

VPC Mission Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 9, 2024

Time: 8:45 AM to 10:40

Location: Valley Presbyterian Church, Room 1

Chair: Doug Clark

Co-Chair: Ed Storey

Recording Secretary: Jan Schoeben

Members Present:

Judy Aguayo, Ann Ball, Patti Bright, Maureen Brealey, Kay Brouwer, Doug Clark, Lynn Conroy, Jan Farrington, Deb Jones, Mary Horn, Kylene Joplin, Steve Larson, Pastor Craig Lindsey, Reed Olson, Linda Piotrowski, Jan Schoeben, Ed Storey, Linda Walters

Members Absent: Judy Aguayo, Ann Ball, and Patti Bright,

Announcements: none

Bible Study/Reflections: Doug Clark

Five Heavenly Crowns of the Bible

Life in Christ is its own reward both today and in the everlasting life with God in heaven. The Bible speaks of crowns which are awarded to believers in heaven because of faithfulness in their life. Crowns are gifts from God but not to be achieved or perceived as an earthly reward.

The five heavenly crowns mentioned in the New Testament that will be awarded are the imperishable crown, the crown of rejoicing, the crown of righteousness, the crown of glory, and the crown of life. The Greek word translated "crown" is *stephanos* (that which surrounds). This is the wreath or garland which was given as a prize to victors in the public games. As such, this word is used figuratively in the New Testament as the rewards of heaven God promises those who are faithful and worthy.

The Imperishable Crown – **1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (Amplified pBible)²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run [their very best to win], but only one receives the prize? Run [your race] in such a way that you may seize the prize *and* make it yours!** ²⁵ **Now every athlete who [goes into training and] competes in the games is disciplined *and* exercises self-control in all things. They do it to win a [b]crown that withers, but we [do it to receive] an imperishable [crown that cannot wither].**

We can achieve the imperishable crown through the exercise of self-discipline as the Holy Spirit conforms us to the character of Jesus Christ.

The Crown of Rejoicing – **1 Thessalonians 2:18-20 (New King James Version)**

¹⁹ For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy. As Christians we have more in this life to rejoice than the world offers. The good news is we continue to receive joy, God's heavenly happiness, forever.

The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Timothy 4:8 (New International Version) ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. The Bible teaches this eternal reward is a stimulus and motivation. Jesus Christ has given His life for us to bring a right relationship with God through faith. He holds in front of us the offer of delights in eternity—things that go above and beyond, as Paul says, anything that we could think or ask. This can only happen if we are righteous in God's eyes.

The Crown of Glory -1 Peter 5:1-4 (New International Version) ⁵ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.⁴

. The Crown of Glory is often called "the Pastor's Crown." but is not only reserved for pastors and elders*. Paul says if believers lead, tend, care for, teach, and pray for other believers and use their gifted ministries a Crown of Glory can be given.

The Crown of Life - James 1:12 (Amplified Bible) ¹² Blessed [happy, spiritually prosperous, favored by God] is the man who is steadfast under trial *and* perseveres when tempted; for when he has passed the test *and* been approved, he will receive the [victor's] crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him. This crown is for all believers, but is especially those who endure sufferings, who bravely confront persecution for Jesus, even to the point of death. This is the crown that He has promised us—eternal life

Believers may question the mention of rewards as a basis for motivating us to live faithfully. Our motivation is not to be in a competition for the best Christian but something we can give to God in our worship. **Revelation 4:10-11(New International Version) ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:**

¹¹ "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

These crowns were not gained for the sake of the crown, but rather for the privilege of giving them in gratitude for the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf. It is the desire, out of love for Christ, to have something to lay at God's feet—a token of our thankfulness for all He has done for us.

QUESTION: What is purpose of 5 Crowns?

PRAYER:

* Peter describes these believers using the Greek word *presbyteros*, which is defined as an “elder or senior.” from which Presbyterian is derived.

9:00 AM: Call to Order: Doug Clark

Prayer: Jan Farrington

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the March 19, 2024, meeting was approved and submitted to the Session.

Financial Report:

The March Mission Budget was presented, and the Contingency Funds were reported as \$3,444.20 in the January 1 through March 31, 2024 report.

