VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of May 8, 2018 Meeting

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

Absent: Mark Horton, Pat Nau, Patti Bright

Doug Clark presented Bible Study on the meaning of “Baptism”. While the word is not used in the Old Testament, it is central in the New Testament – introduced by John the Baptist, enhanced by Jesus’ experience of baptism, and codified as a sacrament for believers.

The formal meeting was then opened with a prayer by Doug Clark.

Minutes of the April 10th meeting were amended with a few minor corrections and then approved by the committee for inclusion in the VPC website**.**

**Financial Report/Comments:**

The 2018 budget is $70,500 ($43,955 from the patio sale and $26,545 from VPC’s operating budget). YTD through April $26,922 has been paid out to the various Missions. The April Noisy Offering raised $781 for the Crossroads Nogales Mission. The April 14th Mission Breakfast raised $432 which will be shared equally by the Mission’s that presented (Mission Quilts, Just Coffee, Creative Hands and the Valley Galley).

**Mission Reports/Comments:**

**Green valley-Amado Food Bank** – Betty Kiesle-Yoder reported that VPC raised $1,127 for the Food Banks in April**.** Posada Java will be sponsoring concerts this summer (6-8pm on Fridays, July20th throughAugust 24th) to raise funds for the Food Banks. The annual Hunger Walk will be held this year on September 15th at Posada Java. The July 29th noisy offering will benefit the Food Banks. VPC members wanting to donate food should keep in mind that the most critical need is Peanut Butter.

**Posada Life Community Services** – Doris Steffy reported that all programs are going well. The day care program for children up to five years of age has 90 children enrolled, with a graduation planned for 25 who will be entering Kindergarten in the fall. The outdoor classroom, to which VPC contributed $2,000 last year, is expected to be finished this month. Separate programs are planned to recognize 90 and 100 year old persons living in the GV area.

**Youth on Their Own (YOTO) –** Mary Horn reported that the home goods store that has been occupying a building adjacent to the YOTO facility will be closing in order to free up space to serve YOTO’s expanding client base. YOTO’s fastest growing age group of homeless children is middle school students – 209 currently being served vs. 150 last year and 11 in 2012. La Posada has started a program of writing notes of encouragement that would be included in the monthly stipends that YOTO provides to each student, something our Mission Committee has been considering as well (see the minutes of the March 6th ).

**Companeros en Mission –** Charlie Ashton provided an article from the Presbytery de Cristo website regarding activities of the Mission, which is a PresbyterianBorder Region Outreach**.** There is a project underway by the Presbytery of Chihuahua to form a future Presbytery of Sonora, led by Brother Fernando Valera. He presented a workshop on April 29th to members of the churches of Sonora on the importance of distributing the scriptures.

**Crossroads Nogales Mission** – Janice Potter reported that Mission founder and director, Ben Wenke, continues to work through his health issues with a long, slow recovery process (see minutes of the April 10th meeting). The $781 raised from VPC’s April 29th noisy offering will be used by the Mission for the summer program for youth. The coffee shop, started last year as a place for youth to socialize, has been moved to Thursday and Friday nights, resulting in improved attendance. The coffee house was initially was offered on Friday and Saturday nights. Crossroads will be honoring mothers with a Mothers’ Day program on Saturday, May 12th. Janice is still in need of volunteers for the twice monthly meal preparation, especially those who can drive to the Mission. Funding remains tight for the Mission’s work.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos** – Reed Olson reported that 14 more children are scheduled for care at The Home. Once they arrive the total children cared for at The Home will be 46. Many of these future additions are not able to read and write. They will need remedial teaching to prepare them for higher education. Reed is planning the next visit to the home on June 2nd, with 22 already signed up.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM**) – George Curtis reported that the $600 PCM previously received from the VPC Deacons to fund a spring mission trip for two students is being refunded back to the Deacons as the mission trip has been cancelled. The new PCM campus minister, Bailey Pickens, will be ordained at St. Marks Presbyterian Church on June 3rd. The PCM board will be holding its annual retreat on June 23rd. The next fundraiser at the Gaslight Theatre will be held on November 18th. Ticket prices have been increased to $35 and VPC will have 50 tickets available for sale.

**St. Andrew’s Clinic** – Kay Brouwer reported that the Clinic completed their annual audit in April, with all in good standing and 98% of donations being used to help the children being served. Preparations are underway at the Clinic for the once per year cleft palate surgery in October. Following the success of the April 5th tour of the Clinic this year, Kay intends to work towards scheduling another tour of the Clinic the first Thursday in March, 2019. The committee approved a motion to dedicate the September 30th Noisy Offering to the Clinic’s cleft palate program.

**Hands of A Friend** – Doug Clark mentioned that new committee member, Pat Nau, has agreed to become the committee representative to Hands of a Friend. Founder and Executive Director Patti O’ Berry will be the featured speaker at the November 10th Mission Breakfast.

**Kristi and Bob Rice, PCUSA Missionaries** – The Rice’s recently attended a workshop in Juba, South Sudan entitled “Healing the Wounds of Ethnic Conflict”. There they met Mama Sarah, a member of the Dinka tribe. Bob notes that “our lives are shaped by those we encounter; in a very short amount of time I already consider my life unalterably changed, challenged and blessed by Mama Sarah. She has suffered much hardship and pain”, losing both her mother and father to the terrible ethnic conflict that has claimed many lives in South Sudan. “Her ready smile, her encouraging words, and her wonderful wit bless Kristi and I to no end. Her life and witness to the Risen Lord and our need to forgive one another will chart the course for a new South Sudan”.

**Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L)** – Dave writes that they were able to able to minister on April 2-6 to the staff, students, and parents at Bethany Global University. He notes that about 120 students are joining every year with the focus of going to the most unreached in the world. They have an amazing four year BA program that includes students going out for 16 months on an internship and raising their support to do this. “What an encouragement and inspiration as Pam and I reflected on graduating from there 36 years ago. Please pray for Bethany”

OM is focusing the next two years in Latin America to mobilize the churches there for the least reached peoples of the world. The Rice’s flew to Vera Cruz to minister for one week on the OM ship with over 400 staff and 1000’s of guests coming on board every day. They fly May 21-29 to Bangladesh to visit leaders and do training and couching and then go to see the ministry among the 700,000 Rohingya refugees that has started. They ask that we pray for more open doors, finances and workers who can persevere in the midst of traumatic circumstances.

**Old Business:**

**Homeless Packet Program** – after the formal meeting was adjourned the committee assembled 50 bags of snack food items, as discussed in the minutes of the April 10th meeting. Labels will be inserted in the bags identifying VPC as the source and then they will be distributed as planned to area homeless

**Future Mission Breakfasts** – November 10th – Hands of a Friend; January 19th – Pam and Dave L; February 9th – Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos; March 30th – Posada Community Services**.**

**New Business:**

**Mission TV –** Reed Olson – May 12th and May 27th.

**Valley Voice Articles** – the committee plans to have four articles in each month’s Valley Voice, June through September, and assignments have been agreed to by committee members.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Diane.

Next meeting is September 11th.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Larson, Secretary