



Summer 2010

S'mores & More

The Quarterly Newsletter of Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center

Upcoming Events:

- **Summer Camp**
June 13—August 20
- **Labor Day Family Retreat**
September 3—5
- **Cedarkirk Homecoming**
September 4
- **The Gathering**
September 24—26
- **Young Adult Retreat**
October 1—3
- **Senior Adult Retreat**
October 19
- **Christmas Retreat**
December 17—19

Check out our Facebook page—"Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center" or 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**
Director of Facilities
- Karin Dale**
Office Manager and Event Coordinator
- Jackie Butler**
Food Service Director

New Retreat Cottage Construction Underway



As you may recall from our Spring newsletter, construction has begun at Cedarkirk as we work on the first phases of the new cluster of Retreat Cottages. Villages B and C have been relocated and the infrastructure and pathway are nearly complete. This infrastructure construction will be finished by summer, so that the building of the actual Retreat Cottage can begin immediately following summer camp.

This Retreat Cottage will allow us to accommodate even more campers during summer camp and increase our capacity for church retreat usage year-round. The building will feature climate-controlled facilities for 24 guests with a mix of group

and private lodging, as well as a dedicated meeting space.

Restricted funds have been used for the infrastructure and the start of the cottage, but we are seeking a combination of gifts and a loan for the majority of the cottage construction. Throughout this year, you will hear updates about the project and ways that individuals can help make this Retreat Cottage and the other planned buildings a reality. If you have any questions or would like to help, please feel free to contact John Reiter at (813) 685-4224 or john@cedarkirk.org. We are very excited about this impending addition to the facilities at your camp and conference center!

Special Thanks to the Friends of Cedarkirk

The gifts and donations that Cedarkirk receives enables us to accomplish so much. Without the generosity of churches and individuals we would not be able to provide mission focused programs, award financial need scholarships for summer camp, or offer reduced pricing for church retreats. The Friends of Cedarkirk are a critical part of the donors to Cedarkirk. These folks value the ministry that takes place at your camp and conference and give annually to help support this ministry through undesignated giving.

This year the Friends of Cedarkirk Fund helped provide \$870 towards camp scholarships, \$135 towards the new Retreat Cottage construction, and over \$8,000 of undesignated funds for the purchase of the following: a large format paper folding machine, 2 sets of golf cart batteries (12), a portable easel with dry erase board and flipchart, a new microwave for the renovated serving hall in Cedar Lodge, 4 rocking chairs, a paper cutter, 5 night stands for the Retreat House bedrooms, funds

towards new mattresses in the Rustic Cabins, and new carpet for the downstairs Cedar Lodge meeting and dining space. These generous gifts provide an incredible help to the staff in carrying out the ministry of being a place apart to build up the body of Christ in love. If you would like to become a Friend of Cedarkirk or learn more about how you can help in other ways, please visit the "How You Can Help" section at www.cedarkirk.org or call (813) 685-4224.

Another Meaningful Season of Summer Camp Begins



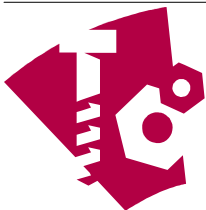
Cedarkirk is about to begin another year of summer camp programs and we couldn't be more excited. Over 40 different programs are offered for children who have completed 1st through 12th grade. This year's staff of 25 people is top notch! They will undergo ten days of intense counselor training before campers start streaming into camp on June 13th.

"Be a Hero" is our theme for this summer and focuses on Biblical and contemporary people who

lived their lives as heroes for God. In daily Bible studies and worship, campers will learn that they can live like Jesus in simple ways—doing extraordinary things as ordinary people.

There are still spaces available for your child to enjoy a fun-filled, life-changing week at Cedarkirk. Please visit our website at www.cedarkirk.org for registration information. If you have any questions regarding summer camp programs, please contact Matt or Mark at 813-685-4224.

Nuts and Bolts



First of all, we would like to thank the Friends of Cedarkirk. They have generously donated two sets of golf cart batteries to keep our fleet of golf carts moving.

Cedarkirk is wrapping up many projects that will improve your stay the next time you visit with us. We have moved the Rustic Cabins and

updated them with new wider stoops. A larger bell/clock tower has been completed that will not only call everyone to meals but will also show you if you are running late. The serving hall in Cedar Lodge has new cabinets, microwave and flooring plus the kitchen has a new walk-in refrigerator. Lastly, our new pathway around the Kirk Cabins and eventually housing the Retreat Cottages will be complete before summer camp begins.

