

VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of November 14, 2017 Meeting

Present: Doug Clark, Judy Clark, Betty Kiesle-Yoder, George Curtis, Janice Potter, Steve Larson, Mark Horton, Reed Olson, Doris Steffy, Mary Horn

Absent: Patti Bright, Helen Phillips, Charlie Aston

Chairman Doug Clark led devotion with a discussion of the many attributes of God and presented members with a handout covering some of those attributes. He then led the members in an opening prayer.

The minutes of the October 10th meeting were approved as written. The committee also approved including those and all future minutes in the Missions category on the VPC website.

The financial statement of Total Mission Giving through October 31st was provided to committee members. YTD mission giving through VPC totals \$86,436, which includes \$33,361 of “Pass through” giving by VPC members in addition to the formal Mission budget.

Mission reports/comments:

Judy Clark reported on two new programs at **Valley Assistance Services (VAS)**. (1) Tubac Regional Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a volunteer transportation and visiting program to begin in December. Volunteers are being signed up and trained by VAS and home visits for new participants who live in Carmen, Amado, Tubac and Tumacacori are being scheduled. A fundraiser held by VAS at Tubac Jacks in October raised \$3,700 to start the program. The program will rely on continued funding through grants, community donations and “pay it forward” donations from participants. (2) Neighbors AIM (Awareness In Memory loss), designed to create a community/neighbors sense of caring for those with memory loss through the use of music and art. The goal is to allow those with dementia and memory loss to stay more engaged with their caregivers and loved ones. The program will kick off with a music event at VPC on December 19th, with Stephen Ministers, Pastors and family members participating. VAS also has an agreement with the Green Valley Fire Department to conduct dementia simulation training in January to their firefighters.

Betty Keisle-Yoder provided a summary of the **Green Valley and Amado Food Bank** results for 2016. Total households served, 5,209. Total persons served, 19,352. Ages of those served, under 17, 31%; 18 – 59, 52%; over 60, 17%. 271 volunteers worked a total of 26,478 hours, distributing almost 2 million pounds of food. Food donations received at VPC are delivered by the Deacons to the food bank, alternating between GV and Amado every other month.

George Curtis reported that **Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM)** was planning another fund raising night at the Gaslight Theater in Tucson for February 18th, more information to follow later. The planned spring Mission trip (see October minutes) may be cancelled if more students do not sign up to participate. PCM will again this year provide a Thanksgiving dinner for international students attending the U of A.

Presbytery de Cristo is sponsoring an event at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tucson, 2 - 4pm February 11th, with displays featuring the eight Mission Partners supported by the Presbytery. A flier for the program was distributed by Doug Clark to all committee members.

Reed Olson reported for **Casa Vida Nueva Para Ninos (CVN)** to be known as a "Home for Children" in Nogales, Sonora, MX. CVN was established to nurture and care for abused and abandoned children. Part of its mission is to foster an environment that keeps kids excited about education. However, for a children's home with a growing number of kids to send to high school (at a cost of \$400 per year per student) and on to higher education, this is a constant financial challenge. To address this challenge a group of American volunteers created **Rise Scholastic Achievements, Inc.(RISE)**, a 501©(3) non-profit corporation with the goal of providing a sustainable source of revenue support to eligible students of CVN, with 100% of all donations going directly to support the children's education. More information on RISE and how to donate can be found at their website:www.risesa.org. The committee approved the following motion; "Reed Olson will be allowed to present RISE to Session and seek approval to talk with VPC members about donations to RISE".

Doris Steffy mentioned that **Posada Life Community Services** (formerly Casa Community Services) will be providing Thanksgiving dinners for thirty blind veterans from Tucson and for the children in the Posada preschool program. They are also conducting a fund raising with the selling of Xmas poinsettias.

Mary Horn reported that a forum for **Youth on Their Own (YOTO)**, held recently at La Posada, was well attended and presented some very informative information, including that 75% of inmates in Arizona are high school dropouts. Today it costs \$25,000 annually to keep someone incarcerated in Arizona vs only \$2,500 a year for YOTO to support a student and keep him/her in high school. YOTO receives no Federal or State funding, but is supported mainly by private donations and some Pima County funding.

