



S'mores & More

The Quarterly Newsletter of Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center

Summer Camp 2009 – A Breakthrough Experience

Upcoming Events:

- *Shepherd's Sabbath*
April 13-15
- *Spring Bash*
May 1-2 and 15-16
- *Open House*
May 9
- *Summer Camp*
June 7–August 8
- *Homecoming and Family Camp*
Sept. 4–6

Check out our new Facebook page— "Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center" or Visit our website for more information on these and many of the other programs Cedarkirk offers.



Breakthrough

The Cedarkirk staff has been busy planning programs for our 2009 Summer Camp! This summer we are offering more than 40 different camps for children and youth who have completed first through twelfth grade. The variety of camp experiences will suit any interest – from day camps to residential conferences and plenty of specialty camps. Other offerings this summer are our popular intergenerational camps, Reach Out (our unique experience for developmentally challenged adults) and You & Me (a family-style weekend retreat).

The theme for this summer is *Breakthrough*. Campers will learn what it means to be a neighbor to all of God's people as they explore Jesus' interactions with the outcast and oppressed, the importance of compassion, and how they can be agents of transformation in their own communities. In addition to outdoor worship and bible studies, campers can still count on participating in the Cedarkirk favorites: canoeing, climbing the rock wall or high ropes challenge course, cooking over a campfire, kayaking, practicing archery, tubing on the Alafia, large group games, zip-lining, and swimming in the pool.

Meet your year-round Cedarkirk Staff:

Rev. John Reiter

Executive Director

Mark Orendorf

Assistant Director

Matt Shick

Program Director

Kevin Taylor

Director of Facilities

Karin Dale

Office Manager and

Event Coordinator

Jackie Butler

Food Service

Director

Please encourage a child or young person you know to consider spending a week at Cedarkirk this summer. Scholarships are available for those who demonstrate financial need. More information and online registration is available at www.cedarkirk.com.

Meet Our New Program Director

At the end of 2008, we welcomed a new face to the Cedarkirk staff family, Matt Shick. Matt serves as the Program Director and will work with Mark Orendorf to develop and run all of Cedarkirk's great programs. Through the ministry of hospitality, he will also be helping to host church groups on retreat. Matt is no stranger to Cedarkirk as he grew up attending as a camper and later served on staff for several summers. Matt brings great intelligence, energy and love for serving God and would look forward to his ministry here.

Friends of Cedarkirk

The Friends of Cedarkirk are an important group that has made a tremendous impact on Cedarkirk year after year. On behalf of the Cedarkirk staff and Board of Directors, I want to express my deep gratitude for the wonderful ways in which so many of you have supported this ministry throughout the years. Many of you have entrusted us with your children, shared experiences here on retreat, or contributed your time, prayers, physical labor, and dollars to make a difference in people's lives through camp and conference ministry. In January, the Friends of Cedarkirk

gathered for our annual Friends of Cedarkirk luncheon and program. We viewed a slide show of past improvements funded by Friends' donations and discussed how to best use the donations received. This year the Friends' donations will fund 2 new microphones with stands, a DVD player, a new display board, paint and shower sealant for the Pine Lodge restrooms, a 60 inch portable screen, and \$450 towards camper scholarships. We had a unique opportunity this year in which a donor offered to match any gifts designated towards the purchase of new dining

room chairs. Due to this gift and the generosity of other donors, we were able to also purchase 160 new dining room chairs for Cedar Lodge. These chairs are a much needed addition to the facility and we rejoice at the support Cedarkirk has received.

Through the generosity of individuals and churches, we have had the privilege to witness some amazing stories of spiritual growth, mission outreach, and transformation. Truly, God has found ways to make this *place apart* a blessing in so many people's lives.

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 the items we need. Listed to the side are some of the items we need. You may also be able to help the ministry of Cedarkirk by "recycling" items that you no longer use:

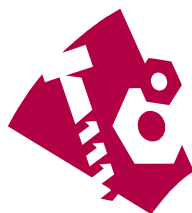
- an electric kiln for arts and crafts projects
- foam noodles for pool activities

- board games for rainy days
- playground balls or recreation equipment
- digital camera
- piano
- arts and crafts supplies
- televisions (25 inches or larger)

Please contact the camp office at 813-685-4224 if you are interested in helping in this fashion or have any questions.

Half-Week Camper Scholarships	\$160
Lifejackets	\$15
LCD Projector	\$1,000
Landscaping for Pine Lodge	\$1,000
New Serving Hall Counter in Cedar Lodge	\$7,000
16 mattresses for Pine Lodge	\$280 per mattress
17 light fixtures for bedrooms in Pine Lodge	\$100 per fixture
2 Televisions	\$220 each
Automatic Pool Cleaner	\$3,000
2 benches at playground	\$800

Nuts and Bolts



Spring is the time for changes: flowers bloom, time springs ahead and the weather warms up. Change has

also come to Cedarkirk with the addition of new chairs in upstairs and downstairs Cedar Lodge. A special word of thanks to the Friends of

Cedarkirk who provided the funds to purchase the new chairs and to make several improvements to Pine Lodge. These improvements include a new coating of paint to update and seal the shower stalls and several new mattresses.

