**NOTES/MINUTES of the Faith Subcommittee of the Ventura Social Services Task Force: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 3 pm at Ventura Church of Christ**

Present: Judy Alexandre, Lynn Gellar, Bruce Gilbert, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Kate Mills, Al Myers, Dave Schulze

Welcome and opened in prayer: Dave Schulze

1. All present agreed to the idea of volunteers to open and close each meeting in prayer on a rotating basis; Schedule so far for 2016: June – Dave Schulze, July – Al Myers, August – Judy Alexandre, September – Miguel Marquez, October – Bruce Gilbert.
2. VSSTF update (Judy Alexandre):

* Showers of Blessing from Isla Vista and Santa Barbara area will be giving a demonstration before the VSSTF meeting on July 6th at 2:50 pm in the Catholic Charities Parking lot. Anyone interested is invited to come and learn about this program homeless people to take showers.
* Rescue Mission: confirmed that they will be coming to Ventura, and will be giving a presentation at the VSSTF meeting on July 6th at 3:15 pm.
* Ventura City Council meeting on July 11th at 6 pm: the council will be voting on recommendations from Staff (available online on 7/7 at City website). Spread the word to everyone possible. VSSTF will be choosing speakers. Congregations and supporters are needed to come and show support and stand if necessary for speakers. A letter to the City will be sent and clergy will be speaking as well.
* On the VSSTF agenda will be a vote for a motion regarding the Winter Warming Shelter for 2016-2017. There will be a need for support for funding

3. Family Promise – no one available for report – looking to July for updates.

4. River Haven (Lynn Geller): Refrigerator will be delivered anytime, size to 10 cubic feet, cost is $1,608 (includes shipping). There were funds left over of $1,070.85, ends up a total of $1,300 to Turning Point. New Project: Buena High S.T.E.M Program has approved (ok’d by Turning Point and Richard from Buena) a program to install Solar panels for River Have. They will need funding, Lynn will be contacting teacher and Turning Point. Miguel Marquez suggested contacting Montecito Bank by having the teacher write a letter explaining their project and asking for support.

5. New project: Kathy Wertheim has bicycles to give away. She has posted this information on NextDoor. So far, 6 for the Vet Center of Turning Point Foundation and 1 for Project Understanding. At least 2 left. Can this be expanded? Someone to volunteer to clean and repair and train people to do this? Lynn will report back on progress, decisions, etc. in July.

6. Regarding Paul White and Stronghold Institute – his meetings have expanded to 22 people and more misinformation is being spread about homelessness. The Faith Subcommittee has decided to continue with our path or writing letters of factual information regarding homelessness. We will focus on our mission and not directly confront Mr. White and his group.

7. Something to think about: Three Ventura Council seats are up for election/re-election: Cheryl Heitman, Christy Weir, and Carl Morehouse. Must declare by August. We hope to find at least one candidate who is sympathetic to our mission. Possibly Mary Haffner? Suggestion to talk to people about it.

Adjourned and closed in prayer (Dave Schulze).

Submitted by Pam Marshall