

Camp Alexander Mack

Highlights of What's Inside

- ⇒ “Cool Days” with Vanessa, popsicles galore (p 2)
- ⇒ “Transitions” with Galen, Camp improvements (p 3)
- ⇒ “Fast or Slow” with Todd, building construction times past and future (p 4)
- ⇒ “God’s Gift of a Break” with Deanna, the brief calm after the beautiful storm (p 5)
- ⇒ “A Flamingo in Tennessee” with Jessie, storm travel and rare sightings (p 6)
- ⇒ “Enter God’s Courts with Praise” with Gene, fun to be had and thanks to be given (p 7)
- ⇒ Thank you to Camp Mack’s 2019 Summer Staff and Volunteers & Website Info (p 8-9)
- ⇒ 2020 Early Summer Camp Registration, How to get Involved, and some 2019 Summer Camp photos (p 10-11)
- ⇒ Upcoming Events (p 12-13)



Kitchen News

Cool Days

The summer is winding down and the last few days here in Milford have been beautiful. That wasn't the case a few weeks ago. One of our biggest camp weeks of the summer was also one of our hottest. The kitchen staff worked really hard with our Program Team, Team Leaders, and Counselors to make sure the campers were getting enough water and were staying as cool as possible. In the kitchen we were constantly helping fill five gallon Igloos of ice water for drinking stations all around camp. We also got creative with our desserts and tried out some new things that didn't require baking and were served cold.

For evening snack, we let our Team Leaders decide if they wanted popsicles instead of the scheduled snack. I always try and keep extra popsicles in the freezer for weeks like that so the campers can have something to help cool them off in the evenings. The staff also enjoy getting a popsicle during their afternoon break. We have even delivered to the waterfront when it's really hot out. That way even our lifeguards get a cool treat after standing in the sun all afternoon.

After thinking about how many campers and leaders we served this year, it made me wonder how many popsicles were consumed this summer. After checking our inventory and looking through all the delivery invoices, the kitchen gave out approx. 670 popsicles this summer. I'm not sure which flavor was the most popular with the campers, but I personally love the cherry twin pops the best!

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



Sunny Camp Mack

Transitions

Summer camp is ending, and the focus of the facility crew turns to repairs and maintenance work. The weather has cooled off a little and summer staff will be with us for another week, so it is a good time to catch up a little bit. It's this time of the year that we try to do some painting of our cabins. If we can paint about four cabins a year, in five years we can get them all painted. We don't always meet that goal, but we try. It is always amazing what a coat of paint will do for an old cabin. This year, Travis (facility staff) replaced the siding on the front of E-4. Sometimes cabins have so many small holes in the siding that they need to be replaced. A lot of these buildings have the original siding on them. I always wonder what the thoughts were of those who did the work originally. It feels like we are continuing their work, and that feels good.



Another issue we face is that of damage to doors. The doors to our cabins and buildings take a beating each summer and the weather takes its toll on them, also. Brad (facility staff) spent part of this week working on the doors to the canvas yurts, and they've been getting a crisp white paint job. The doors on both of the yurts need some serious work. The initial yurts were built around 2000 and have served well. We originally put up two canvas yurts and one wood yurt to see which served better. We decided we liked the wood yurt better, so we built Mission Village in 2002. The canvas yurts are nearing the end of their life and will need new canvas or will need to be replaced.

Another project that we have started on is the replacing of the soffit and fascia on the lake side of Sarah Major. The winds this winter took off about a third of it, and the rest needs replaced. We put up scaffolding this week and began the task of tearing off the old soffit. I know some of you folks have the skills to do this work. We have pictures of a couple of pastors doing this on Ulrich!

It's important that we keep our buildings in good shape. They play a vital role in "... providing a sanctuary where people connect with God".

Thanks,

Galen Jay, Facility Director

Another Way of Giving

Fast or Slow

On July 4, 1925 Otho Winger spoke at the dedication service for Camp Mack. At that time, Sarah Major Lodge was just a foundation, no frames, windows, or beds, just a hole. With the first campers arriving on July 27, work began in a hurry. By the 27th, Sarah Major had at least a frame enough to host meals and other activities.

Almost 10 years later, the idea arose for Quinter Miller Auditorium. There was enthusiasm for the project, but it relied on volunteer labor, plus the struggles of the Great Depression meant that it took quite some time to complete.

I jokingly say that our buildings here at Camp Mack are built at two speeds, fast or slow. However, I am not a contractor, but I would guess two years for the original Becker Lodge is really normal.

