

French Toast

Ingredients

- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1/4 cup butter
- 10 slices French bread
- 2 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups 1% low-fat milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 pinch salt
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Directions

- Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish. Stir the brown sugar, corn syrup, and butter together in a saucepan over medium-high heat until bubbly. Pour into the prepared baking dish, then arrange the sliced French bread evenly over the syrup. Whisk together the eggs, milk, vanilla extract, flour, and salt until smooth. Pour over the French bread. Cover, and refrigerate overnight.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Stir together the white sugar and ground cinnamon; sprinkle over the french toast.
- Bake in preheated oven until golden brown on top, about 50 minutes.

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Cedarkirk
Presbyterian Camp and Conference Ministries of SW FL
1920 Streetman Drive
Lithia, FL 33547
(813) 685-4224

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Fall 2013

Upcoming Events:

- **The Gathering**
September 20 to 21
- **Senior Adult Retreat**
October 15
- **Christmas Retreat**
December 20 to 22

Visit our website for more information on these and many of the other programs Cedarkirk offers.

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 Newsletter of the Presbyterian Camp & Conference Ministries of SW FL

Cedarkirk's Summer Camp Programs Conclude



Summer Staff 2013

Cedarkirk was blessed with another exciting and successful summer camp season this year. Over nine weeks of programs, 903 children, youth, and adults experienced the love of Jesus in God's beautiful creation. Counselors, year-round staff, and volunteer nurses and worship leaders came together to lead one of the smoothest and best attended summers on record!

An inspiring sense of community develops during a week at camp and permeates everything. Laughter, singing, and jubilant chatter can be heard from every corner of camp. Our theme for the summer explored creation and the way God continually re-creates each of us. It was a pleasure and a privilege to watch individuals and groups grow, learn, and become re-created each and every week.

Much gratitude is extended to our wonderful staff who gave of their time, energy, spirit, and love. Thank you also to the volunteers who served as nurses, worship leaders, or check-in assistants. Many thanks are also dedicated to the churches of Peace River and Tampa Bay Presbyteries and their members, who have sent campers, provided financial support, and held this ministry in their prayers. Finally, thank you to the campers, who imbue this place with so much vitality and spirit for two months every year: we'll see you next summer!

For a small glimpse of what our summer camp community looks like, please visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cedarkirk to see pictures from Summer Camp 2013 plus other Cedarkirk events.

A Place Apart Jimmy Steele, Board Member

God's not finished with me yet.

Now that I have accepted a call in Orlando, I am sad to say that I will no longer be able to be a part of the PCCM Board.

I am excited because I know that this isn't really good bye, but rather a chance to have a new group of people that I can reach out to and share what a life-changing place Cedarkirk can be. I have just concluded an adventuresome week serving as the volunteer worship leader for the "Night Owl" camp. Although for the most part, the camp activities are the same, the schedule is quite different! The day begins around 10:30 and ends around 2 AM. Worship times ranged from 10:30 PM to 12:30 AM. Many people may call me crazy, but to me, this time refreshes me. Out

of the whole year, I look forward to this week of service the most, and cannot wait to return next summer!

This summer's camp theme, "All Things New," has been perfect for me. It has been a great reminder for me that no matter where we are or where we have been in our walk, God is constantly creating new things in us and through us.

I am so thankful that God blessed me with the opportunity to be a part of the Cedarkirk family. Like many, this "Place Apart" is where I realized my call to full time ministry. It is also often where I will come when I need to be reminded of how God is shaping me.

Each of us has had our own unique experiences at camp that mean a lot to us. My prayer for all of us is that we can take the great memories we

have experienced and find ways to share them with others. I pray that we can remember we are called to be partners in spreading the Good News about Christ to others. Take the time to tell someone new about this great place we know and love. I hope that you will have the opportunity to come out and enjoy a new experience and a new memory at Cedarkirk in the near future.

I want to say thank you to the great summer staff for their dedication and hard work. I would also like to say thank you to the year round staff for the work that they do to ensure we can have great Cedarkirk experiences. I look forward to hearing about the great things that will continue to happen at Cedarkirk knowing that God isn't finished with us yet.

Nuts and Bolts



Throughout the long hot days of summer, the facilities staff worked hard to keep everyone happy and safe. Besides everyday maintenance items, we enlarged the Pavilion parking area for a few more cars; we completed work on stone pathways to and from the pool area; and we built a new patio surface near the pool entrance. We invite you to come out and enjoy our handiwork.

