

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

The Carpenter's Tool Box

Volume 7, Issue # 6

June, 2005

FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER

The Carpenter's Tool Box is
a monthly publication of
FRIENDS of the
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“Holy Kisses” by Rev. Duane L. Sich

“And finally my friends, farewell; listen to my appeal – strive to be like Christ, live in harmony with all people, be at peace and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.” 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

From his prison cell, the Apostle Paul said his “good byes” to his friends. As we know, he had already written many things to them, but in his closing words he recapped and capsulated the core of the Christian faith: 1) strive to be like Christ, 2) live in unity with all people, and 3) be filled with God’s peace. In a nutshell, that’s it! Don’t just be a believer, be a ‘behave’ and behave like Christ – be willing to serve and sacrifice. In addition, believers need to remember that in order to love God, you must also love your neighbor; and it’s a love that recognizes and requires harmony – realizing that we are all different and there’s bound to be stress points as well as points of interest. But like beautiful music, or for that matter as Paul wrote earlier in his letter, like the different parts of the body, when

all the parts work in harmony the body is built up in love. And finally, be filled with peace – the peace that passes understanding. In today’s world that peace is so needed but can be difficult to find or accept. There is so much that we don’t understand. So many unanswered questions – “the whys and what ifs,” “the how come” and the “that’s not fair, that’s not right” – dilemmas that we all probably deal with almost daily. Of course we need to be at peace. But living in God’s peace is not being passive or caving in to complicated problems. Rather it’s plugging into God’s power and trusting that God is watching over us and will help us sort out a positive solution.

So Paul gave his friends this thumbnail sketch of priorities for faith, and then he said, “Greet one another with a holy kiss.” Hum, what is a holy kiss? Wonder what it was in Paul’s time, and what could it possibly mean in our time? Our society is so saturated with secular and seductive displays of relational behavior. Romantic portrayals and erotic

Continued on page 2

Holy Kisses—continued from page 1

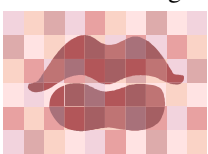
passions flood our television screens, billboards, magazine and newspaper ads. Even public conduct and expressions of personal caring often cross the line of anything which could be considered holy. So what is a holy kiss? What did Paul mean?

In a recent discussion with one of our participants, she said that when she was a child, her mother told her that it was not only polite but necessary to kindly acknowledge other persons. Her mother said, "Whenever you meet someone on the street, or see another person, regardless if they are a friend or someone you don't know, you should acknowledge them with a smile, eye contact or perhaps a greeting." In our discussion, my friend said she thought that is what the Apostle Paul meant as a holy kiss – giving every person, all persons respect. Obviously, it's important to be careful; and my friend admitted that she has gotten some strange and sometimes uncomfortable "come backs." But generally, she said, it feels good and it feels right – to just behave and believe that every person deserves respect, a holy kiss if you would!

It's amazing how powerful a holy kiss can be, nothing

seductive, nothing suggestive, just simple acknowledgement and respectful kindness. At our Friends of the Carpenter events and activities, I see holy kisses coming and going every which way! People coming together – many long-time friends but always newcomers – each one willing to hold hands, join the circle, work together, sing the praises and say prayers together. These holy kisses convey God's love, and rather than lips touching, hearts are joined and the Body of Christ comes together and is built up in love. When we depart, we carry the kisses with us and are encouraged to pass them along to others – all others! Paul was right-on, and what a wonderful world it would be if we all greeted and treated each other this way.

Thanks to all who are "blowing kisses" toward this ministry. Your prayers, your financial support, your encouragement and participation are making a miracle happen. People's lives are being touched and transformed, not only among the homeless but among the whole circle of friends who gather together.



Thank You,
God Bless
You and a
Holy Kiss
for you!

Volunteer Appreciation 2005 "We thank God for you..."

