



*Yo soy la vid y ustedes son las ramas...*

*I am the vine you are the branches...*

This verse from the Gospel of John grounds us with the important reminder that each of us is part of the vine. The Spanish *ustedes* emphasizes that all our lives are intertwined, a point frequently missed in our, independent minded, English translation. That is why I always like to read this verse with a bit of a southern twang, “y’all are the branches.” How often do we fail to recognize that *all of us* are part of the family of God? Perhaps we’ve become absent minded, losing sight of the vine, and our brothers and sisters whose daily toil in the fields fill our tables with the bounty of God’s harvest.





One of the things I love most about Beth-El is the opportunity to meet the people our mission supports. Sure, we help provide support to our farmworkers through hunger relief, education, and health care, but in reality it seems so small in comparison to what our farmworkers provide for us. Literally, everyday our tables are filled by the fruit of their labor. That is one of many reasons I hope you will join us during our anniversary event on November 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be many activities to learn more about Beth-El throughout the

day, but the moment I am looking forward to the most will come right before we sit down to dinner. You see, the fourth initiative of Beth-El is spiritual growth. What better way to celebrate God's harvest than to break bread together: farmworker and supporters alike. Our evening celebration begins in communion at the Lord's Table, reminding all of us that we are mere branches of the eternal vine made possible through Jesus Christ.

Evening festivities begin at 5:30pm, and reservations are required. I hope to see *y'all* there!

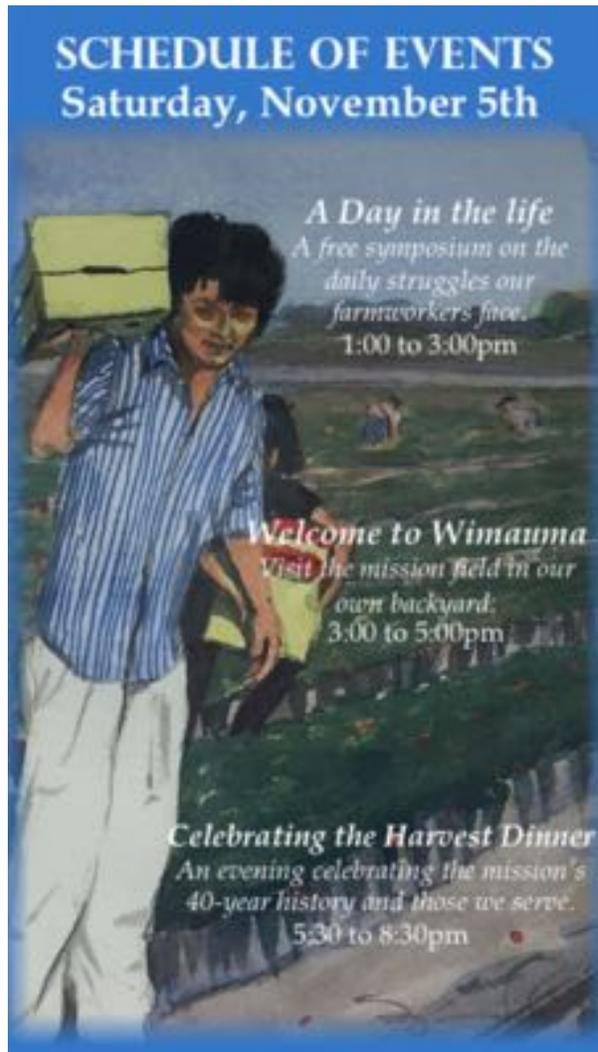
Dios le bendiga.

Rev. Kathleen Dain  
Executive Director

---

---

## Round Table Discussion on Farmworkers' Daily Struggles



Saturday afternoon Beth-El farmworker Ministry will host a round table symposium on the life and challenges our farmworkers face every day.

Guest speakers include members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Frontera de Cristo Border Ministry, and the National Farmworker Ministry, and local farmworkers.

