

Shawna's Apple Cake

Ingredients

- * 2 Eggs
- * 1 cup vegetable oil
- * 2 cups white sugar
- * 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- * 2 cups all-purpose flour
- * 1/2 teaspoon salt
- * 1 teaspoon baking soda
- * 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- * 4 cups apples—peeled, cored and diced

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour one 9 x 13 inch cake pan.
2. In a mixing bowl: beat oil and eggs with an electric mixer until creamy. Add the sugar and vanilla and beat well.
3. Combine the flour, salt, baking soda, and ground cinnamon together in a bowl. Slowly add the mixture to the egg mixture and mix until combined. The batter will be very thick. Fold in the apples by hand using a wooden spoon. Spread batter into the prepared pan.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F for 45 minutes or until the cake tests done. Let the cake cool on a wire rack. Once cake is cool serve with a dusting of confectioner's sugar or with a Cream Cheese Frosting.



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



Spring 2014

Upcoming Events:

- **Friends Thank You Luncheon**
May 3
- **Open House**
May 3
- **Summer Camp**
June 8—August 8
- **Homecoming**
August 29—31
- **The Gathering**
September 19—20

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

Cedar Kirk 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

What Summer Camp Taught Me - Matt Shick

According to the American Camp Association, more than seven million young people will attend camp this summer. Even though they will trade their textbooks and pencils for swimsuits and embroidery floss, it doesn't mean that learning stops. The skills and lessons learned at camp – life lessons, really – tend to stick.

The things I learned at camp have lingered far longer than some of my academic lessons. Sure, camp activities are fun, but living in community with others has a way of developing some crucial life skills that pay out down the road. Here are a few things camp taught me, that shaped the person I am today:

It's not about me. I have built fires in the pouring rain; I have sung "Let My Light Shine Bright" more times than the Rolling Stones have performed "Satisfaction"; I have cried with a camp friend whose home life was rapidly deteriorating; and given up my perfectly-crafted doughboy to a wide-eyed camper who dropped hers in the fire. Character-building experiences like these have taught me that serving others is the best way to live – and that putting others first is something Jesus calls me to do.

I can trust myself to make good decisions. Camp is a fluid environment. Weather conditions change rapidly, groups have to make unified decisions, and campers' individual needs shift from one moment to the next. As a camper, I had to consider that my actions affected

other people and learned to work together with them toward the benefit of all. As a counselor, I learned that quick decisions need to be made often and I gained the necessary confidence to make the right ones in a pinch.

Everyone is valued in community. You live and work with people who come from a variety of backgrounds and hold different views, but no one is a stranger for very long. Camp spotlighted for me how much value there is in spending a little extra time with the individuals who don't share my interests, the ones that might not fit conveniently into the group. By taking the time to get to know someone beyond superficial pleasantries, mutual respect and caring can thrive; which strengthens the community and allows each person to live comfortably as the person God created them to be.

These lessons – along with countless others – have stuck with me from my earliest days as a camper and have borne fruit in my professional life. Whether they realize it or not, this summer's campers and counselors will be building skills that will benefit them – and our world – for years to come. I hope their time at camp is even more meaningful for them than it has been for me.



Enjoy a 10% discount on all Session 1 Children's Summer Camps

Return Service Requested

**Saturday, May 3
1:00 PM—5:00 PM**



Check Facebook for frequent updates at
www.facebook.com/cedarkirk
 Follow us on Twitter @CedarKirk



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

A Place For All Times

"A Place Apart"

There are many things that make Cedarkirk a place apart: the opportunity for people to reconnect with nature, a place for people to remove themselves from their everyday routine, and space for quiet, play, and worship. In the midst of what we try to create, God comes in and makes this time for groups and individuals a safe and sacred space.

Years ago, a note was left in a room which highlights the fact that all ages engage God in this space. The following is the short note from a middle school summer camper:

Dear whoever has this room next, This room has brought a bunch of fun to me. All nighters giggling and talking have been some of the highlights. I hope this brings you lots of good times, bad times, and fun times.

This note needs some background for you to gain its true depth. This camper and her friends received the news that their classmate had lost his battle with cancer and died while they were at camp. By the end of the week she wished that the next campers would find bad times at camp. She found that if you are going to have moments "in the valley", you want to be in a safe

and sacred space. God, camp counselors, and fellow campers created an environment for her and have for so many others over the years.

