

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

The Carpenter's Tool Box

Volume 6, Issue # 8

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The Carpenter's Tool Box
is a monthly publication
of FRIENDS of the
CARPENTER
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"Ready To Trade Up"

by Rev. Duane L. Sich

Jesus said, "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A person is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has and buys that pearl." Matthew 13: 45/46

A few years ago I attended a time management seminar at which the instructor asked those of us in the class, "How many persons would sell me your car, AS IS, for \$25,000?" Instantly about 30 hands, including mine went up. Some even holding their car keys, waving them madly, eager to close the deal. At the time, I was driving a 7 year old car with over 140,000 miles on the odometer. What a sweet deal that would have been. Well, he didn't buy anyone's car. But what he said was, "I figured there would be many in the room who would know the approximate value of their car and it would be a "no brainer" to trade up. Obviously, he was right. Then he said, "The lesson you need to learn is, that's exactly how well you should know the value of your time and always be ready to "trade up" – to make the best, or at least better decisions about your time, your

money and your life.

Wow! What a lesson! We are often tempted to think there will be more time or sometime later or a better time when we can get the "important stuff" done. How often have we thrown away time or spent time on things or the wrong people that we knew from the "get-go" was a mistake. There are lessons all around of other persons or even we ourselves when "it got away." Too late, we realize we should have been more careful to watch out and ready to "trade up."

Good things in life and accomplishing meaningful goals doesn't happen because of wishful thinking, or worse yet coveting. It takes commitment instead of caving in or giving up. It takes setting priorities and then following through on the plan. When you and I figure out what the "priceless pearls" in life really are, "trading up" will be a pleasurable and relatively painless decision. Oh, it will cost a lot but

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"Ready To Trade Up" ... continued from page 1

there will be no question of it's worth.

It has been amazing and exciting to see how the Friends of the Carpenter ministry has helped many persons plan and pursue a new path in life and faith, and not just the homeless. There are many we serve who undoubtedly have an abundance of poverty. Poverty caused by various problems – bad decisions, dysfunctions, drugs, alcohol, being dropped or pushed from employment or just giving up when the going got tough. Though they are ultimately responsible for themselves, it's not always been their own fault. Many have had less than ideal support situations or living conditions. Many are from third or fourth generation dysfunctional families. Some don't have a clue where their family is ... fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers who don't care or maybe even know if they still exist. Some didn't get a very good education or perhaps didn't try very hard. There are so many with poor health, pathetic disabilities, dental disasters and serious untreated diseases. They probably didn't realize it was happening at the time, but it's now obviously clear, they "traded down." Either by choice or bad chance, they

never saw "the pearls of great prize" and passed them by. When it starts to turn around, what a joy it has been to hear the testimonies of some of these folks who are grateful for a new friend – words of encouragement, a place of acceptance, people who push them to take another chance. Its humbling to see their sincere gratitude that someone is simply praying for them by name and gently prodding, inviting them to connect with a church family! They are finding that there are still more "pearls" to buy.

It is equally exciting to see how Friends of the Carpenter is having an influence on some who conversely suffer from the poverty of abundance. Oh, its not that God didn't intend or want us to be successful. But in a subtle way, many who have more than ample reserves have twisted their trust away from God and have pretty much chosen to be secure and satisfied in themselves and their stuff. Though they worked hard and justifiably purchased pleasurable comforts and commodities from the fruits of their labor, without

really realizing it they have actually become selfish.

You'd think, and perhaps they think, they have purchased "all the great pearls." But these are the sort of pearls that will eventually and ultimately perish.

It is amazing to watch and to personally experience how becoming friends with someone who is homeless changes your perspective, can change your priorities and re-channel your prayers. Truthfully, it becomes much easier to give and be generous when you are with people who are grateful for so little. It's much easier to feel secure and grateful for what you have when you are with a friend who is trusting in and on God for everything. It's much easier to feel satisfied when the things you are ready to up-grade or throw away become a treasure to a friend you are helping. It's not that this ministry intends to make anyone feel guilty; but rather, it clearly points out the true "pearls of great prize." It pushes everyone to "trade up" from pursuing trinkets to purchasing eternal treasures. Oh, the "pearls of great prize" are not cheap for any of us; it

Continued on page 3



auction. This "Harbor Light" will be on Saturday, June 12, 2004, 6 pm at the Van Nuys Quays in Van Nuys. Tickets are available for \$10 each. Call the



Julie, Marilyn

"Ready to

costs everything said, it's worth it. Take them with you to kingdom.