Fast

Sarah Major: 1925
John Kline: Fall 2010- Summer 2011
Shultz Chapel: 1948

Normal

Becker Lodge: 1934-1936
Quinter Miller Auditorium: 1933-1940
Ulrich House: 1943-1948

Each of these speeds has pluses and minuses. Fast buildings fill a need very quickly, while sometimes sacrificing features that could be helpful. While slow buildings have been built largely by volunteers with sometimes hundreds of hands, it can be painful to watch something new and exciting take so long.

So how should we build—fast or normal? My answer is in between. We shouldn't build projects on a speedy timeline with a hope they might bring in income without being able to fund the construction. At the same time, we need to realize there are projects we need to bring in professionals for. Building buildings takes time. It's a community project that we need to be invested in. With new construction and renovation on the horizon, we hope you will join us in making these changes happen fast, but not too fast.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



Camp of 1938 (Auditorium Framework in Background)

Be Our Guest

God's Gift of a Break

Hi, Camp Mack friends!

This is a reminder to you as much as it is to myself. It's okay to take a break. Especially after a long, busy, wonderful summer, a break of some form is in sorts.

On Tuesday, the power went out at Camp Mack for the afternoon. Everything was taken care of by the evening, but I see it as a blessing in disguise. It happened to occur just after all but a couple of the Grand Camp families had already headed out. It was almost a literal feeling to the ending of the summer camp season. There was certainly some work we still could do thanks to modern technology in phones and laptops, and we could take some of that with us. But, it also allowed us to be creative in the way we worked and what we could accomplish more efficiently at the time. To me, it was God's way of recognizing the hard work that's been done and encouraging us to slow down for a moment.

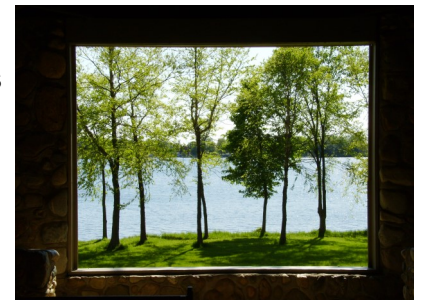
A few of us sat out in the Gathering Area in the Welcome Center. The air conditioning hadn't completely left the building yet, so it was still fairly cool, and with the lights off, it was so peaceful.

I reflected on what all had happened this summer (at least some of the events I could remember), and I thought of the campers and families and staff who helped make it all happen.

I went out to the newly paved basketball courts for a little bit to shoot some free throws for the first time since they'd been repaved, and what a nice space that is. We are blessed by generous donations and kind people who want to see Camp Mack improve and grow.

Though I had planned to work on several important tasks, the break was appreciated and needed. The transition between summer camps and retreats has already happened, and we start yet another phase of life here at sunny Camp Mack.

Before I conclude, let's play a quick guessing game.
Multiple choice, only one correct answer:



Which next upcoming month in the Camp calendar contains a weekend that is completely available for booking and doesn't have anyone currently scheduled?

(Which means that if you choose to book your stay with us during that weekend, you get to pick which lodge you stay in, though quantity of people is a factor and this may not stay true for long if others snatch it up!)

- A. September
- B. October
- C. November
- D. December

Read to the end of the newsletter for the answer, and call to book your next group visit!

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director

Nature Nut News

A Flamingo in Tennessee

On July 13, 2019, an American flamingo was spotted in Tennessee, setting off much excitement from the resulting Tennessee Rare Bird Alert. I will be the first to admit, I have taken a road trip or two after receiving a rare bird alert through text or email. And no, I did not make a road trip to see this one. But why a flamingo in Tennessee?

The Atlantic Hurricane season runs from June 1–November 30 this year. Storms affect all life in different ways. For birds, they may shelter in place, some travel in the eye of the storm until it dissipates, while others fly ahead of the storm. It is suspected the flamingo flew ahead of Tropical Storm Barry as the storm made its way inland. Whether they ride in the eye or fly ahead, storms can make for some fantastic and very temporary viewing of birds normally seen hundreds or even a thousand miles away.



Seeing a picture of a flamingo far from home made me think of the people who come under the arch at Camp Mack each year. Some are escaping a personal storm while others have run into a large storm and have flown in the safety of the eye until the storm ran out of steam and brought them here. Camp is not everyone's natural habitat, and we must remind ourselves of that daily and work to make camp a sanctuary for all. No matter whether camp is your natural habitat or you were driven here through a storm in life, we pray that Camp Mack will be a sanctuary for you to connect with God. So come, be refreshed along the shores of Lake Waubee. We welcome you here.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

News from the Director

Enter God's Courts with Praise

My first summer as a leader at camp was the summer of 1977. I had a group of fourth and fifth grade campers in cabin W-3. That cabin is no longer there. Cabins W 1-4 were removed a few years later and the area was reclaimed for parking and green space.

