

**Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting at 8:45 – 10:00
March 15, 2022 in Room 5 at the Church and at our homes via ZOOM**

Present: Doug Clark, Kay Brouwer, George Curtis, Kylene Joplin, Carol Stephens, Mary Horn, Pat Nau, Judy Aguayo, Les Walter, Ann Ball, Ed Storey and Pastor Diane Christopher.

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

Doug presented and explained Goodness as a Fruit of the Spirit for our spiritual growth lesson today. Our common use of the term “goodness” is in reference to our relationship to other people. As a Biblical term it an attribute of God, focusing on the kindly side of righteousness. Goodness can be seen in our actions to other people, and our heart also must be pure. This goodness of Christ is demonstrated in our everyday lives in how and why we love and do good to other people. Goodness is the first step of the Ladder on Virtue. We must possess Goodness before we can proceed on to knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection and, finally to LOVE. The question was posed: Are you a good person? We pondered the significance which has enriched our understanding of “Goodness.”

9:00 – Call to order and prayer given by Ed Storey

Business Begins

Announcements: None

Approval of Minutes: Done, approved and submitted to the VPC session.

Financial Report: The February 2022 Mission Budget and distribution of funds must be discussed and decided later this meeting. Since we had tabled our discussion last month, the quarterly money has not been sent to our agencies.

MISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS - REMINDER: : Each person with an assigned Mission area should contact 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 in February, 56 pounds of food was taken to the Food Bank and \$696.00 was sent to each of the food banks - Green Valley and Amado.

Doug Clark read a letter from the Board of Directors of the Community Food Banks which confirmed that Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona would not use monies given for hunger relief for political purposes. See attached letter for Session review.

Posada Community Services – Doug received a report that Posada Community Life Services is introducing a Memory Café. The Grand Opening in Green Valley is Saturday, March 19 from 1 – 2:00 in the Posada Life Community Center. Everyone is invited to come and socialize with others in a supportive and fun environment. This Memory Café is a warm, welcoming place for individuals experiencing memory loss, their friends, family and caregivers. Masks and physical distancing will be required. RSVP to Ellen March at 520-393-6840 or emarch@casagv.org.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños – Reed Olson sent a report that on March 12 he escorted 10 people from the Green Valley area to Casa Vida Nueva para Niños (Orphanage) in Nogales, Sonora, MX. This was the first coordinated visit since October 2019. The group spent the day with the children, listened to a presentation of their story, watched two singing performances by the children, toured their home, and ate a wonderful lunch. Support from VPC and RISE Scholastic Achievements was acknowledged for helping pay for all high school costs, laptops, and college/trade school expenses for these orphaned children. Currently, there are two students in college and three in high school. Next year there will be four in college and eight in high school. RISE thanks everyone for their kindness and love in making a huge difference in supporting the operations of the facility and educational lives of these wonderful children.

Compañeros en Misión – Judy Aguayo told us that, due to the deaths of two leaders, not much is happening. The former pastor’s wife and daughter are helping people in Mexico. We need to continue supporting this mission as their leadership is being developed. Funding is directed through the Presbytery. 25% of the funding of this mission’s funding comes from our church.

Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona – Les Walter visited the mission on Monday taking 10 bags of unsold items from the Patio Sale. Lupita, with whom Les usually talks, was not there. People were being served lunch after they attended a chapel service. Other churches are going in to cook and serve lunches. Doug has a list of about 40 people of our church who have gone to cook and serve lunches in the past. We need to call these people to try to find someone who might step in to organize helpers from VPC. Pat Nau said she could do some calling.

General Mission Support – Tom Spurlock sent no report

PCUSA Seminary Support – Larry Craft sent no report.

Hands of a Friend – Pat Nau reported that she'll try to get someone to talk to our congregation at worship before the Noisy Offering on May 29.

Mission Quilts –Patti Bright sent a report that two deliveries of quilts were made this year. An annual potluck was held. A picture of the last quilting session was taken. The next meeting was postponed due to timing of the Patio Sale.

Operation Mobilization – Pam and Dave L. were glad to announce that their daughter earned her Masters' Degree in Education. Pam and Dave are struggling with the increased influence of Hindu culture in India. Borders are closed to any kind of evangelizing efforts by preachers and teachers.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry – George Curtis reported that Amanda will attend our April 12th committee meeting. She took a group of students to Mexico during their spring break. It was a very good trip.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) – Bob and Kristi are among a limited number of PCUSA missionaries. We are blessed to have their presence in our church mission and community. Political struggles in South Sudan have led to the burning of some churches. Ed Storey asked if this couple is facing danger. Doug responded that they are always in danger. In the past, an 18-year-old was killed outside of their apartment by a random shooting. Their devotion and commitment to Christ keep them serving the Lord despite danger.

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic – Laura Romero told us that the Clinic took 24 very young children to Hermosillo for their first Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate Surgery the 3rd week of February. The trip went very well and will be featured on March 26 at the Mission Breakfast.

The March 3 Clinic in Nogales was canceled because it came too soon after the return from Hermosillo. There will be a clinic on the first Thursday in April for a number of children from Mexico. Orthopedic problems will be brought in because those children endure a lot of pain.

The Clinic is finally beginning to provide services. It is hoping to grow with safe protocols and to serve more children from Mexico.

