

Mission Committee Valley Presbyterian Church  
Meeting Minutes  
April 11, 2023, 8:45a.m. Room 1

**8:45 AM** Bible study/reflections- Lazarus and the Rich Man

Ed Storey

Luke tells the story of a man who lived a life of extreme luxury. He showed no love, sympathy, or compassion toward Lazarus, who wanted only the scraps that fell from the table. When they both died, Lazarus went to Heaven and the rich man to Hell. We might remember that the lesson is that the rich man was granted no respite, nor warning for his brothers; he realized the error of his ways too late. There is another lesson for us. There is no name given to the rich man and his memory is erased forever, whilst Lazarus remains part of our teaching to this day. We might think we are important, and our memory will last. As we see here, without God, our existence is fleeting. I am passing around a picture from Germany. These brass plaques are at the doorstep of houses throughout the country. The details are chilling. We have the name and birthdate of a past resident of the house. For the wife, her maiden name is given. (Ermordet) signifies where they met their end. We do not know who was there to arrest or deport them. They have been forgotten. These stumbling stones (Stolpensteine) will continue to provide a bit of remembrance of those lost in the conflict. As might be apparent from the photo, they are not off to one side. Rather, where they would be hard to ignore each time, you enter. Much as with Lazarus, neither were seeking immortality. God chooses those he sees worthy. As we are deciding the course of our response to the lessons of Lazarus, we might look at another verse, this time from Matthew 25. "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Question: What reflections do you have on reading Lazarus and the Rich Man?

- Discussion

**8:51 a.m.** Call to order

**In Attendance:** Doug Clark, Pastor Craig, Deb Jones, Reed Olson, Steve Larson, Kay Brouwer, George Curtis, Ed Storey, Kara Fitzpatrick, Mary Horn, Jim Fitzpatrick

**Absent:** Ann Ball, Pat Nau, Carol Stephens, Kylene Joplin, Judy Aguayo, Les Walter, Patti Bright

**Announcements- Prayers for Members-** Prayers for medical needs of mission members -Les Walter, Pat Nau & Carol Stephens

**Mission Meeting-** Minutes of March 14, 2022, Approved and sent to Session.

**Financial Report:** Mission Budget Review- March 2023

Doug Clark

- Budget/Mission Giving report reviewed. Contingency Funds \$2,025.50

**Mission Reports/Comments-** Round Table

Update Reminder: Each person with assigned Mission area should contact assigned agency/Missionary on a regular monthly basis for update and activity. If able or unable to attend meeting, please submit written update or email for committee and minutes.

Amado-GV Food Bank

Kylene Joplin/ Carol Stephens

- Congregation gave 42 pounds of food, and \$786.74 (split between Amado and Green Valley Food Banks)

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños

Reed Olson

- Nothing new to report currently. Still attempting to refer a child to St Andrews for plastic surgery option.

Compañeros en Misión

Judy Aguayo

- Presented by Doug: New pastor has been assigned to Sol de Justicia Presbyterian Church to also assist with Compañeros en Misión. Pastor Alberto Mendoza Cruz is from Obregon Sonora. New Board of Directors also has been elected for the church. Examples of outreach will be reported in the Valley Voice.

#### Crossroad Nogales Mission

Les Walter

- Les not in attendance. Lives touched this month: 362 nights of lodging, 200+ meals provided, 744 families received food baskets. Continuing mission program.

#### General Mission Support

Ed Storey

- There are many mission activities beyond those we support. Here are some efforts.
  - o **Mission Connections** This is a publication of Presbyterian World Mission. In the spring edition, Karla Koll, serving in Costa Rica, wrote about Elena Quichca and her efforts on her Biblical Journey. Elena, a native of Peru, came to Latin American Biblical University to work on her education. She struggled because of a poor secondary education in Peru. She was eventually successful. She returned to Peru, where she became a lay pastor. She has been helping the native people to appreciate the soil and water that God provided for them.
  - o **Farmers in Boma, DRC** The DRC is perennially short of food to feed their families. Diedone Panzo, a missionary there, is trying to empower the local farmers to grow more food; both to feed their community and to provide income. He provided seeds to enable them to grow beans corn and peanuts. They have no mechanized equipment. All work is done by hand.
  - o **Presbyterians Today** The magazine has taken a year off to try to discern what would be the best future direction. For now, the magazine contains what they believe to be the best Essays from the recent past editions. The editorial staff is asking the readers to provide input into what might be the best future direction. Many churches are in an area of changing demographics and declining attendance. One minister, for example, stated that people who attend more frequently than monthly believe they are in danger of being asked to be an Elder.
  - o **Voice of the Martyrs (VOM)** The focus is delivering Bibles to new Christians in countries like North Korea, Iran & Nepal. Both those who bring the Bibles and those who receive them are in danger of arrest and perhaps even execution. The dangers in India are not quite as severe but there are many in India who want to forcibly bring India under Hinduism. People are risking their lives to learn God's word.

