

Camp Alexander Mack

Highlights of What's Inside

- ⇒ “Responding to Challenges” with Gene, learning through struggles with seasonal allergies (p 2)
- ⇒ “Fall Made Edible” with Vanessa, Caramel-Stuffed Apple Cider Cookies (p 3)
- ⇒ “Fall Projects” with Galen, roofs, Mission Village boardwalks, and more (p 4)
- ⇒ “The Power of Connection” with Jess, discover a new world of connections in nature (p 5)
- ⇒ “Marathons and Sprints” with Todd, more than summer camps, events on the 17th of each month (p 6)
- ⇒ “A Joke in Hand” with Deanna, hopefully you find time to laugh today (p 7)
- ⇒ 21st Annual Camp Mack Festival information! Join us on October 5 (p 8)
- ⇒ Website Info and Pastor Opportunities (p 9)
- ⇒ Lots of Upcoming Fall Events from Get-a-Way Days to Retreats (p 10-11)



News from the Director

Responding to Challenges

My younger daughter will be thirty-three years old this month. That's meaningful on many levels, but right now I'm thinking about it because we are in the middle of ragweed season.

The August after she was born, I suddenly developed an intense allergic reaction to ragweed. It was so bad that I had to leave a family gathering during Labor Day weekend with my sinuses so blocked I could barely swallow or breathe. The doctor started with a prescription of a decongestant; however, the medication made me jittery, and I couldn't sleep. He then prescribed an antihistamine that I used for a couple of years, but it made me cranky. That meant that I started the school year with a bit of a mean streak – not a good thing for a teacher. Finally, I started a new prescription without the behavioral side effects, and it made it possible for me to survive from the beginning of August through the first killing frost.

Some things do get better with age, and I am one of the lucky ones. My symptoms began to fade away about ten years ago, and now, I make it through ragweed season with over-the-counter eye drops. (My eyes are pretty itchy right now, and I have another hour before I can take my next dose of drops!)

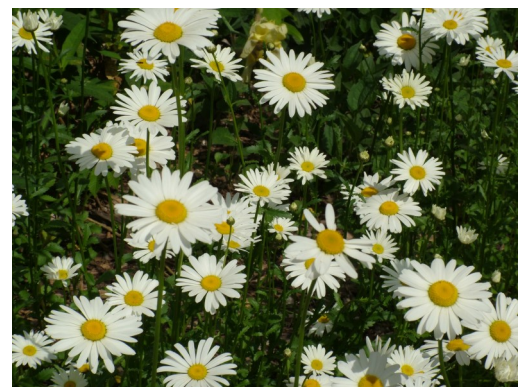
So, why do I share all this with you? Part of it is that this allergy has been with me for more than half my life, and it causes me to struggle every year. Another reason is that I have never celebrated my daughter's birthday without experiencing symptoms, and that is a thought that didn't occur to me until this week. However, my thoughts really have turned to what I have learned most from my seasonal challenge: *Don't touch your eyes from August through October!*

In a literal sense, this is good advice for me and other allergy sufferers, but what does that mean for everyone else who enters the fall with clear sinuses and comfortable eyes. I think there are two lessons here. The first is that it's pretty easy to let our challenges take control of our lives. The second is that we have to be careful how we respond when a challenge comes our way.

It is this second lesson that I'm thinking about today. For years, when the pollen started to fly, my eyes became red and itchy. My first reaction was to rub those itchy eyes, but then they got worse and other symptoms began. My rubbing put more pollen in my eyes and stimulated my body to respond even more aggressively. My reaction made things much worse. When we face a challenge, Jesus tells us in Matthew 11:28-30: *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (NIV)*

For the challenges we face personally, and for the challenges we encounter at Camp Mack, I thank you for being the Body of Christ. Together, we bear one another's burdens and in that way, nothing will defeat us. As an example, my focus for the last hour has been on this article for you – not my eyes. Now that it is finished, I can get those eye drops!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Kitchen News

