

Camp Alexander Mack

Highlights of What's Inside

EXPERIENCING GOD, COMMUNITY, AND NATURE

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MACKABILIA



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News from the Director

Seeing Clearly

I got my first pair of glasses when I was 5 years old. It was right before I started kindergarten. There is no question that I can't see well without them. The lenses change the light rays before they enter my eyes to focus the world around me in a way my own eyes can't. It is an amazing thing to see things clearly.

As I get older, I find that my glasses can only help so much. The lenses are thicker, and now I have to manage trifocals. For the most part, there is not much I can do to improve my vision—I have to count on my optometrist to help me see.

There is one thing, however, that is almost entirely under my control: the cleanliness of my lenses.

In the 56 years I have worn glasses, I have never found a good way to keep my lenses clean. I can't seem to get in the habit of cleaning them every day, and I still haven't found an effective way to get them clean short of washing them with soap, and then I struggle to dry them without leaving streaks. Yet, when I do get them clean, I am always shocked at how much better I can see.

My experience is that it is impossible to keep glasses clean for very long. With pollutants and dust in the air, grease from cooking, oils from my skin, and a dog who always seems to want to give me kisses, the dirt and smudges build up slowly and affect my ability to see long before I know it.

As we make decisions here at camp, it is important for us to periodically "clean the lenses" too. We easily fall into the trap of doing the work without thought to whether or not we are doing the best we can. Like dust on a lens, our routines keep us from "seeing" all we need to see. Our process includes weekly management team meetings, informal questioning of our processes and traditions, brainstorming about new ideas, taking evaluations seriously, and talking frankly with our guests and friends.

All of us, in every area of our lives, need to take the time to reflect, brush the dust off, and make sure our vision is unimpaired. Just like cleaning glasses, it is a deliberate and conscious act, and if it is neglected, our vision suffers. It's time for me to wipe off my glasses before I come back to edit this article. No doubt it will be better when I can see more clearly.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Gene is Camp Mack's Executive Director. He has been in this role since 2016 and has thoroughly enjoyed it. He has been able to use many gifts he developed in the school system and continues to bring new ideas to the ministry of Camp Mack. He diligently works to improve this sanctuary and make it a welcoming space for all by communicating with staff, guests, and donors. Gene spent many years volunteering at Camp Mack, so his roots go pretty deep. Gene works with the Indiana Camp Board, helps develop pricing strategies, coordinates the camp budget, welcomes guests to meals, manages staff, writes thank you letters to donors, keeps God's love at the heart of Camp, and so much more.

One of his favorite meals at Camp Mack is BBQ chicken. When he is not at Camp Mack, you may find him spending time camping with family and friends, supporting local theaters, and volunteering at church.

Nature Nut News

Where's Jess?



Playing the game of where is the Program Director is a bit like a camp wide game of Where's Waldo. Where's Jess? The Program Director life is a job that often changes by the minute. So, sit back and enjoy a walk through the seasons and where you may find Jess at camp.

Summer camp is the season most people associate with my job. Most of what I do in the summer is spent in preparation. Tasks include assigning summer staff, running Team Leader meetings, recruiting counselors and health care workers, coordinating group schedules and locations, and starting meals. I also may be found lifeguarding, belaying at the climbing tower, leading low ropes, wild edibles hikes, and night hikes. Caring for your children is another aspect of my job as I work with campers who are homesick or are struggling with behavioral issues.

The question I hear all the time is, "When does camp close down?" or "What do you do the rest of the year?" Camp Mack is a year-round camp, conference, and retreat center. An easy way to explain the pace of camp is that summer is a sprint and the rest of the year is a marathon. And just like in a race, there are trainings I must attend each year to keep certifications current as a lifeguard instructor, archery instructor, and certifications to go with our American Camping Association Accreditation.

Off season is the marathon season. Weekends are packed with retreats and Get-a-Way Days. For example, for the Christmas Cookie Get-a-Way Day, participants are at camp for four hours, but setup occurs over a four day period. It is one of my favorite events of the year, even when I am mixing up icing at 6:30 in the morning. November and December are their own forms of busy as prep is done for the next year's brochure and materials.

