Local author puts a human face on migrant workers laboring in the fields of Northern California

Reverend Wendy Taylor offers first-hand knowledge of the lives of local undocumented workers — and speaks to the current lawsuit over unsafe housing for farmworkers in Pescadero

Rev. Wendy J. Taylor has the experience and credentials to describe in vivid detail the difficult lives of migrant farm workers who labor in the fields of Northern California. By recounting her own true stories—some horrifying, some heartwarming, she offers a view of local immigrant labor that few other Americans have. She also offers a vision of social justice for these workers that has the power to challenge and captivate any audience.

A veteran teacher and retired United Church of Christ pastor, Rev. Taylor is the founder of Puente de la Costa Sur, a highly successful nonprofit organization in Pescadero that has served the needs of migrant workers for over a decade. Her work with these “men alone,” as she calls them, is chronicled in the just-published book No Longer Strangers: The Practice of Radical Hospitality.

Four decades in the classroom and pulpit have developed this woman’s gifts for speaking out about the injustices that occur daily among these men, and for quietly insisting on respect for the migrant workers who labor among us. Her cultural humility has made her voice welcome in places where others have been turned away.

Your audience will be riveted by her answers to such questions as:
• what motivates these workers to risk their lives by crossing the border illegally to labor in the fields of Northern California?
• how much do these workers pay the coyotes who take them across? And how do the coyotes make sure they get paid?
• what kinds of housing are they offered on the ranches of Pescadero?
• how do they cope with the mental and emotional challenges of living and working hundreds of miles from home for long periods of time?
• what U.S. policies stop the workers from returning home after the growing season ends?
• what happens to local townspeople when they begin to notice injustices—and how have the residents of Pescadero responded?

Given the national debate about the treatment of undocumented workers in Arizona, Alabama, Texas, California, and elsewhere, your audience will surely be attentive to—and possibly grateful for—an alternate view of today’s undocumented workers. There are, in fact, healing ways to attend to the strangers among us.

Rev. Taylor is available immediately to appear on radio/television nationwide.
To book her, contact: info@no-longer-strangers.org or phone 650-743-5294.
A percentage of book sales will go to supporting the Puente Resource Center and other border- and immigrant-related nonprofit organizations.
Current facts on immigration:

~Between January and June of 2011, the United States carried out more than 46,000 deportations of the parents of children born in this country. Without parents to care for them, a number of these children are remanded into foster care.

-- Colorlines

~ In Tucson, Arizona between Oct 1, 2010 through July 31, 2011, just over 109,000 people were apprehended by Border Patrol as they crossed the U.S./Mexico border. More than 129 people—including women and children—died in the crossing.

-- Arizona Daily Star

~ On any given day, more than 32,000 migrants are held in immigration detention centers in this country, including a center in Richmond, California just off the San Rafael Bridge.

--- Un Pueblo Sin Fronteras