Mission Reports/Comments - Round Table:

- **Amado-GV Food Bank:** Kylene Joplin reported
Kylene Joplin reported that 53 pounds of food was delivered to the Food Bank and \$636.86 was given to each Food Bank (Green Valley and Amado). These two food banks are separate, but under one “umbrella.” We give each food bank the same amount of money and all donations stay in Green Valley. Our donations are directed to milk and eggs.
- **Casa Vida Nueva para Niños:** Reed Olson shared
My report for Casa Vida Nueva Para Ninos is that I am pulling the request for funds due to the incomplete data I am getting from the orphanage. The MX government cannot give an exact time for when they will be able to complete the electrical connections. Ed wants detailed information, and I cannot give him that information. I plan on meeting with Elias (Director) and Julio (church administrator) with Roger Fisher next Wednesday to determine what they would like to do going forward.
- **Compañeros en Misión:** Judy Aguayo –
- Member of Compañeros en Misión serve their community in every way they can, their food ministry provides more than 150 meals a week to migrants. They prepare burritos or a sandwich or the perennial favorite of the migrant children – spaghetti- and take the lunches and bottled water to the downtown area where migrants wait. They feed about 50-60 people each time and clothing and shoes continue to be provided. So many families are living on the sidewalks awaiting their asylum hearings.

At the church, prayer groups are held regularly, and support is offered to women in difficult relationships and the children whose mothers work. Health checks continue to be offered – local doctors provide medicines for the nurses to distribute, and they help their neighbors monitor glucose levels, blood pressure, and weight. They also provide rides to church on Sunday's. The folks at Compañeros en Misión care deeply about their community, and they are grateful your support. Sincerely, Friends of Compañeros en Misión.

- **Crossroads Nogales Mission, Arizona:** Linda Walters reported Lunch/Easter hams for 15-180 people served. 22 hams and other items given in addition to \$140. Proposal for kitchen repairs is in process. Lives touched this month include safe shelter for over 650 individuals each night. More than 2,500 meals served for all ages. Over 800 families received food baskets.
- **Posada Community Services:** Deb Jones
The La Posada Community Center and its ongoing Senior Lunch program is one of the many ways La Posada Community Services continues to help the Greater Green Valley community.
Carla and Diana, the Community Center staff members handling the Senior Lunch, admit that one of their greatest joys is the ability to have a positive impact on people's lives each and every day. Diana greets the Senior Lunch participants by name and enjoys chatting and learning about their grandchildren or other family members.
- **General Mission Support:** Ed Storey talked about the relationship of the Gifts & Memorials Committee to the Mission Committee and presented articles about needy areas

Gifts & Memorials Committee

The Gifts & Memorials committee has developed the following specific guidelines to help church committees request funds. The following questions must be answered in requesting funding for a project that has been approved by a committee:

1. What Committee of VPC is sponsoring this request?
 - i. Committee Chair name and email:
2. What is the name of the project?
3. Who is the principal contact, email, and phone number?
4. What is the goal of the project?
5. Describe the overall project and in particular:
6. How the expenditure of funds requested will be consistent with glorifying God?
7. How will the project benefit and is of lasting value to VPC?
 - a. 6. Who will be helped and what are the projected benefits of the project?
8. Provide a realistic time-line for each step and completion date of the project.
9. Provide a detailed Budget for your project.
 - a. How much are you requesting from the Gifts and Memorials Committee?
10. What other funding sources are available or under consideration?

- **Hands of a Friend:** Jan Farrington
 We have a full house and they all arrived within the last 2 months or so. We have let others visit in the past, like Kara came by when the house was empty, and we gave her a tour and had a meeting there. So, until the foreseeable future we will not allow any visitors.? Also, we will be going with R&F construction (who did the estimate) for the project because they've done great work for us over the past 3 years.
 Hi Jan, I have submitted the form. And, I will be at DaZee's on the 25th and 29th of this month in the afternoon. Also, we do not have an "official" timeline for this project because we have not received the funding. However, we'd like the project to begin in July/August of this year and it will take 2-3 weeks to complete. If you have any other questions, you know where to reach me.

- **Operation Christmas Child Box Mission:** Ann Ball
 No Report

- **Mission Quilts:** Patti Bright
 No Report

- **Operation Mobilization:** Doug Clark shared updates
 I am writing an update from my trip last to Asia and I head to Pakistan April 11-21. Yes, we would have projects for \$25-50,000. Can I just do one or could we do more than one!
 Some of the ideas would be:
 1. Translation and printing of books for the underground church in Iran.
 2. Training of pastors and church leaders in India for how to reach out and serve and love unreached Muslims who are totally without the gospel and no access. This would include printing and providing Bibles and other literature. Plan to train about 2000 pastors and reach 50,000 Muslims with the Gospel.
 3. Helping renovate a girl's hostel and orphanage in North India that will provide education for 50 girls, and also a place to live.
 4. Bringing the Gospel to persecuted Afghan Christians inside Afghanistan and also helping new believers who are refugees in Pakistan, Turkey and Tajikistan.
 5. Helping free enslaved Pakistan Christians who are working in brick kilns as modern-day slaves by providing education for their children and teaching the mothers how to read and write.
 6. Provide latrines and schools for children for 31 villages among low caste Marwari people who are also in modern day slavery in southern Pakistan.
 These projects will be discussed at next meeting with plan to choose one or more opportunities.