Again, I give thanks and to the many who are giving for and pursuing the ministry to comfort, mixing and making unique and special



HARBOR LIGHTS AUCTION

Plans and preparations are well underway for our annual auction. This year's theme is "**Harbor Lights**". The auction will be on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2004, 6 pm at the Red Lion Quay in Vancouver. Dinner tickets are available for **\$30.00** each. **Call the Friends of the**

Carpenter office at (360) 750-4752 to reserve your space!

Volunteers have been busy preparing and painting 33 ceramic lighthouses as centerpieces. Each lighthouse is unique and will be items of interest at the auction. A **BIG hug and thank you** to volunteers Julie Sich, Marilyn Andrews, Judy Herrmann,

Virginia Williams, Nadine Swartz, and Sharon Marcotte for spending many hours on the lighthouse centerpieces. Deanna of the **Earth, Glaze and Fire Pottery Studio** in Vancouver and Sarah of **Sarah's Greenware** in Woodland have helped to prepare and glaze the items. Thank you to all!



Julie, Marilyn and Virginia have become "lighthouse" experts!

"Ready to Trade Up"... continued from page 2

costs everything. But as Jesus said, it's worth it and we'll take them with us into the kingdom.

Again, I give thanks to God and to the many who are praying for and paying for this ministry to continue. God is mixing and molding together a unique and special people to

build up the Body of Christ and to bless church families with love. **THANK YOU!** I invite you to become more involved in this ministry and wherever you are, I urge you to be faithful, to figure out your priorities and to be ready to purchase the "pearls of life" God puts before you. Trade Up!

What the Ministry Needs

Someplace in our readership, probably somebody can do or knows a contact of a company or person who:

- ♥ can do regular maintenance and repairs of our forklift.
- ♥ knows where FOC can acquire an eight foot tall rolling ladder for the warehouse.
- ♥ has up to three bedroom dressers for the ladies in the FOC transitional house/duplex.

If it's you, or someone you know, please call the FOC office - 750-4752

The rest of us just need to keep praying and thanking God for providing for our needs!

- ♥ **THANK YOU!**

AUCTION DONATIONS ACCEPTED HERE!

GIFT DONATION—PROCUREMENT DEADLINE—SEPT. 13, 2004

Donor Name _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Gift Item Name _____ Donor Estimated Value _____

Gift Item Description _____

Donor Signature _____ Date _____

Will this be a gift certificate? Yes _____ No _____

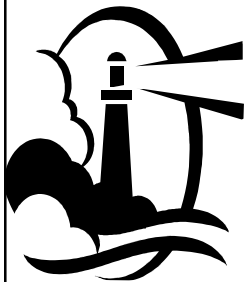
Item will need to be: Picked up Delivered by donor Item attached

Will item be available for display? Yes _____ No _____

I wish to make a financial contribution to assist with the auction. \$ _____

I would like to reserve _____ tickets at \$30 each
_____ table of ten for \$300

A copy of this Gift Donation form will be returned to you for your records



Harbor Lights Auction

A Great Way to Show Your Support !

A De'light'ful Meal is on Board at the
Vancouver Inn at the Quay

Purchase your dinner tickets NOW ~ \$30 each....

Reserve a table for 10 for \$300....

Invite your friends! Invite your co-workers!

Enjoy a Great Event !



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- OSU Bask
- Motorcyc
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COME TO THE AUCTION!

Fun awaits all who come to this auction as we join together to support the ministry of Friends of the Carpenter. The New Horizon Band will fill the room with music as guests gather in the gala banquet room on the Columbia River. The Silent Auction is outstanding this year with something for everyone. A three course dinner will precede the Live Auction. Churches and business organizations have purchased tables for 10. Individual tickets are still available. Call to make your reser-

ations, invite friends, COME! Auction Items are still being received! **Complete and submit the procurement form in this issue.**

- Business items
- Services
- Restaurant dinners and gift certificates
- Vacation cabins or time share week
- Frequent flyer miles
- The "fruits of your hobby or handiwork"

The annual benefit auction is the major fundraiser for Friends of the Carpenter, but it's much more than that. It's a

fun time to gather together, to see and hear about the shared work and witness of our volunteers and benefactors, to celebrate the work that Christ is doing through this ministry.

There are many ways you can support the auction: take this opportunity to bring or pledge a procurement item; buy a ticket to the dinner and better yet invite a friend/s; promote the auction (and this ministry) to your neighbors and friends; and best of all PRAY. Pray not only for the success of the auction but for the support of this ministry. Thank you and Thanks Be To God!








