



Camp Alexander Mack



News from the Director

Thanksgiving was at our house this year. Pam and I made the turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, and pumpkin pie. The rest of our family brought everything else. On the Monday before Thanksgiving Day, I looked at the weekly menu on our refrigerator. Most days had a list of a meat, a starch, and a vegetable or salad. Then there was the menu for Thursday. It was longer than the combination of the three days before it! There was way too much food, but no one complained as we divided up the leftovers. We had time for catching up, laughing together, and enriching the bonds of love we share.

Immediately after this celebration, we turn to Advent. Life is measured by the seasons. Advent is the season of sharing abundance and looking forward in hope. This can be a period only of cookies, cards, decorating, and sharing gifts, but our faith makes it possible to add expectation, hope, and joy.

Camp's seasons are very similar. At times when we reflect on the work we have done over the year, we celebrate with thanksgiving. We then quickly turn to a period distinguished more by reflection and hope. As our churches celebrate the birth of Jesus, so we join together to work on our ministry of hospitality. After all, Jesus came to raise up those who had been left out of the world: becoming a child in the family of a poor carpenter and his peasant wife; healing those who had been discarded by their society; including people who had been excluded from communities; giving relief to the poor and hungry; giving hope to the marginalized.

It is our hope that we create the space at Camp Mack for these ministries of Jesus to continue. Your participation with us includes you in the work of Christ.

On behalf of the staff, we wish you a blessed Christmas full of joy and opportunities to minister to the people around you. Let us pray together for a beautiful and wonder-filled New Year, gifted with the excitement of all the new possibilities God has in store for us!

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director

Be Our Guest

I wanted to let each of you know of my intention to retire at the end of August 2017. So as I write this I have 9 months left at Camp Mack. I wanted to reflect a bit in this issue of the newsletter about what the past 38 years have meant to me. I will be reflecting more in the next issues of the newsletter between now and August.

I think back to the day I was directing a 6th grade camp in the summer of 1979 and was making a phone call in the office to set up some interviews for new employment because the company I was working for was going to close its doors. A few hours later Arden Ball came looking for me on his golf cart and wanted to see if I might have interest in working at Camp Mack as the Maintenance Director. I told him I would pray about it. I remember vividly having a conversation with God in the Shultz Chapel that day or the next and it felt that God was opening the door to camp and I remember being a bit like Gideon in Joshua 6 telling God that I really need a sign or a bit more to know for sure. On Sunday, following the 6th grade camp, I remember so well not what exactly Kenneth Hollinger's (my pastor at Maple Grove) sermon text was, but the fact that he talked about following God when he prompts us and opens doors. I knew then that the fleece was wet and said ok God, I will call Arden. I asked Kenneth if he knew what an influence he had on my decision with the words he spoke that Sunday. Kenneth did not but as we spoke about it numerous times after that, he was very pleased because of his love of Camp Mack and the understanding he had of the ministry here and the way that lives are changed.



Arden Ball had a huge impact on my longevity at Camp Mack because of the leader he was as the Executive Director of Camp Mack. He was interested in the ministry of Camp Mack and also the ministry of each staff person. He was an encourager and also was a person that wanted things done right so that as each person came through the entrance they were safe and could feel the love of God from the environment and the staff. A few years after I started at Camp Mack in the early 1980's Arden thought we needed to "spruce" up the corner of 1150 and Camp Mack Road and also give directions to the camp. So as the head of maintenance at the time, I dug up a couple little spruce trees from our "pine forest" which is now the shop and service drive area and planted them at the corner along with a sign. The sign has changed over the years but each day when I come to work I look at the height of these trees and think of the ways I have grown in ministry and often think of Arden and his vision for so many things that have impacted the lives of thousands of people that have come to love this place. It is also a place that gives direction and we hope this happens in the lives of the many people that turn that corner.



One of the most positive aspects of my ministry over the past 38 years has been people. I have been so blessed by the many people that have become friends over this period of time. It will be the part I miss the most but will also be a huge part of the memories that I hold dear to me. People have ministered to me as I learn to know them and see how they grow and minister to others in this Sanctuary we call Camp Mack.

I will be sharing more about my experiences for the past 38 years in the next 9 months and I hope to see and talk with many of you as you are here for events, retreats and camps. I look forward, as I hope you do at the future of Camp Mack, as there are some exciting times ahead for the ministry here as we continue to be a shining light to the world. Please come be a part of this Sanctuary where people connect with God through Faith Formation, experiencing Creation and building Christian Community.

