

Camp Alexander Mack

Highlights of What's Inside

- ⇒ "Connection in Service" with Gene: feeling disconnected; create community opportunities (p 2)
- ⇒ "Stitching and Stirring" with Jess: join her for all things crafting and baking this fall (p 3)
- ⇒ "Fall 2020" with Galen: W cabins, Peace Garden, golf cart storage shed roof, and winter storage (p 4)
- ⇒ "If Every Day Were Like Camp" with Deanna: Camp Mack is here for and because of you (p 5)
- ⇒ "The Who, When, and Why of Fundraising" with Todd: purposeful fundraising planning; 2021 (p 6)
- ⇒ "Getting Creative with Pie Iron Meals" with Vanessa: from peanut butter and jelly to quesadillas (p 7)
- ⇒ "School Groups and Get-A-Way Days!" with Kristen: from Soap Making to Pirate Studies and more (p 8)
- ⇒ Diversity Report (p 9); Upcoming Events (p 10)
- ⇒ Rentals Available and Committee for 100th (p 11)
- ⇒ A way to help (p 12) Crops for Campers (p 13)
- ⇒ Camp Mack Festival Online Auction (p 14–15)

MACKABILIA



News from the Director

Connection in Service

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
-Romans 8:38-39 (NRSV)

This wonderful affirmation brings me comfort as we all experience separation from the communities that mean so much to us. Even when we gather in worship, we are separated, and our contact is limited to connecting with our eyes and brief conversations.

Even before COVID-19, there was discussion about what it meant to be the church. A great deal of research showed that congregations who classified themselves as alive and vibrant were not focused on Sunday morning, but instead the rest of the week. The Sunday morning worship, the business of the church, and the community gathered were celebrations of the real work done in the community. This research goes beyond the church to community organizations as well.

In these past several months, I have felt disconnected from the other members of my congregation, from family, from civic groups, and from many of you who make up the community of Camp Mack. The spark, the fire, the physical touch seem to be missing.

The early church of Acts was a community that ate together, shared their resources, and worked in their cities to find people who yearned for the Gospel and needed help. Jesus spent a great deal of time in prayer, but he made it clear that acts of worship were completed when his followers addressed the needs of the poor and oppressed.

Because the activity in buildings is so limited, how can we be the church or community group in these days? I believe it is in finding opportunities for connection in service. Certainly there are projects your community can do in your location. Outside work or safely distanced inside jobs can provide that chance to be together and experience the joy of accomplishment. We also have ways for your group to connect.

Some groups rent cabin or lodge spaces for safely spaced gatherings. Other groups have come to hike together or meet outdoors for an hour or more on an afternoon or evening. Several groups have found service projects they can do together in support of camp, but more importantly as opportunities to serve God. We have even had churches and other organizations contribute both the funds and the labor to meet a particular need.

What do they all have in common? They leave refreshed and smiling.

If we truly seek to experience God's love in Christ, not even this virus can stop us.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Stitching and Stirring



Autumn isn't marked for me by the first orange leaf spotted or pumpkin spice everything being marketed. Autumn begins as I focus on putting sailboats in winter storage and seeing piers stacked on the beach where they will soon be covered in the winter snow. Autumn is a time of transition.

Groundhogs rush to their dens with mouthfuls of leaves preparing their dens for hibernation. As I prepare for winter, I do some rushing of my own. Do I have enough yarn? Never! And baking supplies.... It's not unusual to see 20 lbs of cream cheese in my fridge for making cheesecakes or 25 lbs of powdered sugar on my counter for decorating cookies. Stitching and stirring surrounds much of my autumn and winter life. And I love it! It's so satisfying to start with the ingredients for a great project and work hard to see the finished product.

