

Missions Committee

September 14, 2021

Present: Doug Clark, Kay Brouwer, Reed Olson, Steve Larson, Mary Horn, George Curtis, Kylene Joplin, Carol Stephens, Larry Craft and Pastor Diane Christopher. We had a guest, Linda Piotrowski, who has been attending our church services and has expressed an interest in attending a Mission Committee meeting.

Absent: Judy Aguayo, Pat Nau, Patti Bright, Tom Spurlock, and Mark Horton

Doug presented our Spiritual Growth with Reflections on Psalm 23. Each verse was read, interpreted and discussed. The use of “my” shepherd makes it clear that the Lord is in a personal relationship with believers. The shepherd metaphor clarifies our God who leads us, protects us and feeds us as does the shepherd of sheep. God refreshes and restores us when we Christians pray, meditate, study, and join in fellowship with others. The Lord, our shepherd, helps us face constant enemies by providing the strength of the Holy Spirit. God’s love is steadfast, faithful, loving, kind and loyal. As a shepherd, God is devoted to us, his people. As a follow-up, we all considered which parts of Psalm 23 were our favorites and gave us something more to think about.

Kay Brouwer opened the business meeting with prayer.

Business Begins / Announcements- Joan Bolin has retired after outstanding service to our Mission committee, serving Nogales Crossroads’ Mission and heading up Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Children. She will be missed. A thank you note will be sent by Mary Horn. Mark Horton is in rehabilitation. He needs and will receive our prayers.

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

Financial Report: The 2021 total budget is \$83,250.00. Since our last meeting, designated giving was \$1000.00 to Crossroads’ Mission and \$1000.00 to Valley Assistance Services. Year-to-date Noisy Offering collection has been \$1,586.63. Committee Emergency Funds are \$2,109.61.

MISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS

Amado-GV Food Bank – Kylene Joplin and Carol Stephens reported that the Hunger Walk last weekend was a big success. Eleven participants and Annie, a dog, walked the paths of Historic Canoa Ranch Park. The amount raised is not yet available, but estimated at over \$2,000.00.

The VPC donations from March through August this year were split equally between Green Valley and Amado Food Banks. 198 pounds of food and supplies were given and \$6,674.00 of money was donated. Thanks to VPC members who support these Food Banks.

Posada Community Services – In Mark Horton’s absence, Bill McCreery sent this report:

Los Niños Preschool started on August 9. This year 40 children are enrolled with an average attendance of 34 per day. Nine of the children are considered low-income and receive support from the government.

Thirty-seven people have enrolled in Adult Day Services with an average of 15 participants per day.

Due to the increased need for counseling, they are hoping to hire another counselor this year.

The Community Center is coming back with 9 groups meeting regularly and 2 more expected in October. The Senior Lunch program will begin again in October if it gets a “go-ahead” from Pima Council on Aging. Meanwhile, frozen meals to participants and hot meal delivery on Fridays to folks who are homebound will be provided.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños – Reed Olson reported that currently the Home has 51 children and 7 adults – all are healthy. Two students are attending college and 4 are attending high school. All costs associated with education – including lap tops, school supplies, tuition are paid for with donations to RISE Scholastic Achievements. The Mexican government gives financial aid to college students.

The two children attending college still live at the Home and have taken on adult responsibilities of cleaning the home and looking after the younger children. An advantage to college attendees is that the college is at the same location as the high school.

The Mexican government is planning to install miles of electrical power lines which will benefit the Home. The installation date unknown at this time. Another planned installment will be Cable services by RISE Scholastic Achievement Funds. Whenever this happens, the children will have internet access which will greatly enhance their education and lifestyle in general.

No trips to the Home are planned. Reed has not visited since 2019, before the Covid Pandemic limited travel and activities. The Christmas cards, donations and the trip may be put off for yet another year. Hopefully, 2022 will improve our contacts and support of this mission especially at Christmas.

