

The Carpenter's Tool Box

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4 APRIL, 2008

“Ready To Die! Ready To Live!” by Rev. Duane L. Sich

Jesus said, “Whoever loves their life will lose it, while the one who loses their life for my sake will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.” John 12: 25 & 26

Some of you might be surprised to know that I’m a biker! Yep, I ride a Honda Goldwing motorcycle, which for those who don’t know, is a full dress – fairing and saddle bags – Interstate Touring Bike. It’s a 1987 so it doesn’t have all the “whistles and bells” that the new ones have, but it’s still pretty neat and lots of fun to ride! Julie and I have biked the Oregon Coast, the California Redwoods, Yosemite National Park, Lower Canada, we love the San Juan Islands and just day trips around the area are fun. With the nice weather beginning, I’m eager to get

going. I started riding in college, but I wanted to ride sooner. When I was in grade school, my best friend and neighbor’s parents bought him a small 50cc scooter. I so wanted to ride his bike (and he probably would have let me) but neither his parents nor mine would allow it. They all thought it would be too dangerous: his parent’s feared the liability and my parents feared I would get hurt or worse. Well, while in college and away from home, my riding relationship with motorcycles began. But my mother, bless her soul, never really approved. Over the years I’ve had several different bikes and upgrades.

More recently, (well about 15 years ago) another best friend did allow me to ride his motorcycle. It was a Goldwing and bigger and better than anything I’ve ever ridden

before. Wow, what a ride; what a feeling! However, my friend had a cautioning caption that was very poignant. He said, “You have to be a Christian to ride a motorcycle – ready to die at any moment.” Yikes – that’s a scary statement; however, in a permissive way rather than restrictive, it conveyed the same concept as that of my parents. Life is already dangerous, and when you take on additional risks ... well, you better be ready for possible consequences and not just focus upon the positive parts.

Several years ago, my son and I had what could have resulted in a much more serious motorcycle accident. We had taken a father/son ride to the California Redwoods. We

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A Ministry Of Relationships

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FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

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

- ★ Donald Pricket for his amazing scroll saw work “in miniature”!
- ★ Clarice Garrison for ‘stepping up’ to lead the Rummage Sale!
- ★ Salmon Creek Methodist Youth who volunteered at the Saturday SHARE

House Breakfast Event on March 15!

- ★ Mayor Royce Pollard for agreeing



to speak at our upcoming volunteer appreciation!

- ★ Lee Nichols for agreeing to lead the Annual Auction, in Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Friends of the Carpenter!

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“READY TO DIE! READY TO LIVE!”



exchanged riding and driving; we loved the adventure and the view, and thoroughly enjoyed our time together! On our way home, we drove on the scenic Smith River Canyon road, northeast out of Crescent City, CA. This road is a continuous series of bends and curves – a delightful motorcycle road. However, on one of the curves, we ran out of road before we finished the corner. The bike went over about a 60 foot cliff into a canyon, but fortunately – actually a miracle I believe – we were thrown off the bike before it flew off the road. (A friend of mine who shared the sentiments of my mother told me, “God reached down and grabbed the two of you and threw the bike away.”) Both my son and I had minor injuries but instantly realized we’d missed a major disaster. Despite the fact that we had nearly died, we were both elated that we were alive. To this day, we both remember that feeling and we are ever so grateful for every day we have been given since.

Having almost died, having almost lost everything, both my son and I agonized over the thought that what if the other had been killed and we hadn’t ... it’s amazing what that experience has given me (and I believe my son as well) for a whole new sense of

being ready to die and **READY TO LIVE!** Just thinking about it gives me a new appreciation for living!

At Friends of the Carpenter, we often have friends who come to the ministry having lost almost everything. As an observer, their life seems like a wreck. However, it’s amazing, almost unbelievable how often they don’t see it that way. In fact, it’s enviable how often they are far more content AND APPRECIATIVE for the simple gifts of life and LIVING, simple gifts of grace and kindness than persons who have many more comforts and security in life.

In a way, it’s funny. My guess is nobody envies my motorcycle accident, probably few even riding one. But I’ve not had anyone uninterested in listening to my story or sharing about my new sense of life. And so it is with the witness and testimony of the friends who come to the Friendship Center. Many come with what the world would gauge as little to give and huge needs. But because many of them have had a near death experience to life’s comforts and conveniences that the rest of us often take for granted, they have a zest and fearlessness for living that is indeed desirable and a tremendous testimony!

The ministry of Friends of the Carpenter is about building positive and productive relationships between those who are homeless with volunteers from faith communities. The Friendship Center is a

safe place – a sanctuary – where people from all walks of life, with different experiences, and special perspectives gather together to form the friendships. It’s a place and a process where both the participants and volunteers become more productive growing in God’s Peace and LIVING.