#### Hands of a Friend

Pat Nau/Kara Fitzpatrick

- The women's shelter is at capacity with currently 9 youth in residence. The shelter got an anonymous \$200 donation for Easter food for the residents at the shelter. The staff is keeping very busy trying to stay on top of things.

#### Mission at Large

Ann Ball

A report is placed in the Valley Voice to update the congregation on outcome of Operation Christmas Child Box program.

#### Mission Quilts

Patti Bright

- It was agreed upon by several of the quilters to give a mature looking quilt to a VPC member that one of our quilters visits, as she is alone and needs to know that people care about her. We will meet another time this month, even though our numbers are dwindling as our snowbirds fly back north. We are considering several options for the summer months. No deliveries of quilts until fall.

#### Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L)

Doug Clark

- The Bangladesh Partnership Update for 2022 includes ministries with 1260 pre-primary schools, 157 computer training, 134 tailor training, 400 adult literacy, 29, basic house wiring, 70 sport programs, and 28 received baptism.

#### Posada Life Community Service

Deb Jones

- La Posada Community Services invites you to our Memory Café!

- What is a Memory Café?
- La Posada's Memory Café, in partnership with Pima Council on Aging, is a warm, welcoming environment for individuals with memory challenges, Alzheimer's disease, related dementias or any form of mild cognitive impairment.
- Memory Cafés are designed to include family caregivers as well, for a shared experience.
- Each Memory Café is unique. They focus on different aspects to create a distinctive experience for the individual with cognitive decline and their loved ones. Some Memory Cafés invite guest artists or musicians to attend. Some offer education about memory changes, while others are just for relaxing and chatting
- Memory Cafés can be offered both in person and virtually. Plus, they are free and welcome to everyone.
- You are invited to Posada Life Memory Café
- WHEN: Third Saturday of each month:
- DATES: April 15, May 20, June 17, 2023.
- TIME: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- WHERE: Posada Life Community Center
- 780 S. Park Centre Ave.
- Green Valley, AZ 85614
- Call Ellen March at 520-393-6840 or email: emarch@casagv.org for information.
- The idea of further involvement by VPC in the lunch program was introduced (lunch bunch) as a way to foster fellowship. A plan to use the Mission Committee as a test will be arranged.

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program Ed Storey

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program has replaced the PCUSA Seminary support as an agency and VPC will fund (\$5,000) to the YAV program. This will support one half of adult volunteer in the Borderlands program. The Synod of the Southwest voted to fund \$40,000 to the Albuquerque YAV and \$20,000 to Tucson Borderlands program YAV with a study to commit to an additional six years of funding.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry George Curtis

- Board meeting was held on 10 April. Campus Ministry has been in discussion with YAV and hopefully can do some coordination in the future. Board has determined that to be a viable ministry, they need a full-time director. 2023 will be a transitional year with no leader. Liability insurance for the organization has been renewed. Renewing the ministry as a university organization is required to be allowed to remain in campus locations. The Presbyterian Campus Ministry is currently working with other campus ministries and is exploring a "shared" ministry for 2023, where they would provide clergy and we would provide funds for programs. United Christian Church is also a possible group that might be interested in a cooperative effort. Nothing has been settled in the dispute with the sale of property between Wesleyan mission and campus groups.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) Doug Clark

- Email from Bob and Kristi read by Doug Clark:
  - o Rices will be in the US this year for a few months and would love to visit VPC. We will come visit you on weekend of Sunday 17 September. We would be available for a minute for mission, preaching, a missions presentation or whatever best suits the purposes for your congregation. We would arrive to Tucson on 15 September to allow a Mission Breakfast and leave Green Valley Sunday afternoon/evening or Monday morning. We can share a suggested travel donation later.

St Andrews Children's Clinic Kay Brouwer

- Laura Romero, St. Andrews' Children's Clinic Executive director, reported that there were many families attended the April 6 clinic. It was necessary to limit the number, again, to 50 children because of limited space and congestion. She knows the clinic needs more rooms to accommodate the numbers of children who need services. Remodeling and building rooms are on the top of her list. However, she is waiting to be sure the building will continue to be available beyond the one-year commitment.
- Re-naming the clinic is also a priority. The name suggested will be "The Clinic ". This issue is on the agenda for the June Board Meeting.

