

# The Carpenter's Tool Box

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 8 AUGUST, 2009

## Heavy Loads Made Light By Rev. Duane L. Sich

*"Come to me all who are tired from carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light."* Matthew 11:28-30

For those who don't live in Vancouver, I'm writing this article during our intense heat wave. We've had triple digit temperatures over 100 degrees for several days with a high of 108 degrees. The heat has felt horrible. Finding a cool or even comfortable place has been hard. The offices at the Friendship Center are typically warmer than the warehouse. That's a good thing in the winter, but oh my, not in the summer; the entire warehouse has been

sweltering. We've gone through gallons of water, and truthfully, very little work has gotten done. It's just been too hot.

On the other hand, it's been humbling. There are many who have cooler options in this uncomfortable heat, e.g. air conditioning at home (ha, just having a home is a blessing); those with later year vehicles generally have air conditioning as they travel. People who have homes generally have electric fans, refrigerators with cool beverages and possibly a backyard wading or swimming pool. Many have resources enough to go to an air-conditioned movie or restaurant to escape the heat for awhile. The humbling part is that many of our friends come to the Center without any of these

options; but still they are grateful just to have a place to come inside; a place that, though uncomfortably hot, is at least under cover from the heat of the sun. It quickly makes one realize the blessings and good fortune that are frequently taken for granted. It gives one "a lift" as we each carry our load.

Jesus said, *"Come to me all who are tired from carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on ... for the yoke I will give you is easy; the load I will put on you is light."* When it gets hard to carry our load, when we are weary from the hot and heavy load along our journey, one might ask, "Where is the light load? What is the easy yoke Jesus spoke of?"

Continued on page 2

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

★ Our Auction Invitation Designers: Ellen Haynes, & Esther Ellis, and volunteers from East Woods Presbyterian Church; Marilyn Bither, Julie Burrel, Linda Cacka, LaRae Hess, Judy Hooper, Bonnie Lee, Shelley McEllrath, Diana Nichols, Arla Olsen, Mary Pierce, Carol



Scovil, Sherry  
Scoville, Carol  
Solvasen. Hillary  
Heizenrader, and  
Noelle  
Martinez  
who made  
up the  
work  
team!  
Thank you  
to you all!

★ Nicki, Theron, Gary and Jim... just some of our amazing woodworkers who have created some real works of art for the upcoming Auction!

★ The Youth Mission Team from First Baptist Church of Yucaipa, CA who visited FOC and spent a day 'in service'.



*A Ministry Of Relationships*

The Carpenter's Tool Box is a monthly publication of FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CARE COMMITTEE RECEIVES GRANT!	2
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
FIRST AID & CPR CLASS	3
MT. ANGEL OUTING	3
AUCTION INVITES & WAYS TO HELP	4

## HEAVY LOADS MADE LIGHT

There's a myth about Jesus; it's not in the Bible but perhaps it could be true. It goes like this: We know Jesus, like his father, was a carpenter; actually there wasn't a lot of wood in Palestine so they may well have worked with stone more than wood. In any case, Jesus along with his father Joseph, were probably more like current day contractors – home builders in the construction business. They knew how to make things, how to work with tools, even how to make tools. The myth suggests that local farmers would come to Jesus to build "fitted yokes" for their oxen. They brought them to Jesus because he was really good at it. (That's not so hard to imagine or believe.) But think about it – what is the value of a perfectly fitted yoke? Oxen, of course, were the work animals of the day. Regardless of how strong a team of oxen were, if the yoke was not properly fitted, undoubtedly the animals

would "bock and buckle" under the load. If the yoke pinched or poked the muscles of the oxen, they would stop, they would struggle; the oxens' strength would be significantly compromised. Having a perfectly fitted yoke would maximize the efforts and results of the labor.

