

Mission Committee

Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting at 8:45 – 10:30 November 9, 2021 in Room 5 at the Church and at our homes via ZOOM

Present: Doug Clark, Kay Brouwer, Steve Larson, Mary Horn, Mark Horton, George Curtis, Kylene Joplin, Carol Stephens, Pat Nau, Judy Aguayo, Tom Spurlock, Larry Craft, Reed Olson, Parkie Copeland and Pastor Diane Christopher. Carmen Nylund joined us to present information about last week's Patio Sale.

Absent: Patti Bright

Doug presented our Spiritual Growth with Self-Control – one of the 7 Fruits of the Spirit. Self-control is a work of the Holy Spirit, not a work of the individual. It is a discipline that God grows in us when we continually choose to say “NO” to ungodliness and worldly passions. We will grow in godliness by repetition of such tools as prayer, Bible study, worship, communion and Christian fellowship. We need to mimic Christ in our daily lives by giving up self to God as we mature. Class discussion enriched our understanding by discussing that the more we practice self-control, the more Christlike we will become.

Steve Larson opened the business meeting with a prayer.

Business Begins

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

Patio Sale: Carmen Nylund, this year's coordinator, reported that the traditional “Three Amigos” changed into a team of Patio Sale workers, including truck drivers. Last week's sale grossed \$24,291 before expenses. A total with the April sale and other moneys is \$96,597. Expenses of the Patio Sale include rental for storage space and tents used during the sale. More volunteers are needed to work this huge event. We should be asking neighbors and friends to join our efforts. More communication is needed to be sure all buyers realize that all money goes to our Mission Agencies. Our Mission Committee needs to help as much as possible because we have a shared vision with the Patio Sale. Judy Aguayo suggested that we have more communication with the Patio Sale Committee. Pat Nau is a member of both committees and can provide information between groups. At this year's celebration breakfast, Doug Clark opened the event with prayer, scripture and focus on Christian fellowship and service.

Financial Report: The 2021 budget of \$83,250.00 was discussed, highlighting that the specific amount given to each agency is listed. Budget information is available in the Mission Outlook Booklet for 2020 and totals for 2021 will be available in January's booklet. Committee Emergency Funds are currently \$609.61.

Doug Clark told us that we no longer have a bank which will take and count our Noisy Offering coins. We will need to sort and package them ourselves. Since some places will count coins for

no charge if we are donating to a charity, this service will be investigated. Meanwhile, we'll stay after the meeting today to sort and bag the coins which were donated on Sunday, October 31. (\$269.96 was counted.)

MISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS

Amado-GV Food Bank – Kylene Joplin and Carol Stephens reported that 71 pounds of food was taken yesterday. Our church gave these food banks \$822.00, split evenly. Kylene and Carol were pictured with an article in The Green Valley News. This was good publicity for the Food Banks and for Valley Presbyterian Missions.

Posada Community Services – Bill McCreery talked to Doug highlighting many groups which are starting up now that the risk of COVID has lessened.

The program of Adult Day Services provides support for adults with cognitive and/or physical. It provides a stimulating environment while offering respite and support to caregivers. The program is open 5 days a week from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños – Reed Olson announced that trips across the border are too risky. He has no future trips planned. Doug suggested that Reed ask for Christmas gifts for the children via messages in the Valley Voice and the daily E-Blasts. Reed agreed to do that.

Compañeros en Misión – Judy Aguayo receives communication from Reverend Jorge Paz. He is present on Facebook where he gives information about what he and the Ministry to Migrants are doing in Mexico daily.

Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona – The Noisy Offering from October 31, 2021 will be given to buy Thanksgiving turkeys. Joan Bolin has stepped in and tried to get information from Crossroads. The Mission Committee is still looking for a person to be our representative for this agency. We should all look for and personally ask anyone who might become our contact with Crossroads' Mission. Please keep praying for the Crossroads' Mission, which is a vital part of Nogales, Arizona helping people in need.

General Mission Support – Tom Spurlock had no report. He did notice a reduced level of activity in the General Mission during the COVID Pandemic.

PCUSA Seminary Support – Larry Craft had no report.

