

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

The Carpenter's Tool Box

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February, 2005



The Carpenter's Tool Box is a monthly publication of
FRIENDS of the CARPENTER
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“It Feels Like Church”

by Rev. Duane L. Sich

“You yourselves used to be in the darkness, but since you have become the Lord’s people, you are in the light. So you must live like people who belong to the light, for it is the light that brings a rich harvest of every kind of goodness, righteousness and truth. Try to learn what pleases the Lord.” Ephesians 5:8-10

The other day, one of our friends was talking about her experience with Friends of the Carpenter. She shared that she was so very grateful for our ministry. She said after many years of being homeless, frightened and fatigued by day to day survival, she now feels she has a safe home and through friends has found her faith again. Then she said something sort of surprising and very special. She said, “Every time I come here (into the Friendship Center) it feels like I am in church!”

Obviously, she wasn’t talking about the building; instead, about

a feeling and friendships and the light of God’s love in this place. She said life had beaten and broken her physically and emotionally, that she had become bankrupt financially and spiritually. But because of Friends of the Carpenter and finding a renewed ability to pray, she could see a bright future and caring friends who had become like family.

God’s light and God’s love are so wonderful. Sadly, sometimes we don’t realize how wonderful that light is until it’s lost. Sadder yet, some who haven’t actually lost it, often don’t see it as bright as it really is. However, when we see that light, either in ourselves or reflected in the life of another, it renews and transforms us. When someone helps us find that light or when we take the opportunity to bring light into someone else’s life, that is a powerful and

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transforming experience for all who are a part of it.



There is a lot of darkness “out there.” Truthfully, we all walk in it everyday, but because we are people of the light – people who believe in and belong to the light of Jesus Christ – we can not only safely navigate through it ourselves, but we become a beacon light, reflecting the light of Christ to others so they also can find their way through and find their way to God! The darkness does have an enormous power. It frightens us, it crushes our confidence and attempts to convince us that we are losers and lost. But it’s amazing, truly amazing, how a simple ray of light – a simple and sincere encouraging word, a tiny and well timed gift of grace, a hand

ready to hold in prayer – can shatter the despair and darkness in a person’s heart and mind.

When people of faith find themselves in those dark canyons, we have learned how important it is to come to the church (not the building) to find our hope renewed. But for many, that may not be a quick consideration. The family of God needs to be mindful and pastors and caregivers dare not be careless about family members who are going through difficult times or traumatic changes. Hurting people can slip away nearly unnoticed and they themselves try to disguise their demise and disappearance. But the Body of Christ deserves and demands to be connected and reaching out to any who are in the darkness. Perhaps it’s just God’s timing, but there are many ways and opportunities to give and receive Christ’s light. And when it happens, “It feels like church” – not the building!

We are so grateful for the Friendship Center! No, it’s not a church but the mission

of this ministry is to welcome and point people toward the house of the Lord. God is doing an amazing work at the center, but our goal is to guide people into the fellowship of a church family elsewhere. We are praying for volunteers from churches to come to the center and be a beacon light for Christ. It’s not about the wood the warehouse, nor the woodwork ... it’s about the work of the Holy Spirit and the light of Christ that shines and guides us back to God. The Apostle Paul said, “*So you must live like people who belong to the light, for it is the light that brings a rich harvest of every kind of goodness, righteousness and truth. Try to learn what pleases the Lord.*” We are praying for 200 volunteers to spend 2 hours once a month (or more if you want) at the Friendship Center. There is a wide range of choices and activities for you to do, but whatever you do, it will feel like church for you and our friends!

Call 750-4752 to find your place to shine!

CENTER ACTIVITIES

Beginning in February on the 2nd & 3rd Tuesday mornings, we will have activity times at the Friendship Center for small groups of participant friends and volunteers. This is a time for further relationship building with each other and with Jesus Christ. The activities will be something that does not prohibit conversations and discussions. We plan that the activity time will start at 9:30 am with the prayer circle and a devotion and sharing time. During the activity time the prayer room will be available for all to spend time in prayer.

The **Center Angels** will be the leaders for the activity times. They will be available to facilitate and direct the group. The

Center Angels should have a clear understanding of the mission of the Friends of the Carpenter and be a member of a faith community. They should also be familiar with the "ins & outs" of the Friendship Center and be able to lead and direct people to different parts of the Center.

We are excited to start these new activity times. We encourage all to come and be a part of the activities at the Center. If you are available and want to be a part of the activity times, please call!

The Open Shop Woodworking times are:

Mondays – 1:30-3:30 pm

Fridays – 9:30– 11:30 am

CHURCH FOCUS MEETINGS

In January Friends of the Carpenter hosted church focus meetings for pastors and mission/outreach leadership. These meetings were to clarify the mission and program of Friends of the Carpenter. We encourage and want to enlist involvement of church volunteers and partner together to serve the poor and homeless of our community. We are thankful for those who participated in these meetings and welcome all to come and see our ministry!

Please
come and
see!



