

Mission Committee Valley Presbyterian Church

Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2023, 8:45a.m. Room 1

Members Present: Doug Clark, Ann Ball, Ed Storey, Mary Horn, Pastor Craig, Carol Stephens, George Curtis, Kay Brouwer, Steve Larson, Jim Fitzpatrick

Members Absent: Pat Nau, Kara Fitzpatrick, Judy Aguayo, Les Walter, Kylene Joplin, Deb Jones, Reed Olson

8:45 AM Bible study/reflections- Humble

Doug Clark

Oh Lord, it's hard to be humble. When you're perfect in every way. I can't wait to look in the mirror. 'Cuz I get better lookin' each day. To know me is to love me. I must be a hell of a man. Oh Lord, it's hard to be humble. But I'm doin' the best that I can

So goes the Mac Davis's country western county song. Humble and its deadly counterpart pride are difficult to separate and apply to our Christian walk. The line between them is hard to discern. To the world, authentic pride has been characterized by words such as "accomplished" and "confident," whereas hubristic pride has been characterized by words such as "arrogant" and "conceited." If you have retired and have chosen Green Valley as your home, you must be somewhat successful as the world would judge and you are proud of this lifestyle. You are not bragging or being arrogant but is this the humble God expects? All you have is a gift from God and pride should only be in the Lord. **Psalm 25:9 (Amplified Bible)**⁹ **He leads the humble in justice, and He teaches the humble His way.** Pride is one of the 7 deadly sins- and shows itself in many ways. Humblebrag is not a new concept and Jesus gives many examples. **Matthew 6:1(New International Version)**⁶ **"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. Luke 18:11-13 (New International Version)**¹¹ **The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get. Matthew 6:5(New International Version)**⁵ **"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. True accomplished humbleness has no need to pretend and no wish to draw attention to itself. Paul advises in Romans 12:3 (Amplified Bible)**³ **For by the grace [of God] given to me I say to every one of you not to think more highly of himself [and of his importance and ability] than he ought to think; but to think to have sound judgment, as God has apportioned to each a degree of faith [and a purpose designed for service]. Success or failure and how we respond are part of God's plan and purpose and to Him and only to Him is to His praise and glory.**

The Bible also defines humility as the fear or awe of the Lord. **Proverbs 22:4 (Amplified Bible)**⁴ **The reward of humility [that is, having a realistic view of one's importance] and the [reverent, worshipful] fear of the Lord Is riches, honor, and life.** Humility's etymological root is in the Latin word "humus" meaning "of the earth." To be humble is to be face down in the dirt, submitting to the authority of another, without personal pride. This is the Christian's proper position before the Lord. In our age group getting down is hard but getting back up is harder.

Humility is important for several reasons: the primary reason being that God commands it. **Micah 6:8(New International Version)**⁸ **He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**

Jesus is our ultimate example of what is humble- **Philippians 2:5-11(Living Bible)** ⁵ **Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ, ⁶ who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, ⁷ but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men.^[a] ⁸ And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on a cross.^[b] ⁹ Yet it was because of this that God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name which is above every other name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every**

knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Jesus - God the Son - left the splendor and majesty of heaven and took on human flesh to be born in a manger. He showed ultimate obedience and humility by subjecting himself to the cross. He, who was sinless and perfect, suffered and died for us. Humankind was redeemed, Jesus was exalted, and the Father was glorified. The importance of humility is directly related to the deadly consequences of pride. Pride separates us from God as we do not acknowledge and appreciate the sovereignty of our Lord. **Philippians 2:5 (Amplified Bible)5 Have this same attitude in yourselves which was in Christ Jesus [look to Him as your example in selfless humility].**

What are some ways to practice humility?

- Thank God often with attitude of gratitude.
- Appreciate grace by confessing sins.
- Listen to others as a sign of love.
- Edify others by thought, word, and deed.

Lord, it is hard to be humble until you recognize the end of self is God forever!

