Volume 9 Issue 1 January 2022

Camp Alexander Mack

Highlights of What's Inside

- ⇒ Upcoming Events and Cancelled Events (p 2); Get-A-Way Days and Save the Dates (p 3)
- ⇒ "Finding Hope in the Sanctuary" with Gene: new year optimism; peaceful, meaningful space (p 4)
- ⇒ Camp Rep Meeting info & Summer Camp Registration announcement (p 5)
- ⇒ "2021 Favorites" with Jessie: eagle, ridge, Eastern Screech Owl, mushrooms, ice, dogwood (p 6)
- ⇒ "Winter Work" with Galen: Sarah Major kitchen; refinishing chairs & benches; goodbye, Vonna (p 7)
- ⇒ "Mirror Charades" with Deanna; staff retreat; fun activity; mirroring Jesus's life (p 8)
- \Rightarrow Inclusion Report (p 9); 2021 Wish List (p 10)
- ⇒ "Film Review" with Todd: looking through most commented on, most shared, and most liked (p 11)
- ⇒ "Time-Saving Cranberry Brie Bites" with Vanessa: assessing time; a helpful recipe (p 12)
- \Rightarrow 2022 Retreats & Events; Summer Camps (p 13–14)
- ⇒ "Homeschool Outdoor Education Days are Back!" with Kristen; check out the fun options (p 15–16)





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PAGE 2



Winter Quilt Retreat February 17–20 This is a unique opportunity for guilters of all ages to gather and share their expertise and love of guilting while enjoying the tranquil scenery of Camp Mack. Bring your sewing machine, UFO's (unfinished objects), and guilting supplies. 3p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$154 per quilter arriving Friday night, \$165 for Friday morning arrival, and \$205 for Thursday afternoon early arrival. Scrapbooking Retreat February 24–27 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. 6p Thursday (early arrival) to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$147 per person arriving Friday night, \$163 for Friday morning arrival, and \$185 for Thursday evening early arrival.

Plan now for these upcoming events!

Camp Rep Meeting Saturday, January 15th at 9 a.m. (breakfast and check-in)/10 a.m. (meeting starts). Camp Reps, join us to discover important updates, ask questions, and more. We encourage you to join this meeting onsite at Camp Mack to pick up materials and engage in conversation, but you may also join via Zoom. (See page 5)

Snow Camp Jr. January 22 Snow Camp January 29 Snow Camp Jr. and Snow Camp are each a winter day filled with outdoor play, crafts, snacks, and a tasty lunch at camp. Please come with clothes to play outside in the snow and a spare set of clothes to change into if needed.

Ages: Snow Camp Jr., ages 5-12. Snow Camp, grades 6-10. Cost: \$35, includes lunch, snack, and all activities.

Winter Spiritual Retreat February 11–13 Be sure to sign up for the Winter Spiritual Retreat. Guests will explore the topic: Breath: Where We Find Our Center, and share in a variety of winter camp activities. Amy Gall-Ritchie is the leader for the weekend with many activities planned by camp staff. Come for spiritual growth and renewal combined in one meaningful and fun weekend. And make new memories at camp!

Gathering time is Friday, February 11 at 7:00 PM. The retreat will end after lunch on Sunday, February 13 at 1:00 PM. Cost: \$160. Registration is open at CampMack.org.









Upcoming Get-A-Way Days:

- February 19—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. Saturday, 1p–10p. Cost: \$30 (Includes travel and snacks.
- February 26:
 - **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. John Kline Welcome Center, Saturday 9a–4p. Cost: \$25 (includes lunch).
 - **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. John Kline Welcome Center, Saturday 9a–4p. Cost: \$25 (includes lunch)
 - **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: \$25 (Includes lunch)



SAVE THE DATES:

• Volunteer Celebration March 5

All events will adhere to state and local guidelines and are subject to change accordingly. Before participating, please be considerate of other people's health by assessing your own. Thank you.

News from the Director

Finding Hope in the Sanctuary

As the new year opens, it sure looks like the world is made up entirely of optimists! There are celebrations everywhere, ringing in the new year with the hope of new opportunities, vanishing pain, and the resolution of conflict. Yet, usually within a month, it appears to be the opposite. Pessimism becomes the norm, and according to the 24/7 news cycle, everyone is overwhelmed with pain and suffering.

