

Mission Committee Valley Presbyterian Church

**Meeting Minutes**

August 8, 2023, 8:45a.m. Room 1

**Members Present:** Doug Clark, Ann Ball, Ed Storey, Pastor Craig Linsey, Carol Stephens, Kay Brouwer, Les Walter, Kyleene Joplin, Deb Jones, and Reed Olson

**Members Absent:** Pat Nau, Kara Fitzpatrick, Jim Fitzpatrick, Judy Aguayo, Patti Bright, George Curtis, Steve Larson, and Mary Horn

**8:45 AM** Bible study/reflections- Sin

Doug Clark

The Lord's prayer states in **Luke 11:4 (NIV)**<sup>4</sup> **Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us and lead us not into temptation.** Most focus in sermons and writing are on forgiveness of others and while important, we need to identify sin in our own lives. What is sin? In the Old Testament the three most common Hebrew words for sin are pesha, awon and chattah. Pesha, often translated as transgression, is a willful rebellion against the given standard like the 10 commandments. Awon, often translated as iniquity, is chronically polluting good like gossip and lying. Chattah, which is most often translated as sin, means to miss the mark. These words are used by David as he confesses to God in **Psalm 51:1-3 (New International Version)** **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions (Pesha).** <sup>2</sup> **Wash away all my iniquity (Awon) and cleanse me from my sin (Chattah).** <sup>3</sup> **For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me.** <sup>4</sup> **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so, you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge** <sup>5</sup> **Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.** In other Psalms, the words are used interchangeably with the basic concept being missing the mark. Also note in Psalms 51:5 that that sin is not only what we do but what we are.

Sin in the New Testament is the word hamartia (pronounced ham-ar-tee'-ah) which is translated as "to miss the mark". Missing the mark occurs by commission or omission in thought, word, and action.

**Romans 3:23 (New International Version)** <sup>23</sup> **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.** Sin is to do evil in God's sight. The "seven deadly sin" (not in the Bible) are pride, greed, envy, anger, lust, gluttony, and laziness. The "7 deadly sins" come from Pope Gregory I, who in 600 A.D., compiled a list of 7 biblical sins and called them deadly. All sins are not listed in the New Testament, but Paul describes some acts of sin in **Galatians 5:19-21(New International Version)**<sup>19</sup> **The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;** <sup>20</sup> **idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions** <sup>21</sup> **and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.** Except for the orgies at the Mission Committee meetings (just kidding ) these heavy-duty sins described are not what the members of VPC commit. What are the sins of daily living? The May issue of TableTalk, an outreach of Ligonier Ministries, gives some "Commonly Tolerated Sins" to consider. Twenty are listed and range from impatience to marital apathy but I will only consider only two- a commission and an omission- harshness and neglecting evangelism.

Harshness is the opposite of gentleness, and a harsh person has no concern for the effect it will have on others. It takes many forms in thought, word, and deed. With harshness, you concentrate on what is wrong in someone and judge. Your attention is focused on yourself when irritations or disappointments develop. God's Biblical focus is on others by edifying and building up. **Romans 14:19(New International Version)**<sup>19</sup> **Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.**

Remember your mother words “if you cannot say something nice don’t say anything at all” A harsh person doesn’t recognize the impact his words and actions have on someone’s mental state. A harsh word or action even to your spouse or friend is a sin and not the gift of the Spirit, gentleness.

Neglecting evangelism is another commonly tolerated sin. Mark 16:15 (New International Version)<sup>15</sup> **He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.** Go is a command which often neglected even though you love Christ. As a Christian your story is the most effective witness and does not require special education. You are both a student as you grow and teacher as you witness with Holy Spirit as your power source. Evangelism is not an option.