Volunteers are a vital part of the ministry and **WE ARE SO GRATEFUL!** Our Volunteer Appreciation celebration for 2005 was held on May 19th at the Friendship Center. It was an evening to thank God for our many volunteers who willingly serve and give from their hearts.

We are thankful for Bill Jennings and Lorenzo De Vargas, Program Director at Share House who both spoke during the evening. We are also thankful for Dawn Klinski who created a wonderful video presentation highlighting the many different ways to volunteer with Friends of the Carpenter.

We give thanks for all who attended!



How many volunteers does it take to set up a crib???
Clips from the Renewal & Recycle Sale!

What Friends of the Carpenter Means to Us

by Ronald Thorsen

by Nancy Bisbee, Volunteer

“**F**” means the friendship that they give to me.

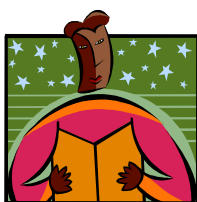
“**O**” means the opportunity for me to grow more close to the Lord.

“**C**” means the companionship that they give to me.

Now here is my letter about the Friends of the Carpenter:

I have met all the Friends of the Carpenter and they all are so sweet to me. They put on events for people to fellowship with each other so that people who don't know the Lord, they can open their minds and their hearts and let the Lord have His way and come into their lives. Every time I go to these events, it gives me the chance to fellowship with everyone there at all the events.

Friends of the Carpenter is helping me with a tutor to come in and get me ready for my GED.



And my tutor is so nice. Thank you to FOC for getting me a tutor.

For me, Friends of the Carpenter was only a name, some beautiful wood products on occasional display, and Rev. Duane Sich's face -- until a few weeks ago. When teaching a class at my church, Cascades Presbyterian, I encountered the challenge on Dr. Tony Campolo's video course "Seize the Day" that we go out into the world to give service: he urged ten hours a week! "Slim chance of that," I thought. "I have jobs, a family, responsibilities!" And yet, he was right! It could not have been coincidence that led me to read the FOC newsletter, which arrived a few days later, more closely than usual. An article there related a young man's life-change through FOC, encouraged by the support of volunteers, and what I read touched me. Still, what skills could I share?

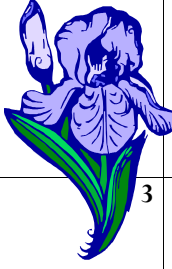


Change can begin with small steps. As an English teacher for nearly thirty years, I have often seen a little confidence improve a person's outlook toward reading, writing --

maybe even toward himself or herself. A little unsure of what to say but determined not to talk myself out of this impulse, I called FOC and stumblingly explained to Duane that I would like to help someone get back on the road to college. He rejoiced over my offer -- was THAT a boost for me! -- and said he would keep me posted.

Only a few days later, Duane called to talk to me about Ron, a hard-working, personable fellow who might be willing to let me tutor him. After meeting with me, Ron agreed, and I am learning a great deal in this process. Now Friends of the Carpenter means many welcoming faces and names, a good place where coffee is always on, and an opportunity for me to grow in a new way. My volunteer time is only an hour a week (not the ten Tony is urging), but it's a start. And that beautiful cross with the dove -- the one I've worn every Sunday for years -- has more meaning than ever.

Our thanks to the many volunteers who are making a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors in Christ!