***This event is free and open to the public.***

## Celebrando la Cosecha: Celebrating the Harvest

Saturday evening, you are invited to a special dinner of thanksgiving in support of the farmworker community. Dinner tickets may be purchased for yourself, for a farmworker or both. The Celebration will include a look back at our 40-year history along with innovative plans for the future.

**Space is limited; please reserve your seat today!**

---

---

## ***Meet Samuel Olarte***

My name is Samuel Olarte and I am very excited to be part of Beth-El Farmworker Ministry. I graduated from The University of Akron with a Bachelors' degree in Sociology. After moving to Florida from Ohio, I earned my Masters' degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida. For the past decade, I have worked directly with the community through the State of Florida as a Care Coordinator and with the Department of Health in the Healthy Start Program. Through the Polk County School Board, I facilitated bilingual community education lessons for the Safe and Drug Free Schools curriculum. As the Mission Outreach Resource Coordinator, I look forward to building connections in the community to support families with a focus on self-sufficiency.



During my personal time, my wife and I like traveling the country by motorcycle. Last summer we visited Graceland, The St. Louis Arch, Mount Rushmore, The Golden Gate Bridge and Yosemite National Park. I am a Cleveland Cavaliers fan and enjoy attending NBA games.

---

## ***Step Up For Success***



Step Up For Success is a mentorship program designed to help those in our community living in poverty seeking to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Many of the program participants don't have access to the appropriate attire when it's time to attend a job interview. We are accepting items for men and women such as: slacks, dress shirts, belts, shoes,

ties, and dresses. Also, The Step Up For Success program is seeking volunteers who have skills and proficiency in areas such as: financial management, budgeting, human resources, public speaking, resume building, proficiency in Microsoft Office, career coaching, and education. If you have any questions please contact: **Samuel Olarte, Mission Outreach Resource Coordinator** at (813) 633-1548 ext. 224.  
*Teamwork makes the dream work!*

---

---

## ***Sharing the Faith***





**Members from Beth-El's Congregation join in worship at First Presbyterian Church in Brandon during World Communion Sunday.**

### **Immediate Needs**

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry has an immediate need for the following items:

- **Personal Hygiene Products**
- **Mosquito repellent-protection against Zika**
- **Baby Formula**
- **Baby Wipes**
- **Socks**
- **Laundry Detergent**
- **Linens and bedding sheets**
- **New or gently used shoes for adult men and women**
- **Hats – baseball caps**
- **Canned Goods**

I would like to become more involved at Beth-El Mission as a Volunteer:

- Community Dinner
- Food Pantry
- Lead VBS
- Organize a Workgroup



Our 40th Anniversary is coming up fast. We are still in need of volunteer help for that event. The event will take place on November 5th, 2016. Anyone interesting in helping out please contact Javier or Sheila at 813-633-1548. Individuals are welcome but work groups get a lot more done. Let us know if you can put a work group together. And don't forget, we always welcome volunteers on our Tuesday Food Distribution Program. We hope to hear from you soon!

I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_

- Summer Camp Scholarships
- Back to School Program
- VBS Supplies
- College Scholarships
- Music Lessons for Youth

- Organize a Food Drive
- Organize a Clothing Drive

- Food Pantry
- Mission's Greatest Need

**Support Beth-El Mission with your online contribution today.**



This weekend the Boy Scouts will host a boat regatta on our campus. While the initial community attendance was small during the scouts first visit, the response was overwhelming. Many of our kids would like to be involved in a scouting program. Let's pray on how we can make that happen.





**A Printable Copy of this Newsletter is Available on our  
Website at: [www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org) or by emailing us at:  
[info@beth-el.org](mailto:info@beth-el.org)**

**Beth-El**  
*Farmworker Ministry, Inc.*

Fueled by Volunteers and Your Faithful Prayers and Support

**Our mailing address is:**

18240 Highway 301 S., PO Box 860

Wimauma, FL 33598-0860

Phone: 813-633-1548

Email: [info@beth-el.org](mailto:info@beth-el.org)



The mission is open Monday through Thursday from 8a.m. to 5p.m., or by special appointment. We are closed from noon until 1p.m. for lunch.



Share



Tweet



Forward