In this season of Christmas, we experience hope. God's work in the world is represented by the gift of God's son, Jesus. Hope is not the false optimism of New Year's Eve, nor is it overwhelmed by the troubles of the day. To be sure, many of the elements of our world can easily cause anxiety and fear, but hope brings us the confidence that God will ultimately triumph.

Galen has a scripture over his desk that gives him encouragement. It has been there since before the time I came to work at Camp Mack. Jeremiah 29:11 in <u>The Message</u> states: "*I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.*" God gives us hope because God's faithfulness guarantees our ultimate peace.

Our mission statement declares that Camp Alexander Mack provides a **sanctuary** where people connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian community. Sanctuary is the foundation of our mission. We constantly talk about it as a staff; we measure our success by our ability to create a safe and meaningful space for people to encounter God in new and vibrant ways.

The Peace Garden symbolizes the sanctuary we strive to create. It is a place of rest and reflection. The simple beauty brings peace and hope. People find shelter in its quiet design.

The ministry of Camp Mack provides summer camp experiences, retreats, active programs, outdoor education, challenge events, church support, and hospitality to families and rental groups. But, our most important ministry calms the noise of the world so people can hear the Word and Voice of God.

As you enter this new year, tell us what we can do to help you find sanctuary.

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion?

Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



CAMP REP MEETING

The new year is just around the corner, and all of us at Camp Mack are excited to share how we can be a sanctuary for churches. Being a sanctuary is not just about serving summer campers; it's about so much more.

Our yearly Camp Rep Meeting will be an online/in-person hybrid event on Saturday, January **15th**, **2022.** Here are some of the topics you can look forward to hearing about:

- •Adult Spiritual Retreats
- •Exciting upgrades and facility improvements
- •Day and weekend program for all ages
- •Retreats and worship spaces for church groups
- •Volunteering and Employment Opportunities
- Registering for Summer Camp

The in-person meeting will begin with check-in and breakfast at 9 a.m., with the meeting following at 10 a.m.

The zoom meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

Both meetings will end at 11:30 a.m. **Register at <u>Campmack.org/camp-rep</u>**





VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

Nature Nut News

2021 Favorites



January is my time to reflect on some of my favorite nature moments and memories of the past year. "Intentional", "inquiry", "noticing", "taking in the moment", and "looking deeper" are all words and phrases that could describe 2021. The top photos were all taken in Indiana away from camp and the bottom photos were all taken at camp. Join me for a trip down memory lane.

The eagle soaring was a day in January where I saw over 80 bald eagles in one day. What made the day special was to see the eagles kettling in the sky. The ridge top is from one of the most beautiful preserves I have been to at Pine Hills Nature Preserve, now attached to Shades State Park. It starts with a long walk in the woods descending into a canyon, and enters into a seemingly different world. Next is the red morph Eastern Screech Owl that calls Celery Bog near Purdue's campus its home. It's a birding paradise in the middle of an urban area and college campus.

Here at camp this autumn there was a week where, all of the sudden, mushrooms of every size and color appeared all over. I even bruised a few indigo caps to watch them turn bright blue. The ice pattern was one from melting ice on the old quarry pond at the corner of 1150 and Camp Mack Rd. The beauty of it stopped me in my tracks. The last picture is the snow-covered dogwood. It was a spring of asking, "Is this the last snow?" The last good snow ended up being on Mothers Day, the ninth of May, with two inches of heavy wet snow and some of the largest yellow morel mushrooms I've seen, sticking up through it.

2022 is now here and I am looking forward to a new year of adventures and learning through nature. I encourage you to do the same. I look forward to checking out more local parks, ACRES preserves, SRA;s and FWA's, and any trail that calls my name. Honestly, some of the best moments of 2021 were found right in my backyard. Be sure to share your stories with me.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Sunny Camp Mack

Winter Work

It's the beginning of winter but it is warm, cloudy, and rainy so far. The only snow we had was back at Thanksgiving. With all the rain we have had it sure is good to have those new roofs on. It feels very good to see the rain sliding down new steel. No tarps and no leaks! Thank you all. This summer we will work on the north side of the lower auditorium roof and then I suspect the Ulrich roof will be next. Always more roofs to do.