The story of eating temple food demonstrates you can also make your own sin. If you think something is wrong and still do it, you sin. **Romans 14: 20(New International Version) <sup>20</sup> Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble.**

Because sin is not only what do but who we are, we sin by thought, word, and deed with many sins commonly tolerated. What is the answer to sin? **2 Corinthians 5:21**

**(New International Version)<sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin<sup>[a]</sup> for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.** “What would Jesus do” is the guiding principle as we strive to be more like Christ. Jesus died for our sins as God’s plan for unholy man to have fellowship with holy God. Through Christ we are made righteous by faith in Jesus. Sin will not keep you from heaven but lack of faith in Jesus will.

**9:00 a.m.** Call to order/Prayer

Ed Storey

**Mission Meeting**-Minutes of May 9,2023, Approved.

**Financial Report:** Mission Budget Review- July 2023-Contingency Funds \$3,778.93

Doug Clark

**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

- \$591.23in funds equally divided between the two Food Banks. Carol took 44 pounds of food yesterday.

HungerWalk 2023 Saturday, September 9, 2023 Quail Creek-Veteran’s Municipal Park in Green Valley. Poster and sign-up information August 27, and September 3, 2023

**Casa Vida Nueva para Niños**

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños children are doing very well. They now have three new girls which raises the total children to 39. English classes are still progressing 3 times /week. Pictures reviewed.

**Compañeros en Misión**

Judy Aguayo

- No report.

**Crossroad Nogales Mission**

Les Walter

- Activities stable with Less Walter visiting 1-2 times /month with food and clothes from donations from second Sunday collections. Hail damage to roof required \$22,000 for repair. A former client of Crossroads Nogales Mission donated this total sum to celebrate his successful past recovery. Two Computers are needed ?Patio Sale, for needy students in a local church.

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**General Mission Support**

Ed Storey

***Voice of the Martyrs (VOM)*** The group is providing support for church leaders who are directly in the line of fire. Pastors prepare their congregations to make the ultimate sacrifice as followers of Christ. It seems the jihadists are surprised and, in at least one instance did not shoot anyone. We read a lot about the violence in Yemen, but there are people sharing the gospel with Muslims

***TechnoServe*** TechnoServe is a charity with a different mission. Instead of providing food for the poor, they teach them how to sustain themselves by providing advice on how to run a business. Athanasie in Rwanda participated in a coffee initiative. She learned how to both be a better coffee grower and a better business manager. As a result, she is able to support her two children, even though her husband died from malaria.

***Presbyterian Mission Crossroads*** This publication provides help to live faithfully in a time of crisis. We have recently heard of civil unrest in Niger, which is only 1% Christian. Water is an ongoing scarcity and must be paid for by the container. The local church, EERN, drilled a demonstration well. This allows an irrigated garden. As produce and water are sold, there is income to maintain the well and the pump

It seems that the need for assistance falls disproportionately on women, who in turn have children to raise. It is not clear what happened to the fathers. Some were killed in conflicts and some via disease.

### **Hands of a Friend**

Pat Nau/Kara Fitzpatrick

No report

### **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox**

Ann Ball

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drive (affiliated with Samaritan Purse) will begin to get busier in Sept.

Accomplished this summer:

\* Ann Ball ordered shoeboxes and donated payment for them. 150 of them have been received and are being stored in the Ball garage. Other brochures and free supplies were ordered.

\*Timelines were laid out for submitting info for Valley Voice publicity and E-Blasts.

\*Ann has been in conversation and emails with the regional coordinator for our church this year, David McGibbon.

\* Valley Voice article was written for July publication to inform the congregation that it is coming...start shopping for sales etc.

Coming in Sept.

\*Ann (assisted by spouse Steve Ball) will be and are registered to attend the training for the Operation this year on Sept 8 at Christ Community Church in Tucson. It will be shorter this year as no keynote speaker that has been traveling to speak for Samaritan Purse as last year.

\*Valley Voice article will be written by deadline for Oct publication.

\*Shoeboxes will be assembled by Ann and Steve at their home and delivered to church late Sept or Oct.