I have witnessed a lot of change over the forty-two years since. The first four W cabins were auctioned and taken away. Wampler Retreat Center was created. New staff housing was developed. Beaches were moved and restored. Becker was remodeled and then burned. The John Kline Welcome Center was built. The floor in Quinter-Miller Auditorium changed from dirt to sawdust to gravel to carpet on gravel to concrete. Trees have grown, died, and been replaced. Two and a half generations have grown up and become leaders. The changes are incredible.



However, one of the locations that stayed the same was the basketball/tennis/volleyball court between Ulrich House and the John Kline Welcome Center. In the summer of 1977, it was difficult to play basketball and tennis, because when the ball hit a grass-filled crack, it was hard to tell which way it would fly. Since that time, the surface had only gotten worse.

In the winter of 2019, one of our Indiana Camp Board members made a donation to fix the surface of the court. After competitive bids and research, an asphalt company was hired to remove the center light pole, level the area, and resurface with asphalt. The transformation was amazing. About a month

later, another board member bought the paint and equipment and lined the court. He then restored or replaced the backboards, hoops, and nets.

It has been so much fun to watch our campers playing basketball and enjoying this area during recreational times. Even on the hottest days, we found campers playing pickup games, shooting baskets, and showing off their skills. For the first time in a long time, basketball is back at camp.

We still need to replace the one center light with smaller LED lights on the sides of the court. New tennis and volleyball nets will be installed this fall. It is truly exciting to witness this simple and overdue change.

I share this with you because it is an important part of our work to improve the facilities and opportunities for our guests. But, I also want you to know about the dedication and commitment of the members of our Indiana Camp Board. Not only are these folks who love camp and meet together to ensure its success, but they also give of their time and treasure to make this a better place.

God is always present here, and there is no better evidence than the gifts our board and other volunteers give without ceasing.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Camp Mack Wish List

Summer Staff 2019

What a great 2019 summer we had! Abundant thanks to the many campers, guests, and volunteers who made every day a special event. So much happens in a summer, and it's difficult to remember all of it, but each of us has a story to tell. If you see one of these wonderful people, please reach out and thank them and ask them to tell you a Camp Mack memory that will stick with them forever.

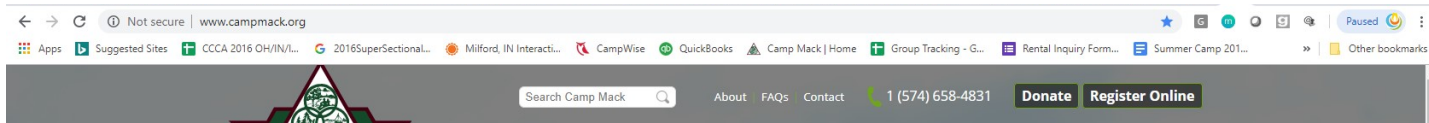
Maybe it's your time to join the Camp Mack Summer Staff! Questions about applying? Give us a call. We are looking for energetic, faithful people who want to share their love of God with others, living in a supportive community. If you know someone who has graduated from high school and fits the profile, encourage them to contact us.



Camp Alexander Mack
2019 Staff

Check out Camp Mack's Website!

Find information and updates about all things camp at **www.campmack.org**. Contact camp with questions (info@campmack.org or 574-658-4831). We do camps, retreats, get-a-way days, rental spaces, and adventures of even more varieties. See what might interest you, and put it in your calendar. What kind of amazing adventures will find you at Camp this fall?



Planting the Future

PLANTING THE FUTURE
The Capital Campaign for Camp Mack



Summer Camps

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

A nonrefundable \$75 deposit is required to register and hold your spot in a camp.

Camp Alexander Mack is a Christian camp located in Northern Indiana, affiliated with the Church of the Brethren. Our summer camp program is intentionally designed to provide campers with life-changing experiences that lead to the formation of personal faith within a safe Christian community. Our leaders are trained to focus on physical and emotional safety, skill development and age-appropriate programming that is exciting, educational and enriching. In addition to training, our leaders have a heart for ministry and kids and a love of summer fun that they share with the campers. A progression in programming makes each summer at Camp Mack more exciting and challenging than the last.

[More info here](#)

Get-A-Way Days

Everyone needs a break, a time to get-a-way, learn something new or do something you really enjoy. Get-A-Way days offer a "mini retreat"... so come, let your soul be renewed, refreshed and revived! Make a new friend or reconnect with an old friend as you choose from a wide variety of programs.

As you look through these events please note that several events are planned for the same day. Bring your whole family, bring a friend or just come alone to Camp Mack for the day and Get-A-Way.