Hands of a Friend – Pat Nau received information from Gina Dalsing, the Chairman of the Board, that things are going okay. Training with a new Executive Director is going well. She has gotten the website up and running so donations can, start coming in. The staff and hired helpers are slowly finishing all projects they started in July and August. Pat is hoping to visit with this agency soon.

When a question of government funding came up, it was explained that Hands of a Friend is a Christian organization which receives no government funding. Support is **all** from private donations and Christian sources.

Mission Quilts – Patti Bright sent no report.

Operation Mobilization – With his knowledge of the Farsi language, Dave, with OM, has been a major focus helping the Afghan refugees in Iran. Pam is stepping in to help those who have been relocated to Wisconsin. The turmoil in the Mideast is causing much suffering among the people of Afghanistan. Our missionaries, Dave and Pam, will be with VPC on 1/22/22 for our Mission Breakfast and in the pulpit on 1/23/22. They will tell us more about how they work with and help build the Christian Communities in Iran, India and Pakistan.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry – George Curtis reported that the Campus Christian Center Board meeting was Monday, November 8. He has no news from that meeting. Litigation over land value of the center is a likelihood. The desire of the board is to renegotiate what is owed to the Missouri Synod.

There is a faculty member who is willing to be an advisor to Campus Ministry. This is a requirement of the University of Arizona. Amanda Marbut, the interim director of PCM, has begun a Bible Study and has also begun “Tabling” at dining places on campus. This is an informal way to meet and visit with students. She casually circles a dining room, stopping to talk to students as they eat. This is a new and popular way for adults to meet and interact with students on campus. Amanda has also contacted campus ministries at Arizona State and Northern Arizona University to learn what they do to involve students.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) – Doug Clark explained that Bob and Kristi are our supported missionaries to South Sudan. Their communication tool to our congregation is through their blog: bobandkristi.blogspot.com. They write twice per month. Only a portion of their inspiring story can be shared in the Valley Voice. Doug encourages us to join the 17 VPC members who promise to pray and follow the blogs.

Our church has collected about \$650.00 to help build new churches in South Sudan. Members of our congregation can feel more connected to our missionaries and their communities by giving a donation.

St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic – Kay Brouwer reported that Laura Romero has cancelled the November and December clinics in Nogales, Arizona, due to a threatened spike in Covid cases in Mexico and to the lack of family vaccinated adults. Also, the Border Patrol will not allow unvaccinated adults across the border. To be safe, St. Andrews’ staff and volunteers have decided to pull back until February 2022, when they will open a small clinic at St. Andrews’ Church in Nogales, Arizona.

In February 2022, they plan to send children to Hermosillo for Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate surgery. This is the same group of children who were selected to go for surgery last October. They will take 25 pre-selected babies and very young children for first-time surgery for cleft lip/cleft palate. Later they’ll take 25 toddlers for their second surgery. This endeavor will be expensive because, for health safety, the families will need to be isolated in hotels before and after

scheduled surgeries. Cost of hotel rooms and food will be provided by St. Andrews' Clinic. Mexican families are very vulnerable and St. Andrews will continue to provide medicines and medical advice in a safe manner by telephone and online. Hospitalization for sick people in Mexico is very expensive and not available to many of the St. Andrews' families, should they contract COVID or any disease.

The St. Andrews' Children's Clinic continues to need our prayers and support. Donations can be made through our Valley Presbyterian Church. Thanks to everyone for helping this valuable mission.

Valley Assistance Services – Steve Larson's reported that VAS will have an Open House on Monday, December 6th from 2:30 – 4:30 to commemorate its incorporation 40 years ago. Visitors can talk with staff and learn more about the programs and upcoming capital improvements.

VAS is partnering with Pima County Health and local nurses to ensure that people needing COVID vaccinations or boosters receive them.

A new website will be done by December which will allow individuals to apply on-line to programs more efficiently.

A 5-week Meditation Group will begin on November 12. A Socialization Support Group (SASS) will begin on December 8, as well as a Dementia Support Group for Caregivers beginning on January 12.

The VAS office will now be open from 8:30 – 5 p.m. Tues, Wed., and Fri. On Mon. and Thurs, the office will be open until 7 p.m.