Fall Made Edible

Everything is still green at camp, but the weather has this crispness to it that makes you feel like fall is just around the corner. I remember the first fall after my husband and I got married. We lived in a very small apartment in Lancaster, PA that backed up to a small wooded property. Our one bedroom apartment was on the second floor and I often felt like I was living in the middle of a forest since all you could see were tree branches when you looked out the windows. I had just discovered Pinterest and I wanted to do ALL of the fun fall things I saw while scrolling through the website. I made a fall-themed wreath to hang on our front door. I convinced my wonderful in-laws to have a pumpkin carving party at their house, so we could all help the little ones carve their pumpkins and just have a fun time being crafty together. And, I found a cookie recipe that, in my opinion, was fall made edible: caramel apple cider cookies. They sounded so yummy, and they couldn't be THAT hard, right!?! Wrong. When a recipe has an ingredient that you have no idea what it is, it makes it really hard to make. This particular recipe called for apple cider drink mix, with a note from the original poster saying she found it with the hot chocolate at her grocery store. Well, I looked for this particular drink mix at every store I went to for about a week or so. I could not find it anywhere. I wanted to make these cookies so badly, so I kept looking and eventually I found the drink mix on a random aisle at the grocery store and I was so excited! Goopy, warm, caramel stuffed cookies! I think that the first time I made them, I overbaked them a little bit. The caramel wasn't goopy, but tacky and a little hard to chew, but they were still good! I really want to make these again soon, and maybe you would like to try them out yourself for you next fall gathering.

Caramel Stuffed Apple Cider Cookies

Ingredients

1 cup butter, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 box (7.4 oz) Alpine Spiced Apple Cider Instant Original Drink mix, all 10 packets
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
3 cups flour
1 bag Kraft Caramels (14 oz)

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350° F. Line cookie sheets with parchment.
- In a small bowl whisk together flour, baking soda, baking powder and cinnamon.
- Cream together butter, sugar, salt and all 10 packages of apple cider drink mix powder, until light and fluffy.
- Beat in eggs, one at a time. Add vanilla and mix well.
- Gradually add dry mixture into butter mixture.
- Mix until just combined.
- Refrigerate for about an hour to make dough easier to work with.
- Unwrap your caramels.
- Scoop cookie dough into walnut sized balls with a spoon or cookie scoop.
- Flatten the ball of dough slightly in the palm of your hand. Press the unwrapped caramel into the center of your dough and seal the dough around it, covering it completely. Place on parchment covered cookie sheets 2 inches apart.
- Bake 12-14 minutes, or until *very lightly* browned around edges. *Once the cookies are done, slide the parchment off of the baking sheet right out onto the counter or cooling rack. Allow cookies to partially cool on the parchment. When cookies are cool enough to be firm but still slightly warm, carefully twist off of parchment and allow to finish cooling upside down.*
- Store in an airtight container.
- Yield: about 4 dozen.



Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director

Sunny Camp Mack

Fall Projects

It's that time of the year when you start thinking about cold weather and all the things we need to get done before that. We continue to work on the soffit on the lake side of Sarah Major. That just must be done before the cold winds off the lake hit it this winter. We have two roofs that just have felt on them. The Dekalb Soccer Boys Team took the lower roof off the south side of the auditorium. The shingles were in bad shape and needed replacing. This roof was not that old but being on the south side with the sun and the winds off the lake they really take a beating. We also are experiencing some issues with drips of water coming from the joints in the eaves on the building. The joints were originally caulked but that is gone now. We have tried a couple of products to seal the joints but nothing has worked well yet. It is amazing to see how a little drip over time can drill right through the shingles. The other roof is on Jacobs Well. Family Camp has contributed to that project.

Another project we just discovered is the foundation of the Mission Village walk ways. This past Labor Day weekend was Labor Day Family Camp, and they always give us some service work time. A year ago, they gave money to start replacing the decking on the walk way. This year we purchased the decking and they began putting it on. In that process we noticed a couple of places where the foundation of the decks was rotting away. We built that in 2002 and we dug holes down to the stone and poured concrete piers to support our deck. We placed 4 x 12 oak beams across the piers and set our deck frames on that. It is the oak that is starting to rot away. Also, the piers never worked very well so we will probably just use a concrete pad and a concrete lintel this time. This is going to be a very interesting project and we need to get it done this fall. It is just too wet down there in the spring. Anyone have a little time this fall to build decks?

Camp Mack is a sanctuary where people connect with God.

Galen Jay, Facility Director



Nature Nut News

The Power of Connection

Monarchs! During the summer, monarch butterflies get a lot of attention. We study their migration routes, collect and raise the larvae, release the adults, and save the milkweed. Have you ever looked to see who else hangs out on the milkweed? If you have, you realize there are food chains, food webs, and connections galore on the head of this common weed. Monarchs and honey bees are known for stealing the spotlight, so let me shed the spotlight on some other amazing butterflies and moths.

Black swallowtails are seen hovering over the joe-pye weed and puddling on the swan “presents” on the boating beach. Find a patch of wild parsley or water hemlock and you may be lucky enough to spot the black swallowtail caterpillars feeding. While in the prairie recently, I turned the corner to see a snowberry clearwing moth caterpillar. They are one of the hummingbird moths that are a treat to see flitting about the prairie flowers. The other was the azalea sphinx moth caterpillar only moments later. Other than identifying a moth I had never encountered before, why was I so excited by these caterpillars?