\*Shoeboxes and all information needed to pack a box will be begin on Oct. 12, available at a table in Fellowship Hall....will be done every Sun from Oct 22 through final deadline for return of boxes on Nov. 12. (Deadlines have been moved up by Samaritan Purse due to shipping deadlines for them in order for boxes to arrive in countries in a timely manner)

\*Assistants will be welcome on the collection days as many hands needed to move, store, and handle the boxes. Very small amount of training for these extra hands on collection days is necessary, but does necessitate being at church by 8:45 each Sun and staying after to about 11:15am...

### **Mission Quilts**

Patti Bright

No report

### **Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave Lovett**

Doug Clark

After 17 years we finally went back to Kabul, Afghanistan. This was so we could visit and encourage our team members who are working under the Taliban government, and better understand what the situation is like now inside the country. On the one hand, it was encouraging to see Kabul now rebuilt, modern and functioning. On the other hand, it was sobering as the country is suffering from four years of drought, with about 23 million people depending on food aid. Our agency is providing food for mothers and children who are suffering from malnutrition and helping people in other projects like water and sanitation. We were encouraged to see how Kabul Afghanistan has improved since we were there last 17 years ago. We were so glad that buildings have been constructed, and they look very nice. Plus, we learned that the Taliban has been encouraging Women to start small businesses from their home. We learned that info from some other workers. It is very encouraging. Of course, suffering continues in the villages, and in the slums in a deep way. Women are oppressed by wearing all kinds of attire when they're outside and in other ways.

Good news is that there are people that are coming to Christ through some locals.

We were impressed with the open doors there are in Afghanistan for God's people to serve and show the love of Christ at this critical time in history. Please pray for more workers to join us there!

### **Posada Life Community Service**

Deb Jones

It's like leaving the kids with their grandparents, La Posada Community Services identified a critical need in the community more than 30 years ago. The need was for a convenient, stimulating, safe, state-licensed preschool/childcare program. Los Niños del Valle was created to fill that void for children aged 12 months to five years of age. Children's access to high quality childcare supports their social and emotional, cognitive and physical development. A high quality, child-centered environment at Los Niños promotes their creativity and learning, providing children many opportunities to develop important skills and tools that they will use to succeed in and life. Kids light up when they recognize the familiar faces of one of the participants in La Posada Adult Day Services, much like they would when they recognize a grandparent. Our Intergenerational program brings Los Niños children and seniors together for activities geared to learn and laugh. Qualified teachers and community volunteers help facilitate the school's self-directed learning curriculum giving back and knowing they're adding texture and invaluable exposure to young lives. Los Niños del Valle is an Arizona Department of Economic Security-approved program that offers fee assistance programs, limited scholarships and sliding-scale considerations.

### **Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program**

Ed Storey

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program of the Presbyterian Church is active in several cities across the country. It is a 12-month program, starting in September each year. Southside Presbyterian Church facilitates the Day Laborer Program and is part of the YAV program. In addition, in Mexico, the YAV program supports the current United States asylum programs for persons waiting in Mexico for their hearing. The YAVs would help facilitate a safe place and supplies while they await their hearing. Agua Prieta, near Douglas AZ, is run by a cartel and is borderline safe. There are no efforts by YAV workers to facilitate illegal border crossings.

The annual cost is \$10k. for a one-year YAV worker. Total funding for 3 YAV workers is \$30k with \$20k supplied through the Presbytery and \$10k through VPC. **The Mission Committee agreed to support this program and requests Session's approval.** The initial \$5k is available with \$4,380 funded by current budget and in addition already received congregational gifts, The addition, the \$5K in 2024 will be funded by the budget and gifts from the Mission Breakfast and Noisy offering.

The coordinator of this YAV program is James Martin, a 1/6<sup>th</sup> time pastor at the Douglas Presbyterian Church and leader of the Southside Presbyterian Church's Day Laborer Program. He will be at a future Mission Breakfast to explain the program and answer questions.

