**VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of April 9, 2019 Meeting**

Present: Betty Kiesler-Yoder, Mary Horn, Janice Potter, Ben Coppock, Doug Clark, Sally Ruschmeier, Reed Olson, George Curtis, Larry Craft, Steve Larson, Charlie Ashton, Mark Horton, and Rev. Diane Christopher.

Absent: Pat Nau, Kay Rrouwer

Doug Clark presented Bible Study/Reflections on ”Lectio Divina”, a Latin term meaning “divine reading” , which describes a way of reading the scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us.

Doug then opened the formal meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the March 19th meeting were approved as written.

**Financial Report:**

The budget for 2019 remains at $70,500, $24,500 from the church operating budget and $46,000 from the 2018 patio sale. The 2019 patio sale was again very successful, so we can look forward to a similar contribution to the mission budget next year. In addition “pass through giving” by VPC members has raised $7,104 during the first quarter of 2019**.**

**Mission Reports/Comments**:

**Companeros en Mission** – Charlie Ashton reported that Companeros has improved its communication, including the start of a newsletter and a brief recap of their finances. The mission has also started a church presence in Nogales, Sonora to support refugees migrating through the city.

**Green valley-Amado Food Bank** –Betty-Kiesler Yoder noted that March giving through donations from VPC totaled $1,187 and 46 pounds of Food. Currently, the Noisy Offering for June is slated to be used for the purchase of peanut butter for the food banks. A request from the Worship committee for possible use of Mission committee funds for flowers was tabled for re-presentation with further information at the May meeting.

**Youth on Their Own (YOTO) –** Mary Horn reported that five ladies from VPC met on March 27th to make inspirational cards to be placed with the monthly stipend checks that students receive. As of the most recent statistics (March 19th) YOTO is working with 103 schools in the greater Tucson area, including 98 schools where they have an appointed liaison person to connect with the students. YOTO is currently serving 752 senior students. The March 31st Noisy Offering raised $1,600 for YOTO.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos –** Reed Olson has scheduled future trips to visit the Home for Children on September 14th and December 14th. There are now 46 children at the Home, with the recent addition of three children from one family that were abandoned by their mother.

**Crossroads Nogales Mission –** Janice Potter reported that the numbers of people coming across the border for the daily lunch program have dropped off substantially with the increased wait times now being experienced at the border. VPC member Joan Bolin, who has been helping Janice with scheduling lunch teams to serve the noon meal twice each month at the mission, has returned to her Seattle home. Joan has agreed to help again when she returns in October. Janice plans to run an article in the VPC Valley Voice requesting volunteers over the summer months, especially volunteers willing to drive.

Janice has been unable to reach anyone at Crossroads, having stressed the importance of someone returning her call. She also called the number for their accountant, but that person has been laid off.

Lastly, Janice announced her resignation from the Mission Committee. She has served the committee for 9 or 10 years and noted that she will always support the work of the committee. The committee thanks Janice for her long service and wishes her success in her future endeavors. Janice will become the moderator for Women’s Ministries at VPC on June 1st.

**Posada Life Community Services** – Sally Ruschmeier reported on numerous activities at Posada. Adult day care attendance has broken previous attendance records. There are now two caregiver support groups, with each meeting twice a month. The community center is busy with: music Wednesday and Friday nights, the senior lunch program, twice a week AA meetings, Ollie classes, Weight Watchers and a Mater of Balance class sponsored by Pima Council on Aging. Sally sent thank you notes to Regina Ford and Susie Simmons for their help with Mission Breakfast and the tour of Casa del Valle playground. Executive Director Bill McCleary is encouraged that the word is getting out in the community of all the ways that help is available at Posada.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry(PCM) –** George Curtis reported that PCM’s campus minister, Bailey Pickens, is working with her Lutheran and Episcopal counterparts on a joint ecumenical program to attract more U of A students to their events. The next fundraiser at the Gaslight will be on May 12th. Eighty tickets have been made available, with 50 allocated to VPC. The Mission Committee voted to be responsible for up to five tickets ($125) in the event all are not sold. George noted that support of PCM is a Presbytery mission and more support is needed from other churches besides VPC.