During the summer months, we will finish the garage renovation at the Retreat House and then in August, we will start building the first Retreat Cottage. We look forward to showing you all our improvements and thank you for your continued support. If you would like further information on these projects or other ways that your group can help, contact Kevin at 813-685-4224.

Girl Scout Gold Award Revives Labyrinth



Shelby Dale is a Senior Girl Scout in Troop 935 with Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. She is also a member of First

Presbyterian Church in Brandon and an Elder in the Presbyterian church. She is currently working towards one of the most prestigious awards given in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. To earn this award multiple meetings and activities must be completed and a long-standing community service must be established.

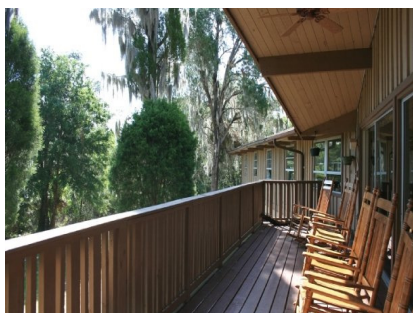
For her project, Shelby is reviving the labyrinth here at Cedarkirk. She selected this project because she has been attending Cedarkirk for six years and used the labyrinth on numerous occasions. Through her project, Shelby believes that she can improve the experience of those using the Labyrinth.

The Labyrinth is an important element of worship during retreats and summer camps at Cedarkirk. The project will revitalize and re-establish the pathway of the labyrinth using crushed shell gravel and planting many pots of Aztec grass. Using recycled materials for

benches, a place for meditation and reflection in the center will be created. Plus, Shelby has designed a new brochure which will provide a brief history and purpose behind the use of a labyrinth. The brochure will also provide passages of scripture to coincide with symbols of the Presbyterian cross placed throughout the labyrinth.

Cedarkirk has many opportunities for Girl Scouts to earn their Gold Award and Boy Scouts to earn their Eagle Scout Award. If you are interested, please contact John at (813) 685-4224.

Second Annual Homecoming Coming Soon



Coming home conjures thoughts of reunion, talks around the dining table looking back at our pasts, catching up with the present, and sharing our future dreams.

Our Cedarkirk homecoming celebration on September 4th is exactly that; sitting in the rocking chairs with old friends, sharing a meal and your memories, and catching up with one another's lives. Then there is making new memories zipping from our zip tower, climbing to the top of the 25' climbing wall, traversing the river, and cooling off in the pool.

Whether you are visiting Cedarkirk for the first time or the 100th time, this will be a great time to spend the day or the weekend. Come join us

and make sure you invite all your friends.

Our celebration is Saturday, September 4th with options available for a longer stay throughout the Labor Day weekend. The cost is only \$10 and includes lunch, snacks and all your activities during the day. Check out our website (www.cedarkirk.org) for more information and how to reserve your space. We look forward to welcoming you back and celebrating our past, present and future together.

Labor Day Family Retreat Opportunity



Many parents often remark that they wished they could attend summer camp too. Our Family Retreat is a great opportunity to do just that. Over Labor Day weekend, September 3rd-5th, we will be hosting

our annual Family Camp Retreat. This event is dedicated to providing all the fun of summer camp for families. Those participating in this event will enjoy being together and meeting other families from throughout the area. Families will enjoy canoeing, games, swimming in the pool, zip lining, a campfire, crafts, great meals, and time to worship as a family. Whether you are a family looking for some quality time together or a grandparent wanting to bond with a grandchild, this weekend provides the time and

space apart for fun together. Our time will begin with dinner on Friday evening and conclude with lunch on Sunday.

With lodging in the air-conditioned facilities, the cost for adults is: \$120, children (5-12): \$90, children (0-4): \$0; with a family rate maximum of \$320. Cheaper rates are available for guests in the Rustic Cabins. More information and a registration form is online at www.cedarkirk.org. Please come and join us for a memorable time at camp.

From the Cedarkirk Kitchen to Yours—Double Chocolate Cookies



On Friday afternoons, Cedar Lodge is filled with the aroma of fresh baked cookies. One of the mainstays for our weekend cookie stash is the Double Chocolate Cookies below. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup cocoa powder
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

In large bowl, beat butter, sugar, eggs, and vanilla until light and fluffy. Combine the flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt; stir into the butter mixture until well blended. Mix in the chocolate chips and walnuts. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets.

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or just until set. Cool slightly on the cookie sheets before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.

Discover more about Cedarkirk on Facebook at "Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center" or visit our website www.cedarkirk.org

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Cedarkirk - A PC(USA) Camp & Conference Center
1920 Streetman Drive
Lithia, FL 33547
(813) 685-4224