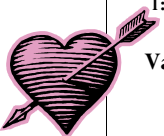
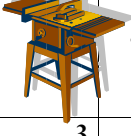





RV, BOAT & TRAILER STORAGE

Friends of the Carpenter has 20 storage spaces – 12 ft by 50 ft – at \$50 per month. Your "rig" will be parked in our chain link fence, enclosed property. We now have an over-night attendant on the property for surveillance and to notify authorities if necessary. Owner access will be weekdays, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and as pre-arranged through the FOC office for weekends. If interested contact the office at 750-4752 for a contract form.

P.S. Does anyone have a trailer to donate to FOC for use by our surveillance attendants? Let us Know!



FEBRUARY & MARCH 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February 13 	14 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm Happy Valentines Day!	15 Serve SHARE Breakfast Friendship Center Activity 9:30—11:30 am	16 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	17 Serve SHARE Breakfast Board of Directors Meeting	18 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	19
20	21 President's Day— Friendship Center Closed	22 Serve SHARE Breakfast	23 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Worship and EVENT 12- 2:30	24 Serve SHARE Breakfast 	25 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	26
27 	28 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm SHARE Dinner and Worship	March 1	2 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Worship and EVENT	3 Serve SHARE Breakfast	4 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	5 Woodworker Show & Tell 
6	7 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm	8 Friendship Center Activity 9:30—11:30 am	9	10 Serve SHARE Breakfast Board of Directors Meeting	11 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	12 
13	14 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm	15 Friendship Center Activity 9:30—11:30 am	16 	17 Serve SHARE Breakfast	18 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	19 SHARE Brunch & Event
20 Palm Sunday 	21 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm	22	23 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Worship and EVENT	24 Serve SHARE Breakfast	25 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	26

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Dean Flory is a gem of a volunteer!

Like the surface of a beautiful gemstone, there are many facets to the volunteer work of Dean Flory! The facets of the gemstone are the many aspects that are cut into the crystal face. Dean has helped out wherever and whenever with Friends of the Carpenter. There are many facets or areas where you will see him volunteering.

As one facet, you may see Dean as a Board Member - he's been on the Friends of the Carpenter Board of Directors for 4 years.

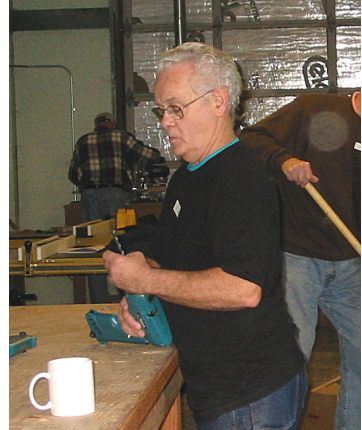
As another facet, you may see Dean as a woodworker. Last February, March & April he helped tirelessly along with other volunteers to get the offices, warehouse and shop in order. He actively comes to the Open Shop times on Monday (1:30 - 3:30 pm) or Friday (9:30-11:30 am) and to the Woodworker Show & Tell meetings. When his work

schedule permits, he is a driver for the woodrun to Wilsonville. He has crafted specialty items for bazaars and our annual auction. Recently he worked closely with our shop foreman, Dan and our friend, Bill Jennings, to make a utility trailer to haul the Center's garbage to the dump.

Another facet is coming as a volunteer for our woodworking events. Both Dean and his wife, Sue have been volunteers at our woodworking events at Share House. He has also helped with Recycle Renewal Sale and the Auction.

When asked why he enjoys volunteering for Friends of the Carpenter, Dean said it is because he feels that FOC is an organization where he can really have a "hands-on" experience. As a volunteer you have the opportunity to meet and get to know the people who you are helping.

Like many of our volunteers,



Dean is a busy man. He works part-time for American Greeting Cards constructing the displays. He and Sue are active members at First United Methodist Church. They participate in the Men's Music Fellowship group. They own property on the Crooked River Ranch in Redmond, Oregon and are building a home there.

Yes, Dean is a gem of a volunteer! We appreciate **all** that he does in **all** the many areas! We give thanks for Dean and the many ways he shares the time and gifts that God has given him.

Copies of the 2004 Annual Report are currently available for review. Please contact Jan at 750-4752 if you would like one sent to you.

Annual Meeting held and 2004 Report Available

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation and Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 1. Information shared with the board concerned decisions on asset designations, personnel reviews, plans for events in 2005, and budget proposals for 2005. During the Annual Meeting, Officers elected to serve in 2005 were Tom Such, President, Wayne Pueschel, 1st Vice President, Jay Kitchin, 2nd Vice President, and Marilyn Andrews, Secretary/Treasurer. Copies of the annual report were distributed and discussed.

**FRIENDS of the
CARPENTER**

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Inviting the Homeless to
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T -ruth
Through Friendship

*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*

**6th Annual Renewal and Recycle Sale
Fri. & Sat. June 3 & 4, 2005
Held at Salvation Army—1500 NE 112th Ave.**



When doing your Spring Cleaning ...

Keep us in mind for :

**Electronics, Collectibles, Household items,
Appliances, Furniture, Tools, Seasonal items,
Outdoor Accessories, Children's Items,
Books, Music, Artwork, and Sporting Goods.**

We will receive your "gently used "treasures "

at the Friendship Center, 1600 W. 20th St. ... Beginning now!

Donations of items are tax-deductible! Give us a call (360) 750-4752