With the onset of winter weather, we have moved inside for our winter work. Jim Bates was up in mid-December and took out the wall between the lower program area and the mechanical room in the basement of Sarah Major. A long time ago the mechanical room was a kitchen, and the lower program room was a dining room. The wall Jim took out had a serving counter in it and some plywood doors above that. A little bit of history was taken to the dumpster. We want to expand the Culinary Camp kitchen area and add some more cabinets and counter space. Jim framed the new wall and hung the drywall and now Cassidy is mudding the wall and getting ready to paint it. This should really help the space issues that Culinary Camp has there.

Brad has been working out in the shop refinishing some wood chairs from Wampler. He also is working on some old benches that sit around camp. These are the ones that used to be in the dining hall, and we ate our meals on them and then turned around sideways and sang "Cheese." That was a long time ago also.

We also say goodbye to Vonna as she left after Christmas to help her family. We will miss her energy, her smile, and the wonderful work she did in keeping Camp Mack's buildings clean and ready for our guests.

The work goes on, and we continue to enhance the *Sanctuary experience*.

Thanks all,

Galen Jay, Facility Director





Be Our Guest

Mirror Charades

In December, the Camp Mack staff gathered for a staff retreat in Sarah Major Lodge. Amidst lots of

brainstorming solutions to and action plans for areas needing improvement and growth, we also took some time to get to know each other even better and play some games. One of the activity stations that I planned was called "Mirror Charades." Each of four groups made their way to this station and had a try at the fun challenge, conveying the charade words to their teammates. Here's how you play:

MIRROR CHARADES

What is Mirror Charades?

Mirror charades is basically the same game as charades, although in this version, two people get up to act out a word instead of one person.

How to Play:

One person is the one drawing words and knows what they are acting out. That person performs the charade behind everyone trying to guess. Another person gets up in front of everyone guessing but does not know what they are trying to act out. Their role is to simply mimic the first person who is behind everyone else, since they are the only one who can see them. The person in front of everyone is guessing at what they are doing just as much as the people guessing are. 1 point is earned for each correct guess, or just play for fun.

Steps for Play:

1. Choose someone who will be the Actor and someone who will be the Mirror. (Optional: Also have someone ready with a three minute timer and ready to keep track of how many correct answers the group gets.)

2. Actor, take your place behind the rest of the group (it's better if the guessers are seated together facing the same direction). Mirror, take your place in front of the guessers.

3. (If applicable, start the timer.) Actor, begin the game by taking out a card and beginning to act it out for the mirror

(no talking). Mirror, do your best to repeat what the actor is doing or convey what you think the clue is to the guessers. If you get stumped and as a group you'd like to move on to the next clue, do so.

4. Make it through as many clues as you are able to (in three minutes, if timing). Record your score if you wish, and switch teams.

To find charade words, try doing a quick search on Google. I found several list options, printed one off, cut it, and put the words in a basket. If you try out the activity, let us know how it went!

Consider how your actions can mirror Jesus's, and how others look to you as an example.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



Inclusion Report

For the last year and a half, we have been sharing a *Diversity Report* in our newsletter. The report discussed our experiences of working toward meeting the needs of a wider variety of people. One important lesson we have learned over this time is that diversity is only a starting point in our desire to be a sanctuary for all people. Our real goal is to be a place of inclusion, so we will rename this our *Inclusion Report*.

As stated earlier, diversity is where we start, by opening up to all people who need to experience God's love in this place. We have done a pretty good job of that, and we have made (and will continue to make) it a priority to invite and hire people who increase our overall diversity.

The next step is equity. This is not to be confused with equality. Equality means that everyone is given the same things, but equity creates opportunities to succeed for everyone by providing support in a way that levels the field. This is an important distinction.



Inclusion occurs when all barriers are removed and support is no longer necessary. This is our goal, but it is quite difficult. It requires dedication and commitment that will take many years to achieve. For example, removing all barriers to people who have limited mobility is very difficult in a camp environment. It can be done, but not without great modification to our landscape at significant economic cost. Yet, when we set the goal for inclusion/justice, we begin to work on the things we can do, each year getting closer to the ultimate goal.

We hope you will want to follow us as we continue to bring God's desire for justice to all people.



It is exciting to see the many improvements we have made through the last year. We hope you can stop by to see them soon. Better yet, look for a program that fits your interests and join us!

Each year, we put together a list of facility repairs and maintenance we have prioritized. Ideally, we hope to accomplish all of them; however, without help from others, we don't have the resources to get them all done.

