



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ April 11, 2018

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

In 1976 the U.S. was celebrating its bicentennial. President Gerald Ford, the only man *never elected* to the office, was running for President against Jimmy Carter. “Rocky” was number one at the box office, and “Silly Love Songs” by Paul McCartney and Wings topped the billboard as song of the year.

It was a time when the nation was still recovering from Watergate and the Vietnam War. Before decade’s end, the nation would endure gas rationing, double digit inflation, and the Iranian hostage crisis. Yet, in Florida, a spirit of compassion filled our pews as Presbyterians explored the mission fields found in our own backyards. The mission of Beth-El Farmworker ministry began as part of that spirit fed exploration.

Since the very beginning, Beth-El has been in covenant partnership with the presbyteries of Peace River, Tampa Bay (PCUSA), and the Board of Missions of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CPC). Much has changed since those early days when our mission and worship were headquartered in a tiny carport in Ruskin, Florida.

Today, Beth-El supports 100,000 individuals every year through our hunger relief, education, health care, and spiritual development programs. Already this year the mission has distributed over a quarter million pounds of food to farmworking families; provided scholarships for six students to attend college; and taken the first steps in the development of a new worshipping community. Before the end of summer the mission’s dental clinic will open, and dozens of children will attend Cedarkirk as part of our summer youth programs.



One of our newest outreach initiatives delivers hot meals, food and other resources directly to farmworkers in the field. This initiative has led to greater cooperation between farm managers and Beth-El, and has helped improve the quality of life for many workers who were unable to travel to the mission because of their work or lack of transportation. On a recent visit, we met a woman in dire need of dental care. She will be one of our first patients at our free dental clinic for the uninsured.

Forty-two years later, much has changed in our country, but the needs of our community remain. A farmworker will still earn pennies per pound. Families will continue to live below national poverty levels, without the benefits of insurance or opportunities for advancement. But little

by little, with your prayers and financial assistance, Beth-El will continue to make strides in supporting farmworkers and our neighbors in need. If you would like to learn more on how you and your church can partner with Beth-El, please call me at 813-633-1548 ext. 223.

Dios le bendiga,

Kathy

Rev. Kathleen Dain
Executive Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars and pass the following on, so that the right folks in your congregation will have this information and be able to attend:



Wednesday, May 2, 2018

1:30-3:30 p.m.

Hurricane Preparedness Workshop with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte

Last year Hurricane Irma rudely reminded us that hurricanes still happen, even though we had gone ten years without one affecting us here in Southwest Florida.

Several congregations have asked the Presbytery to host a hurricane preparedness workshop, just so that in 2018 we are ready. Many congregations found themselves, as Irma was approaching, dusting off old preparedness plans, which were found to be outdated. Kathy Broyard, Director of Florida Presbytery's Disaster Preparedness Network will be leading the workshop. She will share best practices and learnings from other congregations. Please send members of your Disaster Preparedness team, or a designated team, to this workshop so we all can be ready. As they say, it is better to have an umbrella and not need it than to be caught in a rain storm without one.

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**Thursday, May 17, 2018**

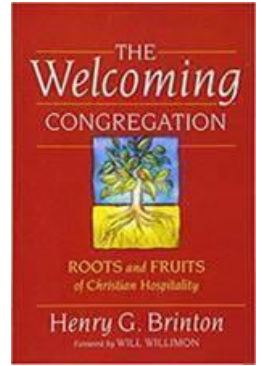
**Stated Meeting of Presbytery**

**The Welcoming Congregation: Roots and Fruits of Christian Hospitality**

**Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port**



At our regular stated meeting, we will continue in our series on: Things that make for Vital Congregations focusing on Compassionate and Inclusive Outreach. We are pleased that the Rev. Henry Brinton, author of the new book, *The Welcoming Congregation: Roots and Fruits of Christian Hospitality*, will be our keynote speaker. Henry is Senior Pastor of Fairfax Presbyterian Church in Fairfax, Virginia. He is a regular contributor to USA Today and the



Washington Post, as well as the author of several books, including *Balancing Acts: Obligation, Liberation, and Contemporary Christian Conflicts*. This will be a great meeting to bring several members from your mission, fellowship, and outreach committees of your congregation.



