

Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting at 8:45 – 10:00
April 12, 2022 in Room 5 with ZOOM option

Present: Doug Clark, Kay Brouwer, Reed Olson, George Curtis, Kylene Joplin, Carol Stephens, Mary Horn, Pat Nau, Judy Aguayo, Les Walters, Ann Ball, Larry Craft, Ed Storey and Pastor Diane Christopher. Lois McFarlane and Ann Morrison were here to visit with our guest speaker, Amanda Marbut.

Absent: Steve Larson, Patti Bright, Tom Spurlock, Mark Horton, Parkie Copeland (retired)

Doug presented and explained “Faithfulness” as a fruit of the Spirit. It is also an attribute of God upon which we are uniquely dependent. God is the same at all times and we can count on His “sticking” with us no matter what happens or what we do. God is constantly Faithful, guarding us, watching over and protecting us as His own. In Hebrews 11:1, the Bible says that, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.” Faith is a gift of God through grace. Faith leads to belief, allowing us to do good works when we draw on the Fruit of the Spirit. In our discussion, Judy Aguayo led us to interpret “belief” as “knowing” which is gained through, but different than, faith.

9:00 – Call to order and prayer given by Reed Olson

Amanda Marbut, the Director of Campus Ministry at the University of Arizona in Tucson, told us about what she has been doing in her new position. She took this job in the middle of the fall term 2022. She is working with campus ministry leaders at Arizona State University (Tempe), Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff) as well as the University of Arizona to coordinate and support joint programs. In addition to this new direction in cooperation with other schools, a major focus in recruitment will be to high school graduating seniors of Presbyterian families in Arizona. She encourages us to send her names to whom she might reach out during the summer to offer options of Christian fellowship after high school at whatever Arizona college they choose to attend. Send to amanda.marbut@gmail.com.

Coordinating with Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian ministry located in Agua Prieta, Sonora and Douglas, Arizona, Amanda took 5 University of Arizona students to Mexico during their Spring Break in 2022. These students learned about Mexican culture and issues while helping in schools and neighborhoods. She is planning, with other Arizona campus ministry directors, to take a fall trip with college students from several Arizona colleges. As a social outreach, Amanda, with campus ministry personnel, had a table with information at the Spring 4th Street Fair in Tucson. This will be done again at the December Fair. She encourages us to send brochures from our church with information to have on display. On April 30, 2022, several campus ministry directors from the state will make a presentation at the Presbytery meeting. The covid pandemic has halted much student participation in campus ministry statewide and the current campus minister directors are working to bring back student activity and worship. Campuses working together will strengthen their efforts to get student involved. Amanda is currently meeting with five students for Bible study at Trinity Presbyterian Church with her office at St Mark’s Presbyterian Church. The on-campus Christian service building is partly owned by the Presbytery and is being sold.

Business Begins

Announcements: None

Minutes of 3/15/22 Mission Meeting - Approved and submitted to the VPC session.

Financial Report: March Mission Budget Review was led by Doug Clark. All agencies were sent their quarterly money.

MISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS

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

Amado-GV Food Bank – Kylene Joplin reported that on April 4th, 211 pounds of food was taken to the Food Bank. In March, \$493.00 was sent to each of the food banks - Green Valley and Amado.

Posada Community Services – Doug received information explaining the value of the Senior Lunch Program at Posada Life Community Center for individuals 60 and over. It provides good meals, is open to everyone and is a good place for socializing. Nutrition plays a critical role in fostering healthy aging in older adults, but lack of proper nutrition and social engagement can have serious consequences.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños – Reed Olson had no report. There will be an article in the May Valley Voice.

Compañeros en Misión – Judy Aguayo told us that things are getting better. Money transferred to Mexico is available, so rent and utility bills have been paid. On April 16, the board will meet to discuss ways to proceed. Our church is a major financial supporter of this mission.

Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona- On Saturday, March 26th, Les Walters and 3 others from VPC went to the Mission for a retirement celebration of Bert and Ben Wenke's who have provided refuge for people in need in Mexico and southern Arizona at Crossroad Nogales Mission for 23 years. Ben and Bert were presented a plaque, a cross and a letter of congratulations. Staff members and friends helped celebrate this day with the Wenke's. Les Walters also visited the mission on Monday, April 4th with 175 pounds of ham which would probably feed 400 people at Easter. He also took \$795 of VPC donations. Eight people from our church will accompany Les to serve Easter dinner from 11:00 – 2:00 on Saturday, April 16th. At the Mission, as always, tables of clothing and food are available for people to take if desired. A new director is needed, and the search continues. Citygate, a network of 300 national missions is helping in this endeavor. Ed Storey asked financial questions which were not available for review as there have been no financial reports for review. A 2021 Crossroads Nogales Mission Yearly Report is attached for review which outlines the men, women and children's programs. In addition, data on meals served, produce bags, pounds of clothing distributed, chapel meals, decisions for Christ and Bibles distributed are on the attached report.

General Mission Support – Judy Aguayo gave a report for Tom Spurlock. The Reverend Mienda Uriarte, from California, has been named as the new World Mission's Action Director. She is young and enthusiastic.

PCUSA Seminary Support – Larry Craft presented information about the Presbyterian Theological Seminaries. These institutions prepare men and women to be pastors, educators and musicians for congregations. They provide continuing education and advanced degree programs for ministers. They serve as centers for theological discourse, reflection and research. Our support of these 12 seminaries will help them continue to provide spiritual growth and theological education in the Reformed tradition.

Hands of a Friend – Pat Nau reported that, if possible, she will have a representative from Hands of a Friend at worship for a brief talk before the Noisy Offering on **May 22** or 29. She'll also get a speaker for our January 14, 2023 Mission Breakfast.

