

The Carpenter's Tool Box

Christ calls us to minister with all in need of safe haven by being a caring fellowship
and providing a sense of purpose through interaction with people of faith

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 12 DECEMBER, 2010

Not So Casual, Casual Contact ... by Rev. Duane L. Sich

“Many miracles and wonders were being done through the apostles, and everyone was filled with awe. All the believers continued in steadfast fellowship and shared their belongings with one another. They would sell their possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each one needed. Day after day they met as a group in the Temple and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts, praising God and enjoying the good will of all the people. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.” Acts 2:43-47

Christian community can be and should be much

more than just gathering together for weekly worship in our regular places ... and pews. It is more than merely meeting with friends whom we haven't seen for a week or so. It must be more than kindly concerns for each other's well-being or worries, or praying prayers for people we don't really know; or for places and problems we don't really understand and will probably never personally connect. Oh, there's nothing wrong with a global sort of sensitivity and a concern for people and situations that in reality we can't get too personally involved. But if that's the greatest depth one has in interdependency, than the experience of community

will be pretty casual. There is so much more potential for personal relationships; for our relationship with God!

The other day we had a new participant in our circle. He came to fulfill his court assigned community service hours. As is our pattern, at 9:30 we all gathered for morning devotions. He joined the circle, but being a first timer I could easily tell he was mostly watching and trying to figure out “the lay of the land.” He didn't really sing the praises ... ha, there are many worshippers everywhere who just “go through the motions of praise singing.” Pastor Mark led our meditation;

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THIS MONTH'S STARS! THANK YOU'S TO...

★ The following volunteers who 'manned' the Friends of the Carpenter Information Booth at the Portland Woodworking Show: Jim Heriford, Bill Mathoney, Stephen Stewart, Allan Schwindt, Dick and Lois Emmel, Chuck Gehle, Ron and



Barbara Leffner, Tom Benner, Ron Pulliam, Doug Hepburn, Rodger Stevens, Frank Stowe, Stephanie Meyers, Brent & Larry Stahl, Rick Shipley, Dan Clark, Theron Honeycutt,

Leo Rowland, Craig Cluff, Gary Ervin, Dan Nicholas and Duane Sich.
★ Congratulations to Doug Hepburn for winning 2nd prize in the Showoff Showcase by displaying his Hope Chest.



A Ministry Of Relationships

The Carpenter's Tool Box is a monthly publication of FRIENDS of the CARPENTER
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our pattern is to share comments or reflections from the meditation. I was pleasantly surprised that this person contributed to the conversation. Then it was time for our prayer liturgy. In the back of our song book, we have 31 pages of intercessory prayers. Depending upon which day of the month it is, that's the page we turn to and join together in prayer. We begin praying in unison; then opportunity is given for persons to randomly take a turn in reading and leading as we proceed through the liturgy.

Our first-timer didn't have a book near him so I asked that someone give him a book. Instantly a couple books were pushed his way. Then an amazing thing happened. Now imagine, this was the FIRST TIME this man was in our circle. He really didn't know any of us. He'd only heard the medi-

tation and was willing to become engaged in the sharing. But then, perhaps in an astounding demonstration of vulnerability he said, "I don't read." I was instantly humbled at his honesty and trust. Personally, I believe I would have found a hundred ways to have dodged that disclosure; such as just take a book and shut up, or pretending to read along, or saying I'll just watch. But for whatever reason, this man felt he could be honest and unafraid in this community. Without making a big deal (about this really big deal) we continued and concluded our devotions.

At 10:00 am, I had an appointment with a lady who was considering helping FOC develop and expand our church partnerships. I'd invited her to come early and be a part of our morning devotions and she also was a first-timer in the circle. As we began

our meeting, I was explaining our needs and the way in which we reach out to churches. She interrupted me and said, "Duane, wait a minute. That fellow, the one who said he can't read ... if he would want and accept my help, I would be willing to be his mentor." Again, I was instantly humbled; humbled that in this tiny time of caring community a miracle occurred and I was filled with awe! In truth, the odds of these two persons meeting in any setting other than "this community" would have been slim to none.

When believers come together in steadfast fellowship, miracles occur! That's the mission and purpose of Friends of the Carpenter. Having a safe place for people to gather, to be prompted in worship and praise to God and to become a caring community where all share with one another. Needs and

abilities are made known in a steadfast fellowship of friendship with Christ and with each other. Please pray for this ministry; pray not as one who is outside the circle and far away, but come near. As a first-timer or one who comes all the time, pray and participate in this ministry of fellowship and faith. As you are able, continue to support our work with your financial gifts. These are difficult time and funding needs are critical. And if you can, come in person or direct others to come and be a part of our fellowship. For as in the early church so at Friends of the Carpenter, "Many miracles and wonders were being done, and everyone is filled with awe."