[More info here](#)

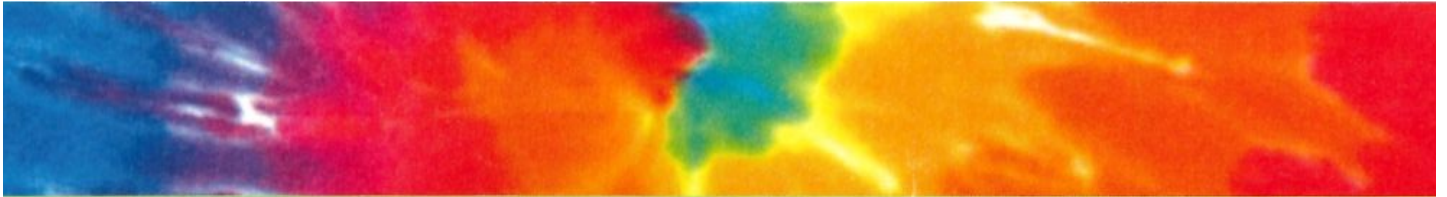


Adult & Family Retreats

Camp Mack is a great place for ... all seasons of the year ... all seasons of one's life. We have many events ranging from birdwatching to family camps to needing a little quiet time to strengthen your spirituality.

Register for Summer Camp!

Want to make sure you reserve your spot for Summer Camp next year? If you attended Summer Camp at Camp Mack this summer, you should've received an early registration form. Please send that in with payment by August 31, 2019, to secure your spot for next year. We look forward to seeing you again! Keep an eye out for announcements on when further registration will open up for the 2020 summer sessions.



How can I get involved now?

Summer Camps are over, but there are still many ways you can be involved in the ministry of Camp Mack!

- ☐ Volunteer in our office
- ☐ Talk to your friends about Camp Mack and tell them about the many things they can do here
- ☐ Pray for us and our guests
- ☐ Suggest to your church leadership that you have a retreat
- ☐ Schedule a family reunion or birthday party
- ☐ Make a financial gift
- ☐ Remember us when your office is planning an event (staff celebration, Christmas party, etc.)
- ☐ Spoon cookies for future baking
- ☐ Help with facility repair and maintenance
- ☐ Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and share our posts with your friends
- ☐ Share with your district leadership that you would like to serve on the Indiana Camp Board or volunteer for an event
- ☐ Walk the camp from time to time to remind yourself why you love this place.

Call us with your own ideas! It's a win-win! We hope to see you and your family around Camp again soon.

574-658-4831

Thanks for an awesome summer!



Upcoming Events at Camp Mack

Camp Mack Calendar

August 16–18	Colony Camp
August 17	Sailing 101 Get-a-way Day, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
August 25	Prairie Flower Walk, 2-4 p.m.
Aug. 30–Sept. 2	Labor Day Family Camp
October 4–5	FLYE Weekend (for youth)
October 5	Camp Mack Festival
October 12–13	Father Son Retreat
October 28–30	Volunteer Work Days

And, sign up now for upcoming fall Quilt (Oct. 16-20), Scrapbook (Oct. 17-20), and Seasoned Citizens retreats (Oct. 21-24)!

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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

August 17—Sailing 101 Learn how to rig a Sunfish and basic sailing techniques. Review helpful knots and safety tips. Then, head out on lake Waubee for some practical experience on our fleet of Sunfish. Experienced? Try out one of our Lasers or the Force 5. We will meet at the boating beach on Saturday 9a—4p. Cost: \$15 (Lunch included). Bring a swimsuit, sunscreen and a towel. You will get wet.

August 25—Prairie Walk Explore our 5 acres of natural prairie area. See the prairie come alive with darting dragonflies and birds that swoop between the Blue Stem grasses, Compass Plant, Indigo, Rattlesnake Master, and other unique plants. Meet outside Wampler Lodge on Sunday 2p–4p. Cost: FREE (Bring a snack to share.) Come dressed for the weather.

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

The correct answer to the guessing game on page 5 is C. November! Call to find out which weekends are available and snatch up your space now.

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 16–20, 6p Thursday to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$122 per quilter. Early Arrival Rates: \$137 per quilter arriving on Friday morning, \$166 per quilter arriving on Thursday evening, and \$190 per quilter arriving on Wednesday evening (April and October). Fee includes housing and scheduled meals.



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 17–20, 6p Friday to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$116 per scrapper. Early Arrival Rates: \$130 per scrapper arriving on Friday morning, \$145 per scrapper arriving on Thursday evening. Fee includes housing and scheduled meals.



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 21–24, 3p Monday to 1p Thursday. Age: Older Adults. Cost: \$171 per person, or \$115 if not staying overnight; please contact camp for shorter lengths of stay.

