

CAMP MACK CIRCLE

Quarterly Newsletter

Prince of Peace

*For a child has been born—for us! the gift of a son—for us!
He'll take over the running of the world. His names will be:
Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of
Wholeness. His ruling authority will grow, and there'll be no
limits to the wholeness he brings. -Isaiah 9:6 (Message)*



It soon will be Christmas. Our house is decorated; our cookies have been baked; most of the presents have been wrapped. This year, I have had the privilege of helping to plan our church's Christmas Eve service, and it helps me to focus on the spiritual side of our celebration. I have always loved this verse from Isaiah, prophesying the birth of Jesus. In most translations, one of the names for Jesus is "Prince of Peace." That image of Jesus is particularly helpful for me, because in my sixty-five years, there has been some violent conflict somewhere in the world every Christmas. Yet often, we interpret the peace suggested here in the verse as the outcome. And if we do that, we can be troubled by the fact that peace has not been established.

Eugene Peterson, in *The Message*, restates peace in this verse as wholeness." When we consider Jesus bringing wholeness to the world, the image is one of action—not a final outcome. Addressing wholeness includes working for justice and fairness. It means healing of mental and physical illness and difficulty. Wholeness would not allow for huge income disparities, oppression, or hunger. When it is stated this way, we can see that injustice, mental and physical difficulties, greed, and inequality incite violence and war. Taking action to work for wholeness gives us the opportunity for peace.

The mission of sanctuary we give at Camp Mack takes action to work with all people as Jesus did. As the Prince of Wholeness, he sees people for who they are, both gifts and faults, and loves them. He heals whenever he has the opportunity. He becomes angry and acts when oppression and greed cause injustice. He feeds us--body and soul. Because you are a partner in this ministry, you share in that mission.

As we approach this Christmas, may we all celebrate the infant Jesus with joy and follow the mature Christ with action.

Merry Christmas!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



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Kitchen News

Changing Traditions

Growing up, I remember our holiday traditions being pretty consistent throughout my childhood. For Thanksgiving, we spent the day at my dad's parents' house. Grandma had everything pretty much done by the time we arrived. We would snack on Chex Mix, cookies, and cheese and crackers while waiting for the rest of the family, eat lunch, play games, have leftovers for dinner, and then drive home.

Then on Friday after my dad got off work, we would head up to my mom's parents' house for the weekend. Saturday consisted of a big lunch with lots of extended family, games around the two dining tables, football on the TV, and me usually hiding in a quiet corner reading a book. Then breakfast out on Sunday before heading to worship services at the church where my parents got married. Christmas was pretty similar, although we sometimes rotated between different family members' houses, and there usually weren't as many extended family members present. We always did our family gift giving the morning of Christmas before heading out to wherever we were going that year.



As an adult now, a lot of things have changed. Family members have passed away, and people have moved into smaller living spaces. The “kids” have become the adults and now take part in a lot of the planning, food preparation, and hosting of these events. As we have expanded and our living situations have changed, we found that it was harder to all fit into each other's homes. For the last few years, my family has rented Sarah Major for the weekend of Thanksgiving. It's been a great blessing for all of our family to be able to use a space at camp to continue these traditions. We have lots of families who travel from out of state, so having a space with sleeping rooms and a large kitchen to feed everyone is wonderful. The large open space is great for eating, playing games, and setting up a giant wooden train track for the kids to play with (even if it gets torn down and “rebuilt” 20 times in two days). This is not necessarily the normal use for this building, but it has become our new tradition, and I hope it continues for many more years.



“It’s been a great blessing for all of our family to be able to use a space at camp to continue these traditions.”





CORNBREAD MUFFIN RECIPE:

The traditions we had as children sometimes change as we become adults, and I'm sure they continue to change during the different stages of adulthood. I recently had to help my oldest son fill out a paper for school talking about our family traditions, and it was so fun to hear what our family traditions are from a six-year-old, versus how I see them as a thirty-something-year-old. And, I can't wait to see what traditions we have in the future!

I'm going to leave you with a recipe that isn't necessarily a tradition, but it is a favorite. These cornbread muffins are a favorite both with our staff and at my house! I joke that they are more like corn cupcakes than bread. A batch of these makes 25-35 muffins, so they will feed a crowd! Enjoy and Happy Holidays!

