

CAMP MACK CIRCLE

Quarterly Newsletter



News from the Director

Bringing the Godspell of Peace

“You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way. You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins. Because of our God’s deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace.”
-Luke 1:76-79 (CEB)

Too often we forget that John the Baptist is part of the Christmas story, too. When Mary learned of her pregnancy, she visited her relative, Elizabeth, who was expecting her first-born son. The most recognized verses from Luke 1 are what we often call “The Magnificat,” Mary’s proclamation of her child who would free the oppressed and bring relief to the poor. Shortly after Mary returns to Nazareth, Elizabeth gives birth to John. His father, Zechariah proclaims that this birth shall also be a sign of God’s love and care. John’s ministry will be one of calling people to repentance as they prepare for the one who will come later. Zechariah’s proclamation is one that also fits the ministry of Camp Mack. We are here to prepare a sanctuary. We share the love of God and the compassion of Jesus through our spoken and unspoken ministry to people who are often sitting in darkness, and our path is the path of peace.

One of my all-time favorite musicals is *Godspell!* I am filled with joy at the energy surrounding Jesus’s followers, and I cry at the sacrifice and pain Jesus encounters. It’s not like I don’t already know these things, but it is much more real when it can be shared through the power of music, poetry, and drama. As John the Baptist begins his lonely song, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord,” others join in, and the unaccompanied voice becomes a chorus backed with joyful instruments.

We invite you to become part of the Jesus story as it unfolds here at Camp Mack. At times, you may be Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John, serving God by preparing for the ministry yet to come. Other times, you may be Mary or Jesus, ministering to people who need comfort, words of encouragement, or the Good News. And always, you have the opportunity to enter this sanctuary for the purpose of connecting with God and living in the Christian community surrounded by the beauty of creation. Blessings as you anticipate and experience the wonder of Christmas this season. May you find sanctuary in the Gospel (*Godspell*) of Jesus.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

THIS ISSUE

*Bringing the Godspell of
Peace*
by Gene
PAGE 1

Brad Hardesty Retires
PAGE 2

The Impact of Camp Staff
by Vanessa
PAGE 3

Fall of 2023
by Galen
PAGE 4

Conferences and Events
by Deanna
PAGE 5

Upcoming Events
PAGE 6

Congratulations on your retirement, Brad!



Brad Hardesty worked at Camp Mack for over 18 years. Thank you for your years of leadership, singing, painting, mentorship, and so much more, Brad.



We look forward to having you visit and we hope you enjoy retirement!

Brad Hardesty



Kitchen News

The Impact of Camp Staff

October was my seven year work 'anniversary'. I really can't believe that it has been seven years since I came back to Indiana and started working at camp full time. There are so many great people I have met, so many life lessons learned, and so many new skills gained in the last seven years. I can't wait to see what the next seven hold!!

As we are in the thick of the Holiday season, sending Christmas cards, purchasing and wrapping presents, baking holiday treats, and planning family gatherings, I am thinking about all the summer staff who have impacted my life, and who have touched many lives with their seasonal work at camp. Each has left their mark here in some way. Keeping the campers safe while participating in waterfront activities. Cheering everyone on at the ropes course. Making sure there are eating utensils in the sack lunches for the offsite trip. Cutting down weeds and trimming bushes along the paths and trails. Sharing ideas and inspiration with their directors and supervisors. Singing songs and playing instruments at campfires. Fixing the screens in the windows so no one gets mosquito bites while they sleep. Camp wouldn't be camp without all the people who make these things happen. And a summer of working at camp can be as life-changing for our staff as a week at camp can be life-changing for our campers.

The staff who continue to return year after year hold an equally special place in my heart—those staff who spend that first summer getting a taste of this amazing ministry and feel called to be here again and again. Some of them continue to come back years later as volunteer leaders. This past summer a former summer staff member, Nate Crain, was Team Leading, and I decided to bring back a recipe he had helped me create in 2018. The Camp Mack Alfredo Sauce was a huge hit this summer and I couldn't wait for Nate to try it himself. I was so pleased to hear after dinner the night it was served that he thought it was fantastic! I have continued to serve this sauce regularly throughout both the summer and retreat season. It really is great!

Even though it's the middle of December and there is snow on the ground (hopefully), the full-time camp staff are thinking and praying about summer camp. We are praying that God will provide the right staff for us as we continue to create this sanctuary space for everyone to be able to connect with Him. So if you, or someone you know, are looking for the most amazing, impactful, life-changing summer job, you should really think about applying to work at camp this summer.

Here is the amazing, simple Alfredo sauce recipe (to the left). It's perfect over your favorite pasta when you need a warm hearty meal on a cold day. And, it freezes well, so if you make a bigger batch, you can freeze the sauce and reheat it later. I love that this recipe is so easy to adjust to your personal preferences, just add more or less seasonings until it tastes the way you want it to. I usually add more garlic when I make it at home! Enjoy!

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director



Alfredo Sauce

1 cup butter
16 oz. cream cheese
2-3 cups half and half
¾ cup parmesan cheese
1/8 cup garlic powder
Pepper, to taste
2 teaspoons parsley,
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning

Melt butter in a large stock pot on medium low heat.

Cube cream cheese and whisk into melted butter. Continue whisking until incorporated.

Add half and half, stirring vigorously to thin out the cheese mixture.

Add Parmesan cheese and seasonings.

Continue stirring until the cheese has mostly melted, and the sauce is warm. Pour over warm pasta or serve alongside buttered noodles.



