**VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of February 13, 2018 Meeting**

Present: Doug Clark, Betty Kiesle-Yoder, Helen Phillips, Judy Clark, Mark Horton, Janice Potter, Reed Olson, Steve Larson, George Curtis, Doris Steffy, Kay Brouwer, Pastor Diane Christopher.

Absent: Patti Bright, Mary Horn, Charlie Ashton.

Doug Clark opened the meeting with Bible Study and discussion on “Fruit of the Spirit”, referring to a biblical term the sums up the nine attributes of living in accord with God’s character through the Holy Spirit. This was followed by an opening prayer.

Helen Phillips announced that she is resigning from the committee. We thank Helen for her years of dedication to the work of the committee.

The minutes of the January 9th meeting were approved as written and will be posted on the VPC website.

**Financial Report:** The committee approved a budget for 2018 of $70,000, with the same allocations by agency as 2017. The $70,000 consists of $26,545 from the VPC general fund budget and $43,955 from the net proceeds of the 2017 patio sale. Not included in these number would be the additional “pass-through giving” from church members and proceeds from Mission breakfasts.

**Mission Reports/Comments:**

Kay Brower reported on **St. Andrews Children’s Clinic**. Laura Romero, Executive Director of the clinic, will be the speaker at the upcoming mission breakfast on February 24th. The clinic’s Cleft-palate treatment program is of special interest to our committee. A display at the breakfast will feature several children who have benefited from this surgery and one of the children is expected to accompany the representative. Kay pointed out the Cleft-palate treatment does not end with the surgery. In many cases follow-up treatment by the clinic can be needed for several years and currently the clinic does not have the necessary funding.

Doris Steffy reported on **Posada Life Community Services**. LaPosada Java is holding Saturday concerts to raise funds for the Community Services programs (over 300 people attended last Saturday). Some interesting statistics point to increasing impact on our local community: 18 new adult day care participants since November, with an average of 12-25 participants every weekday, including those suffering from Parkinson’s and Dementia; the children’s day care program now has 81 kids attending; the noon hour lunch for adults now has an average of 25 participants each day.

George Curtis and Mark Horton updated the group on recent activity at **Presbyterian Campus** **Ministry (PCM**). All 32 of the tickets allocated to VPC (see last month’s minutes) for the February 18th fundraiser at the Gaslight Theatre in Tucson have been sold and the performance is now sold out. PCM was one of the featured missions at last Sunday’s open house event for the eight mission partners of Presbytery de Cristo. Bailey Pickens, the new PCM minister, was present to greet attendees. Bailey shared several of her hopes for PCM in a report to Mark: (1) that ways can be found to connect with more students. Currently a small group of 3-6 regular attendees meet for dinner and discussion, (2) that enough financial stability can be found so that PCM could pay for students to go on service and mission trips, as well as fun outings, (3) that PCM could grow into a larger organization so that events they hold will draw in unchurched and a-religious students who are interested in larger, apparently secular, issues that have to do with Christianity’s relevance in today’s world.

The next VPC sponsored visit to **Casa Vida Nueva Ninos, A.C.** (New Life Home for Children) is March 10th. Those interested in joining this trip can sign up in Fellowship Hall starting with the February 25th service. Twenty-six are already signed up with a goal of 38-40 to make the trip. Reed Olson mentioned that it can be challenging to secure vans to transport everyone. Directors at the orphanage expect to receive another 24 children this summer, with the ultimate goal to house a total of 100 children. Officials of the city of Nogales, Sonora evaluate Casa Vida as the best run of the seven homes for children receiving government assistance in the Nogales area.

Helen Phillips received an update from Patti O’Berry, Founder and Executive Director of **Hands of A** **Friend**, a shelter for domestic abuse victims. Patti reports that they have completed their expansion program and are now working on assembling prevention education materials. They plan to go nationwide with that effort and will be looking for donors to fund placement of the education materials in domestic violence shelters free of charge. She stated that they gave to most shelters in Arizona last year, funding the effort themselves. They have begun to fill up the new rooms that were part of the expansion and look to add 1/3rd more women and children than they housed in 2017.

Judy Clark and Steve Larson reported on **Valley Assistance Services (VAS**). Vas held its annual Empty Bowls event last Saturday. Co-sponsored by VAS and VPC for the twelfth consecutive year, the event appeared to be well attended end enjoyed increase sponsorship by area businesses, including a $2,500 contribution from Desert Diamond Casino and $1,000 sponsorships by Vista Eye Care and United Community Health Center. Further details on the results of this major fundraiser for VAS will be available at next month’s meeting.

Betty Kiesle-Yoder noted that VPC contributed $1,078 to the **Green Valley and Amado Food Banks** in January, along with 77lbs of food to Amado and 56lbs to Green Valley.

**Bob and Kristi Rice, PCUSA Missionaries** in South Sudan report that because of ongoing conflicts and clashes between political factions and ethnic groups many South Sudanese are unable to farm their fields, thus the threat of famine in many areas of the country. A revitalization process is underway to end hostilities between the government and rebel factions. The Rice’s ask that we pray for lasting peace, that those who have been displaced can return to their homes and for the provision of food to those in need. Bob has started to teach at Nile Theological College and asks that we pray for wisdom and creativity in his presentation and for comprehension by his students. Kristi’s focus is in community development with the South Sudan Presbyterian Church, and notes that peace and economic and political stability are critical to promoting development within communities. She states that the Church has actively participated in women’s gatherings and prayers for peace, and it has promoted reconciliation and trauma healing in their communities.

**Pam and Dave L, Operation Mobilization**, attended the National Prayer Breakfast on February 1 in Washington, D.C.

Patti Bright reports that **Mission Quilters** took a tour of Children’s Diamond Medical Center in January. The quilters are busy trying to get as many quilts made as they can before the snowbirds leave, as most of their machine sewers are snowbirds. No quilts were delivered in January. More than a Bed, a foster and adoptive family resource center, was the recipient of 26 of our quilts in 2017. They presented our quilters with a “Certificate of Appreciation” thanking them for “blessing us as the recipients of your beautiful handmade quilts. Because of your kindness and generosity, many of our children were shown they are valued. We pray that God continues to bless you as you have blessed our families”.

**Old Business:**

Doug Clark mentioned that he sent a reminder letter to each of our mission partners of our need for their 2017 financial reports as soon as they become available.

The **April 14th Mission Breakfast** will feature Mission Quilts, Just Coffee, Creative Hands and Valley Galley. Reed Olson suggested that each of those have a table at which they could provide info and have a representative available to speak briefly about their mission. Doug Clark will follow up with the missions.

**New Business:**

**Minutes for Missions** at the services on March 18th and 25th will focus on PCUSA’s “One Great Hour of Sharing”. Gifts to this national program are used to provide relief to those affected by crises and catastrophic events, food for the hungry, and support towards the self-development of poor and oppressed communities. Doug Clark and Helen Phillips agreed to be presenters on the two Sundays.

VPC’s annual **Patio Sale** this year will take place on March 15 – 17. We would like all who attend to know that their purchases go to support our mission partners. To this end the committee agreed to the use of posters, banners, and mission booklets, as well as bookmarks that could be given to each customer.

The **Noisy Offering** for April 29th will go to Crossroads Nogales Mission.

**Mission Booklets** –at Doris Steffy’s suggestion the committee agreed that the picture on the cover should change in the future, with a different picture each year.

The next mission committee meeting will be on March 6th and will be held in the Sweet Family Room.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Larson, Secretary

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