Feeling the urge to stitch and stir? Join me at Camp Mack in the next couple of months and I will help you begin your journey or add to your bag of tricks. I will be offering a Knitting and Crocheting day for all levels of fiber artists including complete beginners. We have a Scrapbooking (and crafting) retreat. And in December, we will offer 3 sessions of Christmas Cookie Baking and Wreaths/Swags making Get-A-Way Days. Camp is a great place to learn a new hobby, do things you enjoy, and gather inspiration from others. I look forward to stitching and stirring with you this autumn.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Sunny Camp Mack

Fall of 2020

It is officially fall and the leaves are starting to turn. Usually we are starting to do the final preparations for the festival, but not this year. I have been a part of every one of the festivals, and it seems odd not to be doing it this year. The Camp Mack Festival (CMF) typically marks the end of summer and the rush to winter. We start closing all the summer facilities and putting things away. I will just have to find some new marker this year to make that transition.

This spring we started to paint the inside of the W cabins. We put new polyurethane on the ceiling and then painted the walls. We decided to paint the bed frames a different bright color for each cabin. We used the same colors as we used for the Arky Parky animals. This has been an off and on again project all summer as we had time. Marvene Pippenger and her sister Kay Method have made new curtains to go with the new paint scheme in each cabin. This past week they came and helped us paint the last two cabins, and they will get the new curtains in them. This really changes the looks of the inside of these cabins.

The Peace Garden continues. Judy took a break this week, but Lynn and I have started getting the lumber and making plans for the swings. There will be three singles and one double swing down front. I picked up the first load of cedar lumber, and we will make the overhead beams from that. First, we must pour ten pillars in the ground to support the swing posts. Lynn is designing a form for us to use to get the pillars in the right place, and I am trying to dig out our three-point mixer from storage. If you enjoy mixing cement, give me a call and we can give you lots of joy!

We also continue to work on the golf cart storage shed, which is just east of the John Kline Welcome Center. Jim Bates was up last week, and we put the new standing seam metal roof on it. We had a generous gift to pay for that, and it is now on and looks great. Now we need to figure out the doors. Then, we will be ready to store a couple of office golf carts in there.

Life goes on and we continue to prepare this sanctuary where people connect with God.

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Be Our Guest

If Every Day Were Like Camp



If every day were like camp there would be s'mores galore.
There would be new friends to meet and cool things at the store.
We would worship in stone buildings and down by the lake.
We would feel safe to express our talents and learn to bake.

If every day were like camp we would overcome fears.
There would be laughter and hugs and meaningful tears.
We would find ways to be silly and grow as a team.
We would eat salt-covered popcorn and homemade ice cream.

Live out what you've learned and share God's love each day.
This sanctuary is here for you—for fun, work, or
play. We are open year-round, so stop in for a
stay! YOU are Camp Mack.

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



Another Way of Giving

The Who, When, and Why of Fundraising

Now that I have a few years of fundraising at Camp Mack, I have seen the many great ways our fundraising succeeds, but also the challenges we face. This has led to some changes, big and small as we transition from fundraising as needs arise to a comprehensive fundraising strategy.

Different Voices

In our 95 years on Lake Waubee, thousands of people have spent time here at Camp Mack. Some of those people you really connect with, and some you barely know. When you want to know how Camp Mack is going, you don't want to hear about the new software we purchase, or our new financial policies. You want to hear about the kids going boating for the first time, the Christian community being built, and the sanctuary experiences that happen here. That is why our fundraising is shifting to feature a wider variety of voices. This means hearing from our campers, board members, and rental groups. Pictures and video tell these stories so well, so expect more than just a letter on our letterhead.

Different Schedule

Earlier this year, we had a huge success with our first ever Giving Day, and so Giving Day is becoming part of our yearly strategy. At the same time, we assessed the volunteer banquet to be more of a spring event so we can recognize all the donors from a calendar year. Lastly, we recognized the limited appeal of the golf outing and its limited return on investment, and so we have discontinued the golf outing. One goal was to make our late fall a heavier time for fundraising, since it is slower for our other forms of revenue. With all those factors, our 2021 will look something like this:

March- Volunteer Banquet
May- 5K
August- Giving Day
October- Camp Mack Festival
November- Annual Dinner

The Need for a Fundraising Strategy

Some people think that fundraising is just walking up to people and asking for money, but in reality, it is all about connecting with people. My title is the Director of Development and Business, not the Director of Fundraising. Throughout all these discussions, my mind centered around two major questions: How do we connect with more people and How do we connect more people with the people we already know? I look forward to a year of new voices, new events, and developing the resources to provide a sanctuary where people connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian community.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business

