

February 13.2023

Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting

February 13, 2024, in Room 1 from 8:45 – 10:30

Members Present: Doug Clark, Pastor Craig Lindsey, Kylene Joplin, Mary Horn, Kay Brouwer, Steve Larson, Linda Walters, Ed Storey, Reed Olson, Judy Aguayo, and Jan Farrington. Visitors- Marleen Brealey and Lynn Conroy

Members Absent: Patti Bright and Ann Ball

8:45 Devotional:

Doug Clark

KOINONIA

Koinonia is a Greek biblical word with multiple usages with one meaning—a deep spiritual connection. In Strong's concordance the word *koinonia* occurs 20 times in 18 verses and is translated as fellowship, association, and community, communion, and joint participation. This spiritual fellowship, association, and community is shown in **Acts 2:42 (New International Version)** ⁴² **They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship (*koinonia*), to the breaking of bread and to prayer** and **1 John 1:7 (Living Bible)**⁷ **But if we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ does, then we have wonderful fellowship (*koinonia*) and joy with each other, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin.** While this type of deep spiritual association is between Christians, communion (*koinonia*) is a spiritual relationship with God. **1 Corinthians 10:16 (New King James Version)** **16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion (*koinonia*) of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion (*koinonia*) of the body of Christ?** Communion is a deep spiritual coming together between believers, through Christ, to God and His righteousness. Another use of *koinonia* is as joint participation. **Romans 15:26 (Amplified Bible)** ²⁶ **For [Gentile believers in] [\[a\]](#) Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution (*koinonia*) for the poor among the saints (Jewish believers) in Jerusalem.** How do we express *koinonia* with fellow believers in Christ?

- 1. Spiritual gifts:** We can serve each other with our spiritual gifts so the full body of Christ is known.
- 2. Hospitality:** We can be hospitable to each other, offering food, clothing shelter, and more.
- 3. Togetherness:** We can gather together for worship, Bible study, meals, programs, and service opportunities.

4. Acceptance: We can accept and include each other even when one among us is weak in faith or unusual.

5. Encouragement: We can encourage and support each other and hold each other accountable when necessary.

6. Service: We can serve each other, helping with each other's appointments, or providing a meal when someone is sick or otherwise unable.

7. Sharing our abundance: We can share our abundance with each other and the church through our tithes and offerings so that God's good work may be done in the world.

Koinonia, in all its meanings, requires time, intentional effort, selflessness and enabling by the Holy Spirit. This is a gift from God!

QUESTION: Are your best friends in the community- *Koinonia*?

9:00 Call to Order

Doug Clark

Prayer

Doug Clark

Announcements: Guests- Lynn Conroy and Maureen Brealey. Linda Walters replaces Les Walters for Crossroad Nogales Mission agency information.

Approval of Minutes: January 9, 2023, minutes were approved and submitted to the Session.

Financial Report: The January Budget was presented and reviewed. The Contingency Funds are \$1,892.45

MISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS – Round Table

Amado-GV Food Bank –

Kylene Joplin

Kylene Joplin reported that 19 pounds of food was delivered to the Food Bank and \$130.75 was given to each Food Bank (Green Valley and Amado). These two food banks are separate, but under one "umbrella." We give each food bank the same amount of money and all donations stay in Green Valley. Our donations are directed to milk and eggs. Breakfast scheduled for March 23, 2024 will introduce Roberto Hernandez as director of Amado-GV Food Bank.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños –

Reed Olson

The attached translation letter I received from Elias at the orphanage which was nice to read. It appeared in the Feb Valley Voice. We hereby send you cordial greetings and may you receive cordial greetings from our girls, boys, and adolescents from home.

Firstly, we thank God because the year 2023 was a time of blessing for the home. We thank the pastors, counselors, each family, each grandfather, and every grandmother of our beloved Presbyterian Church who contributed their help economically. This help allowed us to bless each child with food, clothing, footwear, cleaning supplies, education and many more blessings.

We appreciate the contribution for Christmas gifts 2023. Girls and boys had a beautiful time with their gifts seeing God's love for them through each of you. Finally, we appreciate the support that the RISE organization has provided to the university students. Each of them can now concentrate on studying, without worrying about money for their studies. God has shown himself to our girls and boys as a Father throughout their lives. May God bless you, keep you and give you His grace in this 2024. Elias
Steve Hart picked up several bags of clothes which were shared with the orphanage.

Compañeros en Misión –

Judy Aguayo

Companeros en Mision board has decided to hire James Martin as a coordinator on a part-time basis. He was recently ordained as a minister and is a part-time minister of Douglas Presbyterian along with two other ministers. He also works with YAV (Young Adult Volunteers). He currently lives in Agua Prieta, Mexico and speaks fluent Spanish and knows the part time pastor. They have asked for and received an increase in funding from the Presbytery and could use our help with the building fund. We raised \$637.79 with the Noisy Offering in December. This will help with the lunches served to migrants.

Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona –

Linda Walters

They have expanded the men's shelter and are updating the assistance for women in crisis. They received \$40k from White Elephant and the ecumenical cooperation with GV churches is improving. There is less need for people to help prepare lunches.

Posada Community Services –

Deb Jones

La Posada Community Services has a brand-new kitchen service area in the Adult Day Services program. This much-anticipated renovation comes after being on the program's wish list for several years. Although food and snacks are not cooked in this service area, meals and snacks are provided by La Posada Community Services and Catholic Social Services and delivered to Adult Day Services and the La Posada Senior Lunch program. We created our Adult Day Services to provide the respite all caregivers need to continue being of most value to the loved one they're tending to. Our compassionate nursing staff manages medications and provides mental and physical health consultations, while health aides manage personal care. If ongoing therapy is part of a participant's schedule, it is integrated seamlessly into his or her day at our on-campus outpatient clinic. Open to the entire community, our Adult Day Services are available weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants can choose the number of days they want care for a daily fee of \$91.75 per day.

General Mission Support –

Ed Storey

As much as we support great missions through our committee, there are other programs with a different focus. For example, Technoserve does not directly provide food or shelter to those in need. Instead, they teach local people, like farmers or shopkeepers how to improve their business skills to help their livelihood. For example, they show farmers how to grow higher yield crops. Also, they help the cashew growers in western Africa to make more from the crops.

Just like Café Justo has brought business skills to Mexican coffee growers, The cashew growers are learning how to sort and grade their crops. They will be able to package for retail sale. The result is that higher quality cashews are reaching the market and there is more employment opportunity to work in the processing part of the business.

Hands of a Friend –

Jan Farrington

Jan-We have been shopping around for new refrigerators for the shelter, which is what the check from The Valley Presbyterian Church will go towards. We have also been seeking funding to get the entire inside of the shelter repainted. I am about to submit a grant request to the Community Foundation Greater Green Valley, if that grant is approved it will go towards our painting project over at the shelter. And yes, the playground set at the shelter was repainted and it looks wonderful. If you need anything else, please reach out.

Gina Daising, Executive Director

Operation Christmas Child Box Mission-

Ann Ball

Destination of given boxes pending

Mission Quilts –

Patti Bright

Two ladies and I delivered 99 quilts to Holy Cross Hospital, Nogales, AZ the first part of January. We had two quilting sessions during January. I purchased some more black, grey, white, yellow, cream-colored fabrics for borders and sashings.

Operation Mobilization –

Doug Clark

Dave is recovering from shoulder surgery after a fall injury . He is planning a trip to Asia for several weeks with a side trip to Afghanistan. Pam and Dave have agreed to visit VPC on January 17-19 for Mission Breakfast and Mission Sunday.

Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs)

Ed Storey

THE YAV program is initiated by our Presbytery. There are 5 YAVs in the Borderlands area. James Martin is the YAV coordinator, and also a part-time pastor of the Douglas Church. Recently he will be more involved with Companeros. As warmer weather arrives the Montlure Church camp will be opening and YAVs will also become active there. The camp is a little East, toward Safford. We will be supporting the YAV program with a noisy offering coming up.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry –.

Judy Aguayo

PCM is still on hold for this year. We are waiting on two separate items:

- (1) A monetary award for the disposition of the premises owned by another church which could be 23 thousand dollars, or as much as 41 thousand dollars, depending on the court ruling and/or
- (2) A proposal to form a joint effort with the Lutheran Campus Ministry.

We will meet again when the proposal is received.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) –

Doug Clark

Juba Evangelical Bible School - Open for classes!

The leadership of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church has been working hard for the last year to open a Bible School. And this month, classes started at the Juba Evangelical Bible School.

The vision for the Bible School is to train people who are not able to meet the academic standards of Nile Theological College, or those who do not want a degree but want to learn about theology and practical ministry. It is considered a 'companion institution' to NTC. Please pray for the students and teachers as they start the first term of classes.

We are praying for the funds to start building classrooms on the new land that SSPEC has for the Bible School. If you would like to contribute, you can do so through SSPEC's account with PC(USA), at this link: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/e052148/>

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic –

Kay Brouwer

On Feb. 1, Kay and Maureen Brealey took an informative tour of the Clinic at which about 55 children were treated. Our tour guide introduced us to each department, explaining how it functions. Laura has decided to have 3 tour guides on duty at every monthly Clinic which will enhance the visibility and understanding of this mission. Kay plans to take a few people to tour the Clinic on March 7.

We learned of needs of the clinic among which are iPad devices. Sharon Hendrickson, the audiologist at the clinic, has suggested a program by which non-speaking & non-hearing children can communicate. It is called Augmented Alternative Communication. The clinic needs iPads and programs for these children. A most valuable addition to the clinic would be a donation of an iPad and/or the program which needs to be installed which will provide. We need to know the exact type/generation of iPad that will be needed. We will get that information on March 7, when Ms. Hendrickson is at the Clinic. A donation of \$300 via Apple Card can provide this program to a child with an iPad so that he or she can communicate with family. At present, there are more than 12 children who do not have capability of hearing and/or speech and cannot communicate with standard language. Therefore, 12 iPads and programs are needed. More information will be given at the March Mission meeting.

