



WINTER 2011

Upcoming Events:

- **Christmas Retreat**
December 16—18, 2011
- **Labora Retreat**
January 7—8, 2012
- **Mission: Encounter**
January 15—16, 2012
- **Confirmation Retreat**
March 9—11, 2012
March 16—18, 2012
- **Shepherd's Sabbath**
April 9—11, 2012
- **Spring Bash**
March 23—24, 2012
April 20—21, 2012
April 27—28, 2012

Visit our website
www.cedarkirk.org
for more information on these
and many of the other
programs offered at
Cedarkirk.



Cedarkirk Year-Round Staff:

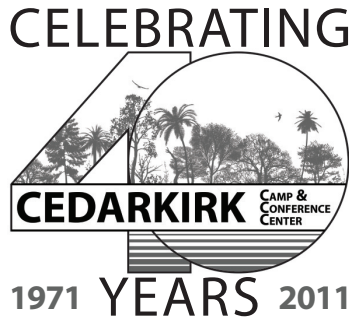
- Rev. John Reiter**
Executive Director
- Mark Orendorf**
Assistant Director
- Matt Shick**
Program Director
- Kevin Taylor**
Facilities Director
- Jackie Butler**
Food Service
Director
- Karin Dale**
Office Manager and
Event Coordinator

S'mores & More

The Quarterly Newsletter of Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center

Camp Changes Lives – So Can You

Every year, we hear numerous stories about how a summer camp or a retreat experience profoundly impacted someone's life and faith journey. 2011 has been no exception. We heard the story of a camper who joined a church and was



existing facilities. The success of this year would not have been possible without the support of so many churches and individuals. We have been blessed this year and are truly thankful to God and to all of you.

baptized due to her experience at summer camp. Parents gratefully told us of how their teenage son was always happier and more cheerful after a week at Cedarkirk. A young scholarship recipient shared with us that he loved coming to camp and bringing friends so that they could be introduced to Christ. A young adult on summer staff revealed that Cedarkirk is where she feels at home, knowing that she is surrounded by love and can reconnect with God in a new way. These are just a few of the stories of how God has worked through this unique ministry to bring about transformation, to deepen relationships, and to renew connections with our Creator. Cedarkirk truly is a place that changes lives and the staff considers it a tremendous honor to witness such experiences of transformation and faith formation.

This year, we hosted the winter meetings of both presbyteries. We celebrated 40 years of ministry with a concert and grand reunion event. The summer program attendance reached an all-time high with over one thousand campers served. The new Hickory Retreat Cottage opened its doors and we continued to make improvements to the

2012 promises to be another remarkable year of ministry and hospitality to all that we serve. Just as the success of 2011 was due to your tremendous support, we will need that same dedication and commitment from our supporters. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider how you might contribute to the continued growth and ministry of Cedarkirk. We invite you to become a Friend of Cedarkirk and help change the lives of children and adults through enriching programs, spiritual experiences, and sacred spaces. The remittance card on the back of this newsletter can be used to designate your gift and the Wish list suggests other ways that you may be able to help. We also have the ability to receive gifts through our secure website (Click *Support Cedarkirk* at www.cedarkirk.org). Again, thank you for your support and may God bless you and your family this Christmas and throughout the coming year.


Find us on
Facebook

Check us out on Facebook for frequent updates at www.facebook.com/cedarkirk

Contributor's Corner

Cedarkirk relies upon the generosity of churches and individuals to carry out its mission and ministry to be a place apart. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Third Quarter donors:

Mary Aucremann
 Doug and Dorothy Brown
 Lee and Margy Byers
 Susan Campbell
 Bill and Julie Hellman
 Tamra Huggett
 Gene Ledford
 Michael and Lisa Megraw
 Frances and Blair Minick

Anonymous
 Roger and Karen Weber
 Joel and Tammy Winchip
 Bruce and Karen Wismer
 Church of the Palms, Sarasota
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 Clearwater
 Northeast Presbyterian Church, St.
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Northminster Presbyterian Church,
 Sarasota
 Presbyterian Church of Palm
 Harbor, Palm Harbor
 Tims Memorial Presbyterian
 Church, Lutz
 Westminster Presbyterian Church,
 St. Petersburg

If you believe there is an error, please contact the camp office at 813-685-4224, ext. 1. Any errors or omissions are accidental as we strive to recognize all the wonderful individuals and churches who support our ministry.

40th Anniversary Celebrations Come to a Close

Cedarkirk was very busy this year with celebrations of our 40 years of ministry. It started with the stated Peace River Presbytery Meeting on February 24th followed by Tampa Bay's two days later. With 160 in attendance for Peace River and 260 for Tampa Bay, we were filled to capacity and we were grateful for the mild weather, allowing us to worship and meet in the midst of God's creation.

May 7th quickly rolled around and we continued the celebrations with our largest attended Open House since we began this event. The day ended with a special concert by *Denver and the Mile High Orchestra*. The energy from this nationally recognized, horn-based

group was amazing. Not only did our Executive Director speak between sets but Denver, the lead singer, spoke to the ministry of Cedarkirk. This made the concert more than just a great show (though it was). It was a true celebration of all that God has done in the last 40 year's of Cedarkirk's ministry.

Labor Day weekend was packed with former staff, summer campers, guests, and even a few first-timers. By now we were getting used to feeding indoors and out as we smoothly served 270 people for Saturday lunch. At every turn people were sharing photos, stories, memories, laughter, and a few tears. Formally, we had

greetings from representatives from the both Presbyteries, a worship service, and a great slide show. Informally, there were endless gatherings and reunions that impacted the staff here as we witnessed just how important this ministry has been to so many.