PRAYER:

Kay Brouwer

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

Kay Brouwer

Announcements- Prayers for Members- Prayers for medical needs of mission members

Mission Meeting- Minutes of April 11, 2023, Approved

Financial Report: Mission Budget Review- April 2023-Contingency Funds \$1,022.50

Lives 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

- \$761.75 in funds equally divided between the two Food Banks. Carol took 73 pounds of food yesterday. Vickie is no longer employed at the Food Bank. Now we contact either Roy Aguilar or Lilia Dawson. Don't know if they are going to fill her position with someone else.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños

Reed Olson

Reed unable to attend. His report follows:

- Elias Herrera, Director of the Home, Julio Durazo from New Life Church of God and some RISE Board members met Reed at his house last week to provide an update on the Home.
 1. New Life Church of God is having their 60th anniversary May 21 and invited Reed and Rise Board Members to attend the worship and celebrations.
 2. Reed asked for an update on Dulce, the girl that we are trying to get St Andrews to help with her deformed forehead. Bottom line – it is a complicated process. The Home is not the legal guardian of the child, DIF (Mexico's Child Protection Service) is the responsible agency. They need to find out more about the request. Then, they will contact the child's father who has some mental issues. A psychologist needs to get involved to determine if the father has the mental capacity to understand the request and approve it. Elias is working with DIF to secure special permission for her to cross the border for help.

3. Status of the expanded solar system project is on hold until they can find a reliable organization to install the panels.
4. English as a second language program has not started yet. The person that was going to be the teacher has rescinded his offer because he is the pastor of a local church that has run into some difficulties, and he needs to spend his time with the church. Elias has found another person and they are negotiating the terms of the agreement.
5. A VPC person has donated a slightly used IMAC computer – looks great. Elias picked it up.
6. Another person donated a new sewing machine – looks great. Elias also picked it up.
7. The Home currently has 36 children. All are going to school for the grade appropriate for their age.
8. There are currently four young adults attending college.
9. RISE wrote a check to help pay for the first quarter education costs and gave it to Julio for processing.

Compañeros en Misión

Judy Aguayo

- No report.

Crossroad Nogales Mission

Les Walter

- No report. Doug reviewed the Mission newsletter with the group. Lives touched in April include over 600 individuals in safe shelter, more than 2,450 meals served for hungry men, women and children, and over 870 families received food baskets.

General Mission Support

Ed Storey

- *Voice of the Martyrs (VOM)* The focus is delivering Bibles to new Christians in countries like Tanzania. There are both Christians and Muslims living in the same area. The Muslims object and get violent when someone embraces Christianity. The new Christian can be mutilated or killed. Temistocres, a pastor was attacked when he was praying in the local church. Generosa continues the work of her Pastor, husband after he was murdered.
- *WHEAT* (World Hunger Education Advocacy & Training) The organization from our perspective, is Arizona wide and serves, much as the community food bank that we support in Pima County. This is one of many such organizations for local, national and international assistance that help feed those in need in many parts of the world.

Hands of a Friend

Pat Nau/Kara Fitzpatrick

- The Women's Gathering Luncheon will be held on May 16th. It will be a salad potluck. You may register your attendance on Sundays, May 7 and 14 during Fellowship. The May Presbyterian Gift will go to The Genesis House/Hands of a Friend.
- Letter from Hands of a Friend Executive Director: Good morning, we did get the gate fixed! As you know all of the snowbirds are heading back to cooler weather, so our donations were very low for April, and sales at the DaZee's store is still doing very well. We are looking into getting the inside of the shelter a new paint job because it really needs it, and we're also going to get a few broken tiles replaced in the kitchen and hallways. Once we get an estimate for both of those, I'd be happy to send it to you! Things are going very well at the shelter; we had 2 families move on to better places just this week! As always, we are so thankful for what you and the church do for Hands of a Friend.
- The Genesis House Executive Director and Assistant Director are giving a talk this Thursday (11 May 23) to the GVR Foundation Board of Directors.

Mission at Large

Ann Ball

- Dates for Christmas Box turn in is being moved up to November. New this year is the ability to pack a box online. We discussed putting a notice in the Valley Voice this fall. This may increase participation for our snowbirds who have not yet returned to VPC this fall.

Mission Quilts

Patti Bright

- We will be meeting one Monday a month for the summer months to cut out two sizes of squares to be made into quilt kits. We will finish at noon and go eat lunch together.
- Solid fabrics for borders and sashings and a few end-of-bolts on sale were purchased for backings.
- Through the peak fall and winter season we averaged from 11 to 20 quilters a quilting session.

Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L)

Doug Clark

Email received by Doug and response:

- Dear Doug n Judy,
Thank you for writing and for your prayers. We will miss George a lot. I am so glad that we were able to help him at Urbanna conference this last December. It was truly a joy to serve together with him and his son in this conference. Many books on missions went out and so did my book go out. George and Drena have been wonderful leaders in OM to keep pointing all of us workers to always remain close to Jesus during the kingdom work of serving others and to keep pressing on. It is always good to hear from you. Blessings, Pam

Posada Life Community Service

Deb Jones

Doug read a note from Regina Ford.

- Just as you'd expect from a vibrant community center, ours is the social hub for seniors in Green Valley. Each weekday at lunchtime, La Posada Community Center is abuzz with folks from around the neighboring community enjoying each other's company over a nutritious meal—it's Green Valley's only senior lunch program—it's that popular. At other times of the day, you'll find vigorous board games and storytelling, or friends meeting up to take a day trip to one of the numerous things to do close by. And as with most programs and services at La Posada, the Community Center presents a great opportunity to volunteer, increasing our residents' social interactions with nonresidents as they form friendships with their fellow resident volunteers.
- For Senior Lunch Program information and advance reservations, contact Carla at 520-393-6814 or email her: CCastaneda@casagv.org. Suggested donation to this senior lunch program is \$3.
- For Community Center questions and rental information, contact Ellen at 520-393-6840 or email her: emarch@casagv.org.

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program

Ed Storey

- *Borderlands Young Adult Volunteers.* (YAV) There are many YAV programs of the PCUSA across the country. Ours is a local example. James, who became ordained on 6 May, is the leader of one such program. We will be providing ½ of the support of a YAV, starting in August. James is one of three pastors who will be serving half time at the Douglas Presbyterian Church, as that is all the church can afford. That means for his pastoral duties, he will receive 1/6 of the proper payment for a minister. His primary activity is to be the local coordinator for Borderlands YAV

Presbyterian Campus Ministry

George Curtis

- Board had short meeting last week. No resolution on buyout for Campus Christian center. Brad is meeting with Lutheran Campus Ministry for combining efforts.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries)

Doug Clark

- We will host them in September. Their recent blog talks about the war in Sudan, and South Sudan.
- Note from Doug: Bob and Kristi Rice are our supported missionaries to South Sudan. Their communication tool to our congregation is through their blog – bobandkristi.blogspot.com – which they write twice per month. Only a portion of their inspiring story can be shared in the Valley Voice. Join VPC members who promise to pry and follow the blog.

St Andrews Children's Clinic

Kay Brouwer

- On April 28, as recommended at the April Mission Meeting, Laura Romero and Kay Brouwer met to discuss needs of St. Andrews' Clinic. Laura was pleased to have this opportunity to express the Clinic needs and concerns.
- The top priority is to get the Clinic back up, running smoothly as it used to be at the former location.
- Money is needed for the following:
 1. Space needs to be remodeled to accommodate provider services. Ed Storey has offered tentative plans about which Laura is excited. Ed is continuing to work with the Clinic.
 2. Two new wheelchairs need to be customized to accommodate the needs of two growing boys.
 3. Cleft Palate surgeries are scheduled in Hermosillo for the last weekend in September. Hotel and meal expenses must be provided for families of children needing the surgeries.
 4. Rhino Surgery for teen-aged children will be conducted in Hermosillo, by Dr. Fritz from Cleveland. The bones in their noses need to be re-built. The initial Cleft Palate surgery was done when they were infants, but their faces have grown.
 5. Two or three times every month, children are flown to Spokane, Washington or Sacramento, California for orthopedic appointments. Some flights are paid for by Shriners; others must be paid by the St. Andrews' Clinic.
 6. The families with whom the clinic works are often very poor, lacking adequate healthy food and travel expenses. The Clinic provides assistance to them.
 7. Another office staff would be helpful, especially to conduct phone conversations with English speaking people. This is a possibility for the future, after the office is more organized.
- We discussed the possibility of joining with other churches to launch an "Ecumenical Fundraiser." Besides VPC, other Green Valley churches which have supported St. Andrews are the Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Desert Hills Lutheran and Methodist. These are the churches Laura could think of today. There are probably more. The Rotary Clubs have been generously supportive, also.
- Laura, the staff and clients are excited to announce that they've been helping handicapped children for 50 years.
- Jim Fitzpatrick visited the clinic on May 4 with Mike and Kay Brouwer. Laura gave us a personal tour of the facility and the activities. She has invited Kay to bring 2 or 3 people to visit the clinic the first Thursday of each month. People may want to volunteer to work at the Thursday Clinic. Laura is planning a way to enlist interested individuals.
- On May 4 there were about 60 children with families with appointments for diagnosis and treatment. There were too many for the front entry room, so families were taken to the large back space to wait for their assigned time. Home-baked cookies were passed around.
- Jim Luhing, Ron Erickson and Bruce Nylund installed a television donated by VPC at the front of the entry room above windows. Kay and Les Walter began working on this donation soon after the new location opened last December. Laura Romero wanted a television which the children can watch while they wait for their appointments. Laura is now in search of a streaming device to hook up to the television. She is very thankful to our church for making this donation.
- Departments of Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Orthotics, limited Audiology and Physical Therapy were functioning today. Their Audiology van is parked in the back of the building, but it does not yet have electricity. Testing of a child's hearing is not possible.
- Before we left, Laura expressed her joy when a doctor announced: "This feels like the REAL clinic." This is what Laura dreams of... being able to serve about 250 children on clinic days. Our support with money, service and prayers will help make it happen.
- Fifty years ago, seven cerebral palsy children and their mothers gathered in a home in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. St. Andrew's Children's Clinic was born. It moved to Nogales, Arizona where volunteer and professional health care staff serve children on the first Thursday of each month, except July. The clinic is now housed in the mall at 2021 N. Grand in Nogales, Arizona. This clinic is one of the agencies served by our Valley Presbyterian Church congregation through the Mission Committee.