For youth and families, a SMARTE back program will supply nutrition information and weekend breakfast food for Santa Cruz County youth and families. A Nutrition Resource Program is continuing with Continental School. The families are eligible for gift cards and can talk with a benefits' advocate and/or a nurse.

As always, VAS is in need of more drivers to help clients get to appointments and for shopping trips.

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

1. Nancy Storey and I sold bundled Christmas Cards at the Patio Sale Style Show on October 19. We made \$60.00 for Youth on Their Own. We put our remaining cards in the Holiday Patio Sale to benefit all Missions.
2. Four ladies met at church on Wednesday, October 27 to make Inspirational Cards. Some ladies brought extras that they had completed at home. Our total for October was 103 cards/13 hours and 45 minutes of volunteer hours. Our next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, December 1 in Classroom 5 from 1 - 3:30 pm.
3. Our speaker for our Mission Breakfast on Saturday, November 13, 2021 will be Bethany Neumann, Director of Development and Communications at YOTO.

- YOTO HEADQUARTERS: 1660 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson 85712
- YOTO MINI-MALL: 1642 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson 85712

Old Business

Mission Breakfasts:

- November 13, 2021 – YOTO - Mary Horn has planned for the speaker.
- January 22, 2022 – Pam and Dave L. (Doug Clark) – NOTE this date.
- February 12, 2022 – Food Bank (Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens)
- March 26, 2022 – St. Andrews' Children's Clinic (Kay Brouwer)

Noisy Offering

- October 31, 2021 – Nogales Crossroads Mission – Doug Clark announced results of \$627.00 in bills and 23 pounds of uncounted coins. The money will help buy Thanksgiving Turkeys for the Mission.
- January 30, 2022 – Casa Vida Nueva – for Missionaries, Dave and Pam L.
- 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

Operation Christmas Child – Boxes will be returned to the church by November 14. Parkie Copeland expressed concern that people who do not attend church don't get boxes. With daily E-Blasts and Valley Voice, all church people know where and how to get the boxes. On Monday, November 15, Joan Bolin, Parkie Copeland and Kay Brouwer will deliver the filled boxes to our local distribution center in Sahuarita.

Mission Sunday is January 23, 2022 – Plans for our Mission Program will include the distribution of our Mission Outlook Booklet, Sermon by Dave L, and Fellowship with Pam and Dave L. in Fellowship Hall.

Mission Outlook Booklet – The 2021 Booklet needs to be reviewed and revised for 2022. Send changes to the church office (Cindy or Linda). Page one needs to be revised listing a dollar amount for General Mission. Articles are due for review 12/14/21.

Financial Statements – We need to ask our agencies to submit their 2020 Financial Statements. We need this for every agency we sponsor as a requirement for continued support. Dick Davison will compile these statements for review.

We will need to distribute \$10,000 to our agencies because there has been money added to the church general budget. This will be discussed at future meetings.

Valley Voice articles – Our goal is at least 4 articles in the Valley Voice per month. We had 7 in September, 9 in October and an amazing high of 11 in November. Keep up the good communicating!

Review and Update of Mission TV Assignments - Operation Christmas Child boxes 11/14/21 (Kay and Parkie)

New Business

Political Donations at the Food Bank – There is an issue of political donations by the Sahuarita Food Bank, although our local food banks were not involved. Doug Clark will investigate further and write a letter to both Food Banks saying that we consider any political donations inappropriate.

Recruitment progress – There is still a need for a Crossroads Nogales Mission representative.

Brain Storming –

Pat Nau expressed a need for a monthly calendar to be in our Valley Voice. This is a difficult project. Pastor Diane will check into the possibility. Current church calendars are available on the Website and a link is listed on every daily E-Blast.

Reed Olson questioned the congregation's interest in a printed copy of the Valley Voice since it is available online. Judy Aguayo will collect more information about this concern.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of the Four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church USA. Reed Olson moved that we present this giving option to our congregation. Larry Craft seconded the motion and it was accepted by a unanimous vote. Tom Spurlock will do the publicity for the project with Pastor Diane.

The next Mission Committee meeting will be at 8:45, December 14, 2021, in Room 5 with a ZOOM option.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Brouwer, Secretary