Let Us Love One Another—by a New Volunteer, Sally Aalbye

"Let Us Love One Another" is the title of the Friends of the Carpenter video which tells of their wonderful ministry that embodies love, respect and hope for all who enter FOC's doors. This is exactly what Jesus was talking about when He told us how to live.

My husband, Joe, and I are

in the early stage of retirement...just beginning our volunteer period of life. I chose FOC because I have watched them and supported them for years...from afar. Now I get to pitch in.

We all know that funding is difficult for non-profits, especially when people feel insecure financially.






But we believe that it would be great if that were not such an issue. We are also convinced that when you make the right choices with your finances, the Lord will provide....

So one of the ways Joe and I will be pitching in is to COMMIT to giving \$100 every month to the ministry of FOC. If you have

not considered monthly giving yet, pray about it, maybe you are ready to join the FOC team!

* Do you realize that our offering won't solve the funding problem, but 100 folks doing it, will really make a difference... \$120,000! No one can do it all, but TOGETHER we can do anything!

DECEMBER 2010 & JANUARY 2011

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| December 12  | 13 Afternoon Activity 1-2:30 pm | 14 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2 pm | 15 Noon Worship & EVENT | 16 Recovery Bible Class 9:30-10:30 am | 17 Fun Friday Activity 1-2:30 pm | 18 |
| <i>Christmas Boutique Open 10 am—2 pm</i> | | | | | | |
| 19 | 20 Afternoon Activity 1-2:30 pm | 21 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2 pm HOMELESS NIGHT | 22 Noon Worship & HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JESUS PARTY 12:00—2:30 PM | 23 Recovery Bible Class 9:30-10:30 am | 24 Christmas Eve The Friendship Center is Closed Today | 25  Happy Birthday Jesus! |
| 26 | The Friendship Center is Closed Today | 27 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2 pm | 28 Noon Worship & EVENT | 29 Recovery Bible Class 9:30-10:30 am | 30 The Friendship Center is Closed Today — Happy New Year! | January 1  |
| 2  | The Friendship Center is Closed Today | 3 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2 pm | 4 Noon Worship & EVENT | 5 Recovery Bible Class 9:30-10:30 am | 6 Fun Friday Activity 1-2:30 pm | 7 |
| 8 | 9 Afternoon Activity 1-2:30 pm | 10 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2 pm | 11 Noon Worship & NEWSLETTER | 12 Recovery Bible Class 9:30-10:30 am | 13 Fun Friday Activity 1-2:30 pm | 14  |
| 15 | 16 Martin Luther King Day The Friendship Center is Closed Today | 17 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2 pm | 18 Noon Worship & EVENT | 19 Recovery Bible Class 9:30-10:30 am | 20 Fun Friday Activity 1-2:30 pm | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

Don't Forget the Christmas Boutique

Wed., December 8th through Sat., Dec. 18th
 (excluding Sun. Dec. 12)
 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 At the Friendship Center
 1600 W. 20th St.

- ★ Find that special inspirational gift
- ★ Enjoy an afternoon of refreshments and spirit filled fellowship
- ★ Learn how YOU can be INVOLVED!

Friends of the Carpenter

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

Monday, February 7, 2011

7:30 pm at the Friendship Center

The Annual Report for 2010 will be presented and the Election of New Officers will be held. Please contact the FOC Office if you would like to receive a copy of the Annual Report.



December,
2010

Refused

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter,
please check the box and return it to your mail
carrier. We pay the postage.

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Jerry Swan, Financial Secretary

Dear Friends, Let us love one another because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God 1 John 4:7

ANNOUNCING.....

FRIENDS OF THE CARPENTER 2nd CHANCE ~ THRIFT STORE



Opening: Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Location: 3414 A NE 52nd St. (between 52nd St. and 53rd St. on the
east side of St. Johns Rd.)

Specializing in: antiques, furniture, clothing, jewelry, house wares,
books, shoes, linens, tools, and vintage items.

All items are in good condition.

Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM ~ Monday through Saturday

Donations: are currently being accepted but call ahead through
December – 750-4752 (larger donations may be scheduled for pick up)

**All proceeds stay in Clark County and go to the ministry
of Friends of the Carpenter**