The staff would like to thank all those who helped us celebrate. Remember, our Homecoming Celebration is an annual event held on Labor Day weekend. If you can't make that, we invite you to gather a group of Cedarkirk friends together for a reunion of your own. We would be happy to help you plan the event!

To the Fields! – Mission: Encounter 2012

The fourth Mission: Encounter retreat will take place January 15 and 16. Middle school and high school youth from the Presbyteries of Peace River, Tampa Bay and surrounding areas will spend part of MLK Jr. weekend exploring mission and social justice issues. Worships, Bible studies and discussions, and hands-on volunteer work will highlight the kind of mission-focused life scripture calls each of us to live. In 2011, this program focused on

providing participants with a general awareness of social justice issues and ways to identify mission opportunities in their own communities. The 2012 version of this program will illuminate a specific mission pertinent to youth from our presbyteries: gleaning fields to feed the hungry.

Participants will help glean a field in Cedarkirk's vicinity as a group and discuss the importance of using our abundant resources to feed and nurture the many people

with empty plates and empty hearts. We hope to energize and empower these youth to return to their communities with a renewed commitment to make an impact there.

Mission: Encounter will begin in the early afternoon on Sunday, January 15, and end at 4:00 pm on Monday, January 16. The cost is \$60 per person which includes 3 meals and lodging. For more information or to register, visit our website: www.cedarkirk.org.

PCCM Board Member Corner

Greetings! With the holidays fast approaching, and the close of Cedarkirk's 40th year of ministry, I think of all the joy that has occurred on the beautiful grounds of camp. For me, camp began in the mid 1990's as a child attending summer camp and various family camps. It was at Cedarkirk where I first made a decision to follow Jesus and have since worked to provide that opportunity for others. After a summer of working as a camp counselor, I heard my calling to work within the church. Since

then, I have been blessed to work with youth and return to Cedarkirk as a guest worship leader on various occasions. Even as camp grows, activities are added, and new generations make camp their place of growth through some of their toughest years, the message we proclaim is always the same—God's Love is from Everlasting to Everlasting. When I was presented with an opportunity to be on the Board of Directors, I knew I wanted to help continue our little part of God's story through this camp. A picture paints a thousand

words, and to see Cedarkirk one can feel the sense of God's presence and it seems the woods speak the voices of so many people blessed to be a part of the ministry happening on these grounds. Lives have been changed, been discovered, and been refocused through the unique experience Cedarkirk offers. I know mine has, and I pray it will speak to many more to follow.

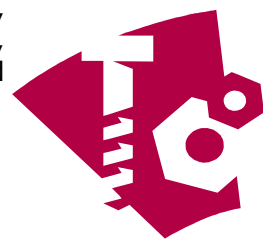
*TJ Childs, Youth Director
Presbyterian Church of Seffner*

Nuts and Bolts

As Cedarkirk grows with the programs we offer and the guests we serve, we continue to build and renovate to meet your needs. The most recent major improvement is the Dish Room renovation. The shine showing through the window is the new dish machine and refurbished workspace that will keep the silverware sparkling, the plates shining, the glasses and cups ready for another great meal.

There are always opportunities for groups and individuals to lend a hand through service projects or workdays. On January 7-8, 2012, Cedarkirk will again be offering the Labora work retreat. This is a free event when both groups and individuals can come and share their talents and labor with us departing with a sense of balance and spiritual renewal. The Labora Retreat projects include sprucing up the Rustic Cabins, clearing

brush, and painting. Look for more details on our website or by calling the Cedarkirk office. As always, we invite you to stop by and join us for the day, night or weekend and enjoy Cedarkirk's facility, hospitality, and ministry.



From the Cedarkirk Kitchen to Yours—Ruth's Meatloaf



Hope you enjoy this recipe for one of our most requested meals:

Ingredients:

3 lbs. ground beef
1 1/2 c. milk

1 c. Italian bread crumbs
3/4 c. dry chopped onion
3/4 c. chopped celery
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 eggs
8 oz. grated cheese

Mix together all ingredients. Make into 2 loaves and bake 1 hour at 325 degrees. Drain well. Prepare glaze.

Glaze:

1 c. tomato ketchup
1/2 c. brown sugar
2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

Mix together all glaze ingredients and bring to a boil. Pour over meat loaf. Bake for an additional 10 minutes.

Cedarkirk Wish List

To keep our costs down for retreats and camps we rely on donations to make our ministry available to everyone. Sometimes we are unable to purchase all of the items we need and are asking for donations. Listed below are some of the items we would like:

- Curtains for Cedar Lodge (20 windows)
- Poolside Chairs
- Rocking Chairs for Porches
- 2 Outdoor Metal Trash Cans
- Beach Bikes for Retreat Guests (six)
- Chaise Lounge Chair
- Tables
- 60" Projection Screen
- ½ Camper Scholarship – one week of camp
- Camper Scholarship – one week of camp
- New High Ropes Element
- Digital Camera
- Portable Sound System
- Poolside Table w/ Umbrella
- Landscaping for Pine Lodge
- Ice Maker at Pavilion
- New Flooring for Cedar Lodge
- Golf Cart
- Mini Van
- Farm Tractor

Please contact John Reiter with any questions or donations at John@cedarkirk.org or 813-685-4224, ext. 4.

Donations to the ministry of Cedarkirk can be mailed to 1920 Streetman Drive, Lithia, FL 33547, or contributed online at www.cedarkirk.org

My total gift to the ministry of Cedarkirk is/will be:

\$200 \$150 \$100 \$75 Other: \$ _____

Please designate my gift as follows:

New Cottage Construction \$ _____

The Friends of Cedarkirk Fund: \$ _____

Camp Program Scholarships: \$ _____

Other as needed: \$ _____

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail _____

____I would like more information about remembering Cedarkirk in my will.

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