- As a follow-up of this information, Pastor Craig Lindsay has contacted Pastors of other Green Valley churches who like the idea of getting together to serve. A meeting of both churches will happen during the last part of May.
- Carol and Kylene want to go with us on June 1 to the clinic. Mike has been many times, so I'll drive and Carol, Kara and Kylene will sit in the back seat. This will work just fine.

Valley Assistance Services

Steve Larson

- VAS is now serving the I-19 corridor from three office locations: Main Office (3950 S Camino del Heroe, GV), Tubac Office, Sahuarita Satellite office (17750 S La Canada, Sahuarita)
- Volunteers needed at each location. Many opportunities to volunteer
- Two new programs in Santa Cruz Cty: transportation and Financial Literacy Classes
 - o Blood pressure screenings and balance screenings
 - o Virtual Dementia Tour
 - o Caregiver Support Group meetings monthly
- SASS (Socialization and Support for Seniors)
- Diabetes classes at Sahuarita Food Bank

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 3rd 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.

Update on Snack Sacks for the Homeless

- Our **240 SNACK SACKS** were delivered to the Hospitality House of the Salvation Army on May 3. In addition to the sacks, a check for \$179.86 was sent for the purchase of tee shirts and ball caps which will be part of OPERATION CHILL OUT.
- Assembly of 200+ bags will begin following our Mission Committee Meeting at 10:45.
- Ann, Dick and I had a tour of the Hospitality House facility. They have 107 beds: quarters for men are on the 1st floor; quarters for women are on the 2nd floor. They have a large kitchen/dining room area and a large common area. In extreme heat and cold, they set up cots in the common area to accommodate more people. The Hospitality House helps people with their job search. A number of people who have started a job and still live at the facility pay a small rent.
- It has been a great pleasure to work with Ann and Ed for 2 years on this project. I will be “passing the torch” for SNACK SACKS 2024! Thank you for considering this opportunity of service!
- Discussed weather to continue this project. City provides support but the need is still there.
- Ed Storey will write something for an E-Blast and Valley Voice and see if there is any interest from the congregation.

Recording Secretary

Jim Fitzpatrick

Co-chair

Ed Storey

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- 5th Sunday of month for 2023

- April 30, 2023 -Youth On Their Own- Counters Mary Horn, George Curtis, Carol Stephens, Doug Clark, Kay and Mike Brouwer- money donated- \$2,480.60.
- 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/ \$2,856.93.

Resuming Lunches at Crossroad Nogales on hold

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

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program /plans

New Business

Renewing Mission assignment 2023-2024

Brain storming – Doug thanked all Mission Committee members for all their contributions.

Prayer/ Adjourn-----There will not be Mission Committee meetings in June or July. The next meeting is August 8, 2023, at 8:45 a.m. Room 1

Adjourn 10:20