**General Mission Support –** Ben Coppock spoke on behalf the PCUSA’s one Great Hour of Sharing. He noted that this coming Sunday will be the fourth week in the Lenten season that we have featured a message in the bulletin and a speaker during the Minute for Mission in support of this program, which raises funds to help victims of disasters and the disadvantaged in the U.S. and foreign countries.

**St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic –** Kay Brouwer reported that she is considering the next tour of the Clinic for the first Thursday in either October or November. The Clinic’s director, Laura Romero, said not much is happening at the Clinic over the summer, but exciting plans will be announced later in the year.

**Valley Assistance Services (VAS) –** Steve Larson reported on a few of the current events at VAS. The annual Quail Creek Car Show was held April 7th, raising $8,500 in support of VAS programs. Neighbors Aim classes on dementia and memory loss are being held at the Green Valley Library on Mondays at 4pm and at the VAS office on Wednesdays at 10:30am. Virtual Dementia Tour is an immersion program that allows participants to experience what it is like to walk in the shoes of someone with dementia. The tour takes 30 minutes and is open to anyone in the community. The next tour dates are April 12, 26 and May 10 – reservations are needed. Thursday mornings at the VAS office from 9 – 11am will be Ask a Nurse with blood pressure clinics. A class on Advanced Directives on April 17th from 10:30 to Noon.

**Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L) –**Dave asks for prayer as he is teaching and training Pakistani staff in Lahore.Dave also asks us to be inspired by the ongoing work OM is doing in the Rohingya refugee camps. One of his coworkers relates a story of a successful ministry where he was asked by one of the refugee families to name their newborn son. He asked God for guidance and selected the name Abraham. This is considered a high honor, as naming is usually reserved for parents or grandparents.

**Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) –** The Rice’s report that not many big events are going on in South Sudan at the present, so they are engaged in many every- day tasks. They” thank God for the many little challenges that help us to adjust, to be humble, and to appreciate the differences on our cultures. You can pray for us to continue to learn, appreciate and connect with our adopted culture in South Sudan”. Among the many challenges they are dealing with is the time required to comply with government regulations, the relatively poor and unreliable phone service, the availability of fresh produce, and the relatively casual attitude about time.

**Mission Quilts –** Patti Bright reports that the quilters are concentrating on getting as many quilts completed as they can before many of the quilters leave for their summer homes. They accompanied the tour last month to St. Andrew’s Clinic, which is the last delivery of quilts they have made.

**Old Business:**

**Mission Breakfast –** Posada Life Community Services presented at the March 30th breakfast and received donations totaling $570. The next breakfast will be November 16th with a presentation by Presbytery de Cristo on the missions it supports.

**Noisy Offering –** the March 31st collection was for YOTO (see discussion above). Future offering currently scheduled are: June 30th – Food Bank peanut butter program, September 29th – Presbyterian Campus Ministry and December 29th – being held for the General Fund.

**Homeless Packet Program –** see the meeting minutes of February 12th and March 19th for details of the program. Contributions of Food ($305 value) and $188 in cash by members of VPC allowed us to fill approximately 90 snack bags. These were assembled by committee members after the meeting and will be delivered to the Salvation Army. Church members can also give some directly to the needy.

**Patio Sale Update –** Kay Brouwer wrote an article for the April Valley Voice thanking the Patio Sale amigos and all the volunteers for their efforts during the sale on behalf of our missions.

Eloise Fredrickson and Dick Christensen joined the meeting and presented several ideas for future Patio Sales. One is for the Mission Committee to have a representative on the Patio Sale Committee in order to have an input to its decisions. Better locations could be selected for signage at future sales. Emphasize to buyers the missions that their purchases support. The Mission Committee might invite the managers of the various missions to attend the sale. They know what their particular mission needs and would get many great bargains.

**New Business:**

**Bulletin Board Displays –** Mary Horn distributed various colored papers and asked that each of us prepare a display that highlights the mission we represent. The displays would be featured on of the bulletin boards in the church.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Christopher.

The next meeting will be May 14th at 8:45 in room 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Larson, Secretary