



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – May 19, 2016
Rev. Dr. Kathy Dain, Executive Director of Beth -El Farm Worker Ministry

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry: Sharing the Fruit of the Spirit

Most of the seasonal crops in Florida have come to an end. Many in our community have already begun their trek northward to more fertile soils and the promise of a more bountiful season. They will return come fall, when the first killing frost kills off the last of the summer harvest in the north. Like all else in life, we at Beth-El follow the seasons.



One might assume that things are quieter during the summer months, but that couldn't be farther from the truth. Summertime is a buzz of activity. Mission teams from all over the country arrive to help support our community. Our hallways are filled with the sounds of children laughing and playing during our weeks of Vacation Bible School. Adults young and old arrive with carloads of back to school supplies, and the skies seem a little brighter with the smiles of children returning from Cedarkirk. A mission cannot sustain itself with one individual or church standing alone. It *does* take a village: called into communion to love, encourage, and support one another.

This year has been particularly difficult for our farmworking community. The hot fall and wet winter lessened the harvest. Beyond the fields, the political rancor of politicians has heightened anxiety regardless of legal status. Still the most fragile in our community are the children, many of whom will never experience summer camp or a new pair of shoes. This is why supporting children and young adults into pathways of transformation is so vital to Beth-El's mission.

- ◆ This summer Beth-El will send 42 children to Cedarkirk for a week of summer camp.
- ◆ We will collect back to school supplies to help 300 or more students return to school with the tools they need.
- ◆ We will lead Vacation Bible School to over 80 kids, and see the joy of young faces as they experience God's love through the love of others.
- ◆ This fall we will welcome 50 students stridently working to complete their GED or learn English as a second language, providing scholarships for those individuals as well as those wishing to pursue an advanced degree.

One scholarship recipient recently wrote: "I have the desire to study hard and work towards my goals no matter the obstacle, but without financial help it is hard to continue." Mayra is the recipient of the Anne Frank Humanitarian Award, and is part of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Hillsborough Community College. Her long term goal is to become a pediatrician. Beth-El's mission is to help young people like Mayra achieve their goals, even if at the moment that goal is nothing more than a new pair of shoes.

There is something very powerful when we take communion by intinction. We look into another's eyes taking the bread and hearing the words from centuries past: "This is Christ's body broken for you." We take the cup, initiating a new covenant bound in God's love. We are in communion with one another. Yes, it takes a village, called together as a community in Christ. Thank you for being our covenant partners to the mission of Beth-El Farmworker Ministry.

Dios le bendiga,



Kathleen Dain
Executive Director
Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

Summer will be here before you know it! Beth-El has numerous mission opportunities for adults and youth. From leading Vacation Bible School, to work groups helping out in our community, to scholarships for kids to go to camp at Cedarkirk, there are many ways your church can help support this valuable mission. Call Javier today at 813-633-1548 ext. 228, or email him at Javier@beth-el.org to learn more.



Kathleen Dain
Executive Director

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[www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)  
[May Newsletter](#)

## **CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

*A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.*

[www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)

**Summer is coming soon!** It is hard to believe, but summer camp preparations are already underway. This summer's theme, FEARLESS FAITH, will help campers focus on how they become part of, gain support from, and build their own Christ-centered communities. By looking at leaders from the Bible who used communities given to them by God, campers will be empowered to draw courage from friends, family, and community, stand up to injustice and help change attitudes, forgive others, and connect to and welcome all people. Please help Cedarkirk by letting the children and youth of your church or community know about the unique opportunities available this summer. We are also looking for volunteer nurses and worship leaders for the week-long sessions.

If you have any questions, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org).

## **MISION PENIEL**

*A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee*

The Mision Peniel Task Force continues to meet and build the support and structure for continuing this vital ministry. If you want to make a donation to support this recovery effort you may send the check (marked *Mision Peniel*) to:  
Peace River Presbytery | 5600 Peace River Rd. | North Port, FL. 34287

- [Collection Centers for Mission Peniel Supplies \(click for information\)](#)
- [Critical Needs List \(click for information\)](#)

## **Articles that have come across my desk or been sent to me (Graham):**

### [Can the Christian left be a real political force?](#)

Slate: Trump's rise has thrown the religious right into turmoil. How Democrats could become the party of God.

### [Trump's success with evangelical voters isn't surprising. It was inevitable.](#)

The Washington Post: Since the 1970s, conservative evangelicals have embraced increasingly secular positions divorced from any biblical grounding, and supporting Trump represents the logical conclusion of that tragic aberration, says Randall Balmer.

### [Seven things I'm learning about transgender persons](#)

Baptist News Global: Mark Wingfield doesn't know much about transgender issues, but he's trying to learn.

### [The Methodists gather to argue about gay people again](#)

Religion News Service: It's a titanic clash, epic, truly tragic, unresolvable, filled with conflict and pain, says David Gushee. It's all so very, very sad.

United Methodist Reporter: [And are we yet alive?](#)

### [Women deacons?](#)

The Atlantic: Pope Francis has said he'll create a commission to study the possibility of females serving as deacons the Church. What does this mean for Catholics?

