

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

The Carpenter's Tool Box

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The Carpenter's Tool Box is a monthly publication of FRIENDS of the CARPENTER
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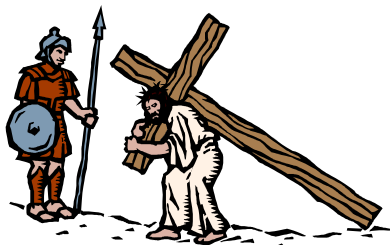
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“Jesus Carried The Cross ... and So Did Simon” by Rev. Duane L. Sich

“The soldiers led Jesus away, and as they were going, they met a man from Cyrene named Simon who was coming into the city from the country. They seized him, put the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.” Luke 23:26

Each year during the Lenten season and particularly during Holy Week, I typically watch two or three portrayals of Christ's crucifixion. Sometimes it's a theatrical performance, or TV showings generally provide numerous opportunities and again this year, I watched Mel Gibson's movie, “The Passion of Christ.” It's important, I think, that we do this – to see again, to empathize anew and to uncomfortably “squirm” as we remember and realize what Jesus did 2,000 years ago to take care of yours and my sins today. Watching the injustice



and agony of Jesus' sacrifice and suffering pierces the heart and soul of every believer. It humbles us, renews our commitment and crystallizes our sense of gratitude. Hopefully it transforms us and transfixes our effort, energy and attitude to be Christ's disciple.

This year as I watched “The Passion of the Christ,” I was particularly moved by the image of Simon. The movie portrayed Simon as just being one of the crowd, but then all of a sudden he was literally “dragged in” and sort of in the wrong place at the wrong time. The soldiers had been beating Jesus all along the path, but then without warning, Jesus fell beaten and bludgeoned where Simon was standing. Scripture says, “The soldiers seized him...” Not surprisingly, Simon resisted and didn't want to do it; but the soldier's ultimatum was, “Do it or die!” So Simon slumped under and took upon his shoulders the weight of the cross. It was a messy affair. The cross was slimy and smeared with the savior's

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“Jesus Carried The Cross ... and So Did Simon”... continued from page 1

sweat and blood. Reluctant and repulsed, Simon leaned in and carried Christ's cross, however the movie portrayed a miraculous transformation.

Yes, Simon carried the cross and bore its weight, but in the movie, not only did Simon embrace the cross, but found himself clinging to Jesus as well. Clutching the cross and each other, Simon and Jesus struggled to stay on course, to complete the journey, to climb the hill to Calvary. The blood of Christ was now not only on the cross, but on Simon also. The suffering of Christ was no longer something to be watched with the rest of the crowd, but a burden to be shared. Theologically, Christ could have carried the cross all the way alone, but He didn't. Truthfully, it was less the soldier's callous inhumanity that coaxed Simon to carry the cross, but rather God's Will that involved Simon in carrying Christ's cross. Simon's transformation occurred on the path to Christ's crucifixion. It is in shared struggles and the mingling of servant's sweat that Christ's sacrifice becomes more clear and the hope of salvation more sweet. Our faith finds a firm foundation when Jesus' journey becomes our journey. As Jesus willingly gave himself for our broken-

ness, we find God's blessing for us in bearing the burdens of our broken brothers and sisters.

Regardless how many times we watch or reflect upon the Passion, none can comprehend nor even imagine the pain and agony our savior suffered for our sake. But we can imagine and become like Simon. Granted, servant hood and suffering seldom seems appealing at first. Like Simon, (ha, like Moses, like Noah, like Jonah, like Peter, Paul and a million other believers) we'd rather “dodge it than do it.” But once you get involved, God guides and gives us what we need, not only to get through it, but to see and celebrate God's glory in it.

