



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter – January 11, 2017
Rev. Kathy Dain, Executive Director, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.
[1 Corinthians 3:6]



In economics, we are taught the principles of supply and demand. The scarcer a product, the greater its value. I often wonder if we can draw a similar response in the world today, where so many times love and compassion seem to be in limited supply. Still, I believe it is exactly during these times of scarcity when the abundance of God's love becomes more visible.

Over these last few months I have watched the mission of Beth-El benefit from the abundance of God's provision during seasons of scarcity. These are wonderful moments bearing witness to the abundance of God's love radiating from the hearts of congregations throughout our Presbytery.

When the walls of our food pantry were all but bare, congregations from Crystal River to Naples stepped in to offer aid. When necessary, but unexpected, expenses arose and the reality that we might not break even financially for the year, the abundance of God's love shown fourth through the hearts and pocketbooks of member congregations.

As farmworkers, you learn a great deal about planting and sowing. You learn to prepare for times of drought, and study the best methods of cultivation to sustain the crop till harvest. Still, at Beth-El, the mission believes another harvest awaits. A core principle of Beth-El is that the work we do is in response to God's love for us, and to share that good news to the community around us.



Wimauma is unique for Florida. 70% of its population is Latino with over half that population under the age of 30. The agricultural industry is one of the largest employers in the area. Yet, more and more farmlands are being sold to developers. At the mission, we watch as some of our young people follow their parents into the fields while others pursue an advanced education. Many of these young

More details to follow ...

PART TIME HELP WANTED ~ MISSION COORDINATOR at Mision Peniel, Immokalee, FL

Working a set schedule of at least 24 hours/week, this person will assist Pastor Estrada with routine office communication, purchasing, volunteer recruitment and management, food distribution, communications with donors, and other duties. The applicant needs to be bi-lingual in English and Spanish (trilingual with Creole or French is a plus), proficient in Office or its Mac equivalent, able to perform basic web site management, possess a current driver's license, is able to work with culturally diverse guests, and be able to lift up to 50 pounds. Position is anticipated to be filled shortly after the start of 2017. Salary will be a minimum of \$15.00/hour. For a full description of the position or to apply for the position please contact (via email) either DeAnne Sawyer with dsa1546@aol.com or Pastor Clint Cottrell with Clint@clpc.us

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

Beth-El Celebrated its 40th Anniversary on November 5th!

*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.



PO Box 860
Wimauma, FL 33598
Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223
Web: www.beth-el.org

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

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

*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:

- Nathan Hart (Graham's son) and his family – Nathan is undergoing treatment for a rare and aggressive form of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson – continued recovery
- Phil Kuehl (husband of Rev. Elizabeth Kuehl, Faith, Cape Coral) – continued recovery
- Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel - health
- Jim 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

PRESBYTERY PRAYER GUIDE: JANUARY 2017:

January 1	<u>Peace River Presbytery</u> 37 Congregations / 131 Ministers Moderator: Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt Vice Moderator: Ms. Charmaine Ponkratz
January 8	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia</u> Pastor: Rev. William (Bill) Teng email: pastor@FirstPC.church
January 15	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs</u> Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Douglas (Doug) Pratt email: dpratt@fpcbonita.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Steven Grant Email: sgrant@fpcbonita.org Associate Pastor: Rev. Bradley Rogers Email: brogers@fpcbonita.org

January 22	<u>Braden River Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Glenn Buzbee, Jr. email: revglennb@gmail.com
January 29	<u>Mision Peniel – Ministry of Peace River Presbytery</u> Pastor: Rev. Miguel Estrada email: miguestrada@hotmail.com

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: JANUARY 2017

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

Wednesday, January 11

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (10:00 a.m.)

Thursday, January 12

Mision Peniel Team (9:30 a.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers)
Cuba Partnership Task Force (12:00 p.m. at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers)

Monday, January 16

Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Day – PRP Offices Closed

Thursday, January 19

Steering Committee (9:30 a.m.)

Tuesday, January 24

Finance Team / Board of Trustees (9:30 a.m.) – *Change of date from 2nd Thursday*

Wednesday, January 25

Pastoral Care Team (2:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, North Port)

Thursday, January 26

Congregational Vitality & Growth Task Force (1:00 p.m.)
Personnel Team (2:30 p.m.) – *Change of date from 3rd Thursday*



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
Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Sarasota
Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church, Sarasota	Siesta Key Chapel, Sarasota
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice	Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice
Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood	First Presbyterian Church, Arcadia
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port	Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda
Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte devon.ducheneau@gmail.com	First Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte
Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, North Fort Myers	
Faith Presbyterian Church Cape Coral	First Presbyterian Church, Lehigh Acres
Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers	Covenant Presbyterian Church, 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