Catholic News Service: [Pope thanks nuns for telling him there's a 'disconnect'](#)

### [Julian of Norwich: How an unknown hermit produced one of the Church's greatest spiritual treasures](#)

Christian Today: It was on this day, May 13, when she was about 30 years old, that Julian recovered from a serious illness that had left her near death.

### [It's time to break up with the culture wars](#)

Crux: The culture wars are over. Not because one side lost and the other won, but because that way of seeing the world is in the process of being replaced by something else.

### [Unplugging on the Sabbath: How to rest in a post-religion era](#)

The New York Post: While most Americans agree it's important to set aside a day of spiritual rest, plenty of us don't follow our own advice, especially among the younger generations.

### [G. K. Chesterton's 'Way of Wonder': Q&A with author Dale Ahlquist](#)

America: An interview with a leading authority on the British Catholic writer about his new book, "The Way of Wonder: Classic Wisdom from G. K. Chesterton."

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

- [Pastoral Intern – Overview](#) – [Position Description](#) – Siesta Key Chapel
- [Finance Secretary \(part time\)](#) – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood

**PRAYER NEEDS:**

**Please continue to pray for:**

- Jim & Becky Beckwith - health
- Robert Dennis, Son of Rev. India Dennis – mental health issues
- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – on kidney transplant list
- Grandson of Tim and Martha Halverson - suffering from a rare autoimmune disease
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Misión Peniel
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center
- Dan and Elizabeth Turk, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Madagascar
- Les and Cindy Morgan, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh

**CHURCH PRAYER GUIDE: MAY 2016:**

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| May 1  | <u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jack Haberer<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jhaberer@vpcnaples.org">jhaberer@vpcnaples.org</a><br>Associate Pastor: Rev. Tammy Letts<br>Email: <a href="mailto:tletts@vpcnaples.org">tletts@vpcnaples.org</a> |
| May 8  | <u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rafael (Ray) Quiles<br>Email: <a href="mailto:stpaulspres1@comcast.net">stpaulspres1@comcast.net</a>                                                                                                 |
| May 15 | <u>Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto</u><br>Pastor: Rev. John Foulkrod<br>email: <a href="mailto:jfoulkrod@ppcfl.org">jfoulkrod@ppcfl.org</a>                                                                                                                         |
| May 22 | <u>First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte</u><br>Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Terri Jo Crego<br>email: <a href="mailto:pastor@fpcpc.com">pastor@fpcpc.com</a>                                                                                                          |
| May 29 | <u>Wintergarden Church, Port Charlotte</u><br>Temporary Supply Pastor: Rev. Devon Beisser Andrews<br>email: <a href="mailto:revdev08@gmail.com">revdev08@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                     |

**PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MAY 2016**

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: [www.peacriverpresbytery.org](http://www.peacriverpresbytery.org)

**May 19**

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

Personnel Team (11:00 a.m.- Note time change)

**May 30**

Memorial Day Observed – PRP Offices Closed



**CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

**(click on church name to link to its web site)**

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Braden River Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton     | <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton                                            |
| <a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton         | <a href="#">Palma Sola Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton                                       |
| <a href="#">Westminster Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Bradenton      | Palmetto Presbyterian Church,<br>Palmetto – <a href="mailto:office@ppcfl.org">office@ppcfl.org</a> |
| <a href="#">Christ Church of Longboat Key</a><br>Longboat Key      | <a href="#">Peace Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Lakewood Ranch                                       |
| <a href="#">Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota         | <a href="#">Church of the Palms,</a><br>Sarasota                                                   |
| <a href="#">First Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota             | <a href="#">Northminster Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota                                      |
| <a href="#">Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota       | <a href="#">Presbyterian Church of the<br/>Covenant,</a> Sarasota                                  |
| <a href="#">Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</a><br>Sarasota | <a href="#">Siesta Key Chapel,</a><br>Sarasota                                                     |

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| <a href="#"><u>Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Venice                                                                          | <a href="#"><u>Venice Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Venice           |
| <a href="#"><u>Community Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Englewood                                                                     | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Arcadia           |
| <a href="#"><u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>North Port                                                                   | <a href="#"><u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Punta Gorda |
| Wintergarden Presbyterian Church,<br>Port Charlotte<br><a href="mailto:devon.ducheneau@gmail.com"><u>devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</u></a> | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Port Charlotte    |
| <a href="#"><u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>North Fort Myers                                                           |                                                                        |
| <a href="#"><u>Faith Presbyterian Church</u></a><br>Cape Coral                                                                         | <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Lehigh Acres      |
| <a href="#"><u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Fort Myers                                                                   | <a href="#"><u>Covenant Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Fort Myers     |
| <a href="#"><u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Fort Myers                                                                 |                                                                        |
| <a href="#"><u>Hope United Church (PCUSA),</u></a><br>Fort Myers                                                                       | <a href="#"><u>Chapel by the Sea,</u></a><br>Fort Myers Beach          |
| <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Bonita Springs                                                                    |                                                                        |
| <a href="#"><u>First Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples                                                                            | <a href="#"><u>Lely Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples             |
| <a href="#"><u>Moorings Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples                                                                         | <a href="#"><u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</u></a><br>Naples       |