Alexa Delgado is the new Executive Director at Hands of a Friend. Colleen Hansen and Jeanne Dalsing will provide mentoring as Alexa starts her job. Information about DaZee's store and Genesis house is available on the Hands of a Friend website. ed@handsoffriend.org. At Genesis House, new tile in the kitchen and dining room has begun. Porch posts and awning are being replaced. Hands of a Friend is very thankful for VPC continued support to ensure the safety and health of residents there.

Mission Quilts – Patti Bright sent a report that Karen Mitchell's husband, Mike, took 10 of our quilts to Poland to help Uranian refugees. He found it very emotional to deliver the quilts to nurses and mothers. Mike visited the quilters at their April 4th Quilting session to thank them for the quilts. Patti shared news and photos from Mike with quilters and in the VPC daily E-Blasts. Pat Nau will contact Patti to see if her articles and pictures about this endeavor can be submitted to the Green Valley News. Kay will ask Cindy to copy some of those reports into the May Valley Voice. Snowbirds are leaving, so the quilting sessions are almost over for this part of the year. Patti placed and received needed orders for batting and rotary cutters, supplies needed by our quilters.

Operation Mobilization – Pam and Dave L. confirm that OM is responding to the crisis in Ukraine. They ask us to pray for the people there. "...team members in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Hungary and Romania are mobilizing local churches, coordinating relief efforts and administering aid to those in need."

Presbyterian Campus Ministry – George Curtis reported that the board is planning to return to Gaslight Theater as a fundraiser in the fall. We thanked George for arranging for today's speaker, Amanda Marbut.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) – From their blog, Doug shared information about the meeting of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church General Assembly. "The long days were filled with worship, prayer, animated discussion, laughter and, of course, reports. people from remote regions reconnected showing a deep level of connection.... Even those who disagreed about a certain topic could laugh together later." The meeting elected new leaders and was a great success.

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic – Kay Brouwer reported that, on April 7th, seven Mexican families brought children for treatment at St. Andrews' Children's Clinic in Nogales, Arizona. This was the first Clinic since the start of COVID in 2020. The Clinic is up and running with enthusiastic, efficient staff and volunteers. The families are thrilled to have the medical help for their children.

The children came for Orthopedic help. All went well. The next clinic, on May 5, will serve 20 children with orthopedic, pediatric and/or speech problems. The Customs Border Protection personnel were able to process the families across the border efficiently and will continue to do so every first Thursday when children from Mexico come to St. Andrew's for help.

The St. Andrews' Episcopal Church in Nogales has limited the space available to the Clinic. Therefore, it is too small for Clinic services. In April and May, Laura Romero will spend this time and effort searching Nogales, Arizona, for a bigger space in which to provide their clinic services. She hopes to finalize her search by this fall so the clinic can help up to 50 children. The Clinic staff and volunteers supports the efforts to expand their services which, in the future, might reach 250. Growth must come slowly and safely, but the Customs Border Protection agency considers this a real possibility. Laura is extremely grateful to Valley Presbyterian Church

for our prayers, support and donations. This will be a stressful era of transition during which many Mexican Children will continue to get medical help at St. Andrews' Children's Clinic.

Valley Assistance Services – Steve Larson sent no report.

Youth on Their Own (YOTO) – Mary Horn reported:

- 1) Eight Inspirational Card Makers created 228 cards for YOTO in March. These cards were delivered to YOTO on April 6th. The next in person session will be Wednesday, April 27th in Classroom 5 from 1 – 3:30. All are welcomed to join this wonderful and friendly group!
- 2) Four boxes of teenaged clothing from the Patio Sale were delivered to the Assistance League of Tucson on April 6th. YOTO's mini mall does not have room for clothing, but students can shop for free at the Assistance League.

Old Business

Mission Breakfast Mission/missionaries for 2021-2022 Programs:

- March 26, 2022 – St. Andrews' Children's Clinic (Kay Brouwer) – Tickets sold-60, Attended-54, Contributions-\$7,550.00.
- November 12, 2022 – Posada Community Services (Mark Horton)
- January 14, 2023 – Hands of a Friend (Pat Nau)
- February 11, 2023 – RISE/Casa Vida Nueva (Reed Olson)
- March 25, 2023 - Pending

Noisy Offering – 2022

- May 29, 2022 – Hands of a Friend – Pat Nau
- July 31, 2022 – Food Bank – Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens
- October 30, 2022 – St. Andrews' Clinic – Kay Brouwer

Homeless Packet Program 2022 – Packets will be filled at 10:30 today after the meeting. We are happy that several people have volunteered to join our mission committee for this task. The congregation donated very generously to the Snack Bags for the Homeless, both in ALL the items needed and also in Monetary contributions. We received \$275 at our Snack Bag Table over the 4 weeks, and another \$150 in checks given in our weekly collection plates earmarked for Snack Bags. That brings the total to date: \$425. Receipts to date are \$166, bringing the remaining money for Snack Bags to \$259.

VAS Walk - March 26, 2022 – no follow up available

Valley Voice articles – Our goal is at least 4 articles per month. We had 11 in January, 9 in February and 8 in March, and 9 in April.

Review and update of mission TV assignments – April 17, 2022 – Mary Horn

New Business: none

Brainstorming:

Kay told us that, on behalf of our committee, she sent a thank you letter to Lois and Tom Macfarlane for their generous contribution of food and cooking for our Mission Breakfasts.

The next Mission Committee meeting will be at 8:45, May 10, 2022, in Room 1.

Diane Christopher gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Brouwer, Secretary