

# 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 11      NOVEMBER, 2010

## Grace Is Free, But Someone Pays... by Rev. Duane L. Sich

*“For it is by God’s grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God’s gift, so that no one can boast about it. God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus He has created us for a life of good deeds, which He has already prepared for us to do.”*  
Ephesians 2: 8 - 10

It was at a recent morning devotions at the Friendship Center (9:30 am daily) Rev. Mark McMurry (of Via Nova Church) shared these poignant words: Grace is free, but it costs someone. In faith, right from the “get-go” God paid for our forgiveness. OH WHAT A PRICE! In some faith

traditions the crucifix is the primary image of the cross. Looking at it makes one cringe and even weep. In other traditions the empty cross is the primary image. Both are accurate. Jesus died on the cross; an excruciating price. However He did not stay there. The empty cross testifies that He Is Risen. Jesus overcame death on the cross and paid the price for our sins. But shame on anyone who looks at an empty cross and ignores, avoids or takes for granted that high price that was paid. It’s a free gift, but literally an enormous price paid by our Lord! It’s that way with grace given at any level. Whether it’s a simple courtesy, letting

someone go ahead in line or opening a door, a tangible gift, small or large, or even a huge sacrifice – all are given without cost to the recipient. But make no mistake, it’s not free. Someone pays!

So why do it? Why put yourself out for someone else’s benefit? What’s in it for the giver? Well, why did God do it? There have been centuries of discussion and countless sermons and books about the answer. Perhaps the easiest answer is, “Because God loves us.” But then again comes another question, “Why does God love us?” As miscalculated as it might seem and as

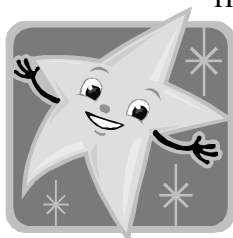
Continued on page 2

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

★The woodworkers who created an amazing cross for Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church; Ron Pulliam, Doug Hepburn and Bob Chapman. Sanding help was supplied by Jan Voldal. The cross was hung on the exterior of the Church on Thurs. Nov. 4th, and dedicated on Sun. Nov.

7th. The cross was made possible by a gift from Doug Spencer.

★The many donors of HUGS (hats, underwear, gloves and socks). The distribution



was held at a HUGS Halloween Party on Wed. Oct. 27th. Over 30 new and returning friends came by the center for Halloween Bingo, Raffles, treats and lots of HUGS!

★Two small groups from Salmon Creek United Methodist Church who helped plant 3,000 tulip bulbs on Sat. Oct. 30th.

FRIENDS  
of the  
CARPENTER



*A Ministry Of  
Relationships*

The Carpenter's Tool Box  
is a monthly publication of  
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## GRACE IS FREE, BUT SOMEONE PAYS... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

unworthy as any of us might feel, apparently it was (and is) worth it to God! God values us. Even more humbling is that God not only values all of us, God values each of us and would have paid the price for each one of us alone! We don't know why, we know we don't deserve it, but regardless, God just loves us. Amazing Grace! But still, what's in it for God? What's in it for any giver?

Jesus said, "As I have loved you, so you ought to love one another." (Read John 15) Jesus said this not so much as a commandment that we must love others, but rather as a promise. It's a promise that when we unconditionally love someone, there is an inner reward we receive not from the recipient, but rather as a reflection of God's grace given in us and through us. When we give without expecting a

return, there's an amazing reality that occurs; in giving we actually have a sense of receiving. We love not so much because the recipient is worthy but because there is a sense of self-worth that is nurtured in us; there is an inner integrity and a personal alignment with The One who loved us. When we love as Jesus loved us, the promise is we will feel the Peace of Jesus!

