VPC Mission Committee Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2025

Time: 8:45 AM
Location: Valley Presbyterian Church, Room 1
Chair: Doug Clark
Co-Chair: Ed Storey
Recording Secretary: Jan Schoeben

Members Present:
Maureen Brealey, Kay Brouwer, Doug Clark, Laurel Erickson, Jan Farrington, Geneva Halliday, Steve Hart, Mary Horn, , Kylene Joplin, Reed Olson, Linda Piotrowski, Monica Pataki, Jan Schoeben. Guest- Tom Lobb
Members Absent:
Judy Aguayo, Don Brooks, John and Judy Fenlason, Deb Jones, Pastor Craig Lindsey,

Bible Study/Reflections: Doug Clark
Agape & Charity
Agape in the Bible is a selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love, contrasting with other forms of love like Eros (romantic/sexual), Storge (familial), and Phileo (friendship). There is only one source of agape (love) and that is God. Strong's concordance the word is translated as Agapē (G26) a Greek word meaning **affection, good will, love, benevolence, and brotherly love**. This sounds like our current definition of love but agape is a uniquely Biblical and ecclesiastical word used 116 times in the NIV bible and is translated a selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love. Greek and present-day use of love is used in many non-agape ways. For example, there is intense feeling of deep affection, like a parents love for a baby, or less intense love for a sister or friend. Other uses of love are used showing great interest and pleasure in something like my love for football, even love is used to mean I just love ice cream. God uses love (agape) uniquely in the Bible in one of three ways-God's relationship to man, man's relationship to God, and man's relationship to man. All are specific and interrelated and reflect that God is the author of love (agape) as one of his many attributes. So, what does it mean that God is love (agape)? **1 John 4:8 (Amplified Bible) [8] The one who does not love(agape) has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for God is love(agape). [He is the originator of love (agape), and it is an enduring attribute of His nature.]** God's love (agape) is in no way is in conflict with

His holiness, righteousness, truth, justice, or even His wrath. Remember, our understanding of God is beyond our thoughts and comprehension because He is the author of all creation.

What is God's relationship to man? The greatest expression of God's love(agape) is evident in **John 3:16 (New International Version) 16 For God so loved (agape) the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life**. Restated in **Romans 5:8 (Amplified Bible) 8 But God clearly shows *and* proves His own love(agape) for us, by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**. God wants fellowship with His creation man; but God who is holy can only have fellowship with a righteous man. Propitiation appeases God by the sacrifice of His only son. Therefore, when we have Christ in us, God sees a righteous person, Christ, allowing fellowship. **1 John 1:9 (Amplified Bible) 9 If we [freely] admit that we have sinned *and* confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us *continually* from all unrighteousness.**

What is man's relationship to God? **Matthew 22:36-38 (Amplified Bible) 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 And Jesus replied to him, "'You shall love(agape) the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. Romans 14:11(Amplified Bible) 11 For it is written [in Scripture],"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God." 2 John 6 (New International Version) 6 And this is love(agape): that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love(agape).**

What is man's relationship to man)? **Matthew 22:37-40 (New International Version)37 Jesus replied: "'Love(agape) the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'[a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love(agape) your neighbor as yourself.'[b] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."** And

John 13:34 (New International Version)[34] "A new command I give you: Love(agape) one another. As I have loved(agape) you, so you must love(agape) one another.

An interesting variation in the Catholic teaching is when *agape* is translated as "charity" **1 Corinthians 13:13 (King James Version) [13] And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.** The modern Catholic translations render charity more accurately as "love(agape). The early Catholics translated this word into Latin-*caritas*- which became our word charity. This explains their focus on man's relation to man and the label charity as one of the 7 virtues of a Christian life. It is a core theological virtue and a central principle of the Catholic Church's social teaching, requiring believers to act with love and compassion to man through acts of mercy and justice. Many confuse the concept of agape love with the concept of caritas, or charity, but these are two separate ideas. Agape love is the love of God reaching down to save humanity through grace, while caritas is about humans reaching upward toward God through works. Works are important but secondary to God given love(agape). **Ephesians 2:8-10 (New International Version) [8] For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—[9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do**.

QUESTION: When you read love in New Testament do you think agape?

9:00 AM: Call to Order: Doug Clark

Prayer: Doug Clark

The minutes from the November 11, 2025, meeting were approved and submitted to Session. Financial Report: Mission Budget Review -November- Custodial Account is $5941. Returning $500 To Just Coffee account which was transferred in error was approved. The ability to have carry over residual Custodial Account funds to next year was confirmed.

