

## Homemade Yellow Cake

### Ingredients

- \* 3 1/2 cups cake flour
- \* 1 tbsp. baking powder
- \* 1 tsp. salt
- \* 2 cups sugar
- \* 1 (3 1/2 oz.) package instant vanilla pudding
- \* 6 tbsp. butter, softened
- \* 6 tbsp. butter flavor shortening
- \* 1 1/2 cups milk
- \* 1 tbsp. vanilla extract
- \* 1/2 cup sour cream
- \* 4 eggs

### Directions

1. Cream together butter, shortening, sugar, and pudding.
2. Add eggs in one at a time.
3. Add in sour cream and vanilla. Mix well.
4. Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt.
5. Add flour mixture into butter mixture alternately with milk, starting and finishing with flour mixture.
6. Pour into well-greased and floured 13 X 9 pan.
7. Bake at 350 F for 40-50 minutes.
8. Variation for White Cake: Use 4 egg whites instead of the whole eggs.
9. Variation for Spice Cake: Add 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon, 1/4+1/8 teaspoon ground allspice, 1/4+1/8 teaspoon ground cloves to the flour mixture.
10. Variation for Chocolate Cake: Use chocolate pudding mix and 1/3 cups cocoa.

Total Time: 1 hours 5 minutes

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 45 minutes



Check Facebook for frequent updates at  
[www.facebook.com/cedarkirk](http://www.facebook.com/cedarkirk)  
Follow us on Twitter @Cedarkirk



**Please consider remembering Cedarkirk when you are making your estate plans.**



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



Fall 2014

### Upcoming Events:

- **Senior Adult Retreat**  
October 14th
- **Christmas Retreat**  
December 19—21
- **Mission: Encounter**  
January 18—19, 2015
- **Open House**  
January 31, 2015
- **Confirmation Retreat**  
March 6—8, 2015  
March 13—15, 2015

Visit our website for more information on these and other programs that 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

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 3  
LITHIA, FL

Return Service Requested

# S'mores & More

The Newsletter of the Presbyterian Camp & Conference Ministries of SW FL

## Camp Makes a Difference



Many of us, when pondering the camp experiences of our youth, recall those memories with a reverential – almost magical – hue. Time has a manner of wiping from our memories the bugs and the grit-filled sleeping bags or tension with that one camper who drove us crazy, leaving us instead with whitewashed images of hands held and voices joined in song around a campfire or the unwavering support of a favorite counselor.

Those experiences – the fun ones and the frustrating – collectively bring about the transformation and growth felt at camp. My own camp stories shaped me, figuring significantly in my call to enter camp and conference ministry, and I am frequently reminded of the privilege we Cedarkirk staff have in providing a transformative space for others to grow at camp.

At no time are these transformations more evident than summer camp. It is heartening to see so many campers learn to live together, to respect each other, and earnestly strive to understand their relationship with God in deeper ways.

One young camper this summer, tears

streaming down his face, carefully deliberated at check-in whether he wanted to try camp. He decided to stay and the notes he passed along each day were unbelievably mature - speaking frankly of his homesickness, but recognizing that his experiences were ultimately for the best. He even cited scripture from that day's Bible study, encouraging his family to remember that God has wonderful plans for them, especially when they lack confidence in themselves. Another camper wrote a note to her counselors thanking them for her week at camp and relating that, though she was glad to be back with family, home was different because she was not the same person. "God was just a word to me for my whole life. Now I feel like we're friends and I know my life won't ever be the same," she wrote.

A counselor relayed a story about a boy he and his co-counselor had struggled with for the entire week. The camper was particularly rambunctious, seemed disinterested in most of the activities the group did, and especially disliked Bible study. Right before heading home though, the boy took his counselor aside to say "Thank you for showing me what Jesus looks like."

These stories are not unique and they likely mirror some of your own experiences at camp. It is a blessing to watch the love of Christ flourish in the community created at Cedarkirk. Through Jesus, camp has the power to transform lives. Come see for yourself.

## Board Member Corner—Nancy Exline

Being a life-long Presbyterian, I grew up going to “church camp” every summer. Despite having no indoor plumbing, tent camping and all meals having to be cooked on a campfire; those experiences are some of my favorite memories from my childhood.

Once I had my own children, my hope was they would someday be able to have their own favorite memories of church camp.

My family and I moved from Illinois to Florida in 1998 and soon my children were introduced to “church camp” through a “You and Me” camp at Cedarkirk. We were hooked. As soon as they were able, my children attended summer camps at Cedarkirk for many

years - my daughter Meghan continuing through High School with SHL camp. Even now, despite being away at college, both will make every effort to join our church family at our annual Family Retreat at Cedarkirk.

