

# FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

## The Carpenter's Tool Box

Volume 9, Issue # 5

May, 2007



The Carpenter's Tool Box is a monthly publication of FRIENDS of the CARPENTER  
1600 W. 20th St.  
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### No Easy Path For Either

by Rev. Duane L. Sich

*“Go in through the narrow gate, because the gate to hell is wide and the road that leads to it is easy, and there are many who travel it. But the gate to life is narrow and the way that leads to it is hard, and there are few people who find it.”* Matthew 7: 13 – 14

I've often heard it said, even thought it myself, “How generous I'd be if I won the lottery.” Maybe it's motivated by faith and a charitable thought, but truthfully, it's mostly seeking a simple way to do a hard thing. Think about it – Jesus totally sacrificed Himself so that our sins would be forgiven. Nobody is richer than God; yet God didn't take the simple way out or the easy path to the cross. The testimonies that truly touch a person's heart is when someone we know gives a personal gift that is a sacrifice of love, a gift of grace and probably involves the expense of time or money.

When this sort of gift is given, both the receiver and the giver know how precious the gift is. It's not easy to keep that kind of friendship going and growing ... but it's ever so worth it; and neither person wants to waver from that path.

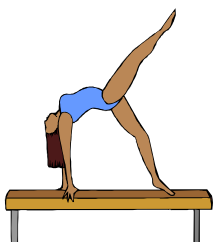
It's also hard for those who have fallen off the path to find their way back. At Friends of the Carpenter we have many who have “burned their bridges” to family, friends, employment or any positive peer association. Their path has frequently lead to depression, dysfunction, drug or alcohol addiction and dead-ends. “Climbing up the canyon walls” of their devastated life is no easy task. Giving up or just getting by with “hand outs” can become the path of least resistance and leads to a sorrowful waste.

Continued on page 2

### No Easy Path For Either ... continued from page 1

Finding and staying on the narrow path takes commitment, desire, effort and in all likelihood a lot of support and encouragement from friends. Several years ago when I presented this thought through a Children's Moment object lesson. I asked a young gymnast friend to assist me. She was probably 15 years of age, a very disciplined athlete and had won several gymnastic competitions. Though it would be an unusual setting, I asked her to demonstrate some balance beam maneuvers on the 6" banister of the chancel choir loft. (An official balance beam is about 4 inches wide.) She agreed. I asked the ushers that morning to act as spotters. Marci did a competition-like series including a round off back hand spring, a cart wheel, a side straddle split and a full front flip landing upright, squarely on her feet – WOW! It was amazing and well beyond any of the kids or adults ability, or even imagination to trying. But what it demonstrated was that for Marci, because of

her discipline (which her father said was 4 to 6 hours of daily practice) and her developed skill ... it was fairly easy for her to stay on "that narrow path."




In faith and sometimes in life's priorities and predicaments, it can be easy to get off track. Those who have earned comforts and rewards in life can get lax or even lazy to generous stewardship and sharing. For those whose life has slipped into a deep pit, the temptation to rely on pity or just "pack it in" can be irresistible. Like Marci, with good coaching, commitment and the desire to succeed ... and spotters, a rally squad, family and friends who all join hands to hold each other up (in prayer) and hold each other close in loving accountability ... the narrow pathway is very possible.

For those who support

Friends of the Carpenter with your prayers, your financial gifts, and most importantly showing up in person (both here at the Friendship Center and wherever you serve in ministry), THANK YOU! My prayer is that God will direct all our paths to more generous sharing and serving – even dancing and doing gymnastics on the narrow path – as we celebrate God's love together!

**Announcing....**  
**A FRIENDS of the**  
**CARPENTER**  
**WAREHOUSE DANCE**  
**and BBQ**  
**Saturday, July 21, 2007**  
**5:00 -**  
**8:00 pm**  
**Featuring**  
**the tunes**  
**of**  
**Beacock's**  
**New**  
**Horizons**  
**Dance Band, held at the**  
**Friendship Center**  
**1600 W. 20th St.,**  
**Vancouver, WA 98660**  
**COME AND MEET NEW**  
**AND OLD FRIENDS!**



# 8th

## Thur.



# The Fr

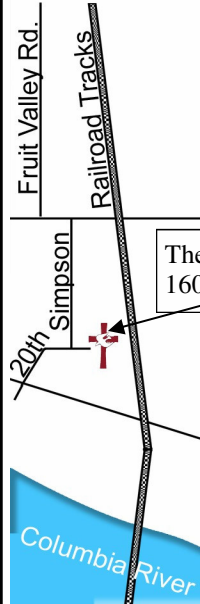
  

# HUGE A

### Useable

### Fur



# 8th Annual Rummage Sale

Thur. & Fri. 9 am—6 pm Sat. 9 am—12 noon



## June 7, 8, 9



### The Friendship Center 1600 W. 20th St.

### HUGE Amounts of STUFF For SALE at Great Prices!

### Hot Dogs & Burgers served too!

Useable Electronics, Collectibles, Household items, Appliances,  
Furniture, Tools, Seasonal Items, Outdoor Accessories,  
Children's Items, Clothing, Books,  
Music, Artwork, and Sporting Goods.



Give Us A Call! (360) 750-4752



Donations ONLY Accepted  
UNTIL June 1 st!

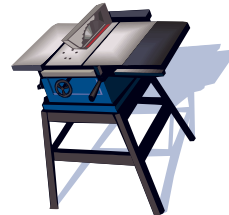
At the Friendship Center

All are tax-deductible!