Compañeros en Misión – Judy Aguayo sent no report with no contact.

Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona – Joan Bolin has resigned, and a replacement has yet to be found. Communication with this agency comes through Bert since Ben, the co-director, is in ill health. Hopefully, the Crossroads’ Mission can find a replacement for these two devoted people.

Please keep praying for the Crossroads’ Mission, which is a vital part of Nogales, Arizona which helps people in need.

General Mission Support – Tom Spurlock sent no report.

PCUSA Seminary Support – Larry Craft had no report.

Hands of a Friend – Pat Nau sent a report that Hands of a Friend has been busy making repairs to the Genesis House. They have been cleaning up after the rainy season. One of the playhouses was blown into the wall and has to be saved and given new life. A grant was received from Rotary Club for a new covered playground. That area is being cleaned. Truckloads of stuff are being taken to the dump. That includes broken-down outdoor furniture, old, useless contents of the storage units, and ground scraps and trash from the storms.

Inside the house, all bedding has been washed and the rooms that are not occupied have been scrubbed to get them ready and sanitary for new guests. The kitchen cabinets have been given a fresh coat of paint. The kitchen and dining room walls will be next. Window coverings have been purchased and will be hung soon. The appearance of the house is much improved and able to provide a calm, clean feeling within the residence.

The second cornhole tournament at Triple Play was a success. It was a fun night with good friends and supporters of Hands of a Friend.

Mission Quilts – Patti sent no report

Operation Mobilization – Pam and Dave L. are very busy serving (via ZOOM) areas of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. There now are 135 people attending services in the seven churches in Bangladesh. Operation Mobilization is also showing the love of Christ by offering education to those who have no money.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry – George Curtis had no report.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) – A sign of creative problem solving is that the Juba Christian community of South Sudan have purchased a water tanker so that they can supply much needed water to homes and provide income for the college.

The top-ranking concerns of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC) are planting new churches and spreading evangelism. The many other challenges (conflict, famine, and economic crisis) can be addressed best when the people experience the transformation, freedom and love through belief in Jesus Christ. Every donation of \$500 will establish one new church, helping to obtain land, purchase chairs or benches, and support a pastor.

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic – Kay Brouwer reported that Laura Romero has expressed the clinic's deep concern that the families of their children have faith that the clinic is caring for them in all ways possible. The clinic staff wants to give reassurance that the families are not forgotten because of the Covid Pandemic and the Delta Variant.

Because of the desperation being felt among clinic families, Laura and her staff made a September trip to the hospital in Hermosillo to gather needed supplies such as baby formula, diapers and food. An orthodontist in Hermosillo has volunteered space in her office where parents can come to get the collected supplies. Laura and Diana will be there to offer face-to-

face conversations and to answer questions. Those parents need to see the clinic staff to realize they have continued medical help.

The Health Director in Mexico has expressed little interest in vaccinating children. He announced that the vaccinations given to children would be better used if given to adults.

A pediatrician in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, who works closely with St. Andrew's Clinic, continues to hope that a clinic might be offered in October or November, but the possibility is slight. The clinic always cares for their families, even when visits to Nogales, Arizona are impossible.

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic needs our continued prayers and support for the struggle that never seems to end.

Valley Assistance Services – Steve Larson's report included the following:

"Valley Assistance Services, a blend of community health and social services, serves more than 6,200 people in our local area annually, helping keep them healthy, safe and independent."

Donations help VAS maintain:

- ✓ Neighbors AIM which supports caregivers, loved ones, family and friends of those affected by dementia.
- ✓ Nurse care managers who can visit seniors in their homes to help them remain safe.
- ✓ Transportation Program to help home-bound seniors get to doctor appointments, the grocery store, etc.
- ✓ Training for Financial Literacy for clients of all ages to learn the basics of personal finance, banking, and credit; build resumes; write cover letters; learn to interview well; become knowledgeable of workforce skills to help them retain or obtain gainful employment.
- ✓ MAP-a-Plan (Monetary Assistance Program) helps clients obtain and retain safe, adequate housing, utilities and nourishment. It can also help advocate for benefits and for workforce training.

