**Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting – February 11, 2020**

**Present:** Doug Clark, Tom Spurlock, Reed Olson, Mary Horn, Kay Brouwer, Pat Nau, Sally Ruschmeier, Joan Bolin, Betty Kiesle-Yoder, George Curtis, Larry Craft, Rev. Diane Christopher and Rev. Craig Lindsey. Also attending was Marian Coberly who stayed to help assemble Snack Bags for the Homeless.

**Absent:** Steve Larson, Mark Horton, Charlie Ashton, Patti Bright

Doug presented information about another attribute of God: Familial Love, a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. God is the originator of love and it is an enduring attribute of His nature. If we re-read the familiar Bible verses in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, replacing LOVE with GOD, we can understand better this attribute of God. The group discussed ways in which we have experienced this concept God’s love.

William McCreey, director of Posada Community Services, spoke to our committee about that mission. He told of the vital role VPC played in starting the mission in the 1980’s. It began because this church recognized the need to help people in the Green Valley area. This church was instrumental in starting the Adult Day Care, Los Niños del Valle, Behavioral Services and the Community Center. He explained how those services are funded and have thrived. He thanked Valley Presbyterian Church for continuing to support Posada Community Services.

Doug Clark opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of January 14, 2020 meeting were approved to be sent to Carla Goings.

**Financial Report:**

The budget for 2019 was $70,500. Mission Committee Emergency Funds are at $2,698.11. The church session recently increased our 2020 budget by $10,000. No funds were sent to missions in January because we are in a transition period.

**Mission Reports/Comments:**

**General Mission Support** – Tom Spurlock reported

* The Presbyterian USA has uncovered some barriers to addressing mental health issues.
* Since 2001, the “Bed Ministry” south of Detroit has furnished more than 3.500 beds for needy children in Monroe County. It is a successful mission for PCUSA.
* A partnership between New Castle Presbytery and Western Highlands of Guatemala has helped indigenous women establish small businesses so they can support their families and the economy of the country.

**Green Valley-Amado Food Bank** – Betty Kiesle-Yoder reported that $782.00 was donated in January and 39 pounds of food so far in February. There will be a reception on February 27th from 5:30 -7:30 at the Tucson Food Bank to learn about the remodeling and services. RSVP is required by Feb. 21 to kdixon@communityfoodbank.org.

**St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic –** Kay will be taking a group to tour the Clinic on March 5. So far there are 9 people signed up for this tour. There will be a table in Charter Hall on February 16 and 23 for more people to sign up.

Laura Romero reported that the Clinic is in the middle of an audit and nothing new is happening except for the first Thursday clinic’s business as usual.

**Hands of a Friend –** Pat Nau toured the Genesis House with Dr. Madelaine Paschel. Maddie is an excellent business woman who is keeping the facility clean, comfortable and private. She does not encourage visitors. Sleeping accommodations are separate for families and single women. Available services are a kitchen, washer, dryer and beds. Pat asked if any of this committee would like to volunteer at the Hands of a Friend store to organize and sell donations.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry –** George Curtis reported that there is one new board member. There are still board vacancies. The board is re-considering the Gaslight Theater as a fundraiser.

**Posada Community Services –** Sally Ruschmeier commented that Bill McCleery gave us much information about this mission. See notes above.

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

1. Our Inspirational Card Makers met on January 22 from 1 – 3:45 in Classroom 1 at church. We had 9 ladies – one new card maker, and one person who sent in cards because she wasn’t able to be there for the card making. We made 140 cards and clocked in 23 hours and 36 minutes of volunteer hours for YOTO. Roxy Blair is our new co-captain of the Card Makers. Her creativity adds so much to our work! Our next session of card making will be Wednesday, March 25th in Classroom 1 from 1-3:45.
2. Youth on Their Own’s COMMUINITY APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE on Tuesday, February 4 was AWESOME. Dick and I were able to go. We met the new CEO, Elizabeth Slater, and also, Matthew Palmer, the Director of Finance & Operations and HR. He is the person I “needle” for the budget. We had a laugh about that. Two graduates of the program spoke. Both said YOTO was like a family for them. YOTO is looking to expand their program to support students after they graduate.
3. We will have a tour of YOTO for Valley Presbyterian church members and friends on Monday, March 23. Information/details will be in the newsletter and bulletins. I will also mention it at the February Mission breakfast. I will plan to have a table in March to sign people up and answer questions.

**Valley Assistance Services** – The Empty Bowls Fundraiser will take place this Saturday, February 15,

**Casa Vida Nueva para Niños –** Reed Olson reported that the next trip will be March 14. Currently there are 19 people signed up including one of his friends who is flying in from Sacramento just to come on the trip.

**Compañeros en Misión –** Doug Clark received a letter thanking VPC for supporting this mission.

**PCUSA Seminary Support** – Larry Craft reported that a Columbia Seminary Professor awarded a vital worship grant to Dr. Rebecca Spurrier so she could further explore the hope of Human Interdependence. Each grant ranges from $10,500 to $18,500. Beginning in 2020 recipients have been from five research universities, seven seminaries, and two regional Christian colleges. These individuals have come from ten states.

**Mission Quilts –** Patty Bright and the quilters are working hard to get more quilts ready to send out to places.

**Crossroads Mission** – Joan Bolin reported she talked with Bert Wenke, director, on February 3, 2020. The following is information she received:

Bert reiterated that May 1, 2020, Pastor David and Liz Lopez will be the new Crossroads directors. They will be introduced at our Mission Breakfast on February 22, 2020, 8:30 AM. We will also say goodbye to Crossroads founders, Ben and Bert, who will be leaving Crossroads after working there 23-years. Breakfast tickets were for sale at the church February 9th, and will be for sale Sunday 16th.

