

Have You Met Dan?

In addition to the amazing ministry that takes place with children and youth each summer, many of our young adult summer staff also have experiences that result in transformation or new direction. In response, we initiated a program (Discernment Through Service (DTS)) for young adults who are wrestling with God's call for their lives; particularly a possible call to ministry. Through service to camp, intentional communal experiences, and directed discernment opportunities, it is our hope to provide participants with a program that will allow them to more fully listen to God's call. Following a summer as a camp counselor, Dan Barnes joined the DTS program last fall. Please say hello to Dan when you visit Cedarkirk this spring for your next retreat, event, or the Open House. We invite your prayers for Dan, the DTS program, and our staff as we all seek to follow God's will and listen to God's call. We are now accepting applications for DTS participants to begin the program this fall. If you know someone who is seeking to discern the path ahead and would thrive in the camp and conference environment, please encourage them to learn more at our website and to apply.



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



Spring 2016

Upcoming Events:

- **Confirmation Retreat**
March 4—6, 2016
March 11—13, 2016
- **Spring Bash**
April 8—9, 2016
April 15—16, 2016
April 22—23, 2016
- **Friends Luncheon**
May 7, 2016
- **Open House**
May 7, 2016
- **Summer Camp, weekly**
June 19-Aug. 5, 2016
- **Homecoming**
September 2-4, 2016

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
Event Coordinator
Patricia Holloway
Office Manager

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S'mores & More

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

Summer Camp Is Coming To a Church Near You

Cedarkirk is unveiling a new program this summer – Traveling Day Camp – which may be rolling into your neighborhood soon! We will jam some staff and as many camp supplies as we can into one of our huge vans to bring a camp experience to local churches.

We are excited to provide engaging, community-building programs for campers who may not be able to attend camp at Cedarkirk, and look forward to deepening ties with the host congregations. Host churches, in turn, will provide a unique Christian education program they can use to engage families in their communities and enlist volunteer church members to be part of a Cedarkirk program.

While some churches have chosen to host a Traveling Day Camp in lieu of Vacation Bible School, this program will look rather different. Our traveling programs will replicate as much of the summer camp experience as is possible away from camp. All of the experiential and community-building aspects present in a week of camp, as well as games, songs, and a campfire, will be led by our staff, just in a different place.

It is both a challenge and joy to build a brand new program of this

scale and we are excited for the new avenues of ministry it is presenting. The response from interested congregations has been overwhelming and we have already filled our available weeks for the summer of 2016. Very soon we will begin to book Traveling Day Camps for 2017 and are considering the possibility of running multiple camps per week. If your congregation is interested in hosting a Traveling Day Camp in 2017, please contact Matt Shick for more information: matt@cedarkirk.org.

In addition to the ongoing ministry at Cedarkirk, please include our Traveling Day Camp program in your prayers – that it may enable us to provide safe, meaningful Christian nurture and faith development to entirely new groups of campers.



Check Facebook for frequent updates at

www.facebook.com/cedarkirk



Follow us on
Instagram
@Cedarkirk

Camp Continuum

Music Camp, popular in the 80's, performed at the camp week's closing program.



Homecoming 2016—Celebrating 45 Years of Ministry

We just had an old friend of Cedarkirk, Jonathan, who came back to this place apart for the first time in 17 years. He shared how the memories came flooding back with each area of camp that he visited. As he left he stated he was definitely leaving with a huge smile.

With 45 years of ministry under our belt there are lots of folks who would fall in the same shoes as Jonathan. Maybe you fit that description. This is why we hold our annual Homecoming weekend and we hope you will consider joining us this year. Why not get the old gang, that group you came to camp with, back

together to rekindle those bonds of friendship. There is plenty of time for people to make plans if you start now. Go ahead and be the one to gather on Facebook and make it happen. Your Cedarkirk friends will be so glad you did. Catch up with the latest that's going on in your lives while simultaneously reliving the past dancing to King Tut, sharing stories about Arkansas razorback hogs, or maybe surviving a shark attack in the pool.

This year's annual Homecoming weekend is **September 2-4** with a one-day option on Saturday, the 3rd. Since we are celebrating 45 years of ministry, we have some

special celebrations planned. This is Labor Day weekend so you have Monday off to travel home or get caught up for the upcoming week. Again, your friends are waiting for you to make this happen. With social media and our on-line registration, the effort is minimal but the reward will be great.