The effects of COVIS are still evident. Many area residents can "fall through the cracks" if not provided with help. VAS funds will help as we continue to support this mission.

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

- 1) Youth on Their Own is sponsoring a Fall Event entitled: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A YOTO STUDENT. It will be October 24 at 11 a.m. It will stream at yoto.org!
- 2) Nancy Storey and I have begun sorting about 300 cards donated to our church: Christmas, Birthday and Personal Greeting cards. We will offer packets of 10 cards for \$1.00, proceeds to go to YOTO. A possible slogan at the sale site might be "CARDS FOR CARDS," as the money made could support our monthly card making supplies which include stickers, stamp pads, sharpies, glue sticks. This might also be a good venue at which to display our cards of inspiration made by the group. *(Kylene Joplin asked and was granted Birthday Cards to send to clients of Valley Assistance Services.)*

- 3) Two ladies met at church on Wednesday, August 25 to make Inspirational Cards. We completed 24 cards. Our next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, September 23 in Classroom 5 from 1- 3:30 pm.
- 4) _On Thursday, September 9, we delivered 50 cards of inspiration to Youth On Their Own. These were a combination of cards made at our meeting and by ladies at home. We also delivered a donated backpack filled with school supplies and 10 spiral notebooks.
 - YOTO HEADQUARTERS: 1660 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson 85712
 - YOTO MINI-MALL: 1642 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson 85712

Mary has contacted Rachel Pollack, Senior Development & Marketing Coordinator, about the Mission Breakfast on November 13, 2021. They need to have more conversations about what will happen. A progress report will be given at our October Mission meeting.

Old Business:

Mission Breakfasts:

- November 13, 2021 – YOTO (Mary Horn)
- January 15, 2022 – Pam and Dave L. (Doug Clark)
- February 12, 2022 – Food Bank (Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens)
- March 28, 2022 – St. Andrews’ Children’s Clinic (Kay Brouwer)

Noisy Offering

- August 29, 2021 - Presbyterian Christian Ministry - George Curtis - \$541 in Checks & Bills; coins not yet counted.
- October 31, 2021 – Nogales Crossroads Mission – To be assigned
- January 30, 2022 – Casa Vida Nueva – Reed Olson (will be switched)
- 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

Mission Sunday is January 16, 2022: A subcommittee has agreed on a program to include distribution of our Annual Mission Outlook Booklet, Dave L. will provide the sermon, and Pam and Dave will be available after the service in Fellowship Hall. There will be a meet and greet with Pam and Dave L. Sunday afternoon.

Letter for agencies/Goals & Obligations - Doug Clark will send a letter to the mission agencies outlining goals and obligations for the 2021-2022 season.

Valley Voice articles – We’re meeting our goal of at least 4 articles in the Valley Voice per month. We had 5 in July and August with 7 in September.

Review and Update of Mission TV Assignments - None planned.

New Business:

Document distributed and reviewed: (copies will be sent to the VPC session)

- Mission Committee 2021-2022 Overview
- Mission Giving Guidelines, September 2021
- Noisy Offering guidelines Sundays 2021-2022

Distribution of Emergency Funds was discussed. Mary Horn moved that we send \$1500.00 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. Kay seconded the motion which was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Recruitment progress – Doug was happy to announce that one person has been added to our Missions Outreach Committee. It is Parkie Copeland who is named “Member at Large.” She’ll help with ad hoc projects such as Christmas Boxes and Snack Bags for the Homeless. We are still looking for a person to represent the Crossroads’ Mission. Recruiting will continue.

Brain Storming – We accomplished a lot today!

The next Mission Committee meeting will be at 8:45, October 12, 2021, in Room 5 with a ZOOM option.

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

Respectfully submitted, Kay Brouwer, Secretary