The Clinic has a Wish List of items it needs. A few things will be highlighted in our daily E-Blast once or twice a week. The Clinic also needs a cabinet in which to store items which the Volunteer personnel bring each month. A big issue is a bin of shoes needed by children with Orthotics from Hangar. The committee suggests that a person (volunteer?) might be assigned to clean up the area in the back room before and after the Thursday Clinics.

On Feb. 3, St. Andrews' celebrated their 50th Anniversary at the Stables in Tubac. Donors were honored, Silent Auction brought in contributions and a delicious buffet of was provided. Kay and a friend enjoyed the event as they visited with other St. Andrews' clients and fans. Bob Kaiser

was the MC, Laura Romero spoke, thanking the Supporters of the Clinic and she introduced the President of the board. It was a wonderful event, expressing congratulations and thanks for the service, St. Andrews' has provided to hundreds of children in the past 50 years. Laura, the staff, and Board of Directors of St. Andrews' Children's Clinic extend a big thank you to Valley Presbyterian Church for our support.

Valley Assistance Services –

Steve really liked the recent GV news article which explained the many services VAS provides.. There was a question that could we obtain the newspaper articles and put on the website? Preparations for the soup event is going well and will be bigger than last year.

Youth on Their Own (YOTO) –

Mary Horn

TOUR OF YOTO's new home at 2525 N. Country Club Road in Tucson is this Thursday, February 15. 26 folks are planning to go on the tour. Bethany Neumann will be our guide. After the tour, we will have our sack lunches in the Administration Building of YOTO, and Bethany will answer more of our questions. We will have the opportunity to purchase a Ben's Bell and bring it home or hang it in the YOTO courtyard.

TOUR OF BEN'S BELLS: We had originally planned to have a tour of Ben's Bell's on the same day, but we have decided to have the Ben's Bells Tour on a separate day. We hope to visit in March.

MINI MALL COLLECTION: Sunday, February 18 We will be collecting individually packaged snacks: Chips, Granola Bars, Trail Mix, Fruit Snacks, Jerky, etc.

YOTO CARD MAKING: Wednesday, February 28 from 1-3:30 We will meet in Classroom 5 to make Inspirational Cards for the students. In January, Dick and I delivered three large bags of donations for the mini-Mall and 110 inspirational cards. We have the 5 YOTO/Ben's bells approved by our committee for our Building and Grounds Committee to hang around our church. When they are placed, I will let the congregation know to look for them.

MISSION BREAKFAST: Saturday, February 10, 8:30 AM Bethany Neumann, Director of Development & Communications spoke about the Youth On Their Own program. Bethany brought lots of YOTO items for people to take: pens, buttons, tee-shirts, cow bells, wine corks, pom-poms, magnetic YOTO stars. We sold 51 tickets.

Old Business

Mission Breakfast

- February 10, 2024- Youth On Their Own in process
 - March 23, 2024- Amado-GV Food Bank
 - November 16, 2024-Mission Quilts, Just Coffee, Creative Hands, and Valley Galley
 - January 18, 2025- Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave Lovett)
 - February 8, 2025- St Andrews Children's Clinic
 - March 22, 2025- Posada Community Services

Noisy Offering- 5th Sunday of month for 2024-2025

- March 31, 2024- YAV- Ed Storey Sign-up sheet
- June 30, 2024- Hand of a Friend
- September 29, 2024- Crossroads Nogales Mission
- December 29, 2024- Pam and Dave Lovett
- March 30,2025- Food Bank
- June 29,2025- St Andrews Clinic
- August 31, 2025- Casa Vida Nueva
- November 30,2025- YOTO

Homeless Packet Program- "Spread the Love!" The Salvation Army Tucson's toiletry drive- Leadership/ discussion with decision to delay program to 2025

Missionary serving lunch at Crossroads Nogales Mission on hold with new cook and decreased need for activity.

Fellowship lunch at Posada Community Life Services- on hold

One Great Hour of Sharing for St Andrews Children's Clinic Ecumenical Sharing Offering with 5 churches in Green Valley throughout Lent

Thank You Lunch/dinner with the Macfarlanes in April

Communicating to the congregation-articles in Eblasts- information to Ed Storey

Voice articles- 8 or more / month- January (9) February (10) March (10) April (11) May (11) June (12) July (9) August (11) September (15) October (12) November (11) December (9) January (11) February (8)

New Business

Consideration for additional monies for specific mission projects in view of large one-time gifts which need to be allocated by December 2024. Each agency should be contacted for possible large projects.

Discussion of need to continue Mission Breakfast and Noisy Offering programs. Approved as planned.

Prayer/ Adjourn-----Next meeting is March 12, 2024, at 8:45 a.m. Room 1

Submitted by Ed Storey and Doug Clark