Mike Kauffman, Guest Services

Indiana Camp Board

As this year comes to a close I would like to thank everyone for supporting the Camp Board. We have made a lot of decisions over the year and we thank you for your support. We have excellent people from all over the state of Indiana that serve on the board. I appreciate everyone who has willingly given of their time to camp. I would also like to thank everyone for supporting me as your chairman. It makes the job easier when you know that you are supported. I also appreciate all of the new people that I have met over this past year. When you put yourself out in front of people you get to know and understand them better. I thank you for that opportunity as your chairman. I was elected chairman again for the coming year. I would like everyone to know that they can call or email me at any time with questions or concerns.

I would like to close with a poem about Christmas since that is the season we are entering into at this time.

That First Christmas By Ed Freel

Too many people Christmas is only material things,
Like receiving gifts, and clothes, toys, and rings.
They don't realize what God has truly done,
By giving them the Birth of Jesus His Holy Son.

The first Christmas was to be celebrated that day,
As Jesus laid His head in the manger of hay.
The shepherds came that night to see their newborn king,
While in heaven, praises, the angels did sing.

That night wise men traveled many miles from afar,
Being led by God with an eastern star.
They all worshipped baby Jesus that Holy night,
Thanking and praising God for the world's gift of life.

O Holy Night with God's love so divine,
A love that will never cease to shine.
A love that is never changing or ending,
For God's love is a love transcending.

Merry Christmas to everyone and please enjoy your families and friends this wonderful season.

God's Blessings and continue to pray for camp and the leaders.
Sue Freel, ICB Chairman

Camp Mack Wish List

- Scholarship Funds- \$5000+
- Internet Upgrades- \$25,000
- Good Shepherd Window Repairs \$30,000
- 400 Club to pay off John Kline Welcome Center- \$43,000
- Masons to help with repairs to rocks in our buildings structures
- Corn Sheller and Grinders

Kitchen News

My mom, Cherie Gall was not only a good cook that patiently taught me to cook from the time I was 10 years old until the day she passed away in December 11, 2005. She loved taking care of her family by cooking our favorite food such as fried chicken and mashed potatoes with gravy and baking pies and cakes. But she also enjoyed making cookies for her family and especially her grandchildren. Our all-time favorite cookie was her butter cut out cookies with butter icing.

On the Saturday before she passed away she called me early in the morning to scold me for not returning her cookie cutters; "how am I supposed to make your favorite cookies if I don't have my cookie cutters"! Yes, I did promptly make a trip to see her with cookie cutters in hand! I think she already had two other kinds of cookies baked and had the dough ready for the cut out cookies. I really don't remember how many kinds of cookies she baked that day but I'm quite sure she spent most of her day baking.

The next morning when she didn't arrive for church the family made a trip to her home to find that she had taken her final breath in bed sometime that night. To ease our grief the house smelled of cookies and there were cookies in oh so many containers. She was still taking care of us for several days as we enjoyed cookies.

At this busy time of year, I encourage you to take time not only to smell the cookies but bake the cookies with your loved ones. It's an annual Gall Family tradition for me to mix several big batches of mom's cut out cookies ready for rolling, cutting and baking together. And then we decorate and eat them.

And if you didn't sign up for Camp Mack cookie baking this year, make sure you watch for next year Get-A-Way Days and cookie baking.

May you all enjoy the comfort and love of family traditions this year.

Merry Christmas from the Camp Mack Kitchen Staff!

Wanda Gall, Food Service Manager



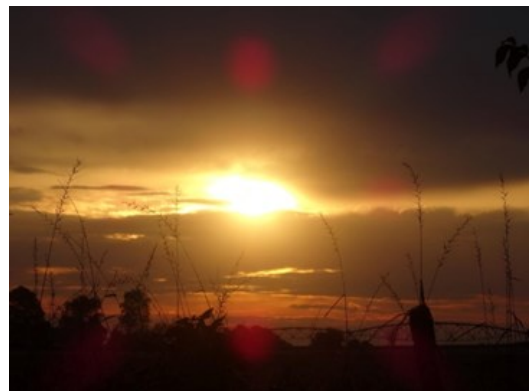
Nature Nut News

A Season of Gifts

Camp Mack is a place of gifts. A place to give and a place to receive. Here are some of the gifts we receive at camp: the blessing of your children as campers and the giggles and energy that they bring, the blessing of retreat groups as they fill this camp with inspiration year round, and the giving of your time, your monetary donations, your prayers, and your stuff (Craft donations were like Christmas every day this year). When you are here, we hope we can give you the gifts of hospitality, warm food, comfortable lodging, and a set aside place to tune out the distractions of life and be wrapped in Christ love. This place gives you the gifts of crows calling in the morning, fabulous sunsets over the lake, sounds of the rain tapping on the auditorium roof, and the songs of cicadas singing from the trees. Thank you for the gifts you give to the ministry of Camp Mack and may you be blessed by the gifts you receive here.

