

VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of December 12, 2017 Meeting

Present: Doug Clark, Betty Kiesle-Yoder, George Curtis, Steve Larson, Janice Potter, Doris Steffy, Mary Horn, Kay Brouwer, Pastor Diane Christopher.

Absent: Patti Bright, Helen Phillips, Charlie Ashton, Reed Olson, Mark Horton, Judy Clark.

Doug Clark opened the meeting with prayer. Mary Horn then presented a devotional on the Twelve Days of Christmas that explained the hidden meaning behind the famous Christmas Carol. Each element in the carol has a code word for a reality of Christianity.

The committee welcomed new member Kay Brouwer. Kay has agreed to be the future contact for St. Andrews Children's Clinic. Doug Clark explained that the committee has three purposes: (1) promote the spiritual growth of its members, (2) oversee the missions that are supported by VPC and (3) communicate our mission activities to the larger congregation.

The minutes of the November 14th meeting were approved as written and will be posted on the VPC website.

The **financial report** covering Budgeted Mission Giving for 2017 and Total Mission Giving through November 30, by mission and in total, was provided to committee members. YTD mission giving through VPC totals \$116,621. This includes \$45,921 of "pass through" giving by VPC members, \$36,949 from patio sale proceeds and \$33,551 from the church's general fund budget.

Mission Reports/Comments:

Mary Horn provided an update on **Youth on Their Own (YOTO)**. YOTO is the scheduled presenter at the mission breakfast on January 13th. YOTO gave a very informative and well attended presentation in October at La Posada and Mary will attempt to secure the same presenter for our mission breakfast.

Doris Steffy commented on the Dreams Come True awards, a partnership of the Posada Life Foundation and **Posada Life Community Services**. Together they grant a wish to individuals needing financial help to pursue a dream. Applications for Dreams Come True are taken twice a year and details can be found at posadalife.org.

Doug Clark reported for **St. Andrews Children's Clinic**, a Nogales mission providing free medical care to needy children from Mexico. This year the mission committee has allocated \$4,000 to the Clinic for Cleft Palate surgery (it costs about \$1,000 for each child undergoing this surgery). Doug suggested that committee members may want to take a tour of the facility at a future date.

Janice Potter provided an update on **Crossroads Nogales Mission**. The Mission provided a Thanksgiving meal and chapel service to 300 people on November 18th. Leftovers from the Thanksgiving meal, held at VPC, were given to the Mission. Janice has repeatedly been asking for financial information on Crossroads, without success. They have recently lost the services of an accountant. Donations this year have been down from last year, while the number of people served has increased to approximately 150,000, up from last year's 137,000. This has put extra stress on already limited resources at Crossroads. They are still planning to serve a Christmas dinner again this year.

George Curtis noted that **Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM)** now has an offer of employment out to a very qualified candidate for the campus minister position. The PCM board was very impressed with her credentials and hopeful that she will accept the position, which has been vacant for several months. PCM will sponsor another fundraiser with the Gaslight Theatre on February 18th. Tickets are \$30, of which \$13 goes to PCM. VPC will receive a block of 30 tickets to be sold in the fellowship hall after Sunday services. PCM served Thanksgiving dinner to 120 international students at the U of A, with George and others donating much of the food.

Betty Kiesle-Yoder noted that 75 pounds of food and \$977 was donated to the **Amado-Green Valley Food Bank** in November by VPC.

Reed Olson led a group of 38 VPC members on a Christmas visit to **Casa Vida Nueva Ninos (CVN)** December 9th. CVN is a home for children in Nogales, Sonora. The group brought presents for all the children, Also, Reed and Roger Fisher presented RISE to Session and received approval to talk with VPC members about RISE and receive donations (see further discussion about RISE and its goals in the November committee minutes).

VPC Mission Quilts distributed a total of 112 Quilts in November to the following organizations: Continental Pediatrics, Holly Cross Hospital, AVIVA, Diamond Children's Medical Center and Santa Rita Rehab.

Tubac Regional Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a new program of **Valley Assistance Services (VAS)** discussed in the November minutes, is well underway. In addition to the successful fundraiser held in October at Tubac Jacks (see the November minutes), funding has been secured from the Tubac Health Care Foundation and the Greater Green Valley Foundation. There are no income requirements, but those receiving services under this program are encouraged to give a "pay it forward" donation. Currently VAS is working to include Rio Rico and people in wheel chairs in the program. People living in the service area can call VAS for a ride to the doctor, dentist, grocery store, etc. or to have a volunteer stop by their home just to visit.

Doug Clark provided a copy of the latest blog of **Bob and Kristi Rice, PCUSA Missionaries** serving in South Sudan. The blog notes that while life can often be difficult and depressing due to the struggle to survive in a war torn nation, the Rice's are focusing on a few little things to be grateful for: a recent improvement in Bob's health as he continues to battle with Epstein-Barr disease; that they are no longer getting bit by mosquitos at night, thanks to a net and do not have malaria; that a policeman assigned to their building is one of the friendliest people they have met; and that while the lack of security prevents traveling outside the city of Juba, they do have access to a few restaurants close by for an occasional diversion. VPC members are encouraged to follow the Rice's activities on their weekly blogs, bobandkristi.blogspot.com.

Doug also reported that Pam and Dave Lovitt (Operation Mobilization) send thanks for standing with their ministry. They ask for our prayers in the coming months as they need wisdom and God's power and grace as they continue to spread the Good News. Their partial schedule is as follows: January 13-24, organizing and speaking in four conferences to hundreds of churches in WI, GA, FL and CA. February 3, speaking at "NO Regrets" conference in WI. February 4-5, at Compass Church in Wheaton, IL. February 5-9, National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. and February 18-28, attending International Leader's Meeting in South Africa.

Old Business:

Mission Sunday will be January 28th. A committee of Doris Steffy, Mary Horn, Doug Clark and Pastor Diane are handling the planning for the event, including settling on a speaker for the event. Updated outreach booklets, highlighting each of our supported missions, will be available for distributions to VPC members.

Mission Booklets – The committee discussed including a breakdown in the 2018 booklets of our missions by the groups they support. It was agreed that the committee would work with Wendy on suggestions as to how this might be presented in the mission booklet.

Mission Breakfasts: January 13th, Youth on their Own (YOTO); February 24th, St. Andrews Children's Clinic; April 14th, Mission Quilts, Just Coffee, Creative Hands and Valley Galley.

New Business: The **December 31st Noisy Offering** will be for the Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM). Funds raised will go towards sponsorship of two students on a mission trip during the 2018 U of A spring break.

The Mission budget for 2017 has \$2,176 in unallocated funds as of November 30th. These funds are a reserve for an emergency need that might arise with one of our missions. The committee approved allocating \$1,000 of that amount to Crossroads Nogales Mission to help in their present funding crisis (see discussion above). The remainder of \$1,176 will be held in reserve. f

Mission TV assignments: Reed Olson – December 10,17,24; Charlie Ashton – December 31st.

Janice Potter mentioned attending a Women's Ministry program at the fall meeting of the Presbytery de Cristo where she learned that there are approximately 17,000 children waiting for foster homes in Arizona. Aviva Children Services provides enhanced services to improve the quality of life for children, who are victims of neglect, abuse and poverty, under the care of the Department of Child Safety. More Than a Bed, an agency in Tucson, works to find people who are willing to become foster parents. Their hope is to obtain 300 beds to address the number of foster children that must sleep on the floor.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Pastor Diane Christopher.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Larson, Secretary