

# The Carpenter's Tool Box

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY, 2009

## When The Going Gets Tough ...go to "www.Grace.God"

By Rev. Duane L. Sich

*"My grace is sufficient, for my power is greatest when you are weak."* II Corinthians 12:9

It seems like everyday-talk these days, "Times Are Tough." Money is tight or totally gone, economic stress is touching and tormenting almost everybody and nobody knows how long it will take before things get better. We'd like to believe that old motivational cliché that "kicks you in the butt" to get you going, but when you're sinking and see no improvement in sight, it feels more like a kick in the teeth than a truth to get you going. It's amazing (and a clear indicator of how tough the times really are) that many of the best Super Bowl commercials were ones related to unemployment and finding a job.

Scripture tells us when times are tough, that's God's best

time to do great things. I have a friend who says, "Whenever God is going to do something really great, the situation needs to seem impossible." Then she adds, "OK God, we've set it up, Go For It!" The Apostle Paul spoke of his seemingly impossible situation, which he called his "thorn in the flesh." He earnestly prayed (three times) that God remove it. But rather than taking away the thorn, instead God gave Paul grace sufficient. Paul's pain was soothed by the gift and satisfied by the grace. Wow! Where does one get that kind of grace when the going gets tough?

The Friendship Center is truly an amazing place. We have a wide diversity of people who gather here. Some come from successful

and comfortable situations while others come with modest or meager resources; some none. Truthfully, almost everyone talks about the tough times they are facing or have faced. The stressful situations are often comparatively far apart, but the faith that makes these feelings and fears fade away is fairly similar. Testimonies and talking together about the foundation of faith and God-Given-Grace transcends the vast wide diversity. While some talk of a 25% reduction in their stock holdings or retirement fund, others can't imagine where they will find \$25 or even \$5 for gas or groceries. Some speak of their job at risk and rising unemployment rates while others haven't had regular work for ages. Some feel the winter's cold in the

Continued on page 2

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

★ All who came to Partnership Meetings, representing the following churches: Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Camas United Methodist, Cascade Presbyterian, Church on the Rock, Family of Christ Lutheran, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Good Shepherd

Lutheran, Hayden Island Community, Messiah Lutheran, Mill Plain United Methodist, Orchards United Methodist, Our Lady of



Lourdes Catholic, Salmon Creek United Methodist,

ist, St. John the Evangelist Catholic, St. John Presbyterian, St. Joseph Catholic, Smyrna United Church of Christ, Trinity Lutheran, Vancouver Church of Christ and Zion Lutheran

★ We give thanks to Pacific Power Products for their recent donation of a 1997 Ford Econo Van.

FRIENDS  
of the  
CARPENTER

*A Ministry Of  
Relationships*

The Carpenter's Tool Box  
is a monthly publication of  
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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHURCH PARTNER- SHIP MEETINGS	2
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
BOARD & ANNUAL MEETING	3
LENTEN STUDY	3
H.U.G.S.S. EVENT	4
TULIPS FOR SALE	4

**When The Going Gets Tough ...go to "www.Grace.God" continued from page 1**

FOC warehouse while others feel its warmth all at the same time and temperature.

Sadly, sometimes the situations don't change much ... well, not quickly; but virtually every time people come and then leave the Center, they have changed. The situation may not have changed but the strength did! Truthfully, there really is plenty of stuff to survive; what's so often lacking is the strength to keep going. There are many tangible gifts, small and large that may reinforce the grace, but it's the grace that is first needed for the stuff to get you started making a real difference in your life. Some come to receive and others come to give, but whether giving or receiving all equally get God's grace which is sufficient to fill and fortify people for life and lifting the load in their living.

In these "tough times" (which in some ways will be with us until the end of time), passing the test of being tough is more about trusting in God, of intentionally putting our-

selves in the presence of God with people who pass God's peace around. For some, it's an easy offer to accept, as many have felt that faith before. Out of gratitude to God and a desire to give back, we have stories to tell of God's grace that got us through a tough time or is giving us what we need right now. We know we all need it all the time. For others, it will be harder for them to find their way into the fellowship of faith. Whether pride, shame, guilt, a sense of failure or just never having felt God's forgiving and truly giving grace, they will be tempted and more likely to turn away, to feel they must or should go-it-alone. For them, we who are able, willing and Called can find ways to work at and genuinely welcome them into the presence and power of God's grace.

