



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ September 29, 2016
Rev. Kathleen Dain, Executive Director, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY



At the recent regional meetings, the Presbytery discussed our call to discipleship. For many, myself included, discipleship is grounded in mission. It is in those moments when worship takes us beyond the sanctuary to the awaiting mission field outside our doors that discipleship begins. Here we have the opportunities to share our faith, and the love of Christ, to those near and far. On November 5th, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry will celebrate its 40 years of mission to our farmworking community. A ministry begun as an act of worship that now serves over 100,000 people every year through hunger relief, education, health care, and spiritual growth.

It is hard to imagine in this beautiful sunshine state of crystal sand beaches and world class amusement parks that such disparity can co-exist between those who travel to Florida for pleasure, and those that are forced to travel just to survive. Every year nearly 200,000 farmworkers travel to Florida to pick the fruits and vegetables we place on our dinner tables. Rain or shine, earning pennies per pound for their labor, without health insurance, or the assurance of steady wages—that is the life our farmworkers face every day.



Even before Peace River was an organized presbytery, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry was in covenant partnership with the Presbyterian churches of southwest Florida to provide support and encouragement to farmworking families. Before Mision Peniel first organized, Dave Moore, Javier Izaguirre, and Sue Rice drove down from Beth-El every week to Immokalee to provide meals to the farmworkers working in the fields. All because 40 years ago a hearty group of Presbyterians felt called by God to be disciples to the farmworking families that traveled to Florida every year to pick

our crops. From a tiny carport in Ruskin, Florida, the mission of Beth-El has grown, been blessed, and been a blessing to countless lives.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry's three covenant partners are: Peace River Presbytery, the Presbytery of Tampa Bay (PCUSA) and Grace Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. As covenant partners, members of each presbytery sit on our board of directors to help guide the mission and vision of our ministry. As covenant partners, the mission relies on your contributions in preparing our annual budget. Today, 92 cents of every dollar donated to Beth-El in goods and monetary offerings goes toward helping farmworkers in our community while 100% of designated gifts go directly to that specified mission.

As Beth-El looks ahead to the next 40 years we do so with a renewed sense of calling as disciples in Christ. As our partners in mission, we invite you to rediscover our mission during our anniversary event on Saturday, November 5th. A full schedule of events can be found here [{click}](#)



Once again, thank you for your continued partnership and support in the journey.

Dios le bendiga,
Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain
Executive Director
Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Update on Nathan Hart: Graham Hart's son ([click here](#) to Part I which was in the newsletter on 9/8)

After completing the first week of in-patient chemotherapy, and looking forward to being back home, Nathan went back to work for the first time last Wednesday and worked part of a day Thursday, but was extremely tired. On Saturday, he kept feeling lousy - no energy and a persistent cough - which all could be the result of the chemotherapy and lung tumor; but he also developed a low grade fever. He called the doctor who told him to go to ER right away. It turns out he has pneumonia, as well as a high lactic acid blood level. They admitted him, and started him on some heavy duty antibiotics.

He was able to return home Sunday night, and is adjusting to what he can and cannot do; such as having to wear a protective mask when he goes out, which for him is another insult to injury and a reminder of learning to live with this cancer. So it has been a tough week.

He is supposed to begin the next 4 day in-hospital chemo-therapy cycle next week, and our daughter, Katie, who lives in Washington, DC is able to go and help them out when he is at Rush Medical Center. The church they go to has been extremely supportive, and has arranged 4 meals a week for the next 3 months – which this week has been so helpful.

On behalf of Nathan, I want to thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Many of you have asked for his address, but I put in the wrong zip code. The correct address is: Nathan and Eileen Hart – 657 Vista, Lombard, IL. 60148

With gratitude for your prayers and support,
Graham

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[A plea to my white Christian friends: Please don't say All Lives Matter](#)

The Washington Post: Latrice Ingram is worried about the obvious lack of sympathy for the people killed and their families and for a black community that is suffering.

[They're not coming back: the religiously unaffiliated and the post-religious era](#)

Religion Dispatches: All evidence points to this conclusion: they are not coming back, and given what they're being presented, why should they?

[Does American religion have a prayer?](#)

Religion News Service: Religion is in trouble. And Jeffrey Salkin wonders if even God can save it.

[Tonight's debate: Why it matters at both the micro and macro level](#)

National Catholic Reporter: Tonight, no one knows what to expect, but we can classify our expectations into two categories, micro issues that will dominate news coverage and macro issues that might be reinforced or diminished by tonight's contest.