Mission Reports/Comments - Round Table
Amado-GV Food Bank **Kylene Joplin**
Food products of 94# was collected and donations of $5,801.79 (a new record for one month)

Casa Vida Nueva para-Ninos: **Reed Olson**

Reed expressed his sincere gratitude to the VPC Mission Committee, Gifts and Memorial Committee and the VPC Session for their overwhelming support in voting YES in granting $20,000 to the orphanage for purchase of a new (preowned) 15-passenger van and $7,000 for the orphanage to use in extending their boundary wall around their Nogales Sonora home. He was glad to report that Roger Fisher (Elder at VPC) and his son-in-law found the 2018-year van at a dealership in Chandler, AZ, and helped negotiate the purchase. The 15-passenger van is in excellent condition; about 60,000 miles on it and was purchased last week for $22,788 (total) then delivered to the New Life Church of God in Tucson. It will stay there until the insurance, and all MX paperwork has been accomplished.

He also wanted to report that in the past three weeks he collected over $3,958 for the orphanage Christmas gifts which will be given to the 31 children on the December 13th visit. Maureen Braely of Valley Galley baked cookies with each child's name on to be given with the gifts to make it more personal. There are 27 people signed up for the visit.

Companeros en Mision **Jan Farrington**

This month we have seen a beautiful harvest of progress and blessings in our children's educational program. Most of them now recognize letters, form syllables, and several are beginning to read their first words. This progress has awakened in them a genuine motivation to learn.

With the arrival of winter, hot chocolate has become a much-anticipated moment, filling each gathering with joy. The children attend punctually, demonstrate discipline, and a growing sense of belonging to the space. We also celebrate small but significant details: seeing their faces light up when they receive a new notebook, pencil, or sharpener; knowing they have healthy food and a safe environment; and observing how the support of volunteers strengthens their participation and confidence.
The changes in their behavior continue to progress visibly: they take care of this place. They collaborate with others and demonstrate a helpful attitude. Their transformation progresses step by step, with hope and perseverance.

In this Thanksgiving season, we want to express our deep gratitude to you, our dear brothers and sisters of Partners in Mission and our churches. Thanks to your generous support, this project is possible. Your commitment allows light to shine in this small corner of the city, bringing education, food, safety, and love to every child who participates. You walk with us and are a fundamental part of this beautiful community transformation.

Below, we share some of the testimonies that reflect what God is doing in this place and the impact this program has on the lives of those who attend:
Aaron: "I am happy to receive a folder and a notebook for the first time
Now I'm learning to add! And I can already read. Sometimes I can't come because I have to work with my dad at a junkyard, but I never miss the other days. I'm afraid that when I grow up I won't be able to get a good job."
Kenai: "I like going because I like to learn and I like to eat all the food they give me."
Mateo: "I like my classroom, learning, playing, and eating."

Damaris: “I like coming to pray and give thanks for my family and to learn to read.”

Crossroad Nogales Mission: Linda Kucera/Steve Hart

Delivered 2 truckloads of clothing to Crossroads Mission. Also delivered the quarterly check and Gifts and Memorials check (for a van). Collected approximately $1,100 in donations for turkey's for Crossroads Thanksgiving lunch. Purchased 75 turkeys, case of green beans, and 4 cases of bottled water and delivered to Crossroads. I, Linda Jorn, Jan Woerner and Nancy Collins helped serve the lunch at Crossroads. Collected approximately $4,500 in donations for hams and toys for Crossroads Mission Christmas Lunch on December 13,2025.

Presbytery de Christo Support Ed Story

No report

Hands of a Friend: Jan Farrington

Mission program is stable. They have received our monies as a mission gift and a grant from White Elephant for two refrigerators.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox: Monica Pataki

We blessed 86 children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We filled 63 shoeboxes in person, and 23 shoeboxes online! We donated $630.00 to cover shipping costs and provide Bible study materials. We also donated money for each online shoebox for shipping and Bible study materials. The $630 is questioned as additional money collected may not have been credited to this account.

Mission Quilts: Patti Bright/Geneva Halliday

Most of Patti's time has been spent dividing quilts into five groups to be delivered in Nov. and Dec.

Our November quilting sessions are growing in size as the girls are returning. The display quilts in fellowship hall were changed, so those on the wall could be delivered.

On Dec. 4, The girls met in front of VPC before 8:00 and picked the quilts and me up on their way to Tucson. We had full tours of all the facilities and learned a lot about the passion that the volunteers and employee had for their agency's work and foster children. We even visited briefly with the girls at Springboard.

More Than a Bed - 10 mid-size to larger quilts
AVIVA - 16 quilts
Springboard Home for Girls in Crisis - 5 throw size quilts

There are 68 quilts bagged and ready for Linda Piotrowski to pick up for NAAF
We won't go to Holy Cross until January 2, 2026

Native American Advancement Foundation (NAAF) Linda Piotrowski

On Saturday December 6th I journeyed to the GUVO district of the Tohono O’odham reservation. To refresh your memory GUVO is the farthest western part of the reservation.