As we approach summer camp, we are excited to have all our staff hired, curriculum purchased, brochures and t-shirt designs complete. We ask that you pray for this ministry to continue providing a sacred space for this new generation of summer campers and staff.

May you also find that life brings you good times, bad times, and fun times, and may you find the space to witness God's presence in and through all of it.

Friends, You're Invited

On May 3rd from 10:30am to 1:00pm, we will be holding our annual Friends of Cedarkirk celebration and luncheon. Our time together will include an opportunity to hear about the ministry 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. If you are not able to join us in May but would like to make a gift, you may do so online (www.cedarkirk.org/support) or by contacting the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or info@cedarkirk.org.

PRESBYTERIAN CAMP & CONFERENCE MINISTRIES OF SW FLORIDA, INC.
1920 STREETMAN DRIVE, LITHIA FL 33547

FRIENDS OF CEDARKIRK CELEBRATION GATHERING 2014

- WE WILL BE ATTENDING THE CELEBRATION AND WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE ____ SEATS FOR THE LUNCHEON. PLEASE USE THE REVERSE TO LET US KNOW OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES OR NEEDS.
- WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND, BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION OF \$_____.
- WE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF CEDARKIRK. OUR GIFT TO THE MINISTRY OF CEDARKIRK FOR 2014 IS/WILL BE:
 - \$50 \$75 \$100 \$150 \$200 OTHER: \$_____

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____

Board Member Corner - Ginny Canning

Hello to those who are "old" friends and those of you who are "new" friends of Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center. My name is Ginny Canning and I am presently the DCE of Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church in Ft. Myers. I have been involved with Cedarkirk since 1977 and have been on the board many times.

I believe the most important thing about Cedarkirk is its motto: "A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love". It is truly a marvelous, wonderful, restful (did I say marvelous?), beautiful, peaceful, renewing (did I say marvelous?), fantastic place to spend time. Being on site for a couple of hours for a meeting;

overnight for a workshop; a weekend for a church retreat; or a week as a worship leader or nurse for summer camp is marvelous and very much worth the time and drive.

The distance traveled to Cedarkirk is easier for some than others...Naples, Ft. Myers, Lakeland all have several hours of driving time one-way to get there. Before you groan...have you ever driven three to five hours to a college/pro football game, battled traffic, paid for parking, eaten junk food on the way there, at the game, and on the way home - in one day? Oh yeah...and sitting in the sun, sweating all day! Maybe you

stayed overnight in a pricey motel. Well coming to Cedarkirk is much easier...the drive isn't any longer, the traffic is usually lighter, the parking is easier to find and free, there is plenty of shade, the food is certainly much better and better for you and I guarantee the "overnight fee" is cheaper!

Every time I drive through the gate to camp, God pulls the plug somewhere on my body and drains all the stress and tiredness out of me. Come, let Him do that for you. Check out the dates for our next Open House in this newsletter. Schedule a meeting, workshop, or retreat. Just come to Cedarkirk...soon!

Nuts and Bolts



With spring just around the corner, Cedarkirk is in full swing on the repair front. The Retreat House project is moving along with an early May completion date; the primary work includes a new fire alarm and sprinkler system for our guest's safety. A new roof and covered storage area has been completed on our beloved Benny, maintenance shed.

The platform tents are being retired and will be recycled for various projects throughout the camp. We thank the many hands that help with these continuing projects as we keep Cedarkirk a special place apart. If interested in volunteering, please contact the camp office.

Have You Met Sam?

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 is a residential program designed to allow young adults to explore God's call for their lives and grow in faith as they live, work, study, and fellowship within the camp and conference community at Cedarkirk. Sam Wismer's role as our current DTS participant follows four summers of service at Cedarkirk. Be sure to say hello to Sam when you visit Cedarkirk

this spring for your next retreat, event, or even Open House. We invite your prayers for Sam, the DTS programs, and our staff as we all seek to follow God's will and more fully listen to God's call.

Save the Date!

Cedarkirk's Annual Homecoming Retreat
August 29-31
Details online