More volunteers are needed; participants are coming but volunteers are needed to create the diverse community. Every weekday morning at 9:30 am, everyone in the Center gathers for a prayer circle and brief devotional. It’s a special time where we all feel the presence and peace of God. Following the simple, but sacred, devotional time, persons go to different activities in the Center. Currently, we are “gearing up” for the upcoming Rummage Sale. This is in addition to the regular woodwork activities, office work and special projects that are in process. It’s precious to see the transformations occur ... not just to the woodwork and projects BUT TO THE PEOPLE as well! Raw materials and rough edges are re-worked into something pretty. Just as the glue binds the wood parts together, God’s love binds up the Body of Christ. And much like my motorcycle story, people share their life-changing, new-living experiences. People leave the Center “Ready To Live!”

If weekday office hours don’t work for you, there are other options for your involvement:

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FOC volunteers prepare and serve breakfast at Share House every weekday. Arrive at 5:15 a.m.; we’re done by 7:00 a.m. The third Monday of each month – 2:30 to 6:00 p.m. – again, volunteers prepare and serve dinner at Share House. After dinner, people gather for a woodwork activity concluded with a worship service in the dining hall. Each fourth Saturday – 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. – yep, volunteers prep and serve brunch, followed by woodwork and worship. It’s nice if volunteers sign up for a repeating routine for your involvement, but incidental and occasional involvement is also fine and we’ll fit you in. Just come! Please Come! At least make a phone call to inquire how you can become involved.

Sometimes I think people procrastinate getting involved in FOC’s ministry or somehow perceive a sort of parental cautioning with thoughts such as – “It’s risky,” “You could get hurt,” or “It’s somehow dangerous.” But instead listen to what Jesus would say, “If you’re gonna be a Christian, you better be ready to lose your life for others!” Come on folks – “Let’s Ride!” This is much safer than riding a motorcycle and much more meaningful! You’ll be blessed and be a blessing to others!






SUNDAY	MONDAY
13 	Serve SHA Break Open SH 1—3:30
20	Serve SHA Break Open SH 1—3:30
27	Serve SHA Break Open SH 1—3:30 SHARE Dinne Wors
4 	Serve SHA Break Open SH 1—3:30
11 	Serve SHA Break Open SH 1—3:30
18	Serve SHA Break Open SH 1—3:30



BOXES.... WE NEED BOXES!!!!

Please (

APRIL & MAY 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><u>13</u></p> 	<p><u>14</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 1—3:30 pm</p>	<p><u>15</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>16</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p> <p>Noon Worship & Special Movie</p>	<p><u>17</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>18</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>19</u></p> <p>Cook SHARE Brunch & Wood Event</p>
<p><u>20</u></p>	<p><u>21</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 1—3:30 pm</p>	<p><u>22</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am</p> <p>Auction Mtg. 7 pm</p>	<p><u>23</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p> <p>Noon Worship & Church Outing</p>	<p><u>24</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>25</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>26</u></p> <p>“Project Homeless Connect” Fair at Hudson Bay HS</p>
<p><u>27</u></p>	<p><u>28</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 1—3:30 pm</p> <p>SHARE Dinner & Worship</p>	<p><u>29</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>30</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p> <p>Noon Worship & Wood Event</p>	<p><u>May 1</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>2</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>3</u></p> <p>Woodworker Show & Tell</p> <p>Rummage Sale Receiving 9am—noon</p>
<p><u>4</u></p> 	<p><u>5</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 1—3:30 pm</p>	<p><u>6</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>7</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p> <p>Noon Worship & Wood Event</p>	<p><u>8</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>9</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>10</u></p> 
<p><u>11</u></p> 	<p><u>12</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 1—3:30 pm</p>	<p><u>13</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>14</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p> <p>Noon Worship & Newsletter Event</p>	<p><u>15</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>16</u></p> <p>Serve SHARE Breakfast</p> <p>Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am</p>	<p><u>17</u></p> <p>Cook SHARE Brunch & Wood Event</p>
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9th Annual Rummage Sale — June 26, 27, 28

At The Friendship Center - 1600 W. 20th St.

Donations NOW being accepted of Gently Used Treasures;

Collectibles, Electronics, Appliances, Tools, Furniture, Seasonal items, Household goods, Books, Clothing, Sporting goods, Artwork and Music.

During regular business hours: **Monday - Friday, 10 am to 3 pm**

Selected Saturdays: May 3 & June 7, 9 am to 12 noon

Please Give Us a Call! (360) 750-4752 Donations of items are tax-deductible!



FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER

April,
2008

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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 ALL VOLUNTEERS

Please come for an evening of appreciation!

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

WHEN: Thursday, May 15, 2008 - 7:00 pm

PLACE: The Friendship Center - 1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver, WA 98660

OUR VOLUNTEERS LIGHT THE WAY!



Announcing... The Annual Friends of the Carpenter Auction

in Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Ministry!

Sat. Sept. 27, 2008 at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay



Auction Planning Underway!

A General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 7:00 pm

at the Friendship Center - 1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver WA 98660

Help is Needed in Seeking Donations for the Live and Silent Auctions;

Baskets; Decorations; Hospitality; Registration, Cashiering, Check-out;

Set-Up & Clean-Up! Give us a call to add your name to the committee....750-4752