JUNE & JULY 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
June 19 Rev. Sich preaches @ Beautiful Savior Lutheran 8:30 & 11 am -Happy Father's Day!	20 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm "Glenwood Place Sr. Living" Friendship Tour	21 Serve SHARE Breakfast Friendship Center Activity 9:30—11:30 am	22 Serve SHARE Breakfast	23 Serve SHARE Breakfast	24 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am FOC Display at Meeting-	25 Presbytery Milwaukie, OR
26 	27 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm Cook SHARE Dinner and Worship	28 Serve SHARE Breakfast	29 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Worship and Event 12-2:30 pm	30 Serve SHARE Breakfast	July 1 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	2
3	4 HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!	5 Serve SHARE Breakfast	6 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Worship and Event 12-2:30 pm	7 Serve SHARE Breakfast	8 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	9 
10	11 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm	12 Serve SHARE Breakfast	13 Serve SHARE Breakfast	14 Serve SHARE Breakfast	15 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	16 Cook SHARE Breakfast and Event
17 	18 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm Backyard Ministry Youth Project with Friends of the Carpenter	19 Serve SHARE Breakfast	20 Serve SHARE Breakfast	21 Serve SHARE Breakfast	22 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	23
24	25 Open Shop 1:30-3:30 pm Cook SHARE Dinner and Worship	26 Serve SHARE Breakfast	27 Serve SHARE Breakfast	28 Serve SHARE Breakfast	29 SHARE Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	30

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Romaine Resnick –
a woman of wisdom.

“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue.”
Proverbs 31:25-26

Volunteer **Romaine Resnick** is an interesting person, full of wisdom! At 86 years young she has had many life experiences that have formed and molded her. When talking about her age, she said, *“The advantages to growing older are that there are many new challenges to meet.”*

Coming to Vancouver in 1981,

Romaine has lived in many different places – from California and Mexico to Nevada, Idaho and Oregon. In her earlier years she served with Wycliffe Bible translators in Mexico. She also served for 6 ½ years with Village Missions in Avery, Idaho and Elsie, Oregon. The Village Missions is a community church sponsored by the Christian Women’s Club in towns without any evangelical witness. She has three children, 7 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren who love and support her!

Once a month for the past 4

years at her church, Trinity Lutheran, **Romaine** has displayed the Friends of the Carpenter wood products. Just recently she has retired from doing this because macular degeneration has taken away her eyesight. When asked about her loss of eyesight, she said, *“The structure wears out, but the spirit remains strong!”* Romaine’s spirit is very strong and sure!

We thank God for Romaine’s strong spirit that enables her to have wisdom and a positive outlook on life; and **we thank Romaine** for her faithful service to Friends of the Carpenter!

Renewal and Recycle Sale— 6th Year of Success—\$3 100 Raised



We give thanks for **all** the volunteers who helped with the Recycle Renewal Sale! Wayne & Marilyn , Debbie, Shane, Harriet, DeVon, Jack & Elaine, Margit, Dave, Ira, Jennifer, Marcia & George, Bill, Barbara, Steve & Pam, Mark, Ron, Clarice, Karen, Sandy, Nora, Dora, Jay & Sue, Audrey, Peggy, Ray, Doug, Bob, Wayne, Rodger, Dean, Olie, Robin, Sharon, Lou, Terrie, Londa, Cindy, Sage & Chynna, Van, Jim, Esteban, Bill, and Nelson .

We thank Jim Southwood and Van McClain for the use of their trucks to haul the stuff to Salvation Army: the AAMEN’s group for helping to load, Butcher Boys for donating the hamburgers and hot dogs, Share House for donating the buns, Mary Ann Joziwak and her son at Frito Lay for donating chips.

Also to Salvation Army for letting us invade and use their space for the weekend – the Salvation Army staff has been very welcoming and generous to us.

We are very grateful for ALL who have contributed to this fundraising event!



How many volunteers does it take to open a stroller??!

**FRIENDS of the
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June, 2005

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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*

**3RD
ANNUAL
AUCTION
& DINNER**



Auction Ticket Reservation

Return this form to:
Friends of the Carpenter
PO Box 65358
Vancouver, WA 98665



**SAT.
OCT. 29
2005
6:00 PM**

I WOULD LIKE TO
PURCHASE ____ DINNER
TICKETS (\$35.00 EACH)

I WOULD LIKE TO
PURCHASE A "TABLE"
FOR DINNER (\$350.00)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

"EVERYTHING ON EARTH HAS ITS OWN TIME AND OWN SEASON." Ecc.3:1