2021 Fundraising Schedule	March
	 Volunteer Banquet
May	August
 5K Run/Walk	 Giving Day
October	November
 Camp Mack Festival	 Annual Dinner

Kitchen News

Getting Creative with Pie Iron Meals

Every year in October, my parents go camping at Brown County State Park. We love going down with them to see all the colors of the fall leaves. This year, my husband and I purchased a travel trailer of our own, and we can't wait to have our own space while camping with our family. We usually share cooking duties and everyone has their campfire favorites: Dutch oven lasagna, pineapple upside down cake, bacon and eggs in the giant skillet, or going into town for a special treat, like ice cream. We usually make pizza pies, because Oliver loves them and will eat two, sometimes three, all by himself. As I prepare for our trip this year, I really want to try some new things in the pie irons. I've seen all kinds of different ideas on Pinterest and Facebook: using soft taco shells to make quesadillas or fajitas; baking cinnamon rolls in them; grilled cheese sandwiches with any extra toppings you can think of, like ham, or bacon, or steak and onions. Peanut butter and jelly is apparently delicious when grilled. (We would not make this one, since our son is allergic to peanuts, but it still sounds interesting.) Dessert pies are always delicious, too. You can be as creative or traditional as you want with pie irons, and they are so easy to clean up afterwards. Plus, the little kids can participate by helping make their own. I can't wait to see what all we try this year. Maybe I will just bring shredded chicken and a bunch of toppings and people can make their own chicken sandwiches. YUM!

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



Education Station

School Groups and Get-A-Way Days!

Many things have been happening at camp this past month. While many schools have moved to online learning, others are still going in person but most of those have banned field trips. Luckily, not every school has! We weren't sure how many school groups we would end up with this fall, but we were fortunate to host several different school groups in September. Clinton Christian School came for the first time for two days, Bethany Christian School visited us again this year, and we even had a home school co-op group with 60 kids visit camp (almost all for the first time)! We also hosted Camp Mack Day again for the students of Manchester University. It's been amazing to finally hear the sounds of kids enjoying camp again. While this pandemic has definitely altered camp's normal programming, it's given us the chance to minister to new groups of students this fall who we hope will return many times in the future.

New school groups mean we are getting to test out new outdoor education classes too! Those 60 home school kids got to experience Pirate Studies, where we learn about hydrodynamics and build our own pirate ships. What a fun first experience for those kids! They will be coming back for 3 more days of outdoor education this month, and we are so excited to teach more crazy topics like Sandcastle Physics.

In addition to school groups, I hosted my first Get-A-Way Day this past month: Soap Making! A group of 10 of us were crammed into the front half of the kitchen to learn how to make cold process soap. I had brought enough supplies for everyone to make 3 batches of soap, and we ran out of supplies! It was chaos but so much fun! Take a look at some of what we made:



There are still more Get-A-Way Days happening this year, so I would encourage you to sign up and come visit camp! There are 7 more events this year: Fall Nut and Tree ID Walk, Sandhill Cranes Trip, Scrapbooking, Knitting & Crocheting, Drum Building, Wreaths and Swags, and Christmas Cookies. We hope to see you at camp soon!

Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator

Diversity Report

In mid-September, the management team met to develop action plans for the remaining elements of our current strategic plan. This plan is in effect through the end of 2021.

Several important decisions were made including:

- Finding critical connection points for Black and Hispanic communities in order to recruit staff and guests.
- Developing a guide that introduces the history, beliefs, and values of Camp Mack to people who are new to our organization.
- Rework position announcements, job descriptions, and application materials to encourage culturally diverse applicants.

As the planning for developing the new strategic plan that would start in 2022 begins, the board and staff have proposed an open process that will encourage representation from a variety of constituencies.

The camp staff continues to include a lens of anti-racism as it discusses programs and new initiatives.



