**Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting – January 14, 2020**

**Present:** Doug Clark, Tom Spurlock, Reed Olson, Mary Horn, Kay Brouwer, Pat Nau, Sally Ruschmeier, Joan Bolin, Steve Larson, Betty Kiesle-Yoder, and Rev. Craig Lindsey. Judy Aguaro came to present information about our Just Coffee Mission. Also attending was Reed’s father-in-law, Joe Pantanella from Riverview Michigan.

**Absent:** George Curtis, Larry Craft, Mark Horton, Charlie Ashton, Patti Bright

Doug presented information about Justice as an attribute of God. As the entity with perfect and final Justice God/Jesus is the Judge. The gift of free forgiveness and justification is our protection from being condemned by God. The believer of God will have eternal life. “Final judgment and reward will be according to how we have used our faith and knowledge in good works.” Justice as an attribute of God in our lives was discussed among the Mission Committee members.

Doug Clark opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of December 1, 2019 meeting were approved to be sent to Carla Goings, Wendy Kopera and the Website.

**Financial Report:**

The budget for 2019 was $70,500. $24,500 came from the church operating budget and $46,000 from the net proceeds raised by the 2018 Patio Sale. In addition, “pass through giving” by VPC members has raised another $48,757.45 for our missions. The Noisy Offerings so far last year amounted to approximately $4,037.45. Mission Committee Emergency Funds are at $2,698.11. The church session recently increased our 2020 budget by $10,000.

**Mission Reports/Comments:**

**Just Coffee -** Judy Aguayo toured the plantation in Mexico which produces the coffee we buy after worship. When we purchase a pound of coffee at $10.00, the money goes directly to the Co-op of 125 growers. They get the profit except for a little paid to Frontero De Cristo who roast and package the organically grown beans. The Co-op hires and pays people from the town, thus enhancing the lives of Mexican people. This is an active Christian business which prays for the workers, for us buyers and for all people in Mexico and the world. We will keep them in our prayers.

**General Mission Support** – Tom Spurlock reported that the Presbyterian USA has many projects and activities every month. He told us of the important focus of making people and places of worship safe from attacks, especially shootings. These problems exist everywhere. Our church is taking precautions and always considering better way to stay safe.

**Green Valley-Amado Food Bank** – Betty Kiesle-Yoder reported that $1712.00 was donated in December and 39 pounds of food so far in January. The Noisy Offering brought $642.37 in paper bills and checks. Coin total is not yet in.

**St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic –** Kay Brouwer reported a few interesting facts:

98% of all donations goes to patient care.

225-250 children are seen in the clinic on the first Thursday of each month

50-60 children (on average) have cleft palate/lip surgery in Hermosillo every October

Latest good news is that a new building will to up on property adjacent to St. Andrew’s Church which will provide space for diagnosing and treating children and families. Also, storage and office space will be provided. St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church will continue as the Clinic, but will more open spaces. A Green Valley Office will be maintained but must be in a smaller facility -- just an office, phone, computer and file cabinet. They are searching for such a space at an affordable rent. Please contact Kay Brouwer if you know of such a space available.

On March 5 we will have another trip to tour the clinic. We will meet at 9:00 at the church to car pool to Nogales, Arizona for the 2-hour event at St. Andrew’s Episcopal church. After the tour, we’ll go to lunch together.

**Hands of a Friend –** Pat Nau has talked with the director, Madelaine Paschal who said Genesis House may have visitors. Doug Clark and Pat are planning a date to visit the home. “Maddy” gave an excellent talk before worship on Sunday, December 22. The information she presented may have enhanced the giving during The Noisy Offering on December 29. Collection came in of $642.37 of paper bills and checks. More will be credited when the coin giving is counted.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry –** No report

**Posada Community Services –** Sally Ruschmeier reported that Los Niños de Valle recently received a 4-Star rating for nursery schools of its size. Congratulations! Some women from La Posada knit 80 hats, one for each student. The kids were very happy. A new behavioral counselor has been hired and will begin at the end of January. She has a social worker’s license. A new calendar for community services telling of upcoming events will be available soon. Adult day care services are well-attended. It is not unusual to have about 35 attendees daily. There is a support group available for care-givers.

Bill McCreery, director of Posada Community Services, is willing to give a presentation at one of our meetings. Sally will ask him if he can speak for about 10 minutes next month, February 11 at 9:00.

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

1. Our Inspirational Card Makers will meet next Wednesday, January 22 from 1 – 3:45 in our church, Classroom 1. Some ladies have taken extra cards home to complete. The group has some good camaraderie while working.
2. Youth on Their Own will host a COMMUNITY APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE on Tuesday, February 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will include tours, refreshments and a student speaker. I will plan to advertise this in the Valley Voice and in our bulletins. Dick and I will each plan to drive and I will begin signing up interested people soon. I will also schedule a tour of the facility in March. The tentative date is Monday March 23; I am waiting for confirmation from YOTO.

**Valley Assistance Services** – Steve Larson reported that Empty Bowls will be Saturday, February 15th at VPC. It is the biggest fundraiser for Valley Assistance. All the proceeds go to programs that help those in our community. Tickets are on sale every Sunday in Fellowship Hall and also available at VAS office, Chamber of Commerce, Nancy Pantz and Posada Java. $20 now and $25 at the door. Our goal is to sell 600 tickets and raise $25,000.

Two of our programs have tripled in size, one being transportation, second, friendly visits for seniors and third is emergency monetary assistance. A Youth Financial Literacy program is being created with the Sahuarita Middle School and there will be young adult financial literacy series at Valley Assistance Services' office.

