**VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of March 6, 2018 Meeting**

Present: Doug Clark, Mark Horton, Reed Olson, Kay Brouwer, Betty Kiesle-Yoder, Mary Horn, Janice Potter, Steve Larson, Pastor Diane Christopher

Absent: George Curtis, Doris Steffy, Patti Bright, Charlie Aston, Judy Clark

Doug Clark opened the meeting. Mark Horton then presented Bible Study titled “Come Follow Me” from the Gospel of Mark, chapter 1, verses 16-18. Jesus is calling the fishermen Andrew and Simon to follow him as disciples and the study asked us the question. What does “Come follow me” mean to us.

The minutes of the February 13th meeting were approved as written and have been posted on the VPC website.

**Financial Report**: Our approved budget for the year is $70,000, with $26,545 coming from the VPC operating budget and the remaining $43,955 from last year’s net patio sale proceeds. In addition to the budget, pass through giving from church members totals $6,934 through February. The Mission Committee also has available $2,971 in its “emergency” fund.

**Mission Reports/Comments**:

Janice Potter reported on **Crossroads Mission**. The Mission will be serving an Easter dinner on March 24th and probably a follow up dinner on Mother’s Day. Janice also noted that she had three new participants from VPC sign up to go to Crossroads in March to help prepare the Wednesday noon meal. A major concern for the Mission is the continued health problems of it founder and director, Ben Wenke. The mission needs to adopt a succession plan.

Mary Horn reported that **Youth on Their Own (YOTO**) is holding a benefit luncheon on March 28th at the Tucson Convention Center. The program will feature several of the students who currently benefit from YOTO’s services. Mary is taking signups to attend and has reserved a table for ten from VPC. More info on this event is available in the March Valley Voice. Mary also distributed a booklet comprised of encouraging comments that have been written to the students. She would like to get members of VPC involved in writing notes of encouragement that would be included with the monthly stipend checks the students receive.

**St. Andrew’s Clinic** was the program at the February 24th mission breakfast. Approximately 70 people attended to hear a presentation by Executive Director Laura Romero. A total of $1,813 was donated by those in attendance. Kay Brouwer, mission committee representative assigned to St. Andrew’s, is organizing a tour of the clinic for VPC members. So far nineteen people have signed up with a tour date yet to be set, but likely sometime in April.

**Amado-GV-Sahuarita Food Bank** – No report

**Posada Life Community Services** – No report

**Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos** – The next visit of VPC members is scheduled for March 10th. There are 40 people signed up, with 22 are first time visitors. Completion of the main building’s second floor is expected by the fall of 2018, which will increase their children head count to 52.

**Hands of A Friend** – A dinner and dance fundraiser will be held at the Desert Diamond Ballroom on March 17sth. The celebration will honor founder, Patti O’Berry.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM**) – A successful fundraiser was held at the Gaslight Theatre on February 18th. At next year’s event, the date yet to be determined, the mission committee plans to be responsible for selling 100 tickets. This mission will accept donations from Amazon on purchased products, details to be presented in the Valley Voice.

**Valley Assistance Services** – The annual Empty Bowls program, the organization’s major fundraiser, was held again at VPC on February 10th. This was the twelve time VPC and Valley Assistance have joined to co-sponsor this event. It was one of the most successful, raising approximately $20,000 for Valley’s programs.

**Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L**) – An OM International Leaders meeting was attended by Pam and Dave on February 23rd in South Africa, with 400+ leaders from 110 countries. They are praying, planning, networking and working to better advance God’s kingdom among the least reached people in the world. This meant meetings from early morning to late night for 9-10 days. Following this they flew to Dubai to join up with a Wisconsin church group going to Bangladesh March 8th-16th. The plan is to do trauma counseling and training for about 40 field workers from 4-5 agencies working in disaster relief with Rohingya refugees.

**Kristi and Bob Rice, PCUSA Missionaries** in South Sudan – Kristi’s focus with the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC) is in community development, but we are learning from the experience of the church here that having peace and political stability is foundational to promoting economic development. SSPEC has actively participated in women’s gatherings and prayers for peace, and it has promoted reconciliation and trauma healing in their communities. In February SSPEC sent three members to training in Rwanda called “Healing the Wounds of Ethnic Conflict.” Kristi participated in this training, which was similar to a program Bob attended in the Congo. That training was a great benefit in the Congo and is expected to also help in South Sudan. They are excited to see God using other parts of their journey and trust that He is blending the harmony as the pieces come together.

**Old Business:**

**Mission Breakfast** – April 14th – Mission Quilts, Just Coffee, Creative Hands and Valley Galley. Program plan and sign- up sheet passed around to committee members. Breakfasts scheduled for 2018-19: November 19th – Hands of A Friend; January 12th – Pam and Dave L; February 9th – Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos; March 30th – Posada Life Community Services.

**Minutes for Mission Speakers** for “One Great Hour of Sharing” - Helen Phillips, March 18th and Doug Clark, March 25th

**Patio Sale** – Mission presence with banners, posters and bookmarks

**Noisy Offering** – April 29th will be for Crossroads Nogales Mission. Janice Potter will put a notice in the Valley Voice. Future dates not yet assigned.

**New Business:**

**Mission TV –** Future dates not assigned

**Brain Storming** – committee discussed handing out bags for homeless people as a possible project.

The meeting closed with prayer. The next meeting will be April 10th, Classroom 1, 8:45 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

Steve Larson, Secretary