This is the list of projects we have prioritized for 2021. If you see a project that interests you, please contact Galen (galen@campmack.org) and Todd (todd@campmack.org) to see how you can become involved. These are all projects that an individual, church, or community or partner group could assist with financial support and/or volunteer labor. There is a lot here, but with faith, together we can accomplish great things.

Completed:

- Replace the upper roof on Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the roof on Shultz Chapel
- Replace the HVAC in the South Residence
- Complete the communications display in the John Kline Gathering Room

In Progress:

- Stonework repair on Quinter Miller foundation
- Replace the boiler in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the water heater in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the water softener in Sarah Major Lodge
- Remodel the upstairs women's restroom in Sarah Major Lodge
- Repair the deck on the John Kline Welcome Center
- Repair the boardwalk in the wetlands
- Repair the Mission Village boardwalk

Needing Funds:

- Replace the HVAC in Wampler Retreat Center
- Repair the electrical system in the East Stone restroom

Follow along at campmack.org for monthly updates. Thank you for your prayers, your financial support, your hours of service, and your presence here in this sanctuary place.



Another Way of Giving

Film Review

Recently, I had a Facebook memory pop up from December 2012, saying "I wish I had time/know how to do independent filmmaking." At that time I made 1 video in my life. Over the last 2 years, I have produced over 26 hours of content for Camp Mack. Of that, almost 13 hours were virtual campfires, nearly 12 were our giving day telethons, leaving 1.53 hours of other stuff. So as another year comes to a close, I wanted to look back on some of your favorite videos that I had the fun of making the past two years.

The Video You Commented on the Most: March 29, 2020 Virtual Campfire

In the early days of the pandemic, there was something we all needed. We all needed someone to lean on, virtually. March 29th was our 2nd virtual campfire, but this was the first one with our full crew of Nate Crain, Deanna Beckner (with special guest Dennis Beckner), Brad Hardesty, and myself. There were 183 comments on the video. There were heartwarming ones like, "Camp Mack everyone is being so creative to stay in touch. I loved Camp Mack when I first came 50 years yes fifty years ago. I had to say that out loud to make it real." Some became sad like, "My son will attend for the first time this summer! I think they should sing (The Camp Mack Song)" when we cancelled summer camp a few weeks later. And some made me laugh like, "When are Dennis and Deanna going on tour?" or "#bradforpresident."



The Video You Shared the Most: 10 Years since the Becker Fire

July 11th 2010 was a major turning point in Camp Mack's history. It was probably the second most important day of Camp Mack's history behind our opening in 1925. The response to this short video showed how impactful it was on you. The way this video was shared reminds me of how quickly the news of the fire spread and how so many of you were eager to help anyway you could.

The Video You Liked the Most: Giving Day 2020

Giving Day 2020 taught all of us at Camp Mack many things. It taught me to not do an eight-hour livestream again. What it showed most of all was your love of Camp Mack. Specifically, the 386 times that you liked the video. That's about one like every 1 minute and 15 seconds for 8 hours straight. Your likes showed how much you love Camp Mack and it inspires me to this day.

So what's my favorite video?

I'm not gonna answer that.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business

Kitchen News

Time-Saving Cranberry Brie Bites

Time.

"Having the time of my life."

"Not enough time in the day."

"It's bedtime!"

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." — J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship* of the Ring.

"To live is so startling, it leaves little time for anything else." — Emily Dickinson.

The beginning of the year is usually a time of making goals and resolutions. This year I want to think about how I spend my time. I want to be intentional about my time at work. I want to be focused on my family during my time at home. I want to enjoy this journey with my kids at this age. They are so fun and continue to teach me so much about life. I hope to carve a little more time into my days to be outside more. To go for a nature walk, or even to just sit by the lake.

I am looking forward to the busy time that is the main camp season. During the 'slower' season, the kitchen has still been busy with banquets, Tuesday To-Go meals, and all of the different retreats,

family events, and Get-Away-Days we have had the blessing of serving. With this season of To-Go meals wrapping up, I think there will be a little bit of relaxing, cleaning, and planning time in our staff's near future. We are already brainstorming all kinds of ideas for summer camp! What are you hoping to spend more time doing this year?

Here is a quick, time-saving appetizer recipe.