A Socialization and Support program for Seniors will begin with in the month at Valley Assistance, where seniors can come and participate in activities and receive some support.

A caregiver support group will start in February.

A Capital Campaign will begin March 1st to raise funds for numerous facility maintenance and major repair issues.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Niños –** Reed Olson reported that Elias Herrera, Director of the Home for Children recently gave Reed a thumb drive which contained several videos and many photos of the children opening up their Christmas gifts. Donations amounted to $80 per child and $25 per adult. Even though the Christmas trip was canceled due to the significant increase in the amount of time to cross back over the border, the children had a blessed Christmas experience. Thank you all for making a difference in the lives of these wonderful children and adult supervisors.  The next trip is tentatively scheduled for March 14.

**Compañeros en Mision –** Judy Aguayo told us about the JUST COFFEE Mission in Mexico (see her report above).

**PCUSA** – Larry Craft had no report.

**Mission Quilts –** Patty Bright sent a report that in 2019, 166 quilts were given for a value of approximately $4995. Places which received quilts were: St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic, Santa Cruz Regional Hospital, Women’s Ministry, Diamond Children’s Medical Center, AVIVA, and Holy Cross Hospital in Nogales.

**Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona** -Joan Bolin reported she talked to Ben Wenke, retired Director of Crossroads Mission on Friday, January 3, 2020. The following is a synopsis:

-The exciting news is that Pastor David and Liz Lopez will be the new directors of Crossroads Mission with an effective date sometime in May, 2020. Ben has already retired due to health problems, and Bert Wenke will retire when the Lopez’s officially become the new directors. David Lopez is currently the pastor at the Abundant Life Church, a small church in Nogales, Arizona. David will keep that position as well as being the new Director of Crossroads.

-David and Liz Lopez will be introduced at Valley Presbyterian’s Mission Breakfast on February 22, 2020.Mark your calendars now to come and hear about Crossroads Mission and what some of the new plans are for the Mission. Crossroads founders, Ben and Bert, spent 23-years making Crossroads Mission what it is today, along with the help from many volunteers and churches. God is good; He supplies our needs.

-It was a busy December at Crossroads. They prepared and served 270 people at their December 21st Christmas ham dinner. Crossroads handed out many pounds of produce, and 1-pound packages of rice and of beans to attendees. They had about 50 volunteers to help at this Christmas dinner event.

-Crossroads handed out 350 Christmas stockings filled with candy along with 2 toys to each child attending the Christmas dinner, and also to children throughout the local area.

-A local grocery store generously donated 100 turkeys, 70 packages each of mashed potatoes, gravy and stuffing to Crossroads, which were given out to local families in need.

-The furnace is not working at Crossroads 2nd women’s house. Money is needed to repair it.

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

We arrived in Juba on Tuesday, exhausted after nearly 24 hours of travel but excited to be back to our adopted home. The heat hit us as soon as we stepped off the plane, and we smiled at the stark contrast from the Illinois winter weather

we had left the day before. It felt so familiar, and yet so different and strange.

A highlight this week has been reconnecting with colleagues, friends and shopkeepers. We are excited to re-engage with our work after long conversations with colleagues, catching up on all that has happened while we were gone.

**Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L.)** – Missionaries want to learn about lives of people living in countries along the Silk Road. Those countries are Muslim/non-Arabic speaking between North West China in the east and Turkey in the west, and between Kazakhstan in the north and the Indian Subcontinent in the south. There are vibrant communities of Jesus Followers within walking distance of every person living on the Silk Road. 95 percent of the 890 million people living in the Silk Road Area don’t know and don’t have a chance to experience the warm embrace of Jesus unless someone goes to them and loves them as Jesus does. Dave and Pam are some of the people trying to share Jesus’ love with people like these.

**Old Business:**

**Mission Breakfasts 2020 –** January 18 - Valley Assistance Services (sign-up list was passed); February 22 - Nogales Crossroad Mission with retiring directors, Ben and Bert Wenke, and new directors, Pastor David and Liz Lopez; March 28 – Food Bank

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

**Homeless Packet Program –** Mary Horn thanked Doug for giving the Minute for Mission on Sunday the 12th regarding Snack Bags for the Homeless.

Collections for our Snack Bags will begin on January 19 and continue through February 9 (a total of 4 Sundays). Mary had a sign-up sheet for committee members to sign up to help with the 4 weeks of Sunday Collections for the Snack Bags.

There will be two Mission tables set up to collect the following 10 items:

Apple sauce cups/small fruit cups Granola bars

Packages of cheese crackers Packages of peanut butter crackers

Boxes of Lunch to Go tuna/chicken salad Bottled Water

Pop top cans of Vienna sausage Individual bags of cookies

Beef Jerky sticks Trail mix in small packages

Monetary donations will also be enthusiastically accepted.

We will assemble the bags after our Mission Meeting on February 11. In the February newsletter and in our Sunday bulletins, Mary will invite people to join the assembly of Snack Bags for the Homeless at about 10:15 on Feb. 11.

**Mission Sunday –** January 19, 2020: New Mission Booklets will be distributed to the congregation; Sermon will be by Pastor Lindsey; we’ll wear Mission T-Shirts; posters about each mission will be displayed in the sanctuary and at entrances; Committee members should meet at 9:20, sit on chairs in front, be introduced and tell which mission they sponsor; Pastor Craig has a mission video which will be shown in the Spiritual Life Center after worship.

**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:**

**Distribution of Emergency Funds at year end:** In view of furnace events at Crossroads Mission, the distribution of the $10,000 increase from session and the $2,698.11 from memorials was tabled until our February Mission meeting.

The next meeting will be at 8:45 February 11, 2020 in Room 1.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Brouwer, secretary