Do I have free time? Of, course. In my time off, I love to knit/crochet, hike, birdwatch, and bake. As I finish up my first Master Naturalist year, I have also had the opportunity to volunteer with many great organizations. Wetlands, watershed education, and fishing are some of my favorite areas to teach. The last two years, I have even traveled to the Florida Keys with a high school Marine Biology class.



At camp, we are always living in the present, looking forward to the future, while learning from the past. I would love your help this year. Volunteer to lead a Get-a-Way Day of something you are passionate about. Volunteer as a team leader, counselor, counselor in training, camp grandparent, or healthcare staff during the summer. Try a service project at camp doing invasive species removal.

So, as I finish my 17th summer season on staff and 4th year as Program Director, I must say, I have the best job ever!

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Sunny Camp Mack

Facility Crew with Lots to Do

I have been asked to write a few words about what I do at Camp. My title is Facility Manager. My task is to make it possible for this place to be “a sanctuary where people connect with God” by ensuring our buildings and grounds are clean, safe, and comfortable. That is a pretty heavy responsibility sometimes, but it is one I really enjoy. I do have the best job in the whole world! Our buildings range in age from the John Kline Welcome Center, which opened in 2011, to Sarah Major Lodge which was finished in 1925. The building materials used range from stone to wood to canvas. Both the age and materials used make for some interesting times when repairing or renovating these buildings. The other complicating factor is how people’s expectations have changed over the years and continue to do so. It can be challenging to take a building that was built in 1925, and adapt it to people’s expectations in 2020 and still keep the “Camp Mack” feel to it. While doing this, we need to meet American Camping Association guidelines and the State of Indiana rules and regulations.

Under Facility Manager at Camp Mack also falls the responsibilities of housekeeping. We work hard at keeping our buildings clean and neat. I have been blessed for a long time by Pat Reuter to head up our housekeeping team. Currently she has Vonna Walter working with her to make sure our buildings are attended to and tidy for the next guests.

This brings me to one of the key parts that makes this job so much fun. It is the wonderful group of people I get to work with every day. Travis Hartman, Brad Hardesty, Pat, Vonna and I form the core of the facility crew. Most of us have been together for a long time and really enjoy our work together. We shift between housekeeping and repairs and renovation as the work demands. I could not ask for a group more dedicated to God’s call to “provide a sanctuary where people connect with God”. It is such a privilege to be a part of that call with them.

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Be Our Guest

The Adventures of Deanna

Ring, ring, ring, goes the phone, while the red light signals an incoming call. Deanna reaches over and answers, with a pen in hand to take notes of it all.

It's an upcoming group who has more people coming and retreat questions to ask. Deanna listens and asks some clarifying questions, too, as she creates a new task.

The group is going to go boating and we need to confirm a time with program staff. The two conversers finalize details, make a point to talk again, and exchange a few laughs.

The phone is returned to it's home on the hook, and Deanna turns back to her screen. She is typing an email response to an inquiry who wants to rent camp when it's green.

How exciting! It's a possible rental camp that wants to bring youth here at the end of July. Deanna has looked at the calendar and decides we have space for their group to give it a try.

Some questions are asked about pricing, accommodations, capacities, activities, and more. So, Deanna explains what Camp can offer them during their stay—what might be in store.

She fills out an inquiry sheet to relay the recent info to other staff who will need to know. She hopes the group can come, and a tour, contract, and calendar event will soon be in tow.

There are groups coming in on Friday this week, so their welcome signs and letters are made. Deanna confirms details with staff about what's been arranged and the plans that've been laid.

All of Camp Mack looks forward to their arrivals and prepares for the group needs and requests. They'll soon be here to enjoy Camp and plan for the next event with some new and returning guests.

Deanna plans ahead to be here to open the gift shoppe for the weekenders to enjoy and explore. She'll stay through the evening that day to help greet guests for a banquet due to eat pies galore.

It's been a busy week so far, but it's not over yet. There's still much to do and prepare. There are still future groups that need answers and information so their attendees are aware.

Advertising opportunities arise and are assessed. Final numbers of groups past go to invoice. Call-in registrations are made for upcoming retreats. Newsletters are assembled—rejoice!

Sometimes other things are needed, like shirt designs, party planning, or brochure updates. There are fire drills, calendar changes, phone calls, check-ins, and decisions on pricing rates.

Overall, it's a blast as Deanna meets new people and sees old friends along the way, too. She loves helping groups and making their day brighter. She's blessed in the things she gets to do. It's a great day when Deanna sees others enjoying Camp Mack and making memories that're new.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director

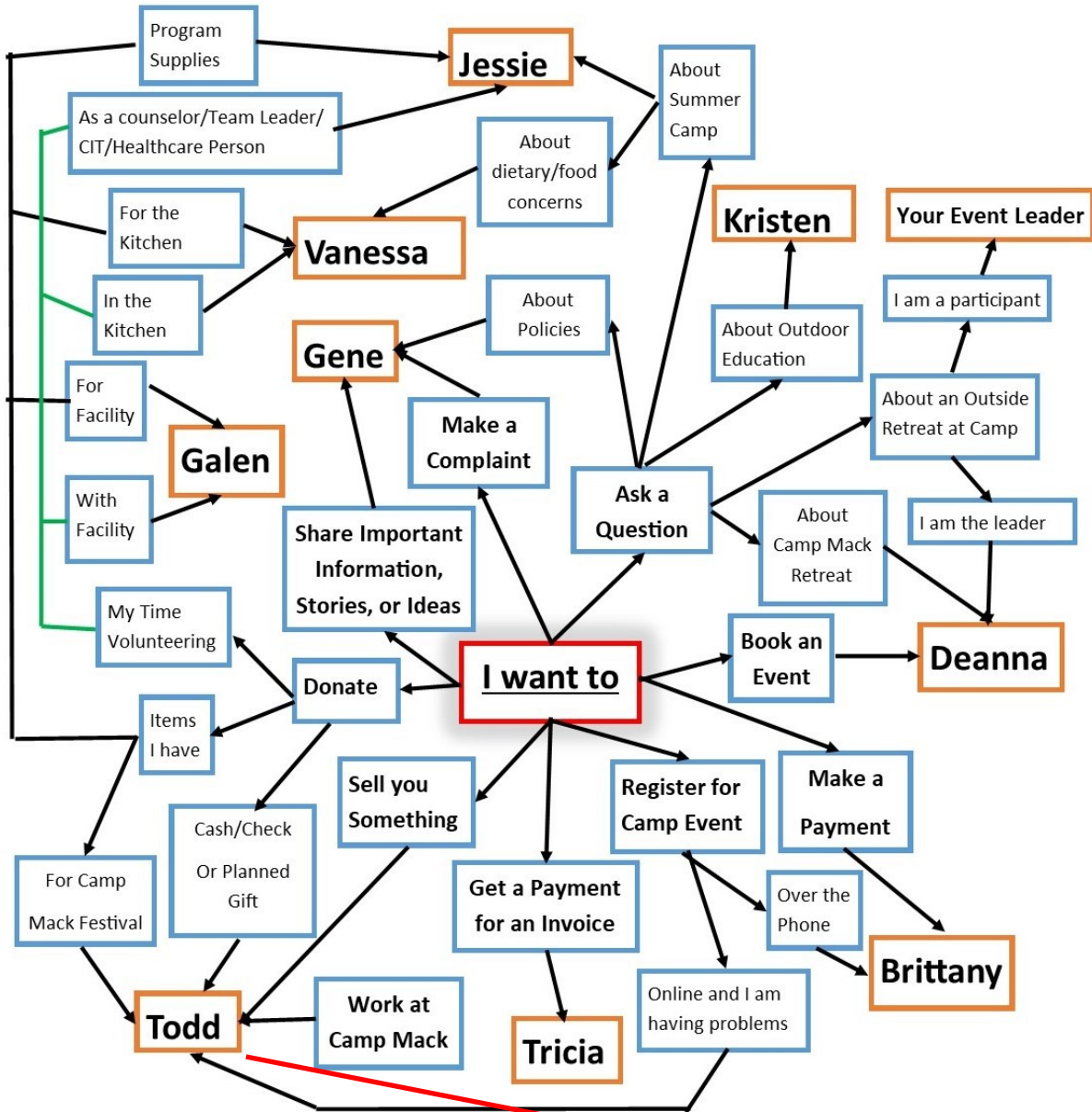
Deanna pictured with her
cousin and cousin's cousin at
Grand Camp this summer



Another Way of Giving

Who Should I Talk To?