The mission of Friends of the Carpenter is to provide that kind of place and program; a place were all people are welcome, where all (regardless of status or situation) join

together in fellowship, in faith and actually with lots of fun. It's a program where the sharing by someone who is grateful for a five dollar love gift gives a priceless gift of grace and friendship to someone who has lost a loved one. It's where discussions and deliberate acts of kindness and caring breathe God's Holy Spirit into the souls of those who are suffering as well as sacrificing all at the same time. It's where connections are made in what would otherwise be an unlikely community, but now has become the Body of Christ and every part, every person, is blessed. Those blessings often open doors, provide provisions and prompt people to help each other with gifts they never knew they had or recognized as being so very valuable. New technologies and old fashioned kindness and mercy merge together to make www.Grace.God a meaningful and motivational reality.

Truthfully, in these difficult times, the mission and minis-

try of Friends of the Carpenter, like many individuals, families, businesses and organizations, is going through "tough times." The stress of overhead and extra needs, of having more who need help and sensing the shortage of finances and friends to share the load is causing us to go to www.Grace.God. We are trusting that those who are able will be Called to support the mission, will join in the fellowship, and will become involved in the work and oneness of the miracles God is doing through this ministry. Your support through prayer, your participation (please volunteer if your can) and your financial contributions will take us through this time together and into the greater strength and grace of God. Thank You and Thanks Be To God Whose



Grace Is Sufficient!

**Church Partnership Promotion Meetings**

Friends of the Carpenter kicked off 2009 in faithful style by holding a series of three Church Partnership Promotion meetings. The purpose was to communicate and better coordinate the services and woodwork we provide to build up the Body of Christ in our community. After all, any ministry in Christ's

name is in reality a part of One Ministry.



A total of 56 people from 21 different congregations attended one of the three sessions held January 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Each attendee was provided a Toolbox of Church Resources that explains 8 different aspects of how our supporting congregations can work with Friends of

the Carpenter ministry to sustain and strengthen work they are already doing, or how to get started on something new. Another part of the presentation was testimonials from Pastors, Volunteers and Participants on what the ministry has meant to them. Some very powerful words of how Christ's love is made manifest in their lives was shared.

We have scheduled **Tues. March 10 at 12 Noon** as the next Partnership Promotion Meeting for anyone that missed the January meetings. Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP to 750-4752.

If for some reason that doesn't work for you or your congregation, we encourage you to contact us to set up another time for us to share how we can partner with each other.



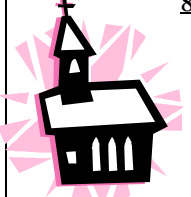

**FEE**

SUNDAY	MONDAY
<p>15</p> 	<p>Presidents D Holid Friendsh Center Clos</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>Serve SHA Breakf Open Shop 1-3 Cook SHA Dinn</p>
<p>March 1</p>	<p>Serve SHA Breakf Open Shop 1-3</p>
 <p>8</p>	<p>Serve SHA Breakf Open Shop 1-3</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Rev. Sich Preaches at East Wood's Presbyterian Tom Iberle &amp; Volunteers @ Salmon Creek UMC</p>	<p>Serve SHA Breakf Open Shop 1-3</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>Serve SHA Breakf Open Shop 1-3</p>

**Annual Meeting**

The 10th Annual Meeting of the corporation of Friends of the Carpenter by the Board of Directors, will be held on Monday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. To attend this special meeting to elect the 2008. Annual reports will be presented. The meeting will be held at 1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver, WA. Requests for more information requested by calling the office at 750-4752.

