

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

The Carpenter's Tool Box

Volume 9, Issue # 3

March, 2007



The Carpenter's Tool Box is a monthly publication of
FRIENDS of the CARPENTER
 1600 W. 20th St.
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Inside this issue:

Volunteer	2
Orientation	
Rummage Sale	3
Collection Begins!	
Calendar of Events	4
Doll House Needs	5
Recovery Class	5
Auction Donations	5
Volunteer	6
Appreciation	

The Greater Gifts

"As Jesus sat near the Temple treasury, he watched the people as they dropped in their money. Those who were rich dropped in a lot of money; then a poor widow came along and dropped in two little copper coins, worth about a penny. He called his disciples together and said to them, 'I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all the others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had'."
 Mark 12: 41-44

I think I'll never forget the Sunday I sat in worship beside a homeless friend who put a quarter into the offering plate. Julie and I typically pay our pledge with a weekly check, but this Sunday, Julie was on a women's retreat and had the check-book with her. "No big deal I thought," as the minister called for the offering; I figured we'd just double our due next week. But then I saw my friend reaching into his pocket to prepare his offering. "Oh my gosh," I thought. "Alvin's gonna put an offering in the plate and the preacher man's going to just let it pass by. How's that gonna look?" No problem, I got out my

By Rev. Duane L. Sich

billfold and pulled out a bill (bigger than a one, trust me) so I wouldn't look like a slacker. After putting in my offering, I passed the plate to my friend and it was then that I heard the clink of what probably was a quarter against the metal offering plate. I don't have a clue what the pastor's sermon was that day, but the sermon that will stick with me as long as I live was "The Widow's Might."

There is an amazing gift that the homeless bring into the family of God ... into our churches. They bring a simple but sincere faith. Oh not all of them. Many of them are mixed up, messed up and trying to look like they have it all together. Oh, or is that the way all of us come into church??? Anyway, I have found that the more I meet the poor and oppressed in the house of the Lord and in the fellowship of faith, more often than not, they – yes, they - not fancy sermons, not angelic anthems nor pretty pews – they show me the presence and the power of God. Sure, I love good sermons, I appreciate the

Continued on page 2

The Greater Gifts continued from page 1

gift of beautiful music and musicians who have labored long to offer it, and yes, I enjoy a comfortable pew and a pretty place in which to worship; but more often than not, the message that so often sticks with me is when "one of the least of these" sits with me – sits with us – and brings their sincere and simple faith into the presence of the people gathered and offer themselves to God. I am humbled, I am helped to realize God's abundant blessings in my life, and I am more likely to be motivated to use all my gifts to make a difference in the lives of others. Now that's what a good sermon is supposed to do for any worshipper!

The goal of Friends of the Carpenter is to build positive and productive relationships between those who are homeless with volunteers from faith communities. Our woodwork events and other activities provide a safe and supervised setting for people to come together and become friends. The friendships formed, in addition to being fun and offering simple gifts of care and kindness, lead to sincere invitations to come to church. Ironically, it may well be that the church family needs the homeless and their gifts of faith – The Greater Gifts – more than anything those of us

who are more comfortable in life can contribute. When they come – when they feel welcome and that they "fit in" in the midst of the church family – the Body of Christ is blessed and the whole body is built up in love.

However, in order for the friendships to be formed between the homeless and volunteers, it is essential that Friends of the Carpenter have ample volunteers at the Friendship Center and our outreach events. It's not just wood-working that we do nor wood-workers that FOC primarily needs. In fact, the woodworking of Friends of the Carpenter is merely the vehicle to get people to a place to be together. The Friendship Center (warehouse) is as simple as the stable where our savior was born. Like the shepherds and the Wisemen who first came to see Jesus, so at the Friendship Center, everyone is welcome. Guests are greeted with acceptance, hospitality and the love of Christ and gifts of faith are exchanged.

A typical day at the Friendship Center sees 10 to 25 persons joining in activities. The outreach events at Share House and St. Paul's Lutheran Church usually involve 30 to 50 participants with a dozen or so

volunteers mixing together to make the events happen. In any two hour period, volunteers invariably interact with at least 5 participants or more ... and each touch not only helps form a friendship, but transfers the touch of God's love. The blessing is, transitions happen IN EVERYBODY! The "whole" Body experiences healing, hope and a friendly invitation into the life and mission of the church.

Come join in this ministry. *You'll see and be a sermon* that you and others will remember forever. It all begins with a phone call – 750-4752.

Volunteer Orientation

We are planning an orientation of volunteers for the ministry on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. This will be a time to talk about our immediate needs and clarify expectations of volunteers who are willing to help host the "Center", work in the shop, help with events, and further develop our ministry!

We value our volunteers and welcome all input and comments. If you are interested in attending this volunteer orientation, please call 750-4752.

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8th Annual Rummage Sale

Thur. & Fri. 9 am—6 pm Sat. 9 am—12 noon



June 7, 8, 9



The Friendship Center 1600 W. 20th St.

WHEN DOING YOUR SPRING CLEANING....

KEEP US IN MIND FOR:

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

We will receive your "Gently Used" Treasures
at the Friendship Center, 1600 W. 20th St:

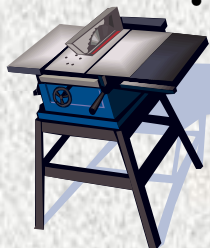
- During regular business hours

Mon. - Fri. 9 am—4 pm

- Selected Saturdays

April 7 & 21—10 am—2 pm

May 5 & 19—10 am—2 pm



Give Us A Call! (360) 750-4752






Donations of items are tax-deductible! Pick-ups Available!

