VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of January 8, 2019 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Doug Clark at 8:45am.

Present: Doug Clark, Ben Coppock, Mary Horn, Rev. Diane Christopher, Betty Kiesler-Yoder, Reed Olson, Kay Brouwer, Larry Craft, Mark Horton, Sally Ruschmeier, Janice Potter, Pat Nau, Steve Larson.

Absent: Charlie Ashton, George Curtis

Mark Horton presented a Devotional on Wisdom and Prayer, from the book of Proverbs, chapter 8. He also cited Lecto Divina, which stresses reading the Bible in a contemplative manner: reading a passage, contemplating it in a contemporary setting, and praying for the wisdom to apply in our daily lives.

Mark then opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the December 11th meeting were approved, as adjusted for comments from the members and have now been placed on the VPC website under Missions.

**Financial Report:**

Total mission giving by VPC in 2018 was $125,904, but only $26,545 came from the church’s operating budget. The reminder was “pass through” giving by church members, and net proceeds from the 2017 patio sale and 2018 mission breakfasts. It is hoped that budgeted giving for 2019 can remain at 2018 levels, but that won’t be known until the church has completed its budgeting process for 2019.

Mission Reports/Comments:

**Hands of A Friend –** Pat Nau is our new mission committee rep to this agency. She will begin the process and follow up with agency personnel to get a monthly update on activities.

**Green Valley-Amado Food Bank –** Betty Kiesler- Yoder stated that the results for December donations were not yet available. We will report that information in next month’s minutes.

**Youth on Their Own (YOTO) –** Mary Horn reported that she made a final delivery on January 4th of the last donations from our Christmas Campaign requesting supplies for YOTO’s Mini-mall. Included in that delivery were approximately 50 individual bags of wrapped candy provided by the Valley Galley that had previously been donated for their December Carol Sing.

YOTO recently published some new info on their website indicating where the kids they serve live: 43% live with a relative, 10% with a significant other, 4% live alone, 16% live with a friend, 8% are couch hoppers, 1% live in shelters, 11% live in group homes and 7% live in foster homes.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos** – Reed Olson reported he is busy making plans for the February Mission Breakfast and an upcoming visit to the Home for Children. The December Christmas visit went well, with the border crossing quick and uneventful (see December minutes for more info on that visit). Reed wanted to add that since 2015 he has taken 433 people to the Home for Children. Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos will be the featured program at the February 9th mission breakfast.

**Crossroads Nogales Mission -** Janice Potter accompanied a VPC team that served the noon lunch to clients at the Mission on December 19th. She stated this was the smallest crowd she has ever served on a visit and fears that people in need have stopped coming due to the long wait times being experienced at the border, which in turn is a result of the current Federal government shutdown. Mission founder and director Ben Wenke continues his recovery from surgery in October, with the Mission largely being run by staff while he recovers. The already tight financial picture of the Mission is being challenged further by the recent increase in the Arizona minimum wage. VPC member Jan Bolin is scheduling volunteers for the monthly visits to serve the noon lunch in January, February and March. Janice would also like additional help in providing mission committee involvement with Crossroads.

**Posada Life Community Services –** Sally Ruschmeier reported that the agency has been busy with several end of the year projects and lots of parties for various groups that they serve, including care givers. They are planning several fund raising concerts at Posada Java to be held on Saturdays in February and March. Ben Coppock will attend a donor recognition luncheon on behalf of the mission committee, January 15th at LaPosda.

**Valley Assistance services(VAS)** – the SHIM(Safety and Health in Motion) fall prevention program was recently presented to GVR’s SOS volunteers and was also part of the Aging Mastery program in Tucson. VAS partnered with the GV Fire Corp volunteers and the GV Food Bank to deliver gift bags and food baskets on December 10th to 105 seniors in Green Valley and Sahuarita. VAS also delivered 24 gift bags to seniors in the Tubac area.

Empty Bowls will be held on February 16th at VPC. This is the major fundraiser for VAS. Tickets ($20) are available each Sunday through February 10th, in the Fellowship Hall ($25 at the door the day of the event). Over 17 different delicious soups, 45 raffle baskets and silent auction items will be at the event. Each tickets holder will receive a hand crafted bowl provided by local craft organizations (Quail Creek Ceramics, Quail Creek Pottery, Santa Rita Clay Studio and GVR Ceramics).

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM) –** Mark Horton emphasized that he is focusing on increasing publicity to encourage more student participation in PCM. A letter and invite message has been distributed throughout the U of A student body, inviting students to attend Tuesday evening programs. The programs will consist of a brief, informal, collaborative worship service, conversation and dinner.

**General Mission Support –** Ben Coppock reported on the Presbyterian fundraising program, the “One Great Hour of Sharing”. He intends to present this to the VPC congregation sometime during Lent, as a Minute for Mission, explaining how donations to this program are used to help disaster victims and the disadvantaged in both the US and foreign countries.

**St. Andrew’s Clinic –** Kay Brouwer has arranged for VPC members to tour the Clinic on March 7th. She will have a sign- up sheet available at the January and February mission breakfasts for those wishing to join the tour. Kay will also be obtaining a copy of the new video created by the Clinic covering their cleft-palate program and other activities benefiting poor children from Mexico.

**Old Business:**

**Mission Sunday** is January 20th, preceded by a mission breakfast on January 19th. The program will feature Dave and Pam L, missionaries for Operation Mobilization assigned to Iran, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Dave will speak to the breakfast group, as well as presenting the sermon on Sunday, the 20th. Updated Mission booklets for 2019 will be available at the VPC welcome desks on Sunday. Members of the Mission Committee have agreed to fill most of the roles for the Sunday service.

**Mission Giving Guidelines** – an updated draft for 2019 was distributed and committee members are asked to review and be ready to discuss at the February meeting.

**Homeless Packet Program for 2019** - the focus this year will be to encourage congregation participation. To that end, Mary Horn intends to set aside three Sundays in March where VPC members can bring any of the requested supplies to the church. Mission committee members would then be responsible for preparing the packets and distributing them to the homeless. Mary will also follow up with the Salvation Army in Tucson as a possible source to receive packets on behalf of homeless. This would be in addition to allowing mission committee members to distribute directly to the homeless, as was done for 2018.

**Future mission breakfasts** – February 9th, Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos; March 30, Posada Life Community Services.

**Noisy Offerings** = March 31, YOTO; June 30, Food Bank/Peanut Butter; September 29, Presbyterian Campus Ministry.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Mark Horton.

The next meeting will be February 12th at 8:45 a.m. in Room 1

Respectively submitted,

Steve Larson, Secetary