We at Cedarkirk like to think this is home for all, so whether you have been here 100 times, been coming for 30 years, or will be setting foot on the property for the first time at the homecoming, you are coming home. This weekend is for everyone and we look forward to seeing you there.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

This is a very busy time of the year for your camp and conference center. Numerous church groups hold their Spring retreats at Cedarkirk, school groups come out during the week to learn more about the wonders of the world God has given us, and an incredible amount of work is happening behind the scenes as we prepare for another awesome summer of ministry. Our staff work hard to prepare the spaces and activity areas, to design menus that will please a wide variety of campers, and to hire staff and develop curriculum that will shape our summer experience. It is easy to approach this work with joy, as we can recall the ways that the summer camp ministry here is transforming. We are reminded of

how God is present in a week of summer camp; where a camper heard that God loves her no matter what, where a camper felt safe to explore questions about his faith, where campers can escape the burden of stress and get away, where a camper can be herself and feel loved for who she is, and where the entire camp community can focus on strengthening their relationship with God.

God is at work at Cedarkirk and your prayers and support help us carry out life changing ministry in the name of Christ! Thank you for supporting Cedarkirk: for sending campers, for volunteering, for sending financial gifts, and for your prayers. In gratitude for your support, we will be holding our

annual Friends of Cedarkirk celebration on May 7th from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Our time together will include an opportunity to hear about our vision for new and improved facilities at Cedarkirk and to help decide how the Friends Fund is designated. We will conclude our celebration with a special lunch of thanks for all that you have helped us accomplish in God's name. Please note that our Open House will also immediately follow this luncheon if you would like to stay and enjoy some of the camp activities that afternoon. If you would like to attend, please email the camp office at info@cedarkirk.org or gives us a call at (813) 685-4224, ext. 2.

Red Velvet Cheesecakes Bites

Ingredients:

- * 20 Oreo cookies, crushed (about 1¼ cups, remove white filling)
- * 4 tablespoons butter
- * 20 ounces cream cheese (2 - 8 ounces packages plus ½ package)
- * ⅔ cup sugar
- * ¼ cup unsweetened baking cocoa
- * 2 teaspoons vanilla
- * 2 tablespoons red food color
- * 2 eggs
- * 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- * 4 tablespoons powdered sugar
- * 1.55 ounces Hershey bar

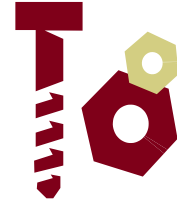
Directions:

- ◆ Heat oven to 350 degrees. Place foil baking cups into 16 regular size muffin cups. In a small bowl combine the cookie crumbs and melted butter. Divide the mixture evenly between the 16 cups. Press the mixture firmly into each foil liner with your fingers or back of a spoon. Cook for about 5 minutes then remove from oven.
- ◆ In a large bowl beat the cream cheese with an electric mixer until smooth. Gradually add the sugar and cocoa and beat until fluffy. Beat in vanilla and food coloring. Then add eggs one at

a time and beat until well blended.

- ◆ Divide the batter among the baking cups by spooning batter into each baking cup. Fill about ¾ (not quite to the top) You may have a little batter left over but you don't want to overfill them.
- ◆ Bake for about 23 to 25 minutes. Then turn off the oven and leave them in the oven for about 15 additional minutes with the door closed. Then carefully remove from the oven and leave at room temperature on the counter for another 30 minutes. This will keep the cheesecakes from falling as much. The center will sink a little. (Don't worry, you fill it with the whipped topping)
- ◆ After cooling on the counter, refrigerate for an hour. When completely cooled remove the cupcake liner on each individual cheesecake.
- ◆ In a small bowl beat whipping cream and powdered sugar with an electric mixer on high speed until stiff. You can spoon on the whipped cream or pipe it on. Then garnish with chocolate curls. Store in the refrigerator in an airtight container.
- ◆ To make chocolate curls hold candy bar on end. Using a vegetable peeler, hold it against the edge of the bar and pull toward you in long thin strokes. For smaller curls use the short edge of the candy bar.

Nuts and Bolts



Enhancing and improving the facilities here at your camp and conference center takes hands of every

type.

Cedarkirk thanks the youth group from First Presbyterian Church of Brandon for their help in painting the outside of the Pavilion and Pool Bathhouse. These young disciples did an excellent job and helped to spruce up our facilities as we prepare for summer camp.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the group of gentlemen from this same church who helped put a new roof on the Village E Bathhouse.

We have a wide variety of projects available if you have a group that would be interested in helping out. These projects feature options for all different skill levels. If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, please contact Cedarkirk to learn more about how you could serve this unique ministry.

Cedarkirk Open House

Saturday, May 7, 2016
1:00 PM—5:00 PM

Everyone is invited to this free afternoon of fun at Cedarkirk!