A Benefit for Friends of the Carpenter

Rummage Sale Sorting begins Tuesdays in April, 9am—12 noon
You are invited to Come and Help!



March & April 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 18  Spring	<u>19</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1:30—3:30 pm FOC Board Meeting	<u>20</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Open Shop 1pm Auction Meeting	<u>21</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship	<u>22</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>23</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Lenten Study Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>24</u>
<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1:30—3:30 pm SHARE Dinner & WORSHIP	<u>27</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Open Shop 1pm	<u>28</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>29</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>30</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Lenten Study Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>31</u> 
April 1 Palm Sunday 	<u>2</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1:30—3:30 pm	<u>3</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Open Shop 1pm	<u>4</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>5</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>6</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>7</u> Woodworker Show & Tell Rummage Drop Off 10am-2pm
<u>8</u> Easter Sunday 	<u>9</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1:30—3:30 pm	<u>10</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Open Shop 1pm Recovery Group	<u>11</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & Newsletter	<u>12</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>13</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>14</u> FOC Presentation to Women's Ministries @ Highland Lutheran
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1:30—3:30 pm	<u>17</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Open Shop 1pm	<u>18</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & Outing	<u>19</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am "Scroll Saw Blitz"	<u>20</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>21</u> SHARE Brunch & Event Rummage Drop Off 10am-2pm
<u>22</u> 	<u>23</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1:30—3:30 pm	<u>24</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Open Shop 1pm Volunt. Orient.	<u>25</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & Event	<u>26</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>27</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>28</u> FOC Board of Directors Planning Retreat



Got a De

F.O.C. has a wonderful "House". It has rooms, a front roof and it's on form. The ex done but the i be finished. W ideas and ma need a project interests you, and come dow and see this be "Progress". It v auction items we can get it re 750-4752 and a



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BUSINESS
ENGAGEMENT

Your gift and

Call (36

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**Interested
in
Miniatures?
Have We
Got a Deal for You!**

F.O.C. has been given a wonderful hand built "Doll House". It has 2 floors, 6 rooms, a front porch, a shake roof and it's on a rolling platform. The exterior is nearly done but the interior needs to be finished. We can help with ideas and materials, we just need a project manager. If this interests you, give us a call and come down to the Center and see this beautiful "Work in Progress". It would be a great auction item for this year, if we can get it ready. Call us at 750-4752 and ask for Julie.



**CELEBRATE
THE ROAD TO
RECOVERY**

**A Faith Based Class For
People Who Need Help
In Their Addiction With
Drugs & Alcohol**

**& For Those Wanting to Support and Learn More
about the Recovery Process.
Facilitated by Brian D. Collister**

**LOCATION: Friends of the Carpenter
1600 W. 20th St.
Vancouver, WA 98660**

**DATE: 2nd Tuesdays of each month,
beginning April 10, 2007**

TIME: 6:00 pm

CONTACT: Brian at (360) 773-2448



**5th Annual Auction and Banquet
Saturday, October 6, 2007**

Red Lion Inn at the Quay

- Proceeds to Benefit Friends of the Carpenter -

A Ministry of Relationships; and Hope for the Homeless

NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE AUCTION!

BUSINESS PRODUCTS, SERVICES, WEEKEND OR WEEKLONG COTTAGES, DINNER ENGAGEMENTS, SPECIALTY HOBBY OR SPORTS ITEMS, ATHLETIC OR ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS, NOVELTY GIFTS, BASKET ITEMS, CERTIFICATES, ETC.

Your gift and generosity will be acknowledged in printed form and shared with the auction attendees. All gift/s are tax deductible.

Call (360) 750-4752 - An Auction Procurement Form will be sent to you.

**A General Meeting For the Auction Planning is scheduled for
Tues. March 20th, 1:30 pm at the Friendship Center**



**FRIENDS of the
CARPENTER**
1600 W. 20th St. 98660
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Judy Enders, Financial Secretary
Email: Duane@friendsofthecarpenter.org
WEB PAGE: friendsofthecarpenter.org

FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER

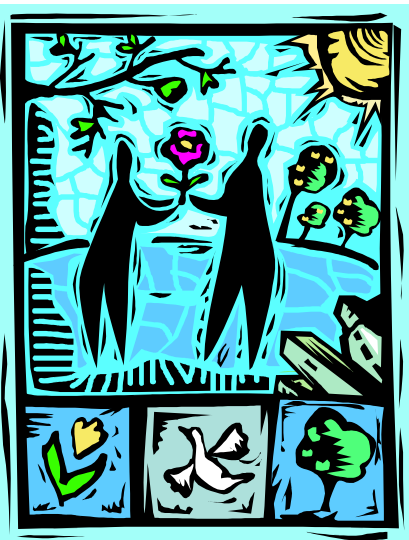
P.O. Box 65358
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WA

Inviting the Homeless to
C -ommunity
H -ope
R -enewal
I -nspiration
S -elf Esteem
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*



Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves

ALL VOLUNTEERS

Please come for an evening of appreciation!

We are so thankful for the many ways
you share your time and gifts!

WHEN: Tues., May 8, 2007 - 7:00 pm

PLACE: The Friendship Center
1600 W. 20th St.

“We thank our God every time we remember you.

In all our prayers for all of you,
we always pray with joy...”