There are many new faces in the office these days. With new faces come new jobs and responsibilities. Rather than just recite everyone's job description, I made a simple chart to follow! Okay, it's a little complicated, but hopefully it shows how big a place Camp Mack is. Just start with the red box and follow the arrows to find which staff to talk to!



Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business

Todd has been a part of the Camp Mack team since late May 2018. He has blessed the Camp Mack ministry with many talents in finance, development, sales, and more. He can whip up spreadsheets in a flash, and his knack for figuring out problems comes in handy.

When he is not at camp, you can probably find him spending time with his wife and cats, studying statistics of drum corps, or filling the pulpit.



Kitchen News Part I

Meet the Current Kitchen Staff

The kitchen staff would like to introduce ourselves (or re-introduce ourselves) to you. We have had some staff changes over the last few months, and have new staff you may not see very often, but they are a huge part of what we do to serve all our guests at camp.

The camp kitchen could not run without our long list of volunteers, some of whom work almost every week in the summertime. We also have a great group of on-call volunteers who help us serve some of our specialty groups, like banquets, wedding receptions, and our annual dinner, held each March. We just served the local Kiwanis banquet, and I had a great group of staff and volunteers helping make the evening a great success. If you are ever interested in volunteering in the kitchen, give the office a call and they will get me your contact information. Or, you can email me at foodservice@campmack.org.

One of my best and (I have to say this part) favorite on-call staff members is my husband, Phil, who you can often find doing dishes or serving tables on banquet nights. A man of many skills, he works a full time job, but is always willing to step in and help me in the kitchen. He is also one of the fastest dishwashers I know.



WANDA

KATHY

Previous interim food service director Wanda Gall has become a great mentor to me in this job and is always willing to consult on menus and ideas. She will often come in and help with big baking projects and just be an extra set of hands and feet in the kitchen. The other day she was cutting fruits and vegetables for a delicious salad bar for several groups, one of which was the Northern Indiana District Conference. Another time she came in to make her mom's amazing chocolate cream pie recipe for a banquet that had specifically requested them.

Kathy Weidner has been working in the kitchen for about as long as I have. She started out helping with banquets and busy weekends. She now works on and off throughout retreat season and spends three days a week working in the summer season. During summer camp season, she is our "Snack Lady." She preps all evening snacks and cookout ingredients for all our groups.

Dave Beck is one of our two kitchen supervisors. He is most often seen in the mornings at breakfast time. He has mastered the breakfast schedule. The staff LOVE when Dave makes breakfast casserole from some of the weekend leftovers. He also makes an amazing spaghetti sauce that I have yet to replicate, even after several attempts. Dave started working at camp in May of 2016. He works almost exclusively in the kitchen, but spends some of our less busy days helping out on the facility crew.



Continued on next page...

Kitchen News Part II

Continued...



Our newest kitchen supervisor is Nathan Hunter. Nathan started working as a member of the summer staff crew in 2018. He showed an interest in kitchen work from the beginning and spent most of his summer helping in the kitchen. He returned to the summer staff crew this summer in a slightly different role. He was exclusively a kitchen summer staff member and had more of a lead role. In August, he took over the position of kitchen supervisor when full time worker Anna Sweeten left. Nathan always seems to be one step ahead of Dave and me. I will turn around to start a task, and he is already doing it. Or, I'll ask him if he can do something, and before I'm finished asking, he is already getting things ready. We look forward to a great retreat season as he continues to learn the ropes of the different stages of the camp year.

Anna Sweeten is unfortunately no longer working with us at the camp kitchen. After several months of health issues that made a lot of the heavy labor involved in kitchen work very difficult for her, she resigned from her position at the end of the summer season. I know all our guests will miss her friendly personality and warm smile in the kitchen. We all wish her the best and know that she will probably pop in and say hi when she's in the area again.



I could take up a whole different article talking about all the different things I do in the kitchen, but a lot of it can be trimmed down to office time and kitchen time. Most of my office time is spent working on schedules, menus, and rewriting or finding new recipes. When I'm working kitchen time, I help the rest of my staff prep, cook, and clean up meals. I have been working full time at camp since Oct. 2016. I first attended camp as a Grand Camper in the early 90's and began working on summer staff in 2006. I continued as a summer staff and part time on call staff member until I moved out of state in 2009. I did return to work as a summer staff member in 2011.

