

# 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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### Did Jesus Ever Say, "Get Off Your Butt?"

by Rev. Duane L. Sich

*"After this, Jesus went to Jerusalem for a religious festival. Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there is a pool with five porches; in Hebrew it is called Bethzatha. A large crowd of sick people were lying on the porches – the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed. A man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him lying there and knew that the man had been sick for a long time; so he asked him, 'Do you want to get well?'"*

*The sick man answered, 'Sir, I don't have anyone here to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am trying to get in, somebody else always gets there first.' Jesus said to him, 'Get up, pick up your mat and walk.' Immediately the man got well; he picked up his mat and started walking."*

John 5: 1-9

Jesus asked the sick man, "Do you want to get well?" Think about it: This man had been sick for 38 years. Duh??? Seems like a dumb or at least an obvious question. But wait – why was this man so sick for that long? Why was he sitting with a

crowd of other sick people? Was this some sort of infirmary station? And what about that pool with five porches, packed with blind, lame and paralyzed people, all waiting for the water to swirl which started some sort of race to be the first to jump in. Makes you wonder - was this some sort of a mineral pool, perhaps heated by a subterranean steam vent ... hmm?

Actually, there was a myth about the magical, maybe miraculous power of this pool. The belief was that an angel would periodically come down and stir the water. Whoever got into the water first would receive healing. So sick people would gather or be brought by others to sit and watch, to sit and wait, to sit and wonder if their turn would ever come; people would come and just sit!

Jesus came along, saw the situation and said, "Do you want to get well?" Now notice the man didn't say, "Yes." Rather what did come out of his mouth was a list of

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## Did Jesus Ever Say, "Get Off Your Butt?"

excuses and reasons why he was never the first to make it into the pool, or to be carried there by someone else to make the healing happen. His ready excuse and rationalization was, he just couldn't do it and nobody else would help him. Now do you suppose Jesus really said, "Get up, pick up your mat and walk?" Or could He have meant, "Get Off Your Butt!"

Does it make you wonder, if Jesus walked around our neighborhood today, what would He say? How many times do we, or people we know need not only an encouraging word, but sometimes a swift "kick in the butt!" Perhaps more often than we care to know, any of us can gather with our favorite friends

or groups only to sit around, to wait around and merely watch for something to happen rather than make something happen?

The Friends of the Carpenter gatherings are geared to create an encouraging community. Friends that accept and listen, who care with compassion and kindness, but who also promote and point the way for everyone to do better. Both volunteers and participants (that's all of us) can quickly slip into making excuses or blaming others for things being as bad as they are or not being better. But just as Jesus did, so you and I can challenge each other to "get up and get going." If that's what you need, then "Get Going!"

Volunteers are needed at the

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Friendship Center. Each weekday morning (9:30 am), we gather in a friendship circle at the Center to sing a couple praise songs; we listen to the daily scripture lesson; we pray! Then we "get going!" Tasks and activities mix and mingle the participants and volunteers into small groups for sharing and caring. Just as the sanding removes the rough spots from the wood or the glue puts the pieces together, so the conversations move and motivate people in new directions. Encouragement builds confidence; confidence renews commitment; commitments conclude with real results. So if you're ready to "get going," please COME! Call or come by the Friendship Center to find a task and a time that works for you! Afternoons are open also!

## Lenten Lessons at The Friendship Center (beginning Feb 8<sup>th</sup>)

Rev. Bill Lehmann, a Friends of the Carpenter volunteer woodworker and retired Lutheran Pastor/Professor, will be leading a 6 week "Lenten Virtues" study at The Friendship Center. The first class begins Friday February 8, (noon to 1:30 pm) continuing through Friday, March 14. The topics will be:

Feb. 8—Courage;  
Feb. 15—Hope;

Feb. 22—Justice;  
Feb. 29—Faith;  
March 7—  
Humility; and  
March 14—Charity



The seventh virtue is Wisdom which is the result of practicing the others.

