



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



Weekly Presbytery Letter ~ March 20, 2019

~ BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY ~

I received a text a few weeks ago from one of our Beth-El kids asking if I could help pay for his cap and gown for high school graduation. I call them *our* kids because over the years they have become part of our family. I have watched them grow through Sunday School and CedarKirk. We have watched them build oyster beds in Tampa Bay and eaten numerous slices of pizza during youth group. Of course, I would pay for his cap and gown—that was my personal gift to him and this ministry. He is the first in his family to graduate from high school.



We want our kids to succeed. That's what the Step Up for Success program is all about.



Our Step Up kids might be 18 hoping to further their education, or 37 hoping to learn new job skills.

Whatever the case, the Step Up for Success program matches a volunteer mentor with each student for one on one guidance. Together, the mentor and student work on a realistic goal for success. One recent graduate worked with a mentor to help her pass her reading comprehension exam. The graduate now has her high school equivalency certificate and can take the next steps toward pursuing a career through vocational training.

Step Up for Success would also like to partner with area businesses willing to offer "hands on" training through an apprenticeship program. Beth-El has seen firsthand how important this type of training can be, just last weekend three students from the Hillsborough Community College Dental Assistant program were able to work alongside professional volunteers at the Beth-El Dental Clinic.

So, won't you take the *next step* and help our kids with the resources and skills they'll need to Step Up for Success? To volunteer or donate to the program, please give me a call at 813-633-1548 ext. 223.

Dios le bendiga,

Kathy

Rev. Kathleen (Kathy) Dain
Executive Director



Click to watch the latest [video](#) about Beth-El Farmworker Ministry.

Each week, the newsletter will feature a congregation, covenant partner, or ministry of Peace River Presbytery.

To learn even more, please visit the church or ministry web sites.



THE PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY & CHURCH OF THE PALMS
invites you to the

Service of Ordination
of
JORDAN MARIE GOODWIN
TO THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Saturday, March 23 at 5 pm

CHURCH OF THE PALMS
3224 BEE RIDGE ROAD, SARASOTA FL. 34239
Reception will follow in the Campus Center.

BREAKING NEWS – MARCH 15

Federal Appeals Court Rules that Clergy Housing Allowance Exclusion Is Constitutional

March 15, 2019 – In a ruling with major implications for clergy across the United States, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals has issued its decision holding that the clergy housing allowance exclusion in federal tax law **is constitutional**. This appeals court decision reverses the lower court's decision in which the housing allowance exclusion was ruled unconstitutional.

It is unknown at this time whether the case will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, and if so, whether the Supreme Court will take it up.

A copy of the decision is available [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND the PRESBYTERY:

Saturday, March 23, 2019
Service of Ordination
of Jordan Marie Goodwin
to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament
3:00 p.m. at Church of the Palms

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**Saturday, March 23, 2019**

[Palliative Care and Chronic Illness Workshop](#)

Church of the Palms, Sarasota  
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Monday, April 1-Tuesday, April 2, 2019

[PRP Presbyterian Women's Retreat](#)

Day Spring Conference Center, Ellenton
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**Tuesday, April 30, 2019**

[Faith Place Safety Seminar](#)

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda

\*Registration Deadline: Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
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Wednesday, May 22, 2019

[POAMN Regional Conference](#)

St. Leo, FL

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

[March Newsletter](#)



MISIÓN PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworker Community in Immokalee

208 Boston Ave., PO Box 1204, Immokalee, FL 34143

www.misionpeniel.com

Facebook: "Misión Peniel"

Staff Contacts:

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

Contributions to Misión 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 Misión Peniel.
- Please note *Misión Peniel* in the memo section.
- Click on the "Donate" button on the Misión Peniel web site.
- Contributor information is provided to Misión Peniel each month.

CEDARKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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

www.cedarkirk.org

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Do you enjoy working with children and youth? Do you love playing and worshipping in the beauty of nature? Are you seeking to hear what God is calling you to do this summer – and beyond? Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center invites young adults at least one year beyond their high school graduation to consider serving as part of our 2019 Summer Staff. Visit www.cedarkirk.org/summer/employment to learn more about our life-changing summer community and how you might serve.



SUMMER CAMP CHANGES LIVES!

Are you looking for a summer program for your child that will provide him or her with opportunities for spiritual, physical, and social growth? Cedarkirk offers small-group, residential camp programs that allow children and youth to explore, learn, and just be themselves. Besides being fun, summer camps help kids: improve confidence and self-esteem; learn a new skill; improve critical thinking and decision-making abilities; experience the wonder of the natural world; learn to live and work as part of a community; and connect with God in a place where earnest discussions and honest dialogue allow them to make their faith their own. Send your camper to Cedarkirk this summer to discover how a single summer can last a lifetime! Visit www.cedarkirk.org for program dates, details, and registration.

*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.

POAMN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
(Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network)
["Engaging Aging in Today's World"](#)
May 22, 2019 in St. Leo, FL

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
[Building and Maintenance Worker – First, Port Charlotte](#)

PRAYER NEEDS

Please continue to pray for:

- Rev. Dr. Valerie Bell - health
- Jim and Becky Beckwith - health
- 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: MARCH 2019

March 3	<u>Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey DeYoe Email: jdeyoe@covpcfm.com
March 10	<u>Christ Church of Longboat Key</u> Stated Supply Pastor: Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard Email: revnmp@comcast.net
March 17	<u>Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Halverson Email: tim@fpcf.org
March 24	<u>Beth-El Farmworker Ministry</u> Executive Director: Rev. Kathy Dain Email: kathy@beth-el.org Pastor: Rev. Tamara Leonard-Lara Email: pastor@beth-el.org
March 31	<u>TBD</u>

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: MARCH 2019

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

Please email corrections or additions to lori@peaceriverpresbytery.org

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

Thursday, March 21

Steering Committee (9:00 a.m.)

Saturday, March 23

Service of Ordination of Jordan Goodwin (3:00 p.m. at Church of the Palms)

CHURCHES of PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY

Please visit our web site, www.peaceriverpresbytery.org/churches

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