### **Presbyterian Campus Ministry**

George Curtis

No report

### **Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries)**

Doug Clark

Warmest greetings! Thank you for your concern. Yes, I have had some health challenges since we returned to the U.S. two months ago. We have had to cancel several church visits and other travels. I think that the schedule you are proposing looks good. I am hoping that my strength/energy will improve in the coming weeks.

It probably would be best to schedule some rest between programs. Thus, if there is time for me to rest after church before the Sunday afternoon gathering, that would be best.

### **St Andrews Children's Clinic**

Kay Brouwer

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> of when St. Andrew's Children's Clinic began. Fifty years ago, seven cerebral palsy children and their mothers gathered in a home in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. It moved to Nogales, Arizona where volunteer and professional health care staff serve children on the first Thursday of each month, except July.

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when St. Andrew's Children's Clinic began. Fifty years ago, seven cerebral palsy children and their mothers gathered in a home in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. It moved to Nogales, Arizona where volunteer and professional health care staff serve children on the first Thursday of each month, except July.

Laura was expecting about 80 children & their families at Clinic on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, after their July break. That's more than ever since they changed locations.

Laura Romero, the Executive Director, has invited Kay to bring 3 or 4 people to visit the clinic the first Thursday of each month. Kylene Joplin and Carol Stephens visited the Clinic in June with Kay.

Contact Kay Brouwer if you'd like to see the Clinic with her in September or October. A personal visit is the only way to understand how much St. Andrews' Clinic helps struggling children. Laura is planning a way to involve interested individuals if you wish to volunteer at the Thursday clinic.

Also, in October, Laura will be taking more than 60 children for Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate surgeries. This is many more than they've taken in the past. Twenty of those are babies scheduled for their first surgery. All children and their accompanying families must stay in hotel rooms before and after surgeries. St. Andrews' Clinic pays for the rooms and for meals. Financial support is needed for these and many other expenses.

Every month, the Clinic flies 2 or 3 children with a parent to Sacramento or Spokane for orthopedic surgery. Again, expenses are handled by the Clinic.

Pastor Craig contacted other pastors in the Green Valley Area who might want their congregations to join ours in an ecumenical fundraiser to help the clinic. A meeting with Father Warren of the Episcopal Church, Pastor Mike of the Desert Hills Lutheran met with Pastor Craig and Kay on May 24. At that time, Laura talked with us via telephone. Many ideas were generated and will be considered. We were able to set up a trip for June 29 to visit the Clinic. An unoccupied church was under consideration to serve as the Clinic. Laura and her board decided that was not a good option. Laura has talked with the owner of the current building (occupied by the Clinic and two Community Colleges) to find out if a long-term lease is possible and if her expanded use of the current space is possible. She needs to make the large back room more convenient for Clinic diagnosis and treatment. Pastor Craig further explained the use of the current building and how a joint effort of several area

churches would be an excellent possibility, not only with St. Andrews Clinic, but with other missions we have in common.

Laura Romero feels very thankful and blessed for our prayers, concerns and donations.

This committee realizes Laura Romero's need for increased donations. **Ed Storey made a motion seconded by Kay Brouwer that we present \$1000.00 for emergency needs. The motion passed with the stipulation that St. Andrews' money go to a specific purpose.** Kay will talk with Laura to find out if it is most needed, either for trips to Spokane and Sacramento for Orthopedic Surgeries or for the October trip to Hermosillo for Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate surgeries. She will decide and Kay will report the destination of the St. Andrews money at our September meeting..