This September, 40 older children will be taken to Hermosillo for their second Cleft lip/Cleft Palate surgery. Plans are underway. More funding will be needed for those children because food and lodging is required.

Prayers, support and donations from Valley Presbyterian Church are a true blessing for this mission and food will be provided by St. Andrews' Clinic. Donations can be made through our Valley Presbyterian Church. Thanks to the many people in our church who provide help to this mission.

Laura will be presenting information about this mission at the Saturday Mission Breakfast on March 26. We hope many of our congregation will attend.

Valley Assistance Services – Steve Larson told us that the "Empty Bowls" grossed between 13 and 14 thousand dollars. There will be a special fundraiser on March 26. It is called "1 Million Steps for VAS" and will involve walking .8 mile of paved paths or a 2-mile improved dirt path in the La Posada area. Check in is 7-8:00 March 26. Walking starts at 8:15 after opening ceremonies. Cost is \$25.00 per adult, \$15.00 per student under 18, \$5.00 per leashed dog.

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

- 1) Youth On Their Own has found a "forever home." After years of searching, YOTO has purchased a new property at 2525 N. Country Club Road. At 54% larger than the current space, the new building will allow for continuing and expanding outreach to homeless youth. A lot of renovation work will be needed. YOTO expects to move in in late 2022 or early 2023.
- 2) ANGEL CHARITY FOR CHILDREN, INC has recently announced that they have selected YOUTH ON THEIR OWN as a recipient for their 2022 major Fundraising Campaign. They have committed to raising \$750,000 to fund the renovation of YOTO's new home, making it safe and welcoming for youth and expanding the services offered to youth experiencing homelessness in our community.
- 3) Five Inspirational Card Makers met in person on February 23. Cards made at home and in our session together totaled 139 cards which we delivered to YOTO March 4. Our next in person session will be March 23 in Classroom 5 from 1 – 3:30.
- 4) On Saturday Morning of our Patio Sale, Betty Yoder and Ellie Harglerog packed 4 boxes of clothing appropriate for teenagers which we will deliver to the Assistance League of Tucson on Alvernon close to YOTO's current location. YOTO's mini mall does not have room for clothing, but students can shop for free at the Assistance League.

Old Business

Budget for 2022 is \$95,737 with \$55,000 from Patio Sale monies. A motion was made by Doug Clark and seconded by Kay Brouwer that all agencies be funded at the 2021 level including \$800 for Mission Quilts. The remaining funds (\$14,487) is to be distributed in equal amounts to the following 14 agencies-Amado and Green Valley Food Bank, Casa Community Services, Casa Vida Nueva, Companeros en Mission, Crossroad Nogales Mission, General Mission Support, Hands of a Friend, Presbyterian Campus Ministry, PCUSA-Seminary Support, Kristi and Bob Rice, St Andrew's Children Clinic, Valley assistance Services, Pam and David Lovett (OM),

and Youth On Their Own. Discussion followed whether the increase distribution should be equal or proportional. The motion was approved as presented with one dissent.

Mission Breakfast Mission/missionaries for 2021-2022 Programs:

- February 12, 2022 – Food Bank (Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens) – Speaker was Norma Cable. Tickets sold = 47, attended = 39, monies = \$1010.
- March 26, 2022 – St. Andrews’ Children’s Clinic (Kay Brouwer) – Speaker will be Laura Romero. A sheet was passed to offer help at 1:00 March 25 and at 8:00 the morning of March 26.
- 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 - open

Noisy Offering – For all US coins, there are 2 counting machines which can be used for sorting and counting, which will be done by the Mission Committee.

- 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

Miscellaneous Foreign Coins- Ed Storey explained that most foreign coins have questionable value. Canadian coins, Euro’s, and Pesos can be used, but most other coins were sorted and sold in packets of 10 for minimal fee at the Patio Sale.

Homeless Packet Program 2022 – Ann Ball gave us a list of Bible verses upon which to vote for inclusion in the packets. A verse was chosen. On Sundays March 20, 27, April 3 and April 10, Ann Ball, Ed Storey and Mary Horn will collect items for the Snack Bags before and after the service in Charter Hall. We will fill 1-gallon bags after our Mission Committee meeting on April 12, and will invite congregation members to join us. Those bags not taken by the congregation will be taken to the Hospitality House at the Salvation Army in Tucson.

Valley Voice articles – Our goal is at least 4 articles per month. We had 11 in November, 7 in December, 11 in January, 9 in February and 8 in March.

Review and update of mission TV assignments – 3/20/22 - Kay Brouwer; 3/20, 27, April 3 & 10 – Mary Horn

New Business: none

Brainstorming:

Since there is a Mission Breakfast on March 26, the morning of the VAS Fundraiser walk, we’ll ask Steve Larson to help with anyone who wishes to register at 8:00 a.m. for the walk.

There will be a retirement celebration for Ben and Bert Wenke on March 26 from 2 – 4:00 at the Crossroads Mission in Nogales, Arizona. A notice will be placed in the E-Blast and transportation will be arranged. We’ll meet at the church at about 1:00 that afternoon to car-pool.

Pat Nau mentioned an idea of giving part of this year’s Patio Sale money for Ukrainian relief. Doug clarified that those monies are designated for the Mission Committee budget.

The next Mission Committee meeting will be at 8:45, April 12, 2022, in Room 5 with option of ZOOM.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Brouwer, Secretary