Friends of the Carpenter knows this scenario very well. Like most agencies of compassion, human service providers and faith communities, each day the Friends of the Carpenter office receive calls for help from people who are in crisis. To fulfill our mission, we put ourselves in places where people confront us with difficult and sometimes disgusting situations. Broken lives, destructive addictions, dysfunctions and disease bring desperate people before us struggling and falling along their path. Unemployment or

under-employment, a broken relationship with spouse or family, a tragic accident or untimely illness, a stupid mistake can bludgeon anyone, even believers, into buckling under and falling at the weight.

Friends of the Carpenter, and for that matter, churches and other service providers, need “Simons” – someone to help carry the burdens of brothers and sisters in the family of God. Granted, it's an invitation that many may be reluctant or even repulsed to consider, but believe me (or Simon) it's a burden that brings blessings to those who get involved and invested! And in truth, “the Simons” need support as well. The prayers you offer, the gifts you give, the efforts you make contribute to conquering someone's Calvary. Every gift of grace and gesture of kindness helps hold high the cross of Christ.

Thank you for your prayers and support of

Friends of the Carpenter, and on behalf of those whose burden is lighter and future brighter ... THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU!



**6th Annual
Recycle and Renewal Sale**

Friday & Saturday,

June 3 & 4

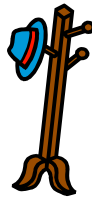
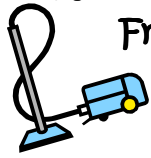
Fri. 9 am—6 pm

Sat. 9 am—2 pm

Salvation Army

1500 NE 112th Ave. - 98684

**A BENEFIT FOR FRIENDS OF
THE CARPENTER**



When doing your Spring Cleaning

.... Keep us in mind for:

Collectibles,

Household Items, Appliances,

Furniture, Tools, Outdoor

Accessories, Children's Items,

and Sporting Goods

(no clothing please!)

**We will receive your
'gently used' items at**

The Friendship Center -

1600 W. 20th St.

Saturday, April 16 - 12 noon - 3 pm

Saturday, May 7 - 9 am - 12 noon

Saturday, May 21 - 12 noon - 3 pm

Thursday, June 2 at the site

of the sale - 9 am - 2 pm

Donation of items are tax-deductible!

Pick up service may be available!

Give Us A Call! (360) 750-4752



IT'S AUCTION TIME!

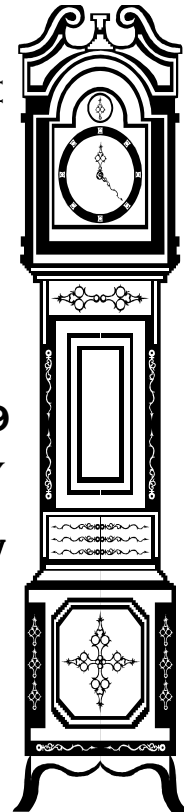
THE PLEASURE OF
YOUR COMPANY IS
REQUESTED AT THE
3RD ANNUAL
FRIENDS OF THE
CARPENTER
AUCTION
AND DINNER.

**SAT. OCTOBER 29
INN AT THE QUAY**





THE TIME IS NOW
TO:

- 1) VOLUNTEER TO ASSIST IN THE PLANNING OF THE EVENT
- 2) DONATE AN ITEM FOR THE AUCTION
- 3) PURCHASE YOUR DINNER TICKET OR TABLE