<u>Key Aspects of the GuVo District:</u>

• Location: Western side of the Tohono O'odham Nation, bordering Sonora, Mexico, in the Sonoran Desert.
• Communities: Includes villages such as GuVo (also called Big Pond), Ku:Kaj, Pia Oik, and Ali Chugk
• Government: It's one of the 11 districts that form the governing structure of the Tohono O'odham Nation.
Community Focus:
• The community of GuVo itself, though remote, is central to the district, with residents actively involved in projects like building a local skatepark.
• Organizations such as the Native American Advancement Foundation (NAAF) partner with the district to bring resources for food, education, and well-being.
• 739 live on the reservation 1,808 live off the reservation The total number of enrolled members is 2, 547.
I delivered our check, quilts from the Mission Quilters, four boxes of books donated by various members of VPC, and Christmas ornaments and a few other gifts from the Holiday Sale.

Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave Lovett): Doug Clark
INDIA: THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF WORLD MISSIONS!
We have continued to work to support ministry among the least reached peoples of India and had a special time hosting our co-worker Sushil Tyagi from India who we have known for about 42 years. His father was the first national worker recruited into OM in 1964 and his parents were mentors for us when we worked in India 1983-85. Sushil is now leading a dynamic ministry called Nicodemus Trust with 150 workers reaching the most unreached peoples of South Asia. They need prayer as local authorities have become more oppressive towards Christians especially in North India where over 440 pastors are in prison with about 600 other Christians also in prison for their faith. Yours in the Fight, Pam and Dave Lovett

Posada Life Community Service: Deb Jones
No Report

Presbyterian Campus Ministry: Judy Aguayo
No report

St Andrews Children's Clinic Kay Brouwer

1. Kay presented the clinic with 2 checks. One was our VPC quarterly allotment. The other was from special funding from church sources.
2. On December 4, about 60 children had Clinic appointments with volunteer doctors after which they came to a Christmas Party where they received gifts. Laura had been working with Mexican and American Consulates to get necessary visas and passports for these people. Donations from our church and other sources enabled these 60 families to attend clinic appointments this day.
3. At this celebration, Kay was joined by church members - Abby Jackson, Maria Rameriz and Gary McClellan. We gave soccer balls, colored pen sets, wooden toy vehicles and 35 quilts from our VPC quilters. The few items left over at the end of the

"party" would be given to children who would be coming for clinic appointments in January and February.

4. At our table, Mary and Gary gave each child a large, sturdy tote bag in which to put their collection of gifts. This was very helpful for the families but had never been done in the past.
5. Kay will ask Laura to send a copy of the 990 Federal Tax form for 2025 when available.

Valley Galley: Maureen Brealey

The Valley Galley Lunch Program was served on Friday November 14thThe meal count was 75 for VAS and 30 for GVFB total of 105. There were two delivery teams. Maureen delivered the GVFB meals. We used our cars as the meals were already bagged and the numbers were low.

VAS was down about 30 for deliveries due to the fact they are short drivers, very sad. A new program SASS, Seniors and Socialization Support group, expected about 10 to meet at VAS and eat there. Unfortunately, the group did not meet and I'm still not sure where the communication breakdown was from. They promise to do better next month.

GVFB decided not to call and ask for reservations in advance. Only about 1/3 of the RSVPs actually showed the month before. The meals are not wasted as the volunteers working in food bank many of whom are needy themselves received the meals. Monica the director decided to just let people know the lunch was available. No one actually came just for the meal. 10 meals were handed out to guests who were there picking up food. They were delighted to receive the meals. The rest were distributed to the volunteers. There are a couple of factors contributing to the failure of reaching the needed guests. One is communication by GVFB and second is the short window of availability, 11:30 to 12 noon when they close. After a discussion with Monica she highly suggests we change the day of serving to a Tuesday when the food bank is open until 2 pm. This does not fit the preparation schedule.

Cost $229. 67 pp $2.19

We were able to use the new sticker labels with the VG logo on the bags. By the time I got back to the church that day Cindy had already received a thank you call from a guest! WOW, I was thrilled to know it worked. Also, the guest gushed about the soup and best cornbread ever.

Chris Erickson and I are both really recruiting for additional drivers and we sure are giving out the volunteer paperwork. It is exciting to see the response.

Valley Assistance Services: Laurel Erickson

As uncertainty swirls around social service programs for economically challenged Arizonians, VAS professionals are leaving no stones unturned in their search for new and renewed funding sources.