Bert stated the following items are in need at Crossroads: diapers, size 1-5; twin-size sheets, blankets, pillows and quilts for their women and children’s transitional house; #10-size (large cans) of vegetables and fruit (can be found at Walmart and Costco); Mac & Cheese, noodles, spaghetti, macaroni, bags of potatoes and onions, garlic, seasonings, tomato sauce, etc. These items can all be brought to the church on Sunday, February 16, or to the Mission Breakfast on February 22.

A new house was given to Crossroads from the same generous man who donated the present central Crossroads Mission buildings. Plans for this new house will be presented at the Mission Breakfast.

As reported last month, the furnace in Crossroads 2nd women’s house was not operating. They didn’t know if it would have to be replaced or if it could be repaired. Good news, the furnace only needed to be repaired, so it operates fine now.

**Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) –** Message from our missionaries:

The director of Women’s programs at the South Sudan Council of Churches, has been organizing ecumenical prayer gatherings for 6 years – a beautiful expression of unity and faith. For real change and healing in South Sudan, it will take not just the decisions of political leaders, but also the unity and commitment by people at the grassroots. Kristi Rice was among a multitude of women who knelt on the pavement to pray. One woman at a time led in prayer, acknowledging our need and crying out for God’s intervention in South Sudan. The rest joined in, praying silently or quietly. They prayed for soldiers who are hungry and underpaid, for youth who are sucked into the gang and drug culture, for leaders implementing the peace agreement, for the economy and jobs, and for churches and families.

The women’s theme this year is Romans 12:12 “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” These women reflected that verse well. Kristi was encouraged by the hope expressed, rooted in faith and God’s faithfulness. She told them that they are an example for us in America of commitment to prayer. She was energized and inspired by the sense of hope and grateful for the gift of joining these women in prayer.

**Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L.)** – These missionaries thanked us for our continued prayer and support. Dave finished seven days of meetings for prayer, strategic planning and thinking for expanding their vision and faith to reach the least reached Muslim people's in Iran, Tajikistan and Afghanistan where he and Pam have been serving for about 40 years. Iran has one of the fastest growing churches in the world especially with people from Muslim background. There could be about 1 million believers inside Iran now. Progress is also seen in Tajikistan. Fifteen years ago, Dave only knew of about five Tajik Christians. Today, he and Pam feel blessed to see this grow to about 3000.

**Old Business:**

**Mission Breakfasts 2020 –** January 18 - Valley Assistance Services (80 attended, gifts of $1362); February 22 - Nogales Crossroad Mission (signup list was passed); March 28 – Food Bank; November 14 – maybe YOYO; January 16, 2021 – Doug will contact Pam and Dave L to see if they can come at that time.

**Noisy Offering 2020 –** March 29 – Posada Community Services; May 31 - Food Bank ($ for Peanut Butter); August 30 - ??; November 29 -??

**Homeless Packet Program –** Mary Horn reported that:

Collections for our Snack Bags concluded on February 9. It was helpful to have 4 Sundays for people to participate.

People donated: 46 cans of Vienna Sausage, 34 Tuna and chicken salad to go, 138 packages of trail mix, 131 packages of cookies, 139 fruit applesauce/fruit cups, 107 bottles of water, 219 Granola bars, 28 Slim Jim sticks, 250 packages of cheese and peanut butter crackers. Also donated were around 250 individually wrapped wet ones.

Monetary donations totaled $296. Needed extra supplies to prepare 125 bags totaled $198.53 leaving a balance of $97.47

We will assemble the bags after our Mission Meeting on February 11. Bags will be available for people to take to share with the needy on Sunday, February 16. Remaining bags and extra donations will be taken to the Hospitality House of the Salvation Army.

**Mission Sunday –** January 19, 2020 review of project- Sermon by Pastor Lindsey, Tee-shirts, Posters, Introduction of Members to church, and passing out of Mission Outreach Report 2020. Plans for 1/17/2001: Pastor Diane said that she heard from congregation members that they were impressed with all the people involved in missions ~ as they were introduced before the service.

**Valley Voice articles** – 4 or more per month; turn in by January 18 for February issue.

**Review and Update of Mission TV Assignments--**Mission TV assignments: Jan. 12,19,26 = vacant; Feb. 2,9,16 & 23 = Clark; March 1,8,15,22,29 = Clark.

**New Business:**

**New Members’ Class** – Pastor Diane has 13 – 16 people in a class preparing to become members of VPS. It meets at 9:30 on Thursdays. She asked for someone to come on Feb. 20 to tell what the Mission Committee does. Kay volunteered.

**Website concern –** Joan Bolin commented on the outdated material on the Website. Wendy Kopera has turned the Website over to Dick Horn. Each committee member should let him know of changes needed.

**Distribution of Emergency Funds at year end:** Moved and seconded with unanimous approval that the funding level for all agencies for 2020 remain the same as 2019 except for Funding for Quilt Ministry which, by their request, will be reduced from $1000 to $800 for 2020. In addition, $925 will be added to budget for the remaining 14 agencies for 2020.

The next meeting will be at 8:45 March 17, 2020 in Room 1. (**Note the change of date.)**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Brouwer, secretary