The ministry of Friends of the Carpenter gives out grace. Sometimes it's as simple as a warm, dry place to sit down. It might be the coffee and goodies that are always on the counter. Sometimes it's the use of the bathroom which hardly seems like grace, but it's a \$400 fine or worse if caught relieving or exposing yourself illegally. Many come needing "bigger grace." Housing is a huge need, sometimes for the night,

generally longer. Some have the ability to pay monthly rent but cannot afford first and last month, plus the deposit to get a lease. Transportation is a terrible problem if you don't have bus fare. A monthly pass is around \$32 but people walk hundreds of miles for the lack of it. Simply giving a new friend a ride to an appointment or drop off point is like a miracle, but actually not that much money (or grace to give) for someone who owns a car. Medical and dental needs are enormous. Medication for mental illness or other prescriptions seems like "mountains of money" to someone who doesn't even have pocket change. And maybe the greatest grace is just having someone to care, someone who accepts you as you are, a group of people who help you to find new hope and the encouragement to cope and carry on.

Meeting these needs is grace-given. Whether simple or significant, monetary or otherwise, there's always a cost. Obviously, Friends of the Carpenter depends upon those who support this ministry to help with these costs. The grace you give goes to those we serve. As valuable and necessary as the money is, your personal presence – being present here at the Friendship Center – is essentially needed.

We trust and always hear testimonies that grace given at any level is rewarded with God's peace. As Jesus loved us, so we who help pay the price of grace given to others, we receive the PROMISE that comes from just loving others. Thank you for giving this grace ... come see and share in the promise.

### Partners In Careers & Goodwill

Did you know that Friends of the Carpenter partners with Goodwill's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and Partners in Careers (PIC) to provide training and work experience opportunities that each person needs to help them move on to employment and economic self-sufficiency? Many of the smiling faces you see

providing hospitality, janitorial services, data entry, leading activities, working at our scroll saws, or working in the shop are PIC employees that work with FOC staff to improve their job skills. Since partnering with these two agencies began in 2009, we have worked with over 36 employees through these programs.

### Friendship Kitchen

Week by week we come to appreciate the kitchen space more! We are currently in the process of developing policy and becoming a 'certified' kitchen. We also need a group of 'over-seers' to help direct and organize the space and events. Needs: Silverware, serving utensils, large pots for soups and pasta, crockpots,

cake pans, cookie sheets, measuring cups and spoons, tupperware or rubbermaid containers, casserole type baking dishes (our kitchen is a no fry zone so no pans are needed), dish towels, small bowls for condiments, paper bowls, paper napkins, salad bowl, a hand or counter top mixer, and mixing bowls.

## Changing Lives With Love - The Stories of Two Friends



Recently, we received a phone call from a lady now living in Georgia who years ago was active at Friends of the Carpenter. She wanted to let us know how different her life was now, how happy she is and how grateful she is for Friends of the Carpenter. You could have "knocked me over with a feather." Trust me! It wasn't like that when she left town and Friends of the Carpenter. We had tried many ways to help her; we endorsed a rental agreement and then dealt with her dysfunctions, relapses and the erratic relationship. Before this phone call, we'd have been hard pressed to perceive anything good that came from our friendship. She said she was living in a nice neighborhood, going to a great church and had made really good friends. Her daughter got married in her church to a man in the military; they are living in Texas and she talks with her daughter on the phone every week. She said the wedding was wonderful. She went on to say that she signed up to be a

part of a mission team from her church going over-seas. As part of the application, her pastor asked each team member to write a "History of their faith journey." She said at first she thought it would be simple since her life was so good at this point. But as she collected her thoughts and tried to determine where to begin, she said each thought seemed to take her back to her time at Friends of the Carpenter. She said she remembered all the hard times, wasted effort and money that we spent on her. She paused and then said, "Duane, I'm so sorry. Thank you for not giving up on me. My life is wonderful now and I thank God for saving me. It all started with Friends of the Carpenter." Changing Lives With Love ... but sometimes it takes awhile!

Isaiah 55:11 "My word that goes out will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

One of our assigned Partner in Career participants asked if she could receive a Bible. She said she'd never had one. Hearing various scripture readings each day at morning devotions, she said she wanted to learn more. So we gladly gave her a Bible. The next morning she asked, "Do you just read it cover to cover?" I said that would be good someday, but probably starting in the Gospels, particularly John, would be a great place to start to grow in your relationship with Jesus. She said she wanted to read the Bible to her children (who are quite young). I encouraged her to consider a children's story Bible and talk about Bible stories with her children.

