

## **VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of January 9, 2018 Meeting**

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

Absent: Helen Phillips, Judy Clark, Patti Bright.

Doug Clark opened the meeting with Bible Study and Reflections on the Tabernacle as a type of Christ, a place for God to dwell among his people. This was followed by an opening prayer.

The minutes of the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written and will be posted on the VPC website.

The **financial report** covering Budgeted Mission Giving and Total Mission Giving for 2017, by mission and in total, was provided to committee members. Our mission gifts for 2017 total \$125,666. This is comprised of \$53,966 of “pass through” giving by the congregation, \$36,949 from the prior year’s patio sale proceeds and \$33,551 from VPC’s general fund budget.

### **Mission Reports/Comments:**

**Youth on Their Own (YOTO)** will be the featured mission at the January 13<sup>th</sup> mission breakfast. Paul Armenta, Director of Philanthropy at YOTO, will be the presenter at what promises to be a very informative program. It is expected to be well attended by VPC members with over 60 tickets already sold.

Kay Brouwer reported on **St. Andrews Children’s Clinic**, noting that 98% of donations received by the clinic go to medical treatment of the children, all of whom are from poor families in Mexico. The clinic will be the featured program at our February 24<sup>th</sup> mission breakfast. VPC designates its donations, which totaled \$4,000 in 2017, to the clinic’s Cleft-palate treatment program.

Charlie Ashton reported communication with **Campaneros en Mission** has been difficult lately. Since Campaneros is one of the missions that is also supported by Presbytery de Cristo , there hopefully will be a representative present at the upcoming Presbytery de Cristo mission event being held at Trinity Presbyterian Church ( see General Mission Support below ). Hopefully this will provide an opportunity to establish better lines of communication.

Reed Olson referred committee members to the January Valley Voice for coverage of the December 8<sup>th</sup> VPC sponsored visit to **Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos, A.C.** (New Life Home for Children). The trip was well attended and all the children received an early Christmas gift thanks to the generosity of VPC members and others. The next trip is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM)** is another mission that is also supported by both VPC and Presbytery de Cristo. As such, PCM will also have a table at the upcoming event being held at Trinity Presbyterian Church. George Curtis reported that he has 32 tickets to be sold after Sunday service for the February 18<sup>th</sup> PCM fundraiser to be held again at the Gaslight Theatre in Tucson. Ticket prices for the play are \$30, with \$11 going to support programs at PCM. The open campus minister position (see December minutes) has been filled by Bailey Pickens.

Janice Potter reported that she visited **Crossroads Nogales Mission** on December 20<sup>th</sup>, at which time she finally received our requested financial report for 2016. As reported in the December minutes the loss of their accountant has delayed their financial reporting. A team from VPC is going down on January 10<sup>th</sup> to prepare the noon meal and VPC members are also scheduled for the two February visits. The quilting team at VPC is working on making replacement quilts to replace ones lost at the Mission due to a recent insect infestation. The VPC Mission Committee approved a gift in December of an additional \$1,000 from our emergency fund to help Crossroad (see report in the December minutes on the increased demands placed on Crossroads in 2017).

**Valley Assistance Services (VAS)** is busy preparing for its annual Empty Bowls event, to be held at VPC on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be the twelfth year that VPC has joined with VAS in co-sponsoring this event. It is the major fundraiser for VAS, with all proceeds going to help families and seniors in need in the greater Green Valley community. Tickets for the event are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door on the day of the event, and will be available in Fellowship Hall after service every Sunday through February 4<sup>th</sup>.

**General Mission Support:** VPC participates in supporting the eight mission partners of the Presbytery de Cristo. The Presbytery will be hosting an open house for these mission partners at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tucson on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 -4pm. This is an opportunity for all of us to become better acquainted with the work of these missions.

**Bob and Kristi Rice, PCUSA Missionaries,** noted that 2017 has been a year of “surrender” and “giving up control”. Major decisions were made last year greatly affecting them, over which they had no control. They had to submit to these decisions as God’s will and hand over to the Lord significant hopes and dreams. “To surrender and not have control are humbling realities which refine our character and build our faith”. They give thanks for the many wonderful things that happened last year. “We could see God’s hand of blessing, grace and goodness in our lives regarding new and old friendships, memorable experiences, and a good transition to South Sudan”. Some hopes for the New Year; physical healing for Bob, greater clarity for Kristi in her ministry role, wisdom for Bob in his teaching, continued progress and comfort with Juba Arabic, restorative times away, finding a church community to regularly worship and connect with,

opportunities to collaborate with other ministries and staying connected with family and friends back home. “We invite you to pray with us regarding these hopes for 2018”

**Pam and Dave Lovitt, Operation Mobilization**, reported that their teams in Pakistan show great courage in spite of the increased persecution of the church in that country. Pam and Dave were finally able to visit their 100 Pakistan team members after waiting two years for their visas. They were able to meet with families and individuals for prayer, counseling, encouragement and coaching. They are now planning a return visit as the need is great.

#### **Old Business:**

Yearly **financial reports** have now been received for all missions followed by the committee.

**Mission Sunday** is January 28<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Diane Christopher provided the committee with an outline of the Service and various committee members have assumed responsibility for many parts of the service.

**Mission Outreach booklets** for 2018 are completed and will be distributed to the congregation on Mission Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Mission Breakfasts:** See comments about under YOTO (January 13<sup>th</sup>) and St. Andrews (February 24<sup>th</sup>). April 14<sup>th</sup> will be Mission Quilts, Just Coffee, Creative Hands and the Valley Galley.

A report on **Mission Quilts** given out in 2017 was distributed to committee members. A total of 156 quilts assembled by the VPC quilters were distributed to nine different agencies, representing 156 individual recipients.

#### **New Business:**

**Mission TV** assignments: January 21 and 28, general mission info; February 4,11 and 18 St. Andrews clinic.

**Future mission breakfasts:** January 12, 2019 Pam and Dave Lovitt. Mission committee asked to think about the program participants for the remainder of 2018 and 2019.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Larson, Secretary