- **Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs):** Ed Storey
 No Report

- **Presbyterian Campus Ministry:** Judy Aguayo
No Report
- **PCUSA missionaries - Bob and Kristi Rice:** Doug Clark
Pouring Water on New Plants
This time of year, Uror county is dry and brown, with small scattered trees. Cows have been taken some distance away from the towns to find grass and water. The dry season is nearly over, so people are preparing their fields for when the rains come. But there is pervasive fear and struggle for hope, because of the fear of being attacked in rural areas. The people of Uror have suffered numerous attacks in recent years by some from a neighboring tribe who steal cattle, kidnap women and children, and sometimes kill people. Many have been displaced in the attacks, even after they were recovering from the war and devastation of 2013.
- One of the highlights for me was the experience gained for 2 of our new facilitators. Rev. Michael Char was trained in 2022 as a facilitator, but because he lived in a remote area he did not have a team to work with to conduct workshops. This was a good opportunity for him to return to the area where he was born and to get some practice in teaching. Rev. Yagub was just trained last year and has helped to facilitate one workshop in Juba. They both worked hard to master the content and the dramas and they were encouraged as they saw people grasping these important truths about God's love and power to heal our hearts.
- As our team debriefed after the workshop, one person said that this workshop was like "pouring water on new plants". It was important for growth but would require more water and time to truly see the change and the growth. Please pray for the people of Yuai, that God's Spirit continues to bring healing and peace.
- **St. Andrew's Children's Clinic:** Kay Brouwer discussed
 1. Kay's visit to the Clinic on April 4, found it busy with about 82 children and accompanying families.
 2. Many were happily playing, awaiting scheduled appointments. A few others were sad or angry with the wait.
 3. Volunteers passed around cookies to make the wait more comfortable.
 4. Doctors saw children in orthopedics, speech therapy, prostheses, audiology, pediatrics and, a new addition, vision.
 5. Dino, the owner of the building, came to tour and visit with Laura. He has been a generous benefactor for the clinic and is offering to do more.
 6. Laura Romero, the Executive Director, has expressed a need for furnishings for the remodeled building. These might include storage cabinets, file cabinets, lockable lockers, desks, tables, chairs, shelving, and possible a kitchenette for a staff and volunteers' break room. She will do research this week to learn the cost of supplies and to recruit possible volunteer builders for these items.
 7. Laura has a copy of the specific guidelines for use to apply for funding from VPC. She will work on this as soon as possible.
 8. The addition of this furniture and storage will enhance the availability of the space for use by other professionals and groups. They will be invited and encouraged to

use the clinic during the month. Already, doctors have asked if they can come to examine patients on other days of the month besides the first Thursday.

9. During discussion of this request, the committee questioned the approval of proposed improvements on a facility St. Andrews' Clinic may not have into the future. The rent of \$1000+ per month is very high. The ability to pay this rent is dependent on the generosity of long-term, loyal donors. Kay will contact Laura for an answer to this question and report at the May meeting.

- **Valley Galley** – Maureen Brealey

- Valley Galley is replacing items for maintenance of the galley. The first off event was held on April 5, 2024 for Valley Assistance Services appreciation Lunch. The food was prepped the day before in the kitchen. Menu was Chicken enchiladas, salad and pineapple cream cake. Lunch was made for 40 people. Ron Darrah drove the truck, Carol Wilking and Sue Horton were servers. Lunch was well received with plans to continue monthly this service. Budget was given, reviewed and accepted.

- **Valley Assistance Services:** Steve Larson

There has been a change from the past with uncertainty of client's income, housing, and food. VAS is meeting their need with many programs with direct aid, education, and many services. Examples are Education and Prevention in the Community (EPIC), assistance with food banks to deliver food boxes, and providing transportation for needed services just to high light a few ways to meet this problem. VAS is also collaborating with Valley Galley Lunch Program as a new service to feed the hungry.

- **Youth on Their Own (YOTO):** Mary Horn shared

1. MINI MALL COLLECTION: Sunday, April 15 We will collect boxes of cereals that the kids enjoy. The kids' favorites are: Reese's Puffs, Honey Nut Chex, Golden Grahams, Cocoa Puffs, Honey Nut Cheerios, and Lucky Charms.
2. YOTO CARD MAKING: Wednesday, April 24 from 1-3:30. We will meet in Classroom 5 to make Inspirational Cards for the students.
On Friday, March 29, Dick delivered four bags of cereal and other donations for the mini-Mall and 107 cards of inspiration – 10 of which were in Spanish. Linda Piotrowski prepared a sheet of inspiring quotations in both English and Spanish to help us broaden our outreach to students.
3. 5 YOTO/Ben's bells approved by our committee will be hung around our church on Wednesday, April 10. Jim Luring from our Grounds and Maintenance Committee will help with this. When they are placed, I will take pictures for an eblast to let the congregation know to look for them.