As we prepare for summer's arrival, we are very thankful to the Appalachian State University Presbyterian student group from Boone, North Carolina. They spent

their spring break installing a fence, building and replacing several fire pits and digging a trench for phone line service to the Pavilion. As we prepare for summer camp, service projects are always available either individually or for a group. To find out more information about how you or your group might be able to help Cedarkirk, please contact the camp office at 813-685-4224 or camps@cedarkirk.com.

Inn Door Retreat



There may not have been room in the Inn for Mary and Joseph but Cedarkirk, through your generous donations, was able to open its doors

this past Christmas season. Once again, we hosted residents of Metropolitan Ministries, a homeless helter in Tampa. We hosted 11 women plus two staff for

a three day retreat. You can imagine the joy this brought these women; to get out of the shelter and enjoy the surroundings at Cedarkirk. The program activities included canoeing, Bible study and sharing, zip lining from 20 feet in the air, and getting into pajamas and watching *Mama Mia* (twice). And, as always, they thoroughly enjoyed hearing the bell to call them to meal time. I think one

woman spoke for all when she said "this was just the boost I needed to continue to reach my goals".

Again, it is through the generosity of our friends that make moments of ministry like this happen each year. We covet your prayers for this place of mission that we may continue serving all God's children.

PCCM/Cedarkirk Board Member Corner

By Dick Moore

I don't know very much about Cedarkirk. In fact, I was asked by one of my mentors growing up, a long time Cedarkirk board member, to take her place on the PCCM Board. What I do know is that for many Cedarkirk provides a spiritual atmosphere for God to work His wonders on those who are receptive and even to those who have not yet found Jesus Christ.

When I was a teen growing up at First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton, we would go on Summer Retreats to a Christian camp located west of Weeki Wachee Springs. It was magical, a place for fun and games, swimming in the river, a place to get to know each other, and to get to know God. I became a Christian at that place.

Cedarkirk provides that atmosphere and brings that same feeling to those who attend. My drive to Cedarkirk from Bradenton mostly begins in a hectic and somewhat hurried manner. When I turn off the main highway and begin to drive toward Cedarkirk a sense of calm begins. By the time I turn into the grounds and pass the Cedarkirk camp sign, all that fast paced life begins to fade and that sense of calm seems to take over. The rush of the day goes away and I can now take in and be a part of this magical place.

God chose Cedarkirk for us to manage for Him. We take that charge very seriously, and like

you, I know that some if not all people who visit will have their lives changed in some positive way from the activities shared and the spiritual nature of just being here. I consider myself privileged to be a part of this magical place and know that the work done here positively influences many both young and old. So no, I do not know much about Cedarkirk except somehow I have been placed on the board of this exciting mission and only hope that I can further God's kingdom as he so wants in the days to come.

Christmas International House - Letter of Thanks

Many of you know that Cedarkirk is a host site for Christmas International House. This past year we had 19 international college students who are studying at various institutions throughout the country. The following is an excerpt from a thank you letter from one of the students:

"...I do thank you for all things indeed. I feel as one family and how a wonderful the camp was it. I really miss you, the camp, my friends, Mego (Amico, the camp dog) and all things...in the last, I would like to take this opportunity to pray to develop

your camp and may God bless the camp."

The significance of these kind words is found in the author. This is written by one of the two Muslim students who attended this year. We live in a world where wars are fought in the name of religion, and where hatred, fueled by fear, dictates borders and boundaries. In the midst of this culture there are these simple words in broken English. Words are powerful and I cling to the

idea that we can be one family as this student suggests. I am grateful for his prayer that God blesses our camp. I am blessed to have become a friend of this young man who, along with 18 others, became a microcosm of what the world should and could become.

Thank you to all who support this wonderful program and if you have any questions about the program or if you want to be a part of this year's program, please don't hesitate to contact us.

From the Cedarkirk Kitchen to Yours - A Number One Egg Bread



We hope you enjoy this new addition to our menu.

Ingredients

- 2 (.25 ounce) packages active dry yeast
- 2/3 cup warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
- 6 egg yolks
- 3 eggs, room temperature
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 egg
- 1 pinch salt

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in water. Stir in the yolks, 3 eggs, oil, sugar, and salt. Add about 3-1/2 cups of flour to make a sticky dough.
2. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead with remaining flour until smooth and elastic, about 7 minutes. Place in a well oiled bowl and turn to oil the entire surface of the dough. Cover with a damp cloth. Place in a warm place until double in size, about 1-1/2 hours.
3. Punch down the dough and divide into 3 pieces. Roll each piece into a rope about 12 inches long. Braid the three strands together, and seal the ends. Place the bread on a greased cookie sheet. Beat the remaining 1 egg with a pinch of salt; brush onto bread. Let the bread rise until doubled, about 45 minutes.
4. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Brush the bread with egg wash again.
5. Bake for 40 minutes, or until golden.
6. Cool on a wire rack.

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