In the Greek language, the word "easy" can also be translated, "well fitted." Jesus said, "The yoke I will give you is easy – well fitted." When you and I take on the yoke Jesus has fashioned for us, regardless the size of the load, that yoke will make it easier to bear the load. In our life situations, (each person's is different from everyone else's) it's not so much that the task is reduced or removed, but rather by taking up Christ's cross we are given an advantage, an ability and a strength to make the load seem light.

At Friends of the Carpenter, we make thousands of crosses: enough small pocket

sized ones that we encourage everyone to carry at least two – one for you and one for sharing; our largest cross to date is a 9' by 6' myrtle wood chancel cross that hangs in the sanctuary of EastWoods Presbyterian Church, here in Vancouver. We haven't made any "yokes" yet. (Is that funny?) We do believe and pray that as people assemble and "pick up the cross – or take up their cross," they will feel God's all sufficient grace for their needs. Everyday people come to the Center and join in a community of people praising God. Whatever their situation, they all experience God's load-lifting love and Spirit that makes it easier to cope and carry their load. It's not just the homeless who experience this grace. Those who come with seemingly lighter loads find a new perspective, a new appreciation and renewed strength to carry on.

Christ has fashioned a cross for everyone; no, it's not a wooden one. We welcome

(and truly need) more people to come fit together wooden crosses in our activity events as God fits together the Body of Christ. The whole body is built up in love. For those who support this ministry with your financial gifts, we thank you. The need is now greater than ever. For those who keep FOC in your prayers ... thank you and be assured of ours. And if at all possible, we urge and invite those who can to come and volunteer at the Friendship Center. There is much more to do here than woodwork. There are many tasks that help prepare the center, not so much to be a factory, but rather a place where weary travelers come to find rest. We welcome all to the family of God and invite them, not only to make a cross ... but to take up their cross with new strength for the journey.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### C.A.R.E. Committee Receives Funding!

How exciting it was to get word that the grant for promoting the activities and events of FOC, as well as the ministry and services available was approved by the Archdiocese of Seattle! Planning and work is already underway in the development of a color poster, as well as a new slide show presentation tool. Funds are also being made available for covering the costs of admission and dinners

for our invited participant friends for the Summer Concert and BBQ on Friday, August 15th.


The committee meets periodically throughout the month, and is always open to new members. A component of the committee is that it be controlled or should receive significant and verifiable direction by low-income



persons. We have been very grateful for the input provided by Lynnette Trotter, Bill Jennings, Dario Garza, Paul Boyer, Cynthia Lyle, Dennis McKenzie, Donald Prickett, Wanda Wells, James Ingram, Paul McClellan, Dian Jones, and Sheila Hundley.

C= Community  
A= Awareness  
R= Reaching  
E= Empowerment

The above acronym was created to provide both direction and focus for the participant led committee. All in our community can benefit from the fellowship and services provided by FOC. The purpose of the projects are to empower and inspire by example.




SUNDAY	
<b>AUGUST 9</b> Rev. Sich preaches at Cascade Presbyterian	Op
<b>16</b>	Op
 <b>23</b>	Op
<b>30</b>	Op
<b>6</b>	
<b>13</b> FOC @ Vancouver Sausage Fest	Op Boa

### Adult First Aid at the Friendship Friday, August

Standard First Aid: principles, skills and tion, and Adult CPR. typical emergencies w are emphasized.