Merry Christmas

Jessie Kreider, Program Director



Full-time Food Service Manager

Camp Alexander Mack (Milford, IN) is seeking a new Food Service Manager to **begin on or around February 1, 2017**. This is a full-time, year-round, salaried position based on an average of 40-45 hours per week with many hours during the summer season, less hours in the fall and spring, and more limited hours in the winter. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, we are primarily a summer camp for children, youth, and families. From Labor Day to Memorial Day, we are primarily a retreat and outdoor education facility with frequent weekend use and occasional midweek groups. Occasional banquet and catering is also required. The Food Service Manager is responsible to plan, coordinate, and carry out food service for all scheduled groups, activities, and events throughout the year. Candidates should have training, education, and/or experience in food service management, culinary arts, quantity food service, and staff supervision. Candidate must be ServSafe Manager certified before beginning employment. The salary is based on experience and within the context of our non-profit environment. Benefits include insurance support, pension, and professional growth. Applications are due by December 15, 2016 or until the position has been filled. Please send interest letter, resume and completed application to Camp Alexander Mack, Attn: Executive Director, Box 158, Milford, IN 46542. For more information please call 574-658-4831

Ted and Company Fundraiser

We have a terrific announcement to make! On Sunday, December 4th at 3:00 in the afternoon, Ted and Company will return to the Union Center Church in Nappanee to do a one-time only presentation of their advent show: *Just Give 'Em the News*. Tickets for the event are \$12.00 each to cover the cost of the show, and there is no place anywhere near here you can see Ted and Company for that price!

Ted and Jeff will present a wonderfully funny show that will also bring home the beauty and awesome wonder of Advent. You will love this brilliant duo as they perform again in Northern Indiana.

The event is a fundraiser for Camp Mack, so there will be a free-will offering taken at the end of the performance to help with the overall camping and retreat ministry.

You can get your tickets by phone at 574-658-4831 or online. Just go to www.campmack.org and click at the top right: "Register Online."

Come enjoy a wonderful addition to your Christmas celebration and help the ministry of Camp Mack!

Summer Staff and Program Assistants

We are ready to start interviews soon for 2017 Summer Staff, Summer Photographer, Summer Challenge Course Manager, and the Summer Waterfront Director. Summer Staff employment begins at Camp Mack in mid to late May. Lifeguards have the opportunity to attend/ be trained as part of their job. Summer staff work in the areas of Facility, Housekeeping, Kitchen, Program, Lifeguarding and more. Lodging and meals are part of the summer staff package as well as opportunity for college scholarship. Summer staff will change your life! Email info@campmack.org if interested. Applications are available at www.campmack.org under employment.



Upcoming Events at Camp Mack:

Camp Mack Calendar

Dec 31- Jan 1

New Year's Eve Retreat

January 14

Camp Rep Meeting

New Years Eve

Why spend the New Year sitting at home when you can gather with other youth to reunite with friends from summer or introduce someone new to camp? Count down the minutes until the ball drops at our very own "Times Square" event. Overnight event for all youth 6th -12th grades. \$59 per person early registration (\$69 after Dec 6) \$10 scholarship available during early registration. Dec 31, 2016- Jan 1, 2017. 2p Sat- 1p Sun.



Camp Rep Meeting

January 14 is the annual Camp Rep meeting at Camp Mack. Encourage the camp rep from your church to attend. We provide breakfast, camp updates and important registration information, and marketing materials for the upcoming season. Camp Mack is SO much more than a Summer Camp. We are your place for every season of the year and of your life.

Upcoming Get-A-Way Days

Upcoming Get A Way Days

***Please sign up for Get-a-Way Days in 1-2 weeks in advance. We have had to cancel a couple of events when we have had no registrations and then find out we had numerous people interested in an event. Thank you!**

December 3 Williamsburg Wreathes and Swags- Make a wreath or swag from fresh greens and fruit

December 3 Christmas Ornaments- Make Christmas ornaments on the lathe

December 3 and 4 Christmas Cookies- Stir, Bake and Decorate 12 dozen cookies and we clean up the mess

-For more information, check out Get-a-Way Days at www.campmack.org or by emailing info@campmack.org