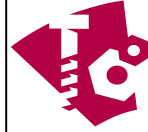
This summer I had the privilege to be the Children’s Worship Leader for a week at camp. It was such a joy to watch the counselors interact with the children. The smiles on the children’s faces and the sense of excitement in their voices when they talked about their camp experiences reinforced to me why Cedarkirk is so special to my family – it feels like home.

## And Sabbath For All – Homecoming Retreat 2014

Cedarkirk’s sixth annual Homecoming Retreat was a success! We welcomed nearly one-hundred people for the event on Labor Day weekend. Families and individuals, first-timers and die hard Cedarkirk campers, spent time in recreation, fellowship, worship, and relaxation. It seems fitting that this weekend of Sabbath immediately precedes Labor Day each year. Both work and rest were explored from a Biblical perspective during daily devotions.

It is always a joy to see so many families, many of whom aren’t previously acquainted, join together at camp as one community. Parents look out for each other’s kids, children are free to laugh, run, and explore nature, and everyone seems so relaxed not having to adhere to their customary schedules and routines. Though we – as staff – still work during the retreat, a serene sense of calm pervades every Homecoming weekend. In many ways, it is a time of Sabbath for us, too. Though

## Nuts and Bolts



Although Cedarkirk is busy most of the year, there are a few days where we have time to make repairs, enhancements, upgrades, and improvements.

The improvements to Cedar Lodge dining room will be completed this fall with the additions of new light fixtures and flooring. New tile flooring is planned for the pool bath house which will improve traction and enhance a very busy camp building.

Cedarkirk continues to strive to bring our guest the most comfortable setting to be that special place apart. If you or your church are interested in volunteering your time, please contact Kevin at 813-685-4224.

large in attendance, the weekend always feels intimate and small, like we are invited, along with attendees, to revel in the beauty of Creation and partake of the joy of Christian fellowship.

It was a wonderful weekend, uniquely shaped by the people who attended. If you have not had the opportunity to reconnect with this place in the recent past, join us next year for another fun and meaningful weekend at this place apart.

## We had another awesome summer!

We had almost 950 individuals whose lives were transformed through worship, study, intentional community, and just plain old fun in God’s creation. Thank you so much to all those who gave time, talents, and prayers this summer.

The catalyst for our success was our summer staff of 26 dedicated members who gave their entire summer to serve God by serving the needs of our campers. Also, the camp experience would not have been possible without our faithful volunteer nurses, worship leaders, and registration helpers. A hearty thanks to all who gave to this ministry: Carolyn Ballard, Linda Beckham, Rev. Tim Black, Margie Byers, Ginny Canning, TJ Childs, Revs. Bill and Jean

Cooley, Shelby Dale, Nancy Donovan, Laura Foster, Laurie Gallo, Rev. Helen Heffington, Holly Jorgensen, Kristin Koller, Rev. Sung Lee, Meredith Meeks, Meghann Pabst, Nancy Exline, Kenyon Evans-Nguyen, Donna Reynolds, Maryellen Saluga, Pam Smith, Jimmy Steele, and Sheryl Taylor.

We are also grateful to those who kept us in their prayers and who promoted camp and encouraged folks to attend. Thank you to our friends who donated to the scholarship fund, which allowed us to grant 63 scholarships.

The adage “it takes a village” is clearly seen here. What an amazing village we have that came together for summer 2014!

## Discernment Through Service

With summer winding down, we begin a new season with two new members on our staff. Claire Chipman and Kent Shader, both recent graduates, are spending the next nine months in our Discernment Through Service (DTS) program. This is our third year of the program where participants spend time in service to others, weekly Bible studies, personal spiritual disciplines, and assignments for self-evaluation, gift assessment, and career/call exploration.

We hope you will get a chance to meet them both in the

coming year. Both Claire and Kent desire to serve in some capacity that might include church or camping ministry. We pray that this time of discernment will bring clarity to their next chapters in life. Claire is familiar with Cedarkirk and has worked on summer staff in past years. This was Kent’s first summer at Cedarkirk but has worked at a camp in the past. Both are already tremendous assets to our staff and we hope we will be able to give to them as much as we will receive.

## Summer Staff

Each year we devote the fall newsletter to our summer program and focus on the number of campers served and how God impacts their lives through this ministry. Another group is also impacted in a great way: our summer staff. Spending 10 intense weeks in an intentional community is life-changing. We learn what it means to live in community when we share fears, hopes, and joys as well as living with one another’s short-comings and faults, strengths and gifts. This community of faith had a shared vision of impacting the lives of children and of becoming true followers of Christ.

Celebrating a successful summer with the staff, we watched a slide show of the summer, capturing the essence of what truly happened. At the very end when the TV screen went black and the music faded, there was a silence. A sense was felt in the room of “can we rewind the summer?” that is telling of the joy-filled commitment of the staff.

When we worry about moral decay of our society or see a lost generation, one look at this staff proves that there is hope. There are earnest, committed, caring, and conscientious young men and women who care about God and God’s creation and who strive to make a real difference.