If you are at camp this season, feel to stop in and say hello. All of our staff are here to help and would love to see you. And, if you stop by the Camp Mack Festival on the first Saturday of October, the Camp Mack kitchen staff will have a food booth in the auditorium selling camp's famous cinnamon toast. We will also be serving biscuits and gravy. We hope to see you there!

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director

More From Camp Staff

Greetings from Brittany Hartman



Hello, faithful readers! My name is Brittany Hartman. I celebrated one year working at Camp in mid-September, but I'm no stranger to Camp Mack. I attended from 2nd grade through high school and worked three years on summer staff. My husband Travis has worked on facility since we met on summer staff in 2004.

You will find me in the back corner office processing registrations, payments, and donations, as well as sending mailings. The best part of my job is seeing the smiling faces I grew up with continue to bless others here at Camp Mack.

Outdoor Education with Kristen Werling

Kristen Werling hit the ground running with her work at Camp Mack. She wrote a brief article for the newsletter this summer, so take a look back at it. She had wild success with the Homeschool Days about a month ago. Her creative new outdoor education classes have been fun and have sparked learning for the young minds who have visited. From delving into the physics of sandcastles to studying storms, she has been covering state standards left and right. She is looking forward to working with some upcoming school groups this year in some team building and new and favorite classes. She's created some class-related tools with the 3-D printer. She has been a lifeguard on several occasions for many of our late summer and fall groups. She is a lover of animals and has several of her own.

Tricia Gall New This Fall

Tricia began working at Camp Mack just before Labor Day weekend. She splits her time here and in the town of Milford as the town clerk. She has a background in accounting and has been a grand asset to Camp Mack so far. Her always smiling face greets us a few times a week in the mornings, and she works diligently to pay bills and make sure staff's times are accounted for so everyone can get paid. She collects needed receipts and can often be seen working with Todd to accomplish the goals of the week. Her upbeat personality boosts morale in the office, and she is quick to be helpful.



Volunteers: There are also some folks around Camp Mack who are part of the team but not on the payroll, and we so thank them for their dedicated work, especially Shari Hoopingarner with her laundry magic and Lynn Kreider and crew working wonders in the shop and around camp.

Opportunities for Spiritual Leaders

Are you a pastor or other spiritual leader? There are events just for you at Camp Mack! Check out upcoming Pastor's Sabbaths (the next one is at the beginning of November and is filling up quickly).

Join in discussion and reflection time with Men Creating Community (the 2nd Wednesday of each month this fall and 4 months in the winter/spring) and Women Creating Community (the 3rd Wednesday of each month this fall and 4 months in the winter/spring).

Pastors, come for a spiritual retreat day(s) that you can schedule with camp. For more information on any upcoming events, please contact camp at 574-658-4831, or email at info@campmack.org. Let us help you in your ministry. Some events have CEU credit opportunities.

Upcoming Events at Camp Mack

Camp Mack Calendar

October 4–5	FLYE Weekend (for youth)
October 5	Camp Mack Festival
October 12–13	Father Son Retreat
October 16–20	Fall Quilt Retreat
October 17-20	Fall Scrapbook Retreat
October 21-24	Fall Seasoned Citizens Retreat
October 27	Gene's Ordination Service
October 28–30	Volunteer Work Days
November 2	Volunteer Banquet
November 4-5	Pastor's Sabbath (note slight change in date)

Plan now for these upcoming events!
For more information, check out the website or a Camp Mack brochure. You may also call the office at 574-658-4831. Click "Register Online" at the top of the campmack.org website.

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

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

October 19—Scrapbooking Come join us for a day of scrapbooking, sharing, and learning with fellow scrappers. Crop, journal, and finish a page or two. A Cricut machine will be available to make die cuts. Show off creations at the Show & Tell table, and visit another of the tables to trade your excess stickers, scraps, and etc. Dining Rooms B & C, Saturday 9a–4p. Cost: \$15 (includes lunch)

October 19—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: \$15 (includes lunch).