As we move into the fall and winter months, we will be finishing work on a mini pavilion near Hickory Cottage. This new pavilion will have six picnic tables on a concrete floor. We know it will become a new favorite spot for many to meet and relax.

Pledges Make a Difference



**Our Goal
\$1,000/month**

Each year, thousands of youth and adults have life-changing and enriching experiences at Cedarkirk. The financial gifts from churches and individuals make this ministry possible. These generous gifts truly make a difference through capital improvements, program enhancement, and summer camp scholarships. Now there is a new method to consider in supporting this ministry. Through our website, individuals can give directly to Cedarkirk with a monthly pledge. Even a small

amount of \$10 a month will make an incredible difference in the work and mission of Cedarkirk. We are excited about this new online giving opportunity for folks who love Cedarkirk to make a monthly contribution. Our goal is to reach \$1,000 each month via our online pledge option. We invite you to consider making a pledge to Cedarkirk to help us further God's love to children of all ages. Be sure to read in this newsletter about our staff alumnus who has decided to make a monthly pledge and give back to Cedarkirk. To learn more, please visit www.cedarkirk.org/support or contact the camp office at info@cedarkirk.org or 813-685-4224.

Cedarkirk Staff Continue to Make a Difference

Recently, Meredith Chipman, one of our summer staff alumni came back to visit during the summer and shared how much she loved Cedarkirk and how important this ministry was to her relationship with God. In response to her gratitude to God for such a place apart, Meredith made a monthly pledge to help further the mission of Cedarkirk. We asked her to share her connection to Cedarkirk and why she feels called to give back.

"I started my relationship with Cedarkirk as an Senior High Leadership camper in the summers of 2005-2007. Then I was very blessed to be a counselor in the summers of 2009-2010, and a Unit Coordinator in 2011. I graduated college in May 2012, and have since been living and working in Washington, DC. My younger sister, Claire, was a Unit Coordinator this past summer, and I visited her for a week to get my camp fix after too much time away.

I can honestly say that Cedarkirk is my favorite place in the world! Cedarkirk has always been a place apart to re-energize and regain focus on my faith and the person I strive to be. The memories and lessons I've learned at Cedarkirk are some of the most special and life changing for me. Cedarkirk is a testament to the importance of relationships, and the power of a faith-focused community. I've seen campers be forever changed, and seen staff members gain new insight and passion in their relationships with God. Having the opportunity to visit after two years away was such a treat. I saw my old campers as counselors, and realized that it continues to be that special place apart even with a few different faces.

As a young professional in a new city, it can be very hard to find a great church home and a community of believers that you find at Cedarkirk.

Continuing to keep my relationship with Cedarkirk is a way to continue to feel connected, and ensure that future campers and staff will have as incredible an experience as I had. Pledging to give \$20 each month is a small token of my gratitude, and by next summer, will add up to have an impact on the kids and young leaders spending their summer on the Alafia River, in Counselor Hunts, singing "Leaving on a Jet Plane", and hopefully realizing what a truly magical place Cedarkirk is."

We thank God for Meredith and her commitment to this ministry and for all our previous summer staffs who have given of themselves to share the love of Christ with children and youth. We invite all staff alumni who are not already "Friends of Cedarkirk" to consider making a donation and continuing the faith-forming and life-changing work witnessed each summer.

Camp Wouldn't Be Camp Without Volunteers

**"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."
1 Peter 4:10**

Every year we are blessed to have gifted people with hearts for outdoor ministry donate their time to Cedarkirk and its campers. These wonderful individuals serve as worship leaders, camp nurses, check-in volunteers, and camp counselor help for our Reach Out camp for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our campers would not receive the experience they do without

our volunteers and we are deeply grateful for each one, as well as for the many ways they have blessed our ministry. Again, thank you to each of you who helped make this summer more meaningful for our campers by being good stewards of God's grace!

- Maryellen Arnold
- Rev. Tim Black
- Margie Byers
- Ginny Canning
- Elizabeth Capece
- Lynne Capece
- T.J. Childs
- Shelby Dale

- Nancy Donovan
- Heather Fonfara
- Laura Foster
- Laurie Gallo
- Roxanne Gallo
- Montana Herron
- Holly Jorgensen
- Leslee Kirkconnell
- Kristin Koller
- Rev. Dr. Hope Lee
- Michelle Mottern
- Rev. Loli Reiter
- Rev. Libby Shannon
- Jimmy Steele
- Sheryl Taylor
- Cheryl Track
- Abby Walters