Connection! There was something that sparked inside me last year when I saw people on Facebook talking about swallowtail caterpillars eating all their parsley. I don’t grow parsley, but knew where some grew wild in the wetlands and there I found my first black swallowtail caterpillar. From then on, I wondered more about butterflies/moths and their host plants both for raising young and which ones they gather nectar from and are part of the pollination process. A huge thanks goes to the IN Nature Facebook page and the volunteers that are working on a #gainlp project (Lepidoptera ID—aka butterflies and moths) and their assistance in helping to identify and map butterflies and moths around the state.

It’s not just about wildflowers, butterflies, moths, caterpillars, pollination, migration routes, or what we may consider a weed. Take the time to get to know your local nature and you will be introduced to an entirely new world of connections. Take the time to connect.



Left to Right: Black swallowtail, Snowberry clearwing moth, Azalea sphinx moth

Jessie Kreider, Program Director

Another Way of Giving

Marathons and Sprints

Common Statement: Now that summer camp is over, I bet it slows down.
Correct Answer: No

There is this idea that Camp Mack is a summer camp and only a summer camp. All of us get asked this all the time: “So what do you do now”, or “You work there year round?”. Yes, we have been having events outside the months of June-August for most of our 94 years. It’s not the off season or slow season, its retreat season, and it is very different.

Let’s compare the 17th of each month.

January 17: We were not booked that day. (It was a weekday, so that’s understandable.)

February 17: Our Quilt Retreat, a men’s retreat, a family reunion, and a baby shower

March 17: A rental quilt group, a church youth conference, and the Midwest District Executives

April 17: Women Creating Community

May 17: An annual rental group’s conference

June 17: Two of our largest annual rental camps and Dadirri

July 17: Seekers, Finders, Followers, Creative Arts, and an annual rental camp

August 17: Colony Camp, Golf Outing, Sailing 101 Get Away Day, and a church rental retreat

September 17: 20-30 volunteers with a local university

October 17: Quilting and Scrapbooking Retreats and a rental retreat group

November 17: Powerhouse Regional Youth Conference

December 17: Empty, so far

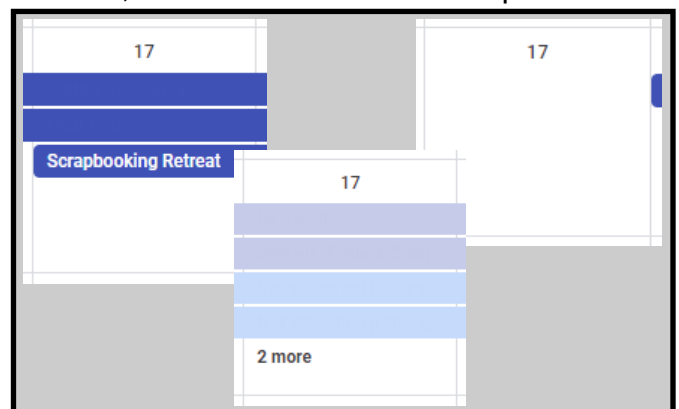
I will admit I chose the 17th because of the variety it has, not every day of the month is that constantly busy. There are some weekends that are busy, but you can mostly tell which ones are weekdays.

Summer months in the office are a marathon. Summer days involve a large number of phone calls and questions, usually around camp logistics. There is a constant stream of people and staff that create a constant busyness around the office. Every day is different, but we are not able to focus on long term projects like we want to.

Retreat season involves days were we can count the phone calls. We have time to have bigger conversations about topics like the gift shop, our website, or big events. Then we get to a weekend with sometimes as many as 8 events (we look forward to seeing you on October 19th). The next weekend with nothing on is the weekend before Thanksgiving.

I always describe Camp in saying, we are a camp, conference, and retreat center. We hope to have you all here, no matter the season!

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



Be Our Guest

A Joke in Hand

Whether you're a jokester or not, hopefully there's been a time in your life that you've appreciated a good joke. Granted, there are lots of bad jokes out there. I tell quite a few jokes that often follow with some shaking heads or rolling eyes. It's okay, though! I tell the jokes anyway and laugh at my own when no one else does. Maybe some of you have that happen sometimes (all the time), too...

Before I give emergency procedures to many of the groups that come through camp (at least this year), I like to loosen the group up a bit and tell them a couple of jokes. The two I told most of the summer are as follows:

Why did Cinderella get kicked off of the basketball team?
Because she ran away from the ball.

Why did Cinderella get kicked off of the baseball team?
Because she had a pumpkin for a coach.