Cornbread Muffins

8 eggs, divided into yolks and whites
2 cups milk
2 tsp. vanilla
1 ½ cups butter, melted
2 cups cornmeal
4 cups flour
3 cups sugar
2 tbsp. baking powder
2 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 300°F. Grease muffin tin and line with papers. Set aside. In a large bowl, combine egg yolks, milk, vanilla, and melted butter. Stir to combine.

Add the cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt to mixture. Stir until combined, but do not overmix.

In a separate bowl, beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form. Carefully fold them into the batter.

Scoop batter into a lined muffin pan and bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



Sunny Camp Mack

A Time of Change

It is the middle of December, and the facility crew's focus is changing. The piers are all stored away, restrooms are drained, and benches are tucked away in the auditorium. We are moving to tasks that are inside. One of those is a job left over from last year. We intended to replace the three showers in the upstairs women's restroom in Sarah Major Lodge last year. Supply chain issues caused our showers to come in the first of May, and that was too late to start the project with groups in and summer camps around the corner. So, we tackled that job this fall. Cory, our new Assistant Facility Director, is heading that project up. He is posting his progress on Facebook, so if you want to see how we install showers, there is your chance.

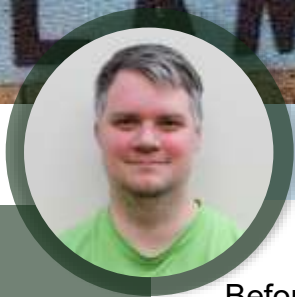
Another project we are working on is renovating the three-bedroom apartment at the north residence. The apartment has been empty since early fall, so it was a good time to renovate it. We are replacing all the carpet, so that was the first thing we took out. Then we repainted everything. Brad is our master painter, and he did a fine job. Both restrooms needed some work. We are replacing faucets, exhaust fans, and johns. The kitchen will need a little work also. The building was built in '96, and we have done a little work on it over the years, so it is a good time to really focus on updating it. We are experiencing a change in our facility crew at the first of the year. It was decided to put housekeeping under guest services, so Hal, our new head housekeeper, will be working with Deanna, our guest services director. The facility crew will help on Saturday turns in the summer, but for the first time in my work at Camp, we won't be involved in day-to-day housekeeping.

I want to finish with a story about a volunteer group. The Shoue family has a long history here at Camp Mack. Carleta and I had Janet and her sisters in camp years ago, and John's dad helped build a bunch of our picnic tables over the years. A couple of years ago, they started bringing their whole family to camp for a volunteer weekend. We must have had thirty to thirty-five of them. This past fall they cut down some dead trees and split the wood for firewood, they worked on the Ulrich renovations, and they fixed our broken swing hexagon. Two years ago, a tree fell on the metal pipe frame of the swing and broke a pipe out of it. We needed someone with a portable welder to fix it, and John had one. The picture shows part of the welding action. It was a wet, cold, snowy day, so John had to rig up some cover for his welding. Water and welding don't mix too well. They had to weld a connector piece on both ends of the pipe, so John rigged a canopy on one end and someone's favorite umbrella on the other. John is a very resourceful man! We now have our swings ready for action. Thanks to the Shoue family, our "Sanctuary" is a little better today. Bless you all,
Galen Jay, Facility Director



"Thanks to the Shoue family, our 'Sanctuary' is a little better today."





Another Way of Giving

From Cabin Mates to Coworkers

Before he began working at Camp as the Facility Director, Galen Jay and his wife Carleta were Youth Camp counselors. In 1988, Galen had a cabin full of campers with a young man named Cory from Elkhart and Hal from Plymouth. Little did he know that 34 years later, he would run into those campers again.

“Little did he know that 34 years later, he would run into those campers again.”

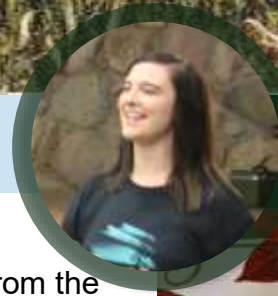
In September, Hal started working at Camp as the housekeeping supervisor. Then in November, Cory began as the new assistant facility director. No one had any idea at the time until Hal opened up the Waubee Waves and pointed out that he and Cory were cabinmates with Galen as their counselor. After all the years, the three have reunited as coworkers.

Cory and Hal are both great additions to the Camp Mack staff. With Galen leading them again, we are excited for their careers here at Camp Mack. As we have other staff openings, some of us have joked, “Who else was in that cabin, and do they want to work at Camp Mack?”