Each session will include 4 parts: 1) The meaning of the virtue; 2) Old Testament examples; 3) Passion failures

and examples; 4) What about us?

Bill is a marvelous teacher with insights, knowledge, experience and humor which makes the class very meaningful and motivational. Class materials will be provided but bring a bag lunch. An RSVP would be nice but not necessary. The class is open to everyone – COME! Bring friends and make friends.

The Clark Co Department staged their "Posse" preparation. Friendship Center volunteers gathered at the Center the



## Annual M

The 9th Annual Carpenter by the January 22 at 7:00 meeting to review at this time. 1600 W. 20th S the office at 7:00

Inquiries regarding Contact Duane President or an (January 22<sup>nd</sup>) consideration a



6th Ann

## Santa's Posse at the Friendship Center

The Clark County Sheriff's Department again this year staged their annual "Santa's Posse" preparation at the Friendship Center. Over 200 volunteers gathered in the Center the week before

Christmas sorting, wrapping, preparing gift baskets for 350 recipient families in our community. The gift baskets were delivered on Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> by squad cars, emergency vehicles, even a



fire truck and many volunteer vehicles all coming to the Center to load up baskets for delivery. When one of our woodworkers came into the Center during the week, his

comment was, "Does Santa have any more toys at the North Pole?" It was a precious sight and a wonderful project that Friends of the Carpenter is proud to partner with the Sheriff's Department.

## Annual Meetings, Board Vacancies & More

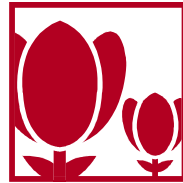
The 9th Annual Meeting of the Corporation of Friends of the Carpenter by the Board of Directors, will be held on Tuesday, January 22 at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend this special meeting to review the 2007 year. Annual reports will be available at this time. The meeting will be held at the Friendship Center, 1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver. Reports may be requested by calling the office at 750-4752.

Inquiries regarding becoming a FOC Board Member are welcome. Contact Duane Sich, Executive Director, Jay Kitchin, Board President or any Board Member. Attending the Annual Meeting (January 22<sup>nd</sup>) at the Friendship Center is a good way to begin the consideration and process.



### Special Events Set for 2008

- H.U.G.S. Open House—Thursday, February 14th
- Volunteer Appreciation—Thursday, May 15th
- Rummage Sale—Thurs. June 26—Sat. June 28
- Warehouse Dance & BBQ—Sat. August 2
- 6th Annual Auction—Sat. September 27
- 6th Annual Christmas Concert—Sun. December 7



## Tulip Planter Boxes Ready

Again this year, Friends of the Carpenter has tulip planter boxes. The tulip bulbs are just beginning to "stick their noses" out of the ground, but we'll keep them safe until spring. Our woodworkers have made special planter boxes; each box contains a removable liner, loaded with 16 to 20 Royal Dutch Garden (Woodland, WA) mixed color tulip bulbs. They'll be beautiful! Come pick up yours! We ask a \$30 donation per planter box.

# JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>20</u> 	<u>21</u> <b>Martin Luther King Holiday</b> Friendship Center Closed	<u>22</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am FOC Board & Annual Meeting	<u>23</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & Movie @ Center	<u>24</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>25</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>26</u> 
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm Cook SHARE Dinner	<u>29</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>30</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & EVENT @ Center	<u>31</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<b>February 1</b> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>2</u> Woodworker Show & Tell
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm	<u>5</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>6</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>7</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>8</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> 	<u>12</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>13</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & NEWSLETTER	<u>14</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am <b>HUGS Open House</b>	<u>15</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>16</u> 
<u>17</u> 	<b>President's Day</b> Friendship Center Closed	<u>19</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>20</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & Event	<u>21</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>22</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>23</u>
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Remember the book about a student (M) reconnected with a professor (M) who contracted lateral sclerosis (M) Gehrig's disease touching stories weekly Tuesdays together visiting laughing, crying helping each other and carry on. at the Friendship many other times when we invite gather to experience setting.