**Thursday, May 31, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. (lunch included)**  
**The Transition to Retirement:**  
**A Seminar on Shifting from an Acting Working Life to the Gift of Retirement**  
**Location: Presbytery Office – North Port**  
 Speaker: Paul T. Reiter, Spiritual Director

Three years ago, COM hosted a workshop entitled: *Ending Well and Finishing Strong* for those within 10 years of retirement, which was very well received. This is being offered as a Part II on that theme.



**June 16-23, 2018**  
**General Assembly of the PC(USA)**  
**Location: St. Louis, Missouri**



Our 2018 General Assembly Commissioners:

- Wayne Largent, Ruling Elder – Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood
- Charmaine Ponkratz, Ruling Elder - Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda
- Jeff DeYoe, Teaching Elder – Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
- Ray Quiles, Teaching Elder – St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, North Port, and
- Mariah Martin, Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) – First Presbyterian, Sarasota,

will join with other commissioners and advisory delegates from all 170 PC(USA) presbyteries, and other delegates and observers from around the world. All will converge on the America's Convention Center in downtown St. Louis for celebrations, deliberations, and inspirations in support of the denomination's biennial gathering.

[Click here to link to the 223<sup>rd</sup> home page.](#)

[The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy](#) will serve as host to the 223rd General Assembly, united under the theme, "**Renewing the Vision: Kindom Building for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**," from Matthew 6:25-33. The meetings will include rich worship services, the election of the Moderator and Vice Moderator or Co-Moderators, action on a plethora of overtures, and much more. View the [proposed docket](#).

## BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

*A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma*



PO Box 860 | Wimauma, FL 33598

Phone: 813-633-1548 ext. 223

Web: [www.beth-el.org](http://www.beth-el.org)

[April Newsletter](#)

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry has the following employment opportunities:

- Part-time Worship Music Leader - Must be bi-lingual with good teaching and musical skills to lead newly formed music group for Sunday Worship.
- Summer Programming Assistant - Part time position working Beth-El staff in coordinating summer youth programming.

For more information, or to apply, [email info@beth-el.org](mailto:email info@beth-el.org)

## COMMISSIONING SERVICE at BETH-EL

You are cordially invited to join the members of Beth-El Farmworker Ministry as we commission

**The Reverend Tamara Leonard-Lara**

as Pastor of Nuevo Camino at Beth-El

**Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.**

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

18420 Highway 301 South | Wimauma, FL 33598

## CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

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

## MISION PENIEL

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

[www.misionpeniel.com](http://www.misionpeniel.com)

**Staff Contacts:**

- Rev. Miguel Estrada, Pastor, P: 239-633-2181, E: [migustrada@hotmail.com](mailto:migustrada@hotmail.com)
- Ruth DeYoe, Mission Coordinator, P: 386-793-6151, E: [ruthdeyoe@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdeyoe@gmail.com)
- General Email: [misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com](mailto:misionpenielpeaceriver@gmail.com)

**Addresses:**

- Facility Address: 208 Boston Ave., Immokalee, FL 34142 (not for mailing)
- Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34153
- Mailing Address for Contributions\*: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287

**\*Contributions to Mision Peniel (checks or online):**

- Mail to: Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Road, North Port, FL 34287
- Checks can be made payable to Peace River Presbytery or to Mision Peniel.
- Please note *Mision Peniel* in the memo section.
- Click on the "Donate" button on the Mision Peniel web site.
- Contributor information is provided to Mision Peniel each month.

**ORDINATION and INSTALLATION SERVICE**

**for Laurie Haas**

**Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.**

Church of the Palms, Sarasota

All are invited!

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**September 26 - October 3**

**PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY IS RETURNING TO CUBA**

**To Engage in the Next Steps of our Peace River - Matanzas Partnership**

**Who:** Up to 24 Members with/without Clergy from churches interested in establishing partnerships with area churches or the seminary in the Matanzas Presbytery. Each church is limited to four reservations.

**What:** Establishing Partnerships within the Matanzas Presbytery, including the seminary and local churches. Visiting local churches, engaging in ministry practices with that church and beginning the process of partnerships.