The lead article in the Nov 5 issue of Green Valley News Explains the draconian cutbacks of the usually reliable sources. The headline reads "VAS down 77 % in aid money".'

Federal cutbacks trickle down to State and County and have left VAS searching for any new ways to help their clients.

To try to give some extra help, VAS is creating a new Essentials Pantry to collect and distribute needed cleaning and personal toiletry products not covered by Medicaid.

The list of items desired are dish soap, detergent, hand soap, toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, Kleenex, and other essentials. Small or average sized products are welcome. One thing to note is that they cannot split up unwrapped toilet paper packed in large packages.
To help this become reality, a large blue plastic bin has been placed in 3 businesses in our immediate area. Hopefully there will be more drop off locations in the future.
It was moved and seconded that we support the VAS Essential Pantry project in two ways. The second Sunday of each month will be labeled VAS Essential Pantry along with Crossroad Nogales Mission for collections. It was also agreed the $3,000 be donated to support this program. Motion passed

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program: Ed Storey
YAV will be presented at the January 18,2025, Mission Breakfast. In conjunction with this program, homemade TAMALES will be for sale. Tickets for the program and orders for tamales will be offered January 4 and 11, 2026 It was suggested that packaging include the varieties and ingredients be made available for review,

The **Youth On Their Own: Mary Horn**

1) Dick and I made a delivery to YOTO on Friday, December 5th to present two checks to Bethany Neumann for YOTO stipends. One was for $10,000 – $5,000 from the Patio Sale Funds and $5,000 from Gifts and Memorials. The second was for $2,157 from a donor who wished to be anonymous.

2) YOTO CARD MAKING will be held this Wednesday, December 10th in Classroom 5 from 1-3:30. This will combine our November and December meetings as they each fall close to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

3) Bethany Neumann visited Valley Pres on Sunday, November 16 to give a brief message to the Congregation about YOTO. After the service Bethany and I were at a table in Charter Hall to visit with people, answer questions, and begin sign-ups for the Spring Luncheon. A steady stream of people came by the table. Seven people signed up for the luncheon.

4) The Noisy Offering was collected by Mission Committee Members on Sunday, The official total was $813.69 which included two checks, bills and loose change.

Old Business:
Mission Breakfast Schedule:
November 15, 2025- In House Missions – Donations to VAS from Mission Breakfast offerings - $565
January 17, 2026- YAV – Ed Storey
February 14, 2026-Companeros en Misión-Jan Farrington
March 28, 2026- Rise/Casa Vida Nueva Reed Olson
November 14, 2026-Crossroads Nogales Mission -Linda Kucera/Steve Hart

Noisy Offering-
November 30,2025- YOT0- Mary Horn – Donations $813.68
March 29,2026-NAAF
June 28,2026- Compañeros en Misión
August 30,2026-Presbyterian Campus Ministry
November 29,2026-Posada Life Community Services

Further Old Business
Reviewed Projects and funding from G&M /Patio Sale/missions. These items have been passed and referred to Session with approval. We should consider and plan for requests to all agencies for additional mission projects in 2026.

Crossroads Nogales Mission-Thanksgiving donation-$1,060- Christmas donations-$4,500

Request for 990 income report for 2025 from all agencies (when available)

Contribution drops- off problem (inadequate storage) proposed cabinets (update)- Maureen Brealey

The story of our mission projects (60 seconds) during Sunday service. Two/ month signup sheet. Put on hold pending new pastor approval.

Name tags for mission agencies (Steve Hart)

Mission's brochure of mission programs (EdStorey) for presentation at Missio
n Sunday, January 18,2026 with Mission Outreach 2026 Annual Report.

Number 7 cover was chosen for the mission brochure which will be presented at Mission Sunday on January 18,2026 with the Mission Outreach 2026 Annual Report. All articles have been submitted.

Communicating to the congregation -articles information to Ed Storey. Valley Voice articles – 8 or more/month goal –December (9) January (9) February (9) March (9) April (6) May (10) June (9) August (12) September (9) October (9) November (14) December (12)

New Business
We discussed reporting of monies that each Mission received. There was a concern that we weren't seeing the monies reported in the budget data. A small committee of volunteers will meet with Steve Ginader to discuss the concerns. The members will be: Reed Olson, Laurel Erickson, Monica Pataki and Doug Clark

Doug introduced Tom Lobb who made a presentation recommending that we add Frontera del Cristo as a VPC agency with Mark Adam and Miriam Maldonado Escobar as

Missionaries. Tom Lobb has agreed to be the Mission Committee representative pending Session approval. After discussion it was tabled for further information and discussion.

Prayer and Adjournment:
Meeting adjourned at 10:55 with a prayer by Doug Clark.
Next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2026, at 8:45 a.m. in Room 1.