- On the second weekend of November a surgeon from Cleveland will come to provide reconstructive surgery for teenagers who need the bridge bone in their nose built up. These children had Cleft palate surgeries as babies but need the rebuilding process completed.
- In cooperation with Shriners' groups, two or three children each month are taken from Hermosillo to Spokane, Washington or Sacramento, California for orthopedic examination, diagnosis, and treatment.
- Laura explained why, at this time, they can have only one Clinic per month. (1) The Customs Border Protection agency must supervise safe border crossing for the families. Laura cannot ask more of them. (2) The volunteer doctors, nurses and staff can only commit to one day per month. (3) Many families have a long trip from home to the clinic. More visits per month would be too much for most families. (4) The before-clinic workload once a month is as much as the office staff can handle.
- For now, the Clinic is doing all it can to help needy children of Mexico. She looks forward to possible growth in the future. Donations, support, and prayers of VPC are deeply appreciated.
- Discussion on how the Mission Committee can support this mission and perhaps bring the Green Valley community of churches together for support. Pastor Craig Linsey will explore this possibility.
- Doug noted that we have contingency funds available for urgent needs. Kay will check with Laura and ascertain needs before the next Mission Committee meeting.

Valley Assistance Services

Steve Larson

- Rosanna Gabaldon, Arizona State Senator for our Legislative District 21 has agreed to join the VAS board.
- Women's Ministries will hold a luncheon, Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. Guest speaker will be Chris Erickson, who is the Executive Director of VAS. Lunch will be \$11; tickets are on sale.
- VAS wants volunteer drivers, office/phone help, friendly visitor program, fundraising and special events. Flexible schedules, training provided. Contact Linda B -520-625-5966. Email lburns@valleyassistanceservices.org

Youth On Their Own

Mary Horn

- 1) Inspirational Card Makers met Wednesday, March 22 and completed 75 cards – a combination of ladies working at home and together that day. We welcomed a new lady, Lynn Fee to the crafting that day. Dick took the cards and the Mini Mall contributions from the congregation to YOTO on Monday, March 27. Our next Inspirational Card Making session will be Wednesday, April 26 from 1 – 3:30 in Classroom 5.
- 2) April 16, 2023, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month will be COLLECTION SUNDAY for Youth on Their Own's Mini Mall. Items requested for the next several months will be: Canned Chicken and Ramen Noodles.
- 3) Bethany Neumann, Director of Development & Communications will give a brief overview of YOTO before our service begins on Sunday, April 23. The Noisy Offering on the following Sunday, April 30 will be for YOTO.

Recording Secretary  
Co-chair

Jim Fitzpatrick  
Ed Storey

## Old Business

### Mission Breakfast

March 25, 2023- Nogales Crossroads Mission /65 tickets sold- \$1280 given.  
September 16, 2023- Bob and Kristi Rice  
November 18, 2023- YAV program  
January 13, 2024-Valley Assistance Services  
February 17, 2024- Youth On Their Own  
March 23, 2024- ? In House Missions

### Noisy Offering- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month for 2022-2023

April 30, 2023 -Youth On Their Own-Mary Horn /Money counting May 2, 2023, 9:30 a.m.  
July 30, 2023- Posada Life Community Services-Deb Jones  
October 29, 2023 -Presbyterian Campus Ministry-George Curtis  
December 31, 2023- Compañeros en Misión

Presbyterian Giving- One Great Hour of Sharing (April 3, 2023) Results/ \$1,831.93 Money still being counted.

Crossroads Nogales Mission/ Easter hams & service/ Results/ \$600

Resuming Lunches at Crossroad Nogales on hold

Homeless packets project-winter 2023 /assemble packets.

- Update on Snack Sacks for the Homeless
- Our total monies collected are \$782.00. We have turned in receipts for extra items needed to fill the Snack Sacks. Any money left over will go to the Salvation Army for the purchase of tee shirts and hats.
- Assembly of 200+ bags will begin following our Mission Committee Meeting at 10:45.
- Ann, Ed and I plan to deliver the bags to the Hospitality House soon. It will probably be the week of April 16.

Valley Voice articles- 4 or more / month- September (11) October (12) November (12) December (9) January (9) February (10) March (10) April (11)

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program /plans – Ed and Doug will get together to make plans for the summer.

### **New Business**

- Pastor Craig announced there will be a movie presentation on 23 April at 1:00 in VPC. Movie will be on mission/clinic in South Sudan.
- Mary Horn suggested we update the Mission section on our website.

**Prayer/ Adjourn-----**Next meeting is May 9, 2023, at 8:45 a.m. Room 1 with Zoom option.

- Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.