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



Cory, Galen, and Hal pose with the 1988 Waubee Waves



Be Our Guest

Christmas Party Time

Tis the season for Christmas parties! Last week we hosted staff from the Northern Indiana District Office and South Central District Office of the Church of the Brethren, along with the Camp Mack staff, for an evening of tasty food and activities. From children unwrapping a Saran-wrapped gift, to singing a couple Christmas carols, to decorating Christmas sweater cookies, the night was quite enjoyable.

This week, we put on a staff Christmas party in Sarah Major Lodge where we all chipped in. Vanessa cooked up some pot roast for everyone (funded by some camp tips given to staff) and provided some drinks that we had. Staff brought in delicious dishes for a carry-in meal with salad, savory veggies, meatballs, cheesy sides, local bakery-made rolls, and pies and cookies for dessert. Small, meaningful gifts were given to staff by Gene. Staff gifted Gene a personalized portfolio to use for all of his important work and a gift card to go out to eat. We celebrated Jessie's anniversary of working fulltime at Camp Mack with a gift of a powerful headlamp for all of her outdoor adventures and a gift card to Joann Fabric and Crafts. (Staff are recognized with a gift at Christmas every five years of work at Camp Mack, though Jessie is actually celebrating more than ten years this year of full time work; she also worked on summer staff for several years prior to that.) Thank you to both of them and all of the staff for their continued hard work and dedication to Camp Mack.

We wrapped up the night with a white elephant gift exchange with small, thoughtful, random gifts, and then played a twist on Bingo. Players each had a Bingo card or two, along with a homemade large Bingo card that had questions or requests to tell us his or her favorite something. When someone received a Bingo, they would then share answers to two of the squares on their homemade Bingo board corresponding with where their Bingo landed on their regular Bingo card. We learned some fun tidbits about each other, like who has kept in touch with camp friends and counselors, who would rather stay inside than play in the snow, who enjoys certain scents such as lavender and patchouli, who has unique family traditions, and more. I appreciated hearing from everyone around the tables. They also could of course collect a prize from the small prize table for their Bingos.

Camp Mack is a fun place to host a party, so if you have an upcoming event you're needing a venue for, please feel free to be in touch!

Christmas blessings to you all from all of the Camp Mack staff!

Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



**“We learned
some fun
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each other...”**



2023 Retreats and Events

Camp Rep Meeting	January 14
Snow Camp Jr.	January 21
Spiritual Retreat	January 27–29
Snow Camp	February 4
Quilt Retreat	February 16–19
Scrap and Craft Retreat	February 23–26
Volunteer Celebration	March 4
Mother Daughter Retreat	March 11–12
Volunteer Work Days	March 20–22
Volunteer Work Days	April 3–5
Giving Day	April 15
Quilt Retreat	April 19–23
Birdwatching Retreat	May 4–6
5K/Fun Run	May 7
Pastors Sabbath	May 8–9
Women's Camp	June 1–3
Colony Camp	August 11–13
Spiritual Retreat	August 18–20
Labor Day Family Camp	September 1–4
Teen Leadership Weekend	October 6–7
Camp Mack Festival (CMF)	October 7
Pastors Sabbath	October 9–10
Seasoned Citizens	October 9–12
Father Son Retreat	October 14–15
Volunteer Work Days	October 16–18
Quilt Retreat	October 18–22
Scrap and Craft Retreat	October 19–22
Annual Dinner	November 4
Camp Rep Meeting	January 13, 2024

CAMP ALEXANDER MACK

Summer Camp 2023

**Grades are grade completed at the time of camp*

Grand Camp June 11–13
Ages 5–10/Grandparents

CIT Camp July 9–14
Ages 14–17

Dadirri June 11–17
Grades 9–12

Survivor July 9–15
Grades 6–9

Followers June 25–30
Grades 7–9

Samplers July 12–14
Grades 1–2

Target Sports July 2–7
Grades 5–9

Seekers July 16–21
Grades 3–4

Culinary July 2–7
Grades 6–9

Finders July 16–21
Grades 5–6

Youth Camp July 2–8
Grades 9–12

Splash July 16–21
Grades 5–8

Samplers July 9–11
Grades 1–2

Finders July 23–28
Grades 5–6

Seekers July 9–14
Grades 3–4

Eco Adventure July 23–28
Grades 5–6

Creative Arts July 9–14
Grades 6–10

Grand Camp July 30–Aug 1
Ages 5–10/Grandparents



Merry Christmas !

From the Camp Mack Staff