**Min. 8 students Scholarship**  
If you a

# AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>AUGUST 9</b> Rev. Sich preaches at Cascade Presbyterian	<u>10</u> Open Shop 1-3:30	<u>11</u> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>12</u> Noon Worship & NEWSLETTER	<u>13</u>  Service at the Friendship Center	<u>14</u> Band Concert & BBQ 5:30—8 pm	<u>15</u> Woodworking Event At Friendship Center
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> Open Shop 1-3:30	<u>18</u> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>19</u> Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Open Shop 9:30-11	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> 	<u>24</u> Open Shop 1-3:30	<u>25</u> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>26</u> Noon Worship MT. ANGEL OUTING 10 am—3 pm	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> First Aid & CPR Class at the Friendship Center 10 am - 3:30 pm	<u>29</u> Woodworker Show & Tell
<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> Open Shop 1-3:30	<b>SEPTEMBER 1</b> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>2</u> Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> Open Shop 9:30-11	<u>5</u> 
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <b>Labor Day - Friendship Center is Closed</b>	<u>8</u> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>9</u> Noon Worship & NEWSLETTER	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> Open Shop 9:30-11  FOC @ Vancouver	<u>12</u> Peace & Justice Fair  Sausage Fest
<u>13</u> FOC @ Vancouver Sausage Fest	<u>14</u> Open Shop 1-3:30 Board of Directors Meeting	<u>15</u> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>16</u> Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> Open Shop 9:30-11	<u>19</u> 3 Weeks until the Auction! Don't forget to make your reservation NOW!

**Adult First Aid and CPR Class to be Offered at the Friendship Center Friday, August 28, 2009 10:00 am—3:30 pm**

**Standard First Aid:** This course teaches fundamental principles, skills and knowledge of first aid, accident prevention, and Adult CPR. Students are prepared to respond to typical emergencies when medical assistance is delayed. On-the-job scenarios are emphasized. Course time: 5 1/2 hours

**Min. 8 students Max. 14 students Cost: \$43.00**  
**Scholarship assistance for staff & friends is needed....**  
**If you are able to help... please contact us!**  
**Register by calling 750-4752.**



**Tour Mt. Angel Abbey & Monastery with Friends of the Carpenter!**

**An Outing on Wed. Aug. 26, 10 am — 3 pm**  
**Trip will cost \$10 for food & gas or "2" Thursday Morning Work Events**  
**Call the Office to join in! 750-4752**



August, 2009

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please check the box and return it to your mail carrier. We pay the postage.

*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*

**2009 Annual Auction & Banquet...October 10..... Invitations in the Mail!**



In the movie the Wizard of OZ, Dorothy follows Glinda the Good Witch's instructions to return home – 'Close your eyes, click your heels together three times and repeat after me - "There's No Place Like Home, There's No Place Like Home, There's No Place Like Home".....'

You can help us reach our goal of helping to connect those without a Faith Home to a Church family by assisting us with this year's Annual Auction and Dinner. We are asking for help with collecting a wide range of items to make the evening of October 10, 2009 a successful one.



We need a variety of prizes to include in our Table Centerpiece raffle again this year. Those items will be artistically and beautifully packaged in a miniature decorated home that guests can purchase for \$20 each. Various prize ideas would include, *but are not limited to*, jewelry, restaurant gift certificates, small tools, candy, bath and body items, etc. We invite you to get creative! Come up with some new ideas we might not have considered. Anything that will fit in one of our centerpieces – think recipe box size – would be most welcome.

Another area where we are looking for donations is for our Silent Auction. If you have an idea for a themed Gift Basket that you could put together for us, we could use your help. Popular possibilities there would include Hobby-related Baskets: Woodworking/Tools, Bird-watching, Fishing, Golf, Crafts, etc. - Child-related Baskets: Reading/Books, Movie Night, Game Night, etc. - or Romance packages: Valentine's Day, Evening at the Theater/Opera/Symphony, Anniversary, etc. If you aren't able to come up with the entire basket, we also would welcome items we can combine into Baskets – bottles of wine, gift certificates, snack food, board games, etc.



Please contact any on staff or call the Friendship Center at 750-4752 for the donation forms and tickets! By e-mail, contact [duane@friendsofthecarpenter.org](mailto:duane@friendsofthecarpenter.org) or [tom@friendsofthecarpenter.org](mailto:tom@friendsofthecarpenter.org) or [jan@friendsofthecarpenter.org](mailto:jan@friendsofthecarpenter.org)

***There are lots of ways to support our Annual Auction!! And we appreciated your support!***