A 'hint' of what's to come at the Auctions

Fantastic Jewelry Surprise

- 10 days at Beach Cabin
- Automobile Services
- San Juan Plane Tour
- Special Music by Jim Fischer
- Specialty Wood Items
- OSU Basketball tickets
- Motorcycle Gorge Trip for 4
- Walnut Couch Back Table
- Wine Barrel Tasting Party
- Mantle Clock
- Maui Condo
- Tea Parties
- Canoe Trip
- Jewelry Box
- Wine
- WSU Football
- Glider Ride
- River Boat Cruise
- Seattle Sonic tickets
- Overnight Lodging
- Lunches & Dinners
- Winterhawk tickets
- Lighthouse Print

AND MUCH MORE !! THERE IS SOMEHTING FOR EVERYONE !!!

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
August 22 UPTOWN VILLAGE FESTIVAL 	23 Cook SHARE Dinner NO Event	24 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	25 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	26 Serve SHARE Breakfast	27 Project Access @ Share House	28
29	30	31 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	Sept. 1 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	2 Serve SHARE Breakfast	3 Project Access @ Share House	4 
5	6 Labor Day	7 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	8 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	9 Serve SHARE Breakfast 	10 Project Access @ Share House	11 Woodworker Show & Tell 9:30 am @ Friendship Center
12 Rev. Sich preaches at 1st UCC Church 10:00 am 	13	14 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	15 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	16 Serve SHARE Breakfast	17 Project Access @ Share House	18 SHARE Brunch & Event
19 	20	21 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	22 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	23 Serve SHARE Breakfast	24 Project Access @ Share House	25  HARBOR LIGHTS AUCTION
26	27 Cook SHARE Dinner NO Event	28 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	29 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	30 Serve SHARE Breakfast	Oct. 1 Project Access @ Share House	2 



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♥♥♥ WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS ♥♥♥

What would we do without them?

Because volunteers are so vital and necessary to the ministry of Friends of the Carpenter, we thought it would be a good idea to highlight some of our volunteers in our monthly newsletter.

GET TO KNOW YOUR VOLUNTEERS.....



Wayne and Marilyn greet Alvin at Share House Event

Wayne & Marilyn Andrews are natives to Vancouver. They are both retired, **Wayne** with 32 years as a painter for Alcoa, and **Marilyn** with 32 years as a school secretary for Vancouver School District – Franklin Elementary School. They were high school sweethearts and will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary later this year! They enjoy family times with their son and daughter and their families. They have 4 grown grandchil-

dren who keep them BUSY!

Wayne likes to fish and watch baseball games in his spare time while **Marilyn** enjoys reading and quilting. **Wayne & Marilyn** are members at 1st United Methodist Church.

“In the beginning” **Wayne & Marilyn** volunteered and embraced the ministry of Friends of the Carpenter. Both started as regular volunteers in September, 1998 helping to assemble the first apple crate flower caddies in Duane & Julie’s garage. From that time their volunteer hours and duties have blossomed and flourished.

Wayne is one of our active woodworkers. One day Duane showed him how to use the scroll saw and he has taken off from there! He cuts the majority of our scroll saw product, so much so that we have dubbed him – “**Sir Cuts-alot**”! **Wayne** has a pick-up with a hitch which he freely shares with

Friends of the Carpenter to haul wood and to pull the trailer. He is a regular on the wood-runs to Wilsonville and other wood hauling events. He actively attends the monthly Woodworker Show & Tell meeting and the “Scroll saw Blitzes”.

Marilyn serves as secretary on the Friends of the Carpenter Board of Directors. She is a regular Hospitality Host volunteer in the office, answering the telephone and doing other office duties.

Wayne and Marilyn are faithful volunteers at our “Point of Entry Events” at Share House and St. Paul Lutheran Church. They have helped with the meal preparation and at the woodworking events.

Wayne & Marilyn have caring hearts and a desire and interest to reach out to others. They actively and intentionally welcome others into their lives and into their church family. We love **Wayne and Marilyn** and are so blessed to have them as part of the Friends of the Carpenter family.

**FRIENDS of the
CARPENTER**

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August, 2004

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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*

The Passing of A Friend—Darlene Chambers

A Memorial Service was held on Thursday, August 12th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church for Darlene June Chambers, age 56, who passed away one week earlier at SW WA Medical Center, due to cancer. Darlene had been a faithful and caring participant and volunteer with Friends of the Carpenter, and had helped with all facets of the ministry, from vendor sales at Farmer's Market, Share House woodworking events, office help and fundraisers. Darlene had an incredible heart for the needs of others and always shared whatever she had. She enjoyed sewing and making greeting cards which she also generously shared. Darlene leaves behind 3 sons, Jimmy, Bobby and Howie, her mother Roberta, sister Dixie, and brother, Howard. This dear, dear 'friend' of the master carpenter... Jesus.... will be greatly missed, but she continues to live on inside us!