**When:** Wednesday, September 26 - Wednesday, October 3, 2018

**Where:** Varadero, Cuba

**Expenses:** Will include airfare (from either Tampa or Miami), visa, seminary lodging (dormitory style), meals, transportation during the week, and home stays at local church communities.

**How:**

1. Reply to Lori at the Presbytery Office ([lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org](mailto:lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org)) by **April 15th** with initial interest.
2. Return registration form\* indicating a firm commitment with \$100 deposit per person by **May 15th** (to begin the visa process which requires at least 90 days) to Peace River Presbytery, 5600 Peace River Presbytery, North Port, FL 34287, *Attention:* Lori Doyal.
3. Direct questions to Cuba Partnership Task Force Co-Moderators:



Kevin Morris: 813-713-5117 | [pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net](mailto:pastor@hopeunitedchurch.net) or Ruth DeYoe: 386-793-6151 | [ruthdeyoe@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdeyoe@gmail.com)

**\* Registration Forms were emailed to churches by Ruth DeYoe last week.**

### WALK with the BIBLE

Pastor Bill Teng of First Presbyterian Church in Arcadia, FL is organizing and leading a group in a *Walk with the Bible* tour of Israel and Jordan on October 5-18, this fall. The total cost is only \$4,945 from Tampa. More detail is available here: <http://bit.ly/2Fc2RiA>. If interested, please contact him at [TengPresby@aol.com](mailto:TengPresby@aol.com) or 703.899.0725.

### PRAYER NEEDS

#### Please continue to pray for:

- Jim and Becky Beckwith, in the passing of their son, Greg, last week
- Rev. Susan Rice – health and treatment for cancer
- Robert Dennis (son of Rev. India Dennis) – mental health issues
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry (in Wimauma)
- Misión Peniel Farmworker Ministry (in Immokalee)
- 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: APRIL 2018:

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 1  | <u>Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dawn Mayes<br>Email: <a href="mailto:revdawnmayes@gmail.com">revdawnmayes@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                   |
| April 8  | <u>Beth-El Farmworker Ministry</u><br>Executive Director: Rev. Dr. Kathy Dain<br>Email: <a href="mailto:kathy@beth-el.org">kathy@beth-el.org</a><br>Pastor: Rev. Tamara Leonard-Lara<br>Email: <a href="mailto:pastor@beth-el.org">pastor@beth-el.org</a> |
| April 15 | <u>Buckingham Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randy Moody<br>Email: <a href="mailto:bpcpastor@comcast.net">bpcpastor@comcast.net</a>                                                                                              |

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| April 22 | <u>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jdeyoe@covpcf.com">jdeyoe@covpcf.com</a> |
| April 29 | <u>Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u><br>Pastor: Rev. Dr. Clint Cottrell<br>Email: <a href="mailto:clint@clpc.us">clint@clpc.us</a> |

### KENNETH BAILEY RESOURCES

Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner has a set of Kenneth Bailey's study lectures on "Jesus and Women" and "Presbyterian History", produced by Harvest Publishing, that she would like to give to a church or group who would use them.

They are short, 20-30 minute lectures by Bailey, with time for discussion.

If interested, please contact Dr. Margaret E. Towner,

[margtet@comcast.net](mailto:margtet@comcast.net) or 941-924-4413.

### CHURCH SUPPORT STAFF OPENINGS

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda:

[Organist/Primary Accompanist](#)

### PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: APRIL 2018

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

*All meetings are at the Presbytery Center location in North Port, unless otherwise posted.*

#### **Wednesday, April 11**

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

#### **Thursday, April 12**

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

Strategic Review Task Force (12:30 p.m.)

#### **Monday, April 16**

Planning Team (1:30 p.m.)

#### **Thursday, April 19**

Congregational Vitality Team (12:30 p.m.) \*Please note date change.

#### **Sunday, April 22**

Commissioning Service for The Reverend Tamara Leonard-Lara at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry (3:00 p.m.)

#### **Thursday, April 26**

Congregational Vitality Team Pastors' Meeting (1:00 p.m. at First, Port Charlotte)

### **CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY**

Please visit our web site, [www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches](http://www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches)

Click on the city, then the church, to visit their web site.