# FEBRUARY & MARCH 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><u>15</u></p> 	<p><u>16</u> Presidents Day Holiday Friendship Center Closed</p>	<p><u>17</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion &amp; Activity 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>18</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Noon Worship &amp; EVENT</p>	<p><u>19</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast</p>	<p><u>20</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am</p>	<p><u>21</u> SHARE Brunch &amp; H.U.G.S.S. EVENT</p>
<p><u>22</u></p>	<p><u>23</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1-3:30 Cook SHARE Dinner</p>	<p><u>24</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion &amp; Activity 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>25</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Noon Worship &amp; Ash Wednesday OUTING</p>	<p><u>26</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast</p>	<p><u>27</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30-11 Lenten Study</p>	<p><u>28</u> 30 Hour Famine With Methodist Youth 9:30—11:30 am</p>
<p><u>March 1</u></p>	<p><u>2</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1-3:30</p>	<p><u>3</u> Serve SHARE Center Devotion &amp; Activity Board &amp; Annual Meeting (7:30 pm)</p>	<p><u>4</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Noon Worship &amp; EVENT</p>	<p><u>5</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast</p>	<p><u>6</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30-11 Lenten Study</p>	<p><u>7</u> Woodworker Show &amp; Tell</p> 
<p><u>8</u></p> 	<p><u>9</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1-3:30</p>	<p><u>10</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion &amp; Activity 9:30—11:30 am CHURCH LUNCH</p>	<p><u>11</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Noon Worship &amp; NEWSLETTER</p>	<p><u>12</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast</p>	<p><u>13</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30-11 Lenten Study</p>	<p><u>14</u></p>
<p><u>15</u> Rev. Sich Preaches at East Wood's Presbyterian Tom Iberle &amp; Volunteers @ Salmon Creek UMC</p>	<p><u>16</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1-3:30</p>	<p><u>17</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion &amp; Activity 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>18</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Noon Worship &amp; MOVIE</p>	<p><u>19</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast</p>	<p><u>20</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30-11 Lenten Study</p>	<p><u>21</u> SHARE Brunch &amp; Event</p> 
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## Annual Meeting



The 10th Annual Meeting of the Incorporation of Friends of the Carpenter by the Board of Directors, will be held on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend this special meeting to review calendar year 2008. Annual reports will be available at this time. The meeting will be held at the Friendship Center, 1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver. Reports may be requested by calling the office at 750-4752.

## Lenten Study Features the Life of Joseph

Back by popular demand... Dr. William "Bill" Lehmann will be leading a Lenten Study of the Life of Joseph, "the greatest man of the Old Testament." Joseph revolutionized the economy of the Ancient World, and Bill will explore this and his family relationships as recorded in the late chapters of the book of Genesis. The six week series will begin Friday, February 27, 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm at the Friendship Center. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! This study is open to All!



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Judy Enders, 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*

**WE INVITE YOU  
TO THE FRIENDSHIP  
CENTER ON  
SAT. FEBRUARY 21, 2009  
9:30 AM—11:30 AM  
FOLLOWING SHARE**



**HOUSE BRUNCH  
FOR VALENTINE H.U.G.S.S. \***

**AND TREATS!**

**\* (THAT'S HATS, UNDERWEAR, GLOVES,  
SOCKS & SHOES!)**

**Gloves & Shoes Needed!**

On Sat., Feb. 21st, Friends of the Carpenter is sharing hats, undies, gloves, socks and shoes at our Woodworking Event. We are asking **ESPECIALLY** for donations of men's gloves and women's/men's underwear. **Shoes** will also be added this time **AND ARE NEEDED!** Donations will be accepted at our offices at the **Friendship Center, 1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver.** Thank you for your generosity!!!!

**SHARE THE LOVE - OF CHRIST!**

**TULIPS for SALE**

Once again, Friends of the Carpenter has Tulip Planter Boxes at \$40 each. Each planter contains 15 new tulip bulbs from the Royal Dutch Tulip Gardens of Woodland, WA. The tulip bulbs are just beginning to "stick their noses" out of the ground, and our woodworkers have made special planter boxes. A special thanks goes to Jim DeShirley for making up over 80 boxes on his own!



There is a variety of planters with all one color of tulips and others with a Festival Mix of colors. They'll be beautiful! Come pick up a planter box of your very own, or one for friends & family! These would be great Valentines Day or Mother's Day gifts!