Doug Clark distributed a copy of the November 12th blog of **Bob and Kristi Rice, PCUSA missionaries** serving in South Sudan. The blog provided an update on the Nile Theological College (NTC) where the Rice's teach. NTC has grown to over 70 students, the majority having been displaced from all over the country as a result of the civil war that broke out in 2013. The blog goes into further discussion of the challenges the South Sudanese leaders face and God's providence and sovereignty in the midst of the turbulence in this war torn nation. VPC members are encouraged to follow the Rice's activities on their weekly blogs.

Helen Phillips submitted a written report on **Hands of A Friend**, a shelter for domestic abuse victims. Helen attended a conference on domestic violence held at the shelter on October 21st. Several speakers presented their personal experiences as abuse victims, along with statistics on domestic abuse. Founder and President, Patti O' Leary told the story of her family's abuse history. They plan to take this presentation on the road to share with other organizations. Helen also attended an open house the following week to preview the shelter's new addition. Patti O' Leary explained how women are admitted to the shelter and the rules they must follow

to stay. The new addition contains an education room for computer classes, job preparation, budgeting, etc.

Doug Clark provided an update on the activities of Pam and Dave Lovett, missionaries with **Operation Mobilization(OM)**, serving primarily in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran and South Africa. Bangladesh is in the midst of a humanitarian crisis, with 20 million affected by the worst flooding in 200 years. The in county OM team will be implementing a plan to help 50,000 homeless refugees. They ask for our prayers for the right people who can help in training and management, aid workers, and the financial resources needed to help the refugees with food and shelter, water and hygiene, as well as counseling for the many thousands of trauma victims.

Old Business:

Doug reminded the committee that there are still two or three Mission partners that have yet to submit their financial reports for 2016.

The October 29th **Noisy Offering** raised \$705.44 for Companeros en Mission.

Janice Potter noted that VPC members provided 72 Christmas Boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**, sponsored by Samaritan Purse, vs 109 boxes provided last year.

Mission booklets have now been updated for 2018. Doug Clark asked all committee members to sign off on their area as being ok by December 31st. Mary Horn shared the poster she used with the recent new member class to suggest that our mission booklet for 2018 could feature our missions in a way that demonstrates the wide variety of needs served. Several of the new members commented that they appreciated seeing a breakdown of who is served by the missions we support. Reed Olson added the suggestion that we also include a map or list of the specific areas where are missions are at work.

George Bitar, Pastor, **Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship (MEPF)** will be the speaker at the **November 18th Mission Breakfast**. MERF is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA), through Presbytery de Cristo. It is an outreach ministry that teaches, ministers and introduces the Christian reformed faith within the Arabic speaking and Middle Eastern communities.

Future Mission Breakfasts will be: January 18th, YOTO; February 24th, St.Andrews Children Clinic; and April 14th, Mission Quilts, Just Coffee, Creative Hands and The Valley Galley.

Mission Sunday will be January 28th. Doris Steffy, Doug Clark and Mary Horn agreed to plan the program and speaker for the event.

New Business:

The December 31st Noisy Offering will be for the Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM)

Mission TV assignments: Reed Olson – Dec 3, 10,17 and 24; Charlie Aston – Dec 31.

George Curtis noted that lack of sufficient helpers to handle pickups and sorts is hurting the Patio Sale. Twice this past summer VPC had to pass on available pickups due to the inability to assemble a crew. Doug suggested a Mission committee goal should be a to get more VPC men involved in Patio Sale support throughout the year.

Valley Galley will be previewed at La Posada on December 7th. VPC has 109 members residing at La Posada.

The recently completed **Holiday Sale** at VPC raised a total of \$3,955 for Missions. The committee designated Steve Larson to send a thank you card to Patio Sale Chair, Sam Edison, from the Mission committee, thanking all the volunteers for another successful effort on behalf of the VPC mission program.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Doug Clark.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Larson, Secretary