



HOMES FOR SONOMA –

SMALL COTTAGES AT STONY POINT - WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How blessed we are as a congregation! God has provided us with talented people, great facilities and vacant land. But...those gifts carry a responsibility to use them wisely. We currently share what we have in many ways, with our congregation, feeding the homeless, 12 step groups, Senior Day Care, Preschool, boy & girl scouts and many other community groups. **Can we do more?**

Your Church Council takes these responsibilities very seriously. During the last couple of years several task forces have been formed to look at the ways we can best use our gifts. The **Stony Point Core Group** has been looking at ways to use the land and facilities, The **Homeless Taskforce** has been looking at ways we can help the critical shortage of free or low cost housing. In short budget years we have a **task force looking at ways we might be able to produce an income stream from the facilities we already have**. After the fires destroyed 5% of Santa Rosa's housing a **Fire Recovery Task Force was created**.

The Council decided to convert the offices in Susana Wesley House back into a Parsonage to house the Busick Family after their home burned, OR for our new pastor when the Busicks leave in July. That process is almost complete. The Fire Recovery Task Force is to look into ways we might use our Stony Point property to provide "temporary housing (up to 3 years)" for fire victims. First we looked at the possibility of creating an RV park for those who had RV's., but decided that was beyond our expertise and financial ability. Next we approached FEMA, hoping to put one of their villages on our land. We never heard back from them.

During this process we were approached by **HOMES FOR SONOMA**, a coalition of volunteer architects, builders, non-profits, etc. that are looking to find solutions to Sonoma County's housing shortage, especially lower cost housing. They have developed a plan for modular cottages, that can either be permanent or can be moved but are stick-built, can be quickly produced and meet all the building codes. Small 1 bedroom cottages are about 380 sq. feet. **They would like to lease the unused land at Stony Point between the Worship Center and Stony Point Road for the next 3 years** to use as a demonstration village of about 40 cottages to show what can be done. Most of the cottages would be 1 bedroom but a few would be 2 or 3 bedrooms. Donated funds would be used to build them. If approved, they hope to have some units in place by April.

Fundraising is in process with the help of Jackson Family Wine Trust, Redwood Empire Credit Union, and several other non-profits. All building of infrastructure and units would be done by HOMES FOR SONOMA, who would also work with the city for permits and the people in the neighborhood to help them understand the process. Placement of tenants and management of the village would be handled by Burbank Housing. We have asked that priority be given to those who lost homes due to the fires. Tenants would pay rent but at a lesser rate than market value.

IN EXCHANGE FOR THE USE OF OUR LAND, HOMES FOR SONOMA WOULD PAY US APPROXIMATELY \$9,000/MONTH TO PAY OUR MONTHLY MORTGAGE. At the end of the 3 year lease they will remove the houses and restore the land back to its original condition **OR** we could choose to continue the relationship.

Church Council felt that this was a win/win project and has approved forming a committee to work on an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) or contract to work out all the details. **Now it is time to have input from you**, our congregation. Pictures and more information are available on our website, stand-up boards and information sheets are available at each campus after services, or you can go to www.homesforsonoma.org . **Come talk to us, ask questions, share your opinions.** When the MOU is finalized and approved by trustees, it will go back to the Church Council for approval.