Cranberry Brie Bites

Ingredients: 1 (8-oz.) tube crescent dough Cooking spray Flour 1 (8-oz.) wheel of brie 1/2 c. whole berry cranberry sauce 1/4 c. chopped pecans 6 sprigs of rosemary



Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375° and grease a mini muffin tin with cooking spray.
- On a lightly floured surface, roll out crescent dough, and pinch together seams. Cut into 24 squares. Place squares into muffin tin slots.
- Cut brie into small pieces and place inside the crescent dough.
- Cut rosemary sprigs into 1" pieces
- Top with a spoonful of cranberry sauce, some chopped pecans, and one little sprig of rosemary.
- Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until pastry is golden brown.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



Camp Rep Meeting Snow Camp Jr. **Snow Camp Winter Spiritual Retreat February Quilt Retreat Scrapbook Retreat** Volunteer Celebration **Volunteer Work Davs Mother Daughter Retreat Volunteer Work Days Giving Day April Quilt Retreat** 5K/Fun Run **Pastors Sabbath Birdwatching Retreat** Seasoned Citizens South Central Women **Colony Camp** Summer Spiritual Retreat Labor Day Family Camp **Teen Leadership Weekend September 30–October 1 Camp Mack Festival Father Son Retreat October Quilt Retreat Scrapbook Retreat Seasoned Citizens Volunteer Work Days Pastors Sabbath Annual Dinner New Year's Eve Retreat** Camp Rep Meeting

January 15 January 22 **January 29** February 11–13 February 17–20 February 24–27 March 5 March 7–9 March 12–13 April 4–6 **April 9 April 20–24** May 1 May 3-4 May 5–7 May 9-12 **June 2–4** August 19–21 August 19–21 September 2–5 October 1 October 8–9 October 12–16 October 13–16 **October 17–20** October 24–26 November 1–2 November 12 **December 31–January 1** January 14, 2023







CAMP ALEXANDER MACK Summer Camp 2022

*Grades are grade completed at the time of camp

Samplers	June 5-7	Samplers	July 10-12
Grades 1—2		Grades 1—2	
New grad	le range	Splash Camp	July 10-15
Archery Camp	June 5—9	Grades 5-	8
Grades 6	9	Finders Camp	July 10-15
		Graded 5-	
Grades 1	-2	Creative Arts	July 10-15
ACCESS ACCESSES		Grades 6-	
Ages 5-10	0/Grandparents	Survivor Camp	July 10-16
CIT CAMP	June 19-24	Grades 6-	_9
Ages 14-17		Eco Adventure	July 17-22
Seekers	June 19-24	Grades 5-	-6
Grades 3	-4	Seekers Camp	July 17-22
Followers	June 26—July 1	Grades 3-	-4
Grades 7	_9	Culinary Camp	July 17-22
		Grades 6-	
Grades 9	-12	Finders Camp	July 24-29
Dadirri Camp	July 3—9	Grades 5-	-6
Grades 9	—12	Grand Camp J	uly 31—Aug 2
		Ages 5-10/Grandparents	

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Education Station

Homeschool Outdoor Education Days are Back!

A couple of weeks ago we had the pleasure of hosting a group of homeschooled kids for Pirate Training Day! We spent the day learning valuable pirate skills: working on agility, skills like swinging across ropes, working as a team, learning pirate lingo, how ships work, how to tie some knots, and we even dressed the part and made our own pirate flags to go with it. At the end of the day we named our very own Pirate King! The day ended long before we were ready for it, but thankfully we have 4 more days in the coming months.







Homeschooled kids ages 7-14 can join us on the second Monday of January, February, March, and April for a day of awesomeness. Each day has a theme and we'll learn things and play games related to that theme. January is Mad Science, so we'll be learning about wind (Bernoulli's principle, aerodynamics), electricity (open and closed circuits, conductors), and sublimation. We'll also make some fun things like homemade slime and bouncy balls and have a blacklight party with glowing drinks! It's going to be an amazing day!

February is Mystery Day, so the kids will learn about forensic science and solve a mystery. March is Survival, so we'll spend the day out in the woods trying to survive. April is Adventure, so we'll explore all the amazing things camp has to offer. Parents can sign up their kids at campmack.org just like registering for any other event. Send questions my way by email (<u>kristen@campmack.org</u>) or by message via our Facebook page. We hope to see you there!

Education Station, Cont.



Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator