

Fabulous Fudge Chocolate Cake

Ingredients

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 1/2 cups packed brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 (1 ounce) squares unsweetened chocolate, melted
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 3/4 cups confectioners' sugar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Sift together the flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside.
3. In a large bowl, beat 1/2 cup butter or margarine and 2 1/2 cups brown sugar until well mixed. Add eggs one at a time. Beat in the vanilla and melted chocolate squares. Add 1/2 the sour cream and then 1/2 the dry ingredients to the butter mixture until well blended.
4. Add the remaining sour cream and dry ingredients to the batter. Stir in boiling water.
5. Bake in a greased 9 X 13 inch pan for 35 minutes.
6. Let cool 10 minutes before icing.
7. To Make Caramel Icing: First melt 1/2 cup butter in a saucepan. Stir in 1 cup brown sugar and boil about 2 minutes. Stir in 1/4 cup milk and bring to a boil. Place pan in cold water and stir in the confectioners' sugar. Continue stirring until smooth. Spread over still warm cake.



Cedarkirk - A PC(USA) Camp & Conference Center
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Spring 2013

Upcoming Events:

- **Summer Camp**
June 9 to August 9
- **Homecoming**
August 30 to Sept. 1
- **The Gathering**
September 20 to 21
- **Senior Adult Retreat**
October 15 or 16
- **Christmas Retreat**
December 20 to 22

Cedarkirk 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

Friends Make the Difference

Early in May, we welcomed the Friends of Cedarkirk to our annual celebration of this special group. Our time together featured the summer camp promotional video and slideshows sharing the impact of the Friends, updates of all that has changed over the year, and all the items the Friends have helped purchase over the last year. The event was highlighted by a presentation of some of our current needs and an opportunity for our Friends in attendance to determine how to designate this year's funds. Some of the items this year's Friends fund will help provide include: a new push mower, bulletin bars for our meeting spaces, benches at the playground, 2-way radios, bunk beds for Cedar Lodge, mattresses for the

Rustic Cabins, office equipment, and more. The Friends also designated gifts for summer camp scholarships and for the Cottage building fund. We concluded our time with a great lunch to express our gratitude.

The Friends of Cedarkirk are those folks who help further this unique ministry through financial contributions and invaluable volunteer service. Cedarkirk makes a difference and our Friends play a critical role. 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. Find out more by visiting www.cedarkirk.org or contacting the camp office at info@cedarkirk.org or (813) 685-4224.

Are You Coming to Homecoming?

Cedarkirk can be defined in many ways: a place apart, a summer camp, a conference center, a place to meet new friends, and a place to connect with God. Most of us would consider communing with close friends as an integral part of the "Cedarkirk experience". Our Homecoming week is just that, time to celebrate with friends, in the midst of God's spirit, surrounded in an environment we call "home".

This Labor Day weekend, August 30th to September 1st, give yourself the gift of a weekend filled with memories, friends,

and Cedarkirk favorites like river activities, line dancing, and a campfire. We encourage you to contact and invite your Cedarkirk friends that you haven't seen in a while to increase your reunion experience. This is a also great opportunity to check out Cedarkirk if you have never been or it has been many years.

Whether you come for the whole weekend or just the special Saturday, we look forward to seeing you again this fall. Check our website for more information and to register today.

Christmas Retreat



Save the Date!
Dec. 20-22, 2013

Return Service Requested

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www.facebook.com/cedarkirk

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A Place Apart - Rev. Tim Black, First PC, Brandon, Board Member

I need some rest. As I prepare to head out of town for a week of R & R at the beach, I'm rejuvenated already—just thinking about it. In a world where everything is at our fingertips, it's hard to turn off our reliance on such technology and instant information. While most of the time it is convenient, it helps our businesses and industries become more productive and efficient, I'm coming to find so much of what's always available—simply exhausting.

When I got my new smart phone many years ago, I was amazed that I could receive email so quickly without having to sit down at a computer somewhere. At the same time, I was a bit irritated. While it was convenient to have my email right with me, there were times when I didn't want it. There are reasons people have offices and places of work and there are reasons we have

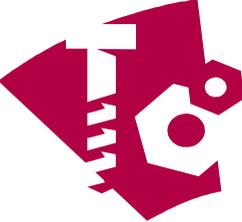
homes and places of residence. And there are still other reasons that we have vacations and times apart. In order for me to really rest, I have to turn off my email, turn off my phone, stay away from Facebook, disconnect from the Twitter—simply turn off all the information. For all of the ways I've found this technology and convenience helps me in ministry and work, it doesn't necessarily help me in my relationship with God.

Cedarkirk, and many places just like it, do that for me better than any app. We cannot know the amazing creation God has given us unless we go and place ourselves within it. We cannot know the relationships of camp friends and staff unless we are present to build these relationships. And the bonds of Christ through our church of community and fellowship bring these blessings—not through

an email or a tweet.

It is really hard to go against the grain, but our camp experiences help us not only recapture much of the past, but they help us experience things in the very present nature that God intends. We get to unplug, let the batteries run down, exhale, become recharged, ready for what God has in store for us when we return. Camp brings peace, it brings health, it brings life. One of my favorite camp songs, called "Peace, My Friends" sings these words: "Peace I leave with you my friends; Shalom, my peace in all you do; Peace I leave with you my friends; I give to you, so you may give to others, too." Thank God for Cedarkirk and so many other camps which will continue to share the peace of Christ through friends we meet—that we might truly know God and the many gifts he gives.

Nuts and Bolts



Cedarkirk held the annual Friends Event recently in which we thanked many people for their gifts of support for the continuing ministry of Cedarkirk. We also thanked all of the volunteers that have given of their time and talents to help with ongoing projects as well as special projects that keep the Cedarkirk facilities fresh and functioning. Just a few of the projects being undertaken by our volunteers; painting bedrooms in Cedar Lodge, repairing and

replacing cabin shingles, painting rustic cabins and sprucing up planting beds around camp. Thank you to everyone that helps make Cedarkirk the special place apart that we all have come to love and enjoy. Over the past year we have made several improvements to the Pavilion: a new metal roof, a covered grill, and new recycling and trash receptacles. This spring, we completed the renovations with the remodeling of the Pavilion restrooms. We invite you to check out these improvements and more during your next visit to Cedarkirk. If you would like to come help with a project this fall, please contact the camp office.

Wish List

You may be able to help our ministry by recycling items you no longer use:

- Board games for rainy days
- Camping supplies
- Playground equipment
- Digital camera
- Arts & crafts supplies
- Landscaping hand tools
- Construction tools

Please visit our website to see our complete wish list and to learn about other ways you can support the ministry of Cedarkirk.

Reflections from DTS - Ray Light

Has it really been a year already? Close enough. My time spent here at Cedarkirk over the past 10 months as the sole DTS participant has been nothing short of incredible. Being able to spend just a weekend out here can be transformative for many, so I am not sure what the word for my experience would be. Discerned? I'd say so. I have been able to reflect on who I am, who I want to be and how that works into God's will for my life. Although like most of you who are reading this, I am still working on that, and I would think we will be for some time. So maybe a better word for how I feel at the closing of my time here as the DTS intern and moving into summer camp and my future after that would be, free. I have never felt more comfortable in my

relationship with God, myself, and this world until now. Thank you to the Cedarkirk staff, board members, and those who support and believe in this ministry for setting this place and time for me and those to come.

Over the past 10 months, Ray Light, has been a participant in our Discernment Through Service program (DTS). Through service to camp, intentional communal experiences, and directed discernment opportunities, DTS provides participants with a program that allows young adults to more fully listen to God's call. Ray has been a welcome part of the Cedarkirk staff and we are grateful for his ministry with us. To learn more about the DTS program, please visit our website.

Scholarships

Summer camp can be an amazing and transformative experience. One in which children of all ages come closer to God and learn more about God's love and grace. We believe that every child who wants to come to camp should be able to attend. If you are in need of financial assistance to send your child to camp, scholarship money is available to help you.

Many churches also have money budgeted to help kids and their families pay for camp. To obtain a scholarship application from Cedarkirk, please contact the camp office or print an application form from our website.

Camp Wouldn't Be Camp Without the Counselors



The counselors at Cedarkirk have always been the backbone of our summer programs. For 43 years they have set the tone for everything that happens at camp and helped shape the community that develops here. This summer, twenty-eight dedicated staff have been hired to shepherd our campers through their Cedarkirk experience and are currently training to prepare them for an incredible summer of service and ministry.

At Cedarkirk, more important than what we do is how we do it. Our counselors live the lessons they teach, reinforcing the values that campers look for each time they return to camp. Whether this takes place during Bible study or a casual one-on-one conversation, the counselors make Cedarkirk a place apart where honesty, respect, responsibility, and caring thrive and spirits grow.

It is through our counselors that campers gain trust, courage, achievement, cooperation, decision-making abilities, a sense of wonder, and a deeper understanding of God during their week at camp. Counselors act as role models, friends, teachers, encouragers, disciplinarians, confidants, peace-makers, chefs, nurses, ministers,

naturalists, comedians, heroes, performers, and story-tellers, among a myriad of other responsibilities. There is no other job where one must fulfill so many varied roles.

Because of the counselors, Cedarkirk campers get more than a good story to tell back home. They gain a sense of accomplishment, an appreciation for their own – and others' – abilities, a greater comprehension of their relationship with God, and a new perspective on what they are capable of achieving.

Please keep Cedarkirk's counselors in your prayers as they journey through this summer of ministry alongside our campers. Thank you for your continued support of our camp and conference ministry.