March 13. Come for a few hours or all three days. Meals and lodging are available during this event. Please contact our office for reservations.

Mother Daughter Retreat

Revisit the days of Laura, Mary, Carrie, and Grace with a “Little House” weekend. Baking, sewing, games, and primitive activities will fill the weekend. March 23—24m 9a Saturday to 1p Sunday. \$42 per child ages 5-8, \$78 per person age 9 through adult.



Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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



February 10—Eagle Watch

Eagle Watch is a program put on by the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center. We will meet at camp and then travel to the Salamonie Nature Center for a brief program on Bald eagle restoration in Indiana. From there, we will caravan to popular eagle locations in the area before ending up at the roost site. Dress for the weather. The colder the weather, the better the bald eagle viewing. Sunday, 1p–10p. Cost: \$20 (Includes travel and snacks)

February 23—Scrapbooking

Join the Camp Mack scrapbooking crew for a day of preserving memories. Work on the book you need to finish, catch up on your journaling, scrap a page or two, gain inspiration from the projects surrounding you, and find treasures at the swap table. Saturday, 9a–4p. Cost: \$15 (Includes lunch)



February 23—Board Games

Winter is the perfect time to light up the fireplace, gather up snacks, pull up a table, and bring out your favorite board games of yesteryear and today. Saturday, 9a–3p. Cost: \$15 (Includes lunch)

-For more information, check out Get-a-Way Days at www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days or by emailing info@campmack.org.