Upcoming Events



October 10–11—Father Son Retreat “Under Construction”: Spend a weekend under construction at camp developing, reimagining, and building in the workshop. Create new constructions with building sets and construction toys, and learn to navigate the road map of life. Males of all ages are invited. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9a Saturday–1p Sunday in Mission Village Cost: \$42 per child ages 5–8, \$77 per person age 9–adult

October 15–18—Scrapbooking Retreat Bring the scrapbook you need to finish or may have been waiting for the perfect time to begin. Spread out your supplies and enjoy uninterrupted time with fellow scrappers. 6p Thursday (early arrival)–3p Sunday Cost: \$128 per scrapper arriving Friday evening, \$142 Friday morning arrival, \$162 Thursday evening arrival; meals begin Friday dinner.



October 17—Scrapbooking Get-A-Way Day Join us for a day of scrapbooking, sharing, and learning with fellow scrappers. Work on current projects. Crop, journal, and finish a page or two. A show and tell table will be there for you to show off your creations. Saturday 9a–4p in Dining Rooms B and C in the John Kline Welcome Center Cost: \$20 lunch included



October 17—Knitting & Crocheting Get-A-Way Day Whether a beginner or advanced in the world of knitting and 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. Saturday 9a–4p in the John Kline Welcome Center Cost: \$20 lunch included Led by: Jessie Kreider

October 18—Fall Nut and Tree Identification Walk Get-A-Way Day 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. Sunday 2p–4p, meet outside Wampler Lodge Cost: Free (bring a snack to share) Led by: Jessie Kreider



October 24—Children’s Drum Building Get-A-Way Day You don’t have to be a child to enjoy a day of drum building at camp. Bring your children or grandchildren to build a Youth Ashiko Drum, or come and design the perfect gift for them. Drums will be pre-headed and ready to play. You sand, stain, paint, and wood burn the drum to your creative standard. Bring your ideas, and we will supply the rest. Saturday 9a–3p in Ulrich House basement. Cost: \$20 + \$35 per drum, lunch included



October 26–28—Volunteer Days Volunteers will work with Camp Mack’s staff as we make preparations for the summer camp season. We have planned work tasks for all skill levels and ages. Workers of all ages are welcome, and anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Free! Come for a few hours or all three days. Meals and lodging are available. Please contact the office for reservations.



November 14—Sandhill Cranes Trip Travel with us to the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area.



Observe upwards of 10,000+ cranes in the field from the observation platform as they fly in and dance while traveling along their migration route. This event should be on every birders life list. Saturday 2p–10p Meet at the John Kline Welcome Center to then go offsite Cost: FREE Leader: Jess Kreider Come dressed for the weather. Bring binoculars. *Due to social distancing not being an option in vehicles, we will meet at camp and carpool to Jasper-Pulaski. We

will travel Highway 6 to view Sandhill Cranes in the field close to Walkerton before heading down to Jasper-Pulaski.

Cancelled events: Fall Quilt Camp, Fall Seasoned Citizens Retreat, Build-a-Drum Weekend Retreat, F.L.Y.E. and Pastor’s Sabbath

Rentals Available!

BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO **CAMP MACK** THIS FALL

Camp Mack has cabins and lodges to rent to families and groups looking for a getaway to a safe and relaxing space. As the weather cools, the W Cabins and Mission Village yurts provide heated camping options. Lodges are heated and have varying capacities. Book your reservation now!

Each cabin/yurt rental includes:

- A fully prepared and disinfected cabin
- Bathhouse/restroom dedicated to your family
- Campfire circle with wood
- Use of all camp green spaces and trails
- The experience of connecting with God in this holy place



Families will be able to choose additional options to add to their stay:

- Meals may be available at regular rates with different options to choose from
- Kiosk rental with table service, Dutch ovens, and other campfire cookware for outdoor cooking
- Popcorn campfire (popped by the Camp Mack staff in a kettle)
- A night hike through Camp's trails with flexible timing
- Archery session for 1 hour

Call the Camp Mack office at 574-658-4831 or email a request to info@campmack.org to ask about availability and prices. Get away to a safe and beautiful place to make new memories and connect with God!

100th Anniversary Committee

M.A.C.K. Mack is your camp.

