

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 13, ISSUE 4 APRIL, 2011

“Going Through Hell To Help” By Rev. Duane L. Sich

“Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made Him share our sin in order that in union with Him we might share the righteous of God.”
2nd Corinthians 5: 21

This title may seem graphic and over-dramatic, but in truth it's exactly what Jesus did for our sake ... and for everyone else's sake also. Jesus didn't have to do it. He could have quit; He could have given up; Yes, He could have just given up ON US and went His own way. But He kept carrying the cross all the way to Calvary for us. As His disciples, Christ is counting on you and me to continue to carry the cross as well; not just the jewelry we wear or impassioned praise songs we sing on Sundays. When we carry the cross in our journey as Jesus did on His, at some point (and forgive me) it's eventually going to “hurt like hell!” We can count on it; Jesus knew what was ahead but He still “hung

in there” ... in every way.

One of the basic beliefs of Friends of the Carpenter states: Reconciliation and Healing Takes Time, Effort and Expense. The messes of life, the mistakes that have been made, realistically mean that the mending and healing aren't going to be quick, easy or cheap. Unless you give up sooner, it will involve extensive time, effort and probably price. Like Christ's suffering and sacrifice for us, it becomes and must be very personal. If (and probably when) we get weary, worn out, or even discouraged or cynical, we can gain strength and renewed motivation by looking again at Jesus's pathway to Calvary and the price He paid for us. Thank God! Really THANK GOD that Jesus didn't give up on us or quit along the way. Others will thank us, or better yet, thank God for us if we don't give up either.

There's another means of making it work. It's working together. The slogan, “Many hands make light work” is true. Holding hands in prayer and in friendship creates a community where the load is lifted together. At the Friendship Center, it's amazing (and often fun) to see how serious situations and circumstances are reduced or refocused in our gatherings. Something special always seems to happen. Many times, it's not so much that the situation changes as the people change – all of us change! As friendships form and the sharing and caring builds between persons, the Body of Christ becomes incarnate; that is; it becomes human and humane right in our midst. Little by little, step by step things change and people change.

Sometimes our sacrifice and suffering doesn't have to be

Continued on page 2

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

★ The Wednesday evening Wood-Turners group that is making 50 rolling pins for the Washington State Blind School Pie Baking Contest, and



Frank Zarafa. We also appreciate the Ridgefield Lions Club who donated money for the cost of creating the rolling pins.

★ Judie Champie, Sally Aalbue and Leslie Washko who

are faithfully filling the shoes of a Volunteer Manager by planning orientations, training new volunteers, doing follow-up and planning the Volunteer Appreciation in May! See announcement on back!



A Ministry Of Relationships

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GOING THROUGH HELL TO HELP

that extreme. Oh, not that we should dodge it or look for an easier way. But sometimes a simple sacrifice can make a significant difference. At our 9:30 devotions the other morning, Pastor Eric Smith related the story of Noah and the flood to situations that we sometimes find ourselves in. On the Ark, Noah was totally surrounded by water: water on the east, west, north and south, as far as the eye could see; no land in sight. After all those long days of wondering, watching, probably worrying; seeing all that water must have created doubts, depression and even disbelief. That's what being surrounded by despair does. But then the dove that Noah sent out came back with an olive leaf in its beak. Pastor Eric asked, "What do you suppose Noah did with that olive leaf?" "Did he just toss

it over-board? Did he stick it in his pocket? Did he put it in a scrap book or stick it in between the pages of his Bible?" No Way!!! We can be sure Noah "Whooped!" He must have danced and ran to show that olive leaf to his wife and children! He (and they) must have "done cart-wheels" of celebration! Noah must have felt his faith renewed and his hope confirmed ...he must have!!!!

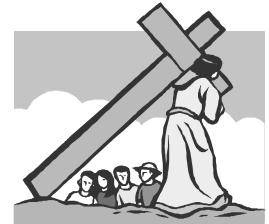
The reality is, you and I can lighten the load of someone in agony or despair; not so much with a "truck load" of cash or "being buried" under the burden of the cross. Sometimes it may be as simple as "an olive leaf" that we share. Sometimes (more often than you would think) just knowing that someone cares, being reassured that God cares, that you are not

.... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

alone, that even if you have sunk to the lowest level, God's love, and the love of others, can lift you up and put you on another path. Sometimes (not always) the suffering can actually be pretty simple in sacrificial terms but tremendous in the transformation power it can have in someone's life.

At Friends of the Carpenter we encourage and welcome your gifts of sacrifice and support in any amount and many forms. Financial support is always needed to under-gird and sustain the ministry. Volunteers provide the personal touch in the interactions and conversations with those who come to the Center. Please call (750-4752) or come in for an orientation and explanation of the wide variety of volunteer opportunities. Our recently

established 2nd Chance Thrift Store (750-3867; 3414 NE 53rd St.) is constantly in need of donations – furniture, clothing, house wares, antiques, tools ... all in good or better condition. Your sacrifice, great or small, continues to carry Christ's cross. Please don't give up – whether it be through Friends of the Carpenter or wherever God calls you to serve, and yes even suffer, don't give up. Jesus "went through hell" for us. May we all follow in His footsteps and continue to carry the cross.