[Charlotte clergy plan shift from marches to long-term action on race](#)

Charlotte Observer: A Charlotte clergy group is launching a strategy to eventually shift energy to long-range action on racial disadvantage and discrimination.

[They have faith their church will change](#)

The Daily Beast: They are often pro-gay, vote Democrat, and are pro-choice, but their churches aren't. Can they convince their brethren to change?

[Unity gives Jerusalem a prayer: Jews, Muslims and Christians join for worship](#)

The (London) Guardian: Eight religious leaders brought their congregations together for eight days in one room. It was a dangerous move.

[Urban ministry offers tips on talking to the homeless](#)

Catholic News Agency: Christ in the City, a Denver-based urban ministry, has a tip sheet for how to engage homeless persons in the street.

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

40th Anniversary Celebration: Saturday, November 5th ([flyer and reservation form](#))

*Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is planning its 40th anniversary celebration for the week of November 5th-6th. In preparation, we are seeking individuals willing to donate their air miles to help support national speakers who will be traveling to Beth-El to speak at the event. For more information, or to donate, please contact Kathy Dain at 813-633-1548.

*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.

Kathy

Kathleen Dain

Executive Director

www.beth-el.org
[September Newsletter](#)

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

The dust from summer camp has settled and the singing and laughter of exuberant campers and summer staff have been replaced by the twitter of crickets and cicadas. We are entering our fall ministry of hospitality and look forward to welcoming all of the guests and retreat groups who call this place a home away from home.

We invite you to join us as we celebrate 45 years of camp and conference ministry during our annual Homecoming Weekend, September 2-4, 2016. Whether you can spend the weekend or visit us on Saturday only, we'd love to welcome you back to this special place as we fellowship and worship together.

Thank you for supporting Cedarkirk and holding this ministry in your prayers for the last 45 years. We look forward to witnessing God's handiwork here in the years to come!

For additional information, please contact the camp office at (813) 685-4224 or visit www.cedarkirk.org.

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

The Mision Peniel Team 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 Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Barbara Church, Committee on Ministry member – loss of her husband.
- Nathan Hart (Graham's son) and his family – (See Graham's update in this newsletter). Nathan was recently diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He has begun chemotherapy.
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – recovery from neck surgery.
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) - recovery
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - health
- 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: OCTOBER 2016:

October 2	<u>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Pulpit Supply Email (office): wpresbyterian@verizon.net
October 9	<u>Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral</u> Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Halverson email: tim@fpcf.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl Email: elizabeth@fpcf.org
October 16	<u>Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood</u> Pastor: Rev. Dawn Mayes email: revdawnmayes@gmail.com
October 23	<u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randy Moody email: bpcpastor@comcast.net
October 30	<u>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe email: jdeyoe@covpcfm.com

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: OCTOBER 2016

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: www.peaceriverpresbytery.org

October 3

Planning Team & Church Vitality and Growth Task Force (9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)

October 8

Session Records Review Workshop at Northminster P.C., Sarasota (9:00 a.m.)

October 11

Committee on Ministry (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)

October 13

Finance Team / Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

October 20

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

Personnel Team (1:00-3:00 p.m.)

October 22

Session Records Review Workshop at Covenant P.C., Fort Myers (9:00 a.m.)

October 24

Nominations and Representation Committee (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

October 27

Church Vitality and Growth Task Force (1:00-3:00 p.m.)



CHURCHES OF PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

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

Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton	Palmetto Presbyterian Church, Palmetto – office@ppcfl.org
Christ Church of Longboat Key Longboat Key	Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch
Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Church of the Palms, Sarasota
First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota

<u>Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Presbyterian Church of the</u> <u>Covenant,</u> Sarasota
<u>Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church,</u> Sarasota	<u>Siesta Key Chapel,</u> Sarasota
<u>Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u> Venice	<u>Venice Presbyterian Church,</u> Venice
<u>Community Presbyterian Church,</u> Englewood	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Arcadia
<u>St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,</u> North Port	<u>Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,</u> Punta Gorda
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte <u>devon.ducheneau@gmail.com</u>	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Port Charlotte
<u>Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church,</u> North Fort Myers	
<u>Faith Presbyterian Church</u> Cape Coral	<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Lehigh Acres
<u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers	<u>Covenant Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers
<u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church,</u> Fort Myers	
<u>Hope United Church (PCUSA),</u> Fort Myers	<u>Chapel by the Sea,</u> Fort Myers Beach
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Bonita Springs	
<u>First Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples	<u>Lely Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples
<u>Moorings Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples	<u>Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,</u> Naples