October 19—Beginning Quilting Having troubles starting? Join us for a few hours of basic instruction and information. If you have a sewing machine available, bring it along and we will learn how to use it. If you don't have one, a machine will be available that day for your use. Fabric, thread, and other basics will be provided. Wampler Lodge, Saturday 9a–3p. Cost: \$15 (includes lunch)

October 20—Fall Nut and Tree ID Walk If you've ever dreamed about chestnuts roasting over an open fire, come along for a day of nut and tree identification. We will focus on edible nuts and their uses. Nuts include: acorns, walnuts, hickory nuts, and more. Meet outside Wampler Lodge on Sunday 2p–4p. Cost: FREE (Bring a snack to share.) Come dressed for the weather.

October 26—Pumpkin Carving Pumpkin carving is an event to bring the whole family together. Bundle up for a fun fall day at camp. We will provide the pumpkins, tools, and optional stencils for your Jack-o-Lanterns. Ulrich House Back Porch, Saturday 9a–4p. Cost: \$20 (includes lunch and 1 pumpkin—extra pumpkins are \$5 each) Come dressed for the weather.

October 26—Children's Drum Building Design and build a children's Youth Ashiko Drum! Drums will be pre-headed and ready to play. You sand, stain, paint, and wood burn as you please. Meet at Ulrich House basement on Saturday from 9a–4p. Cost: \$15 + \$35 per drum (includes lunch)

November 16—Sandhill Cranes Trip Travel to Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area to see over 10,000 sandhill cranes along their migration route! Meet at John Kline Welcome Center, Saturday 2p–10p. Cost: \$20 (includes snacks and transportation). Bring binoculars. Dinner at Christos.

-For more info, check out www.campmack.org/get-a-way-days or email info@campmack.org.

Upcoming Retreats and Special Event

FLYE (Fun Leadership Youth Event)

FLYE weekends will train youth to be leaders through team building, service, and leadership. Service opportunities for the fall retreat will include assisting at the Camp Mack Festival. These events will help youth grow in leadership and may lead them to serve as a CIT (Counselor In Training) or counselor at Camp Mack. Ages: 14-17. Fee: \$25. Date: October 4–5.



Father Son Retreat



Take a weekend to go back to the basics. Spend time in the woodshop using primitive tools and learning foundational skills of woodworking. Let the outdoors be your classroom as you learn the stories nature has to tell. Ages: Fathers, sons, brothers, grandpas, and men of all ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Fee: \$38 per child ages 5-8, \$70 per person 9 to adult. Date: October 12–13, 9a Saturday to 1p Sunday

Quilt Retreat **Only 5 spots remaining for the October 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 35 fully paid quilters. October 16–20, 6p Wednesday to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$122 per quilter arriving Friday evening, \$137 per quilter arriving on Friday morning, \$166 per quilter arriving on Thursday evening, and \$190 per quilter arriving on Wednesday evening. 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 Thursday to 3p Sunday. Cost: \$116 per scrapper arriving Friday evening, \$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. Ages: Older Adults. Cost: \$171 per person, or \$115 if not staying overnight; please contact camp for shorter lengths of stay.

Join us for Gene's Ordination Service!

When: Sunday, October 27 at 3 p.m.

Where: Dining Room A, Kate Warstler Dining Center, John Kline Welcome Center

What: Celebrate in worship with us as Gene Hollenberg, Camp Mack's executive director, is ordained. He recently completed coursework at Bethany Theological Seminary. Participants in the ordination service will be Frank Ramirez, Val Kline, Becky Ball-Miller, Jim Davis, Byron Smith, and Torin Eikler. Following worship there will be a fellowship time with light refreshments.

Camp Mack Festival

21st Annual Camp Mack Festival

Camp Mack Festival is coming up October 5! Camp Mack is accepting donations for the auction and flea market. Come hungry and ready for some fun. Please bring cash (and a checkbook, if you wish). Please call the office with any questions (574-658-4831). We look forward to seeing you there!

Camp Mack Festival

October 5, 2019



Food Booths 9-2

(or until sold out)

Demonstrations 9-3

Entertainment 9:15-1:30

Children's Activities 9-3

Wreck a Wreck 9-1:30

Flea Market 10-1

Hay Rides 10-2:30

Live Auction 1:30

Camp Alexander Mack

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Free Parking and

Free Admission

All Proceeds Support Camp Mack