In 2025, Camp Mack turns *100 years old*! We are entering the beginning stages of planning this centennial celebration. We are looking for a steering committee to help direct the vision of the 100th. This group will meet a few times a year to talk about the overall vision for the 100th year of Camp Mack and to work to incorporate all corners of the Camp Mack community. Other committees will be formed to lead specific parts of this special year. Please email 100@campmack.org if you are interested.

We are looking for people who have:

- A Connection to Camp Mack through their personal journey
- A Desire to Discern a vision of Camp Mack's centennial celebration
- An Enthusiasm for Camp Mack's mission and ministry
- An Inspiration for the next 100 years on Lake Waubesa

Camp Mack Festival Plans

For over 20 years, the Camp Mack Festival has served as a highlight of the fall season. Beyond the food, entertainment, auction, and many more activities, Camp Mack Festival is about bringing the Camp Mack community together. The festival committee thought creatively and worked tirelessly to find a creative way to bring the community together in these uncertain times.

It is with heavy hearts that we cancelled all in-person parts of the Camp Mack Festival due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

There is an online auction this year! Though it is smaller than previous years, there are several valuable items and experiences up for bid. For further information, see pages fourteen and fifteen of this newsletter.

The festival committee will be using this time to dream big for the 2021 Camp Mack Festival to come back stronger than before. Thank you to those who filled out the survey. Your feedback has been and will be helpful as future plans are made.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Camp Mack.



An Easy Way to Help!

Camp Mack is currently working hard to make up for lost income this year. It is not easy, and we have had limited success. However, there is one way you can help that is easy and simple.



Amazon has been one of the big winners during the pandemic. Mostly because it is able to help people get the things they need in ways that keep them physically distanced and safe. For years now, they have had a program called **Amazon Smile**. Anyone who purchases from Amazon can participate. It's so simple. When you buy something from Amazon, a small donation is made to the charity of your choice.

Camp Mack is one of the charitable organizations that is registered, so you can help us by registering at Amazon Smile and selecting us as the organization, or you can switch to us if you are already registered.

For more information, you can follow this link:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_aas_redirect?ie=UTF8&%2AVersion%2A=1&%2Aentries%2A=0, or you can sign in to your Amazon account and click on "Customer Service." Under "Find more solutions," type in "Amazon Smile."

Each individual contribution isn't huge, but together, we can make a difference. If you have any questions, please email todd@campmack.org, or call the Camp Office.

Crops for Campers



Camp Alexander Mack



Crops For Campers



One highlight of a week at Camp Mack is all the food. Campers get to enjoy great meals like biscuits and gravy, orange chicken and rice, and baked oatmeal and ice cream.

Beyond the great food, meal time gives campers a chance to get to make new friends and catch up with old ones.

The community built around the table is a powerful part of the Camp Mack experience and can last generations.

Farmers can donate a small part of their fall harvest to be a part of making this community possible.

For more information contact Ed Pippenger at 574-903-5401

Camp Mack provides a sanctuary where people connect with God, experience creation, and build Christian Community.

info@campmack.org PO Box 158 Milford, IN 46542 574-658-4831



Camp Mack Festival Online Auction

2020 CMF Online Auction

Bid at <http://bidpal.net/cmfbid>



1999 Camp Mack
Camper Quilt

Starting Bid:
\$80



7 Nights in a
Vacation Resort

Starting Bid:
\$560



"Eagle in a
Snowstorm"

Starting Bid:
\$40



Fulfilled Heart
Kinetic Sculpture

Starting Bid:
\$120



Sarah Major
Sunset Dinner

Starting Bid:
\$120



Sailing Adventure on
Lake Michigan

Starting Bid:
\$40

Camp Mack Festival Online Auction Continued

Bidding Opens October 1st at 9am
Bidding Closes October 11th at 8pm



"Stand Strong"
Wall Hanging

Starting Bid:
\$40



"Woven Together"
Quilt

Starting Bid:
\$60



Christmas Tree with
Lights (2 available)

Starting Bid:
\$25



Christmas Tree with
Lights and Snow
(2 available)

Starting Bid:
\$25



Health Center
Official Ribbon Cutter

Starting Bid:
\$40



Quilted Wall Hanging

Starting Bid:
\$40

AND MORE!