### **Valley Assistance Services**

Steve Larson

A difficult request from Chris Erickson, Executive Director! The times are continuing to be stressful and troublesome for so many. Over the last year. We have seen a growth in our emergency monetary assistance program (rental/utility assistance, workforce training, and benefit advocacy) of over 400%. Our Transportation program has seen an increase of 300% with rides in both Pima and Santa Cruz County to medical appointments and other necessary appointments. The continued occurrence of social isolation and chronic health issues affecting many in our communities has doubled. Inflation, increasing rent, losing a job, stress, health changes, and a changed world after the Covid pandemic are seen daily. Yes, there is a need in our communities, and it continues to grow. **Doug Clark made a motion seconded by Kay Brouwer that \$1000.00 be given from Emergency Continuance Fund to VAS. The motion passed with the stipulation that the money be applied for rental/utility assistance.**

### **Youth On Their Own**

Mary Horn

- Inspirational Card Makers met Wednesday, April 26 and completed 78 cards – a combination of ladies working at home and together that day. We delivered the cards and 2 ½ large bags of contributions from the congregation to Mini Mall to YOTO on Friday, April 28. Ladies will be making cards from home during May, June and July. Our next Inspirational Card Making session will be Wednesday, August 23 from 1 – 3:30 in Classroom 5.
- Our next 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Collection will be August 20, 2023. Youth on Their Own will be in the process of moving into their new location: 2525 N. Country Club Road in Tucson over the summer. Details about items requested will be in our June/July newsletter.
- Bethany Neumann, Director of Development & Communications spoke about YOTO in our Minute for Missions on Sunday, April 23. She visited with people from the congregation at the YOTO table after the service. Magnets, cow bells, brochures, and YOTO pens were available! Bethany shared that she is enthusiastic that several current YOTO Board Members were themselves YOTO students.

### **Mission Breakfast**

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 2023-2024**

July 30, 2023- Posada Life Community Services-Deb Jones -collected \$1,310.26

October 29, 2023 -Presbyterian Campus Ministry-George Curtis

December 31, 2023- Compañeros en Misión- Judy Aguayo

March 31, 2024- YAV- Ed Storey

June 30, 2024- Pam and Dave Lovett-Doug Clark

September 29, 2024- Crossroads Nogales Mission- Les Walter

December 29, 2024- Hand of a Friend- Kara Fitzpatrick

HungerWalk 2023-September 9, 2023, plans and advertising- Sign up and information in Fellowship Hall August 27 and September 3, 2023, with advertising in Valley Voice and E-blast.

Mission Breakfast- for Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) is on September 16/2023 at 8:30. Ticket sales on September 3 and 10, 2023, with planned set up on September 15, 2023, at 1:00. On 9/15/23 at 8:41p.m. Bob and Kristi arrive- 8:30 a.m. 9/16/23 Mission Breakfast– 9:30 a.m.VPC service with sermon - Open House 2-4 p.m. at Pastor's Home.

Mission Breakfast- YAV Pastor James/ YAV worker/ November 18, 2023, plans reviewed.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox plans and advertising-see mission report

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program /plans-see mission report

Homeless Packet Program-Leadership/ discussion if to continue- Tabled for more information.

Resuming Lunches at Crossroad Nogales on hold.

Voice articles- 8 or more / month- September (11) October (12) November (12) December (9) January (9)

February (10) March (10) April (11) May (11) June (12) July (9)

### **New Business**

- Discussion of \$5.00 cost for 2023-2024 Mission Breakfasts- options reviewed. With cost of breakfast covered by ticket sales, Mission Committee voted to keeping the price at \$5.00 to aid in attendance.
- PicRights International- copy right issue reviewed - **Approve payment of \$474 for unauthorized use of photo from Emergency Contingence Funds.**
- Consider lunch at Posada Life Community at 11:00 for Mission Committee Members after September meeting.
- In view of multiple requests for funding in December and less need for this program, the Christmas Joy offering will be DCed and replaced by Peace and Global Witness next year in September.

**Prayer** Pastor Craig Linsey

**Adjourn**-----Next meeting is September 12, 2023, at 8:45 a.m. Room 1

Respectfully submitted- Doug Clark