I said what would be really important is that her children regularly see her reading the Bible and see how important it is to her. After a few more comments she continued, "I've got 90 days clean and sober. When I was in treatment, I learned about spirituality and my higher power. But here at Friends of the Carpenter, I realize that there's more to it. I see people who have a relationship with God and I want that in my life and the life of my children." Again, Changing Lives With Love.

Matthew 5:6 "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*"

As we near the end of the year, we urge those who are able to make a year end special gift to Friends of the Carpenter. The financial needs continue to be critical; with reserves nearly depleted we operate month to month and many large bills come at the beginning of the year. Without your continued financial support, cuts in operation, program and/or personnel will be inevitable. As the Board of Directors continues to explore and develop new revenue sources, keeping "the doors open" continues to be a challenge. As you are able, consider giving a generous Year End contribution. Every donation helps to Change Lives With Love!



## A Christmas Gift That Keeps On Giving!



Friends of the Carpenter will send a Holiday Gift Greeting and Certificate in honor of a friend or family member, for a donation of any amount to this ministry. Donations will be used for the benefit of our participant friends who find themselves in special need this Christmas season. Please complete the form below and mail it with your donation to:

**Friends of the Carpenter, PO Box 65358, Vancouver, WA 98665**

**DONOR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**DONOR ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION AMOUNT LISTED ON CERTIFICATE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RECIPIENT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**RECIPIENT ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

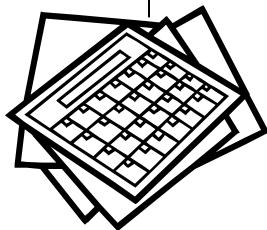
**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send certificate to recipient     Please send certificate to donor

*For additional donations/recipients, please duplicate this form!*

### Year End Special Gift

As we approach the end of the year, we ask your prayers and consideration for the financial well-being of Friends of the Carpenter. As donations are down and dollars don't "go as far" as they used to, your special year end gift will be greatly appreciated. The Board of Directors, The Staff and All Those Who Will Be Blessed By Your Gift **THANK YOU** and Thank God For You!



### Year End Statements

All 2010 tax-deductible donations to Friends of the Carpenter must be received in the FOC office or US Mail post-marked by December 31<sup>st</sup>. The office will be closed several days through January 4th, thus special arrangements must be made for hand delivered donations after Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Financial Contribution Statements will be sent to donors prior to Jan. 30, 2011. Thank You to all our donors!

### LADIES: BUNCO Party Planned for February

It's not too late to sign up for an evening of fun, food and prizes... it's Bunco! This party is being hosted by Bev Buffington and Sue Kitchin.

**WHEN:** Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.


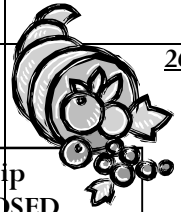



**WHERE:** at the home of Sue Kitchin

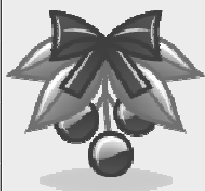
**COST:** \$30.00

Limited to first 12

**WHY:** Just Because it's a fun thing to do... and it supports Friends of the Carpenter! Call the Friendship Center at 360-750-4752 to save your spot!

# NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><u>14</u> <b>Portland Tool Show</b></p>	<p><u>15</u> Afternoon Activity 1-2:30 pm</p>	<p><u>16</u> Devotion &amp; Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2 pm</p>	<p><u>17</u> Noon Worship &amp; EVENT</p>	<p><u>18</u> Recovery Bible Class 9:30-10:30 am</p>	<p><u>19</u> Fun Friday Activity 1-2:30 pm</p>	<p><u>20</u></p>
<p><u>21</u></p>	<p><u>22</u> Afternoon Activity 1-2:30 pm</p>	<p><u>23</u> Devotion &amp; Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2 pm</p>	<p><u>24</u> Noon Worship &amp; EVENT</p>	<p><u>25</u> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> The Friendship Center is CLOSED</p>	 <p><u>26</u></p>	<p><u>27</u></p>
<p><u>29</u></p>	<p><u>29</u> Afternoon Activity 1-2:30 pm</p>	<p><u>30</u> Devotion &amp; Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2 pm</p>	<p><u>December 1</u> Noon Worship &amp; EVENT</p>	<p><u>2</u> Recovery Bible Class 9:30-10:30 am</p>	<p><u>3</u> Fun Friday Activity 1-2:30 pm</p>	<p><u>4</u> <b>Christmas Concert with Jim Fischer &amp; Friends, 3:00 &amp; 7:00 Shows</b></p>
 <p><u>5</u></p>	<p><u>6</u> Afternoon Activity 1-2:30 pm</p>	<p><u>7</u> Devotion &amp; Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2 pm</p>	<p><u>8</u> Noon Worship &amp; NEWSLETTER</p>	<p><u>9</u> Recovery Bible Class 9:30-10:30 am</p>	<p><u>10</u> Fun Friday Activity 1-2:30 pm</p>	 <p><u>11</u></p>
<i>Christmas Boutique Open 10 am—2 pm</i>						
<p><u>12</u></p>	<p><u>13</u> Afternoon Activity 1-2:30 pm</p>	<p><u>14</u> Devotion &amp; Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2 pm</p>	<p><u>15</u> Noon Worship &amp; EVENT</p>	<p><u>16</u> Recovery Bible Class 9:30-10:30 am</p>	<p><u>17</u> Fun Friday Activity 1-2:30 pm</p>	<p><u>18</u></p>
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## *Christmas Boutique - The Center Will be Open*

JOIN US DECEMBER 8th THROUGH DECEMBER 18th, from 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM IN OUR PRODUCT ROOM FOR HOT CIDER AND CHRISTMAS TREATS WHILE YOU DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING. WE HAVE MANY NEW ITEMS AS WELL AS OUR TRADITIONAL CROSSES TO CHOOSE FROM AS GIFTS FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. ALL ITEMS ARE INDIVIDUALLY MADE AND ALL FUNDS SUPPORT FOC. WE WILL BE OPEN SATURDAYS, THE 11TH AND THE 18TH, FOR YOUR SHOPPING CONVENIENCE!

Seasons Greetings; Carrie, Angela, Krista, Mary, and Rebecca



November ,  
2010

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**Contact Us!**

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Cell Phone: 360-771-0761  
Bill Jennings, Yard Coordinator  
Cell Phone: 360-771-0172  
Carrie Slayter, Activity Coord.  
Jerry Swan, Financial Secretary

**We have undergone changes to Mailing Data Base! ~ We ask for your patience as we make the switch from one software management system to another! It seems that some names have been "resurrected" and we are working on correcting this information. We ask for your help in identifying problem areas... please let us know by e-mailing; [jan@friendsofthecarpenter.org](mailto:jan@friendsofthecarpenter.org) (preferred method) or calling 360-750-4752. We thank you!**

*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*



## 8th Annual Christmas Concert With Jim Fischer and Friends

Featuring Clark College Chorale (3pm) and  
Touch of Class (7pm) plus many  
Special Guest Artists

**Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010**

**3:00 pm and 7:00 pm performances**

**at THE FIRST CHURCH OF GOD**

**3300 NE 78th St., Vancouver, WA 98665**

**Please join us for this Musical Christmas Celebration  
for the entire family!**

**Tickets NOW Available! \$15 In Advance for All Ages & \$20 At the Door**

**Contact Friends of the Carpenter at (360) 750-4752 for tickets!  
1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver, WA 98660 [www.friendsofthecarpenter.org](http://www.friendsofthecarpenter.org)**

**"Please Share This With A Friend!"**



**NEW LOCATION!**