- **Mission At Large** – Lynn Conroy

- Request for support for Living Hope for the World in Pakistan mission was withdrawn

Old Business

Mission Breakfast Schedule:

- March 23, 2024. Amado-GV Food Bank/45 tickets \$762 donated
- November 16, 2024. Mission Quilts, Just Coffee, Creative Hands, Valley Galley
- January 18, 2025, Operation Mobilization (Pan and Dave Lovett)
- February 8, 2025, St. Andrews Children's Clinic
- March 29, 2025 Posada Community Services

Noisy Offering 5th Sunday of the month for 2024-2025

- April 7, 2024, YAV, Ed Story /\$679.41 donated
- June 30, 2024, Hand of A Friend
- September 19, 2024, Crossroads Nogales Mission
- December 29, 2024, Pam and Dave Lovett
- March 30, 2025, Food Bank
- June 29, 2025, St. Andrews Clinic
- August 31, 2025, Casa Vida Nueva
- November 30, 2025, YOTO

Agencies Proposals for submissions to Gifts & Memorials Committee (G&M)

- Hands of a Friend? Genesis House repairs/\$13,710- Approved and sent to G&M Committee
- Papago United Presbyterian Church/\$25,000 – Roof repairs – Approved and sent to G&M Committee
- YAV for purchase 2 computers and printer /\$1400 pending
- Compañeros en Misión: Pazos-Seel Community Center Building Fund/\$60,000- pending
- Electrification for the New Life Home for Children/\$30,000 – request withdrawn
- Juba Evangelical Bible School- unknown request – pending
- St. Andrew Clinic – unknown request – pending
- YOTO Scholarships – refer to Scholarship Committee
- Tucson Borderlands YAV Program Scholarships/\$4000 – refer to Scholarship Committee
- Korean Presbyterian Church of Tucson/\$80,000 repairs and 12-seater van – pending
- Montlure Camp/up to \$400,000 various projects – pending
- Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship/\$9,000- technological equipment and revival worship gathering - pending

Fellowship Lunch at Posada Community Life Services:

It's Just "Fellowship" Lunch

Biblical fellowship takes time and involvement! How do you get to know fellow Church members on more than a superficial level? Activities of VPC are numerous and available with women groups, committee meetings, Bible study, and even line dancing. Fellowship may begin with coffee in Fellowship Hall, passing of the peace during church worship or

even outside of church. Our charge is to love one other; but mature fellowship takes T-M-I-E and effort. One of our Church Missions is Posada Life Community Service which offers a \$3.00 lunch every day. Since reservations are helpful, on Sunday April 14, 2024, a sign-up sheet for 2 tables reservation for 12 people for lunch on Thursday April 18, 2024 is offered. We plan to continue this pattern of sign in on Sunday for the following Thursday for It's Just "Fellowship" Lunch

The Senior Lunch Program begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Posada Life Community building, 780 S Park Centre Ave, Green Valley, AZ 85614. Come for the Green Valley's best salad bar, hot meal options, and mostly fellowship. Remember "It's Just Fellowship Lunch".

- **One Great Hour of Sharing for St Andrews Children's Clinic:** An Ecumenical Sharing Offering from *churches in Green Valley throughout Lent* was proposed. \$11,300 was donated by VPC. The only other congregation which supported this Ecumenical Offering was St. Frances of the Valley Episcopal church which mailed to St. Andrews's Clinic a donation of \$5,000.
- **Macfarlane's Thank You Luncheon:**
We want to show our appreciation to Tom and Lois who have planned menus, shopped for food, found willing helpers for meal preparation and serving, and for 9 years cooked FOUR delicious MISSION BREAKFASTS per year
WHEN: Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 12:00PM
WHERE: Melio's Trattoria, 2261 E Frontage Road, Tubac, AZ 85646
- **Living Hope for the World in Pakistan as VPC mission Withdrawn**
- **Communicating to the congregation-articles in Eblasts.** Information to Ed Storey
- **Voice articles 8 or more /month** January (9), February (10), March (10), April (11), May (11), June (12), July (9), August (11), September (15), October (12), November (11), December (9), January (11), February (8), March (9), April (9)

New Business:

Brainstorming

Prayer/Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 10:40 a.m. with a prayer. Next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024, at 8:45 a.m. in Room 1.