At the Friendship each morning gather for a Prayer a few praise Tuesdays, local turns leading devotion and more.



We would ask pants coming, the activity as wishes to interact

## Tuesdays with, ...no not Morrie, ... but many!

Remember that best selling book about a former college student (Mitch) who reconnected years later with a professor (Morrie) who had contracted amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Lou Gehrig's disease. It's a touching story about the weekly Tuesdays they spent together visiting, sharing, laughing, crying, hoping and helping each other to cope and carry on. Well Tuesdays at the Friendship Center (and many other times as well) are when we invite persons to gather to experience a similar setting.

At the Friendship Center, each morning at 9:30 am, we gather for a Prayer Circle and a few praise songs. On Tuesdays, local pastors take turns leading a brief time of devotion and reflection. It's

a neat way for participants to meet pastors, but also for all of us to meet each other. After devotions, we move into the warehouse for woodwork activities. But the activities are merely the method, setting the stage for the sharing that follows. Laughter, life's lessons and lots of love fills the room. Each person simply brings themselves but takes home something special, something holy. It happens every time.

Actually, it happens everyday; but Tuesdays are a good starting place. Volunteers are welcome and needed to make the mix happen. Please consider coming.

Other entry points for this fellowship are Wednesdays – Noon Prayers at St. Paul's Lutheran Church; 12:00 noon, 13<sup>th</sup> & Franklin Street, in the

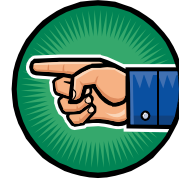
Sanctuary. Pastor Chris Nolte leads the prayer service beginning with beautiful music. You should hear Chris play the piano. **REALLY, YOU SHOULD HEAR HIM!** But other blessings abound as well. About 12:30 or so, the service is over and we load up friends and find our way to the Friendship Center. Again, woodwork activities and good fellowship form friendships that move and motivate each person to a closer walk with God, a stronger sense that we can face whatever lies ahead of us. It happens Thursday and Friday mornings as well. 9:30 am – Prayer Circle followed by activities and fellowship. Come spend Tuesdays or whenever it works best for you ... come spend TIME in this place and with people who will help all of us feel and fit in to the Body of Christ. Come!

## **WE WANT YOU!!!**



- Hospitality Hosts – The first person to greet all who come to the Center and to answer the telephone is the Hospitality Host. There are morning (9:00 am – 12:00) and afternoon (1:00 pm – 4:00 pm) shifts available. Maybe you would like to commit to one morning or afternoon a week. This is a great way to meet and greet people!
- Product Room/Warehouse Hosts – As we are trying to have more activity at the Center, we find that we need more volunteers to be on the premises.

We would ask these volunteers to be very flexible as to their tasks. As we have participants coming, we would ask our volunteers to be active supervisors – participating in the activity as well as supervising. So we need and want more volunteers on the premises to interact with all who come to the Center.



**Give Tom a call to volunteer! 750-4752**

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 Julie Sich, Product & Center Activity Coord.  
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FRIENDS  
 of the  
 CARPENTER

January, 2008

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 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*

**FRIENDS of the CARPENTER**  
**H.U.G.S. "OPEN HOUSE"**  
 (That's...Hats, Underwear, Gloves, & Socks)  
**1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver**

**Tuesday**  
**February 14**  
**11:30 am to**  
**2:30 pm**

Dear Friends, let  
 us love one  
 another,  
 because love  
 comes from  
 God.  
 1 John  
 4:7

- Learn more about the ministry of Friends of the Carpenter!
- Enjoy an afternoon of refreshments and spirit filled fellowship!
- Come and find a special gift of Love!

H.U.G.S. will be distributed to our many friends and The Friendship Center will be open for tours to Service Providers  
**PLEASE COME AND SEE US!**