Ha! Those are still two of my favorites. Though I did learn that they can be difficult to translate into ASL quickly and effectively (sorry, Larry)... I tell the groups that we certainly want them to have fun, but we also need for them to be safe at Camp, too (followed by the emergency procedures).

Two jokes that I recently dug up for another group are:

What's the difference between a well-dressed man on a bike and a crazily-dressed man on a unicycle?
Attire (a tire).



I took the shell off of my racing snail, thinking it would make him go faster. If anything, it made him more sluggish.



If you can't tell, I enjoy puns, too.

Labor Day Family Camp was in last weekend, and they host an annual talent show in Quinter Miller Auditorium. They have some great acts, but part of the show is listening to all of the funny jokes (that elicit some laughs and moans) in between the acts. Thank you for sharing, Family Camp!

A good joke can brighten someone's day. It can make you a new friend. Or, maybe turn others away. Some don't appreciate jokes to their full potential, but that's okay. There are some joke tellers, some joke appreciators, and some joke despisers, and that's the way life's going to be. But, maybe one of these jokes will earn you a smile. Or, maybe on a rough day, you pull some out to remind you to stay light-hearted. Whatever a joke does for you, may it be made in fun and maybe get you a few more ab muscles from good laughter. :)

Many laughs and smiles to you, friends!

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director

Camp Mack Wish List

21st Annual Camp Mack Festival

Camp Mack Festival is coming up October 5! We are still in need of churches to sponsor and staff food booths. Small items can be donated for the auction any time, while larger items cannot be donated until September 30th. 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

1113 E Camp Mack Rd

PO Box 158

Milford, IN 46542

574-658-4831



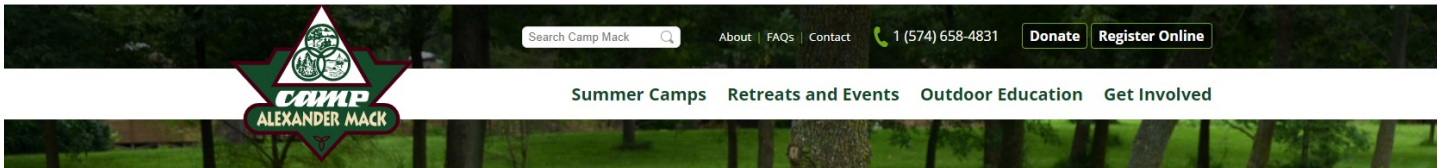
Free Parking and

Free Admission

All Proceeds Support Camp Mack

Check out Camp Mack's Website

Find information and updates about all things camp at www.campmack.org. A few things have moved around! 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?



[Home](#) / [Main Menu](#) / [Outdoor Education](#)

Outdoor Education



Connecting students to the natural world and each other!

Camp Mack helps young people experience outdoor learning while also creating lasting bonds through teambuilding. Our Outdoor Education programs provide public, private, and home school groups with engaging, hands-on sessions taught by knowledgeable instructors so that students go home with a better understanding of our natural world, equipped with new environmental science knowledge and skills in communication and problem solving. Outdoor Education is a great way to build a stronger school or classroom community.

Some schools come for a day, overnight, or even multiple nights. Every program and schedule is customized to meet your classroom and student learning objectives. Our classes are tailored to meet your curriculum needs and are aligned with state standards. We even extend the Camp Mack Outdoor Education experience by providing teachers with pre- and post- lessons for back in the classroom.

We Value

Quality

We're committed to providing the best learning experience for every student, listening to teacher and parent feedback to continuously improve the quality of our programs. We're committed to providing knowledgeable instructors who believe passionately in what they teach and safely care for each student.

Outdoor Learning Experiences

We're committed to "no child left inside." Studies show that today's students aren't getting enough time outdoors, so we want to get students out in nature and help them exercise their sense of wonder for the natural world. We believe the best learning occurs when the heart, head, and hands are all engaged through natural outdoor experiences.

Explore This Section

[Programs](#)

[OE Information and Resources For Teachers](#)

[For Parents](#)

[Packing List](#)

[OE FAQ's](#)



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). 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 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 28–30	Volunteer Work Days
November 2	Volunteer Banquet
November 4-5	Pastor's Sabbath (note slight change in date)

Register 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 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.

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.

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.



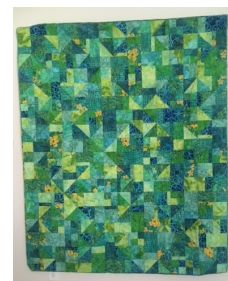
Father Son Retreat



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 1 p Sunday

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. Ages: Older Adults. Cost: \$171 per person, or \$115 if not staying overnight; please contact camp for shorter lengths of stay.