**PLEASE CONTACT US AT
(360) 750-4752**



APRIL & MAY 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 10	11 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm	12 Serve SHARE Breakfast Friendship Center Activity 9:30—11:30 am	13 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Worship 12-12:30 pm	14 Serve SHARE Breakfast	15 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	16 SHARE Brunch & Event Recycle Sale Drop Off 12 noon—3 pm
17 	18 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm	19 Serve SHARE Breakfast Friendship Center Activity 9:30—11:30 am	20 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Worship 12-12:30 pm	21 Serve SHARE Breakfast Church Liaison Meeting—7 pm	22 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	23 Columbia Presbyterian Men's Gathering
24 	25 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm Cook SHARE Dinner & Worship	26 Serve SHARE Breakfast	27 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Worship & Event 12-2:30 pm	28 Serve SHARE Breakfast	29 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	30 FOC Board of Directors Retreat 9:30 am—3 pm
May 1	2 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm	3 Serve SHARE Breakfast	4 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Worship & Event 12-2:30 pm	5 Serve SHARE Breakfast	6 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	7 Woodworker Show & Tell Recycle Sale Drop Off 9 am—12 noon
8 	9 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm	10 Serve SHARE Breakfast Friendship Center Activity 9:30—11:30 am	11 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Worship 12-12:30 pm	12 Serve SHARE Breakfast FOC Board of Directors Meeting	13 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	14 
15 	16 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm	17 Serve SHARE Breakfast Friendship Center Activity 9:30—11:30 am	18 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Worship 12-12:30 pm	19 Serve SHARE Breakfast Volunteer Appreciation@ Friendship Ctr.	20 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	21 SHARE Brunch & Event Recycle Sale Drop Off 12 noon—3 pm

A letter from a Friend—Bill Jennings

My name is Bill Jennings and I've been homeless almost one year. I would like to tell you a story of how five people came into my life and turned it around. The five angels God sent to me are Duane, Julie, Jan, Barb, and Dan. They are the staff of Friends of the Carpenter.

It started one Saturday morning. I was going to breakfast at SHARE House. (It's a place where the homeless can eat hot meals.) Standing outside the door was this group of people asking me if I wanted to do some woodworking. I said sure because I like working with wood. Plus they gave you a voucher. Mine was for gas. I really needed the gas. Once inside we started with holding hands in a circle. Then we said our name aloud and sang a song called Sanctuary. (I really like that song.) Then Duane started talking how we are all part of the body of Christ. Just that one phrase really started me thinking. I was one that never attended church. I never really thought about church or the Bible. But listening to what Duane said made sense to me. But I just pushed it to the back of my mind. After all I was just there really to get some gas.

It took five or six events listening to Duane speak about God

and faith before the little voice in my head said "Stupid, he's talking to you". For every time I went to an event, I felt he was talking only to me. Finally I went up and talked with Duane. He invited me to the Friendship Center. I did some woodworking there from time to time. I was living out of my car. Trying to find a safe place to sleep at night is a hard thing to do. Friends of the Carpenter asked if I wanted to park my car at the center at night. This would give me a safe place to sleep and I could watch the grounds for them. After that I started going to noon worship on Wednesday afternoons. And again the pastor at the church seemed to be talking only to me. From that point, Friends of the Carpenter bought me clothes so I could go to church on Sundays. They also helped me with a personal problem with my family.

Friends of the Carpenter has helped me in so many ways. With their love and support, and patience with me, it's opened my eyes and I see things in a whole new light. I've found a new job, (I really love it). I've been at it for three weeks now and its going great. My five angels are part of my family now. And I love each and every one of them. And

every volunteer is like my best friend. I know I have a long way to go. But Friends of the Carpenter has put me on a solid foundation. So if you ever wonder what Friends of the Carpenter does with your donation... some of it was used to save a life- - mine. And for that I humbly thank you, and promise to use my new life to help others. Without your support of the ministry, I don't like to think where I might be today. So please keep giving. I know they are helping other people like me everyday. Thank you for taking time to read my story.

God Bless- *Bill Jennings*

CHURCH LIAISON MEETING

When: Thursday
April 21, 2005, — 7:00 pm
at the Friendship Center

Come and find out
about upcoming
Friends of the Carpenter
events

- ♥ Volunteer Appreciation
- ♥ Recycle Renewal Sale
- ♥ 3rd Annual Auction

and ways to encourage
your church members
to be involved!

**FRIENDS of the
CARPENTER**

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FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER

April, 2005

**Return Service Requested To:
PO Box 65358, Vancouver, WA 98665**

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 702
VANCOUVER,
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*

ALL VOLUNTEERS

Please come for an evening of appreciation!

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

WHEN: May 19, 2005, Thursday - 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..."