Sunny Camp Mack

Fall of 2023

Fall always brings a feeling that it is time to store away. That probably comes from my farm background, but it is certainly a feeling that is meaningful here at Camp. We had an early cold snap, and that just heightened those feelings. Cory and I have been blessed with several volunteer groups to help us to put things away. We have 130 or so benches to store in Quinter Miller Auditorium each fall, and the Everence marking group helped us to put those inside.

The Shoue family comes each fall, and this year they cut down several dead trees and cut them up for firewood. They also replaced another section of the boardwalk in Mission Village. That boardwalk was built in 2003, and we have been replacing sections of it the past three years. We are probably 65–70% done with it.

Outside restrooms are always an issue. I trained Cory last year, and he is pretty good at getting all the water out of the lines. Any water left in a line can cause some headaches next spring. There is also a little bit of winterizing on some of our retreat buildings to keep things warm for the winter. As I sit here the first week of December, Cory and I are going over our lists to make sure we have not forgotten anything.

Another big event in the life of Camp retreat buildings happened this fall. Alliance Comfort Solutions of Warsaw installed a furnace and an air conditioner in Wampler. The old boiler had served well since the mid-eighties, and now we have air-conditioned comfort for those hot old summer days.

For this winter, we are preparing the lower program room of Ulrich for a new floor. Ultimate Edge of Millersburg is going to install an epoxy flake floor surface for us. They first go in and renovate the chipped-up surface of the cement and then put down the new floor. That is really going to change the looks of that space.

We are really grateful for all the volunteer help we had this fall as we continue to improve this "...sanctuary where people connect with God."

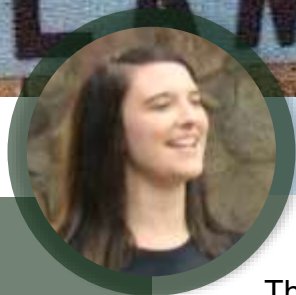
Galen Jay, Facility Director



"We are grateful for all the volunteer help..."



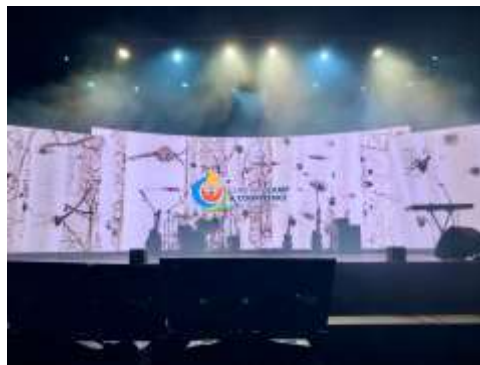
CAMP MACK



Be Our Guest

Conferences and Events

Things have not slowed down at camp. We're still working away! In November, after a very busy first week with 9 different events, I attended a couple of wonderful camp conferences. It's always a joy to gather with others who work in ministry at Christian camps. It's been a blessing to connect and learn together.



Thank you,
Brad!

In December, we celebrated Christmas together at a couple Christmas parties—one with the Church of the Brethren Northern Indiana District office staff and families and South Central Indiana District office staff and families, and the other as a staff as we traveled just down the road a bit to Quaker Haven Camp. It was fun to do a Christmas party swap with them this year and host their staff, as well.



Also in December, we celebrated Brad Hardesty's retirement. Brad had been a part of our camp staff for over 18 years. He has helped accomplish so many projects over the years, and his guitar playing and singing have been enjoyed by so many at campfires over the years. Thank you, Brad, for all of your work and the great memories throughout the years. We know we'll be seeing you again as you visit, and we wish you well in retirement!

We sent out the new Camp Mack Winter and Spring brochures! So, hopefully you received one of those. If you'd like more, just let us know. Soon, the summer camp brochures will be heading your way, too! We'd so enjoy seeing you at our upcoming events. Come visit camp in 2024 as we near our hundred-year celebration!



Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 27/February 3

Snow Camp Jr. (1/27) & Snow Camp (2/3): Send your children and youth for a fun winter day at camp! Enjoy all things snow related through games, crafts, snacks, and outdoor play. Please dress for the weather and bring a change of clothes. Jr. is ages 5 to 12, and Snow Camp is for grades 6 to 10. Each day is \$35 and includes lunch, a snack, and all activities. 9a to 4p.

February 11

Eagle Watch Get-A-Way Day: Travel between Salamonie and Mississinewa to view migrating bald eagles and end your day at the roost. Learn about their reintroduction and comeback in Indiana and how to age an eagle that you see. Cost: \$35, snacks and transportation. Saturday from 1p–9p. Meet at John Kline Welcome Center to then travel offsite. Dress for the weather.

February 12 or 14

CSI/Forensics Homeschool Outdoor Education Day

February 15–18

Quilt Retreat: Arrival on Thursday or Friday. Meals begin on Friday. \$169 Fri eve arrival. \$187 Fri a.m. arrival. \$212 Thurs arrival (3 p.m. or after). Bring sewing supplies and projects, sewing machine, table light, show and tell items, bedding for a twin bed, towel, toiletries, etc.

February 23–26

Scrap and Craft Retreat: 6p Thursday to 3p Sunday with arrival options. \$169 Fri eve arrival. \$187 Fri a.m. arrival. \$212 Thurs arrival. Each participant will have a 7- or 8-foot table, power strip access, Wi-Fi, and trash can.

February 24, Scrap and Craft Get-A-Way Day: 9a to 4p. \$25 includes lunch.

February 24

Knitting and Crocheting Get-A-Way Day: 9a to 4p. \$25 and includes lunch. This is for all levels of experience.

Check out the monthly events email, campmack.org, and Camp Mack's Facebook page for more details