2ND CHANCE THRIFT STORE... IN THE NEWS!

The Friends of the Carpenter 2nd Chance Thrift store was opened in December with dual goals. First, to help fund the homeless outreach program in Vancouver, and second, to provide clean, quality merchandise at affordable prices to the local community. In four months, profits from the thrift store have made it possible to staff and continue some of the FOC programs that were in jeopardy. Also, for the first time in the history of the ministry, FOC has not had to borrow money in the first quarter of the year in order to pay expenses.

Located at 3414 NE 53rd St., the 2nd Chance Thrift Store has been openly welcomed by the St. Johns, St. James

and Minnehaha neighborhoods. We are very appreciative of this support.

The new addition to the store last week was a large, lighted sign on the front of our building. It was installed by Vancouver Sign Company. Our new sign enhances our visibility, and encourages more customers to stop by and take a look!

Donations from FOC members and the community are the bread and butter of the thrift store. Since there is no rummage sale at the Friendship Center this year, we encourage your continued support of our thrift store. We accept donations Monday through Saturday, 10:00 to 4:00. All items must be clean

and in working order.





The personal side of this donation of goods encompasses many community members. One lady just wanted a headboard picked up, and instead filled our whole trailer. Another man filled our trailer, a van, and pickup with goods, and then donated \$50.00 toward gas money. And, from across the river, a phone call from the Benson Hotel developed into six vans full of linens, beautiful bedspreads, throw pillows, clock radios, and irons.

This is what community support is about. This steady stream of donations have helped

the store repay the borrowed start-up money, cover rent and utilities, and keep Friends of the Carpenter operating in the black. Our store affords us the opportunity to gain new volunteers, and gives people the opportunity to support the ministry in a different way. Your donations and time are what feeds the ministry. Thanks for your support.



APRIL & MAY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 17  Palm Sunday	18 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	19 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Community Band @ FOC	20 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am PASSION WEEK EVENT, 1-3 PM	21 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	22 Good Friday Special Devotion & Activity by _____ 9:30—11:30 am	23
24 Happy Easter! 	25 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	26 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Community Band @ FOC	27 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am AFTERNOON EVENT Woodturners meet @ FOC	28 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	29 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	30 Woodworker Show & Tell
May 1 St. John the Evangelist Youth Mission Visit to FOC	2 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	3 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Community Band @ FOC	4 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am AFTERNOON EVENT	5 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	6 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am OUTING TO LILAC & TULIP GARDENS	7 Felida Fair Blessed Arts Fair 
8 Mother's Day	9 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	10 CARE Committee Meets @ 10:30 am Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Community Band	11 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am NEWSLETTER EVENT	12 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	13 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	14
15 	16 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	17 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Community Band @ FOC	18 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am OR Woodworker Guild meets @ FOC	19 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	20 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	21
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NEEDED:

At least 2 Volunteers to participate as activity assistants for 2 to 4 hour shifts on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Help set up, coordinate, clean up activities, prepare and clean up coffee and pastries, visit with our participants, and assist customers with product purchases. Additional Volunteers are needed between 9 and 4 Monday through Friday. Contact Carrie at 750-4752.



Join Friends of the Carpenter on a Special Outing Friday, May 6th, 1 - 4 pm to the Flower Gardens of the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens and the Holland America Tulip Farms. The trip is FREE with the attendance at 2 Morning Activities, or \$5 to help with gas.





April,
2011

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Carrie Slayter, Activity Coord.
Jerry Swan, Financial Secretary

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 Appreciate All our Volunteers by... Celebrating Servants During the Month of May!



We thank you for making a difference in someone's life by your volunteer service with Friends of the Carpenter! We invite you to come by the Friendship Center during the MONTH of MAY... and pick up a gift bag... made just for you, and filled with some special treats! We are truly blessed through your service, and wish to thank you in person.

**The Friendship Center 1600 W. 20th St.,
Vancouver WA 98660** Open: 9 am - 4 pm, Mon.-Fri.
360-750-4752 www.friendsofthecarpenter.org



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NOW AVAILABLE!**

Perfect for
front entries or patios
Handmade Cedar
Planter boxes
15" x 15" x 14"

Filled with a colorful variety
of 15 Tulip bulbs from
Holland America Gardens.
Purchase yours now at the
Friendship Center for
\$50.00.

The Vancouver Community Band is Looking for Musicians and Friends of Music

The Vancouver Community Concert Band rehearses at Friends of the Carpenter Friendship Center on Tuesday evenings 7 – 8:30 pm, starting April 5. Any instrument is welcome! We need help setting up stands and chairs, volunteers to staff the front desk at the Friendship Center, as well as restoring the building following rehearsals. We provide music for the various Friends of the Carpenter activities and perform concerts for the Vancouver community. Contact director Dr. Jim Rourk at 360-735-7806 if you are interested in joining the band, or helping! <http://www.vccb.us>