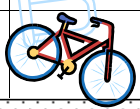
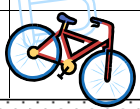




SHARE THIS FLYER  
WITH A FRIEND!

A Benefit for  
Friends of the  
Carpenter



# MAY & JUNE 2007

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Happy 13 Mother's Day!</b><br> | <b>14</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>1:30—3:30 pm | <b>15</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Center Devotion & Activity<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>Open Shop 1pm<br>Recovery Class | <b>16</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>Noon Worship                              | <b>17</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am | <b>18</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Share Outreach<br>8:30—11:00 am<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am     | <b>19</b><br>SHARE Brunch<br>Rummage Drop Off<br>10am-2pm<br>           |
| <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>1:30—3:30 pm | <b>22</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Center Devotion & Activity<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>Open Shop 1pm                   | <b>23</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>Noon Worship<br>Auction Proc. Meeting 7pm | <b>24</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am | <b>25</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Share Outreach<br>8:30—11:00 am<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am     | <b>26</b>  |
| <b>27</b><br>                      | <b>28</b><br>*Memorial Day<br>Friendship Center Closed          | <b>29</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Center Devotion & Activity<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>FOC Board Meeting               | <b>30</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>Noon Worship & EVENT                      | <b>31</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am | <b>June 1</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Share Outreach<br>8:30—11:00 am<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am | <b>2</b><br>Woodworker Show & Tell<br>LAST DAY for Rummage Drop Off<br> |
| <b>3</b><br>Rev. Sich preaches at St. Paul Lutheran Church 10 am   | <b>4</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>1:30—3:30 pm  | <b>5</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Center Devotion & Activity<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>Open Shop 1pm                    | <b>6</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>Noon Worship                               | <b>7</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast                                | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b><br>  |
| <b>RUMMAGE SALE @ Friendship Ctr.</b><br>Thursday 9am-6pm      Friday 9am-6pm      Saturday 9am-noon               |   |  |   |  |   |  |
| <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>1:30—3:30 pm | <b>12</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Center Devotion & Activity<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>Open Shop 1pm<br>Recovery Class | <b>13</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>Noon Worship & Newsletter                 | <b>14</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am | <b>15</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Share Outreach<br>8:30—11:00 am<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am     | <b>16</b><br>SHARE Brunch & Event<br>                                 |
| <b>17</b><br>                   | <b>18</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>1:30—3:30 pm | <b>19</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Center Devotion & Activity<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>Open Shop 1pm                   | <b>20</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am<br>Noon Worship & Outing                     | <b>21</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am | <b>22</b><br>Serve SHARE Breakfast<br>Share Outreach<br>8:30—11:00 am<br>Open Shop<br>9:30—11:30 am     | <b>23</b>  |

## Housing

Many of our homeless have finding a safe legal place to Yes, legal??? homeless in probably in n Vancouver, if you sleeping in (in a park, on t in a stairwell) car on the stre one) and write fine can be up they had that they'd surely b you do have work/day lab donation or y check) the leas our area is abo – that's \$900 p you can imag room is at b probably Obviously, a \$ room raises th plus per month modest accom include a b microwave ov simple meal a make the nigh more comforta take your n depressing situ

Now go back of this article . **FRIENDS!'** T not statistics, n

## Housing and A Helping Hand

Many of our friends who are homeless have a tough time finding a safe place or even a legal place to spend the night. Yes, legal??? It's illegal to be homeless in Vancouver and probably in most cities. In Vancouver, if the police find you sleeping in a public place (in a park, on the river bank or in a stairwell) or even in your car on the street (if you have one) and write a citation, the fine can be up to \$400. Ha, if they had that kind of money, they'd surely be in a motel. If you do have money (from work/day labor, a charity donation or your government check) the least costly motel in our area is about \$30 per night – that's \$900 per month – and you can imagine, that motel room is at best modest and probably deplorable. Obviously, a \$50 to \$70 motel room raises the rate to \$1,500 plus per month; though still a modest accommodation, it may include a better bed, a microwave oven to make a simple meal and a TV to help make the night pass by a bit more comfortable and to help take your mind off your depressing situation.

Now go back to the beginning of this article ... "Many of our FRIENDS!" These persons are not statistics, not strangers, not

someone just standing on a street corner. These persons are people who have come to Friends of the Carpenter through our outreach events, people who have responded to our invitation to connect with people of faith and congregations of people who care. These are friends who truly want to change their life situation and would take the hand of someone (or ones) who would help them "up!"

What is needed: Sometimes its as simple as money. These friends can sometimes afford the monthly rent of an apartment but cannot afford the first/last month plus deposit to "get in." More often our friends need a shared living situation ... a landlord who will trust FOC's referral and allow them to share the rent. If you are or know a landlord who is willing to allow shared rent (when neither tenant can afford the rent alone) please call Friends of the Carpenter. Another option is to rent out a room in your home. If you have a guest room, a basement or "upper room" living space to spare and would appreciate some revenue yourself, we have just the way to help you and one of our friends, who undoubtedly will soon become one of your friends.



Friends of the Carpenter will not only help set up the arrangements but continue to "stand by" the arrangements and "stand with" the people to support and sustain the agreement. It could be short term or as long as is needed and working. If you or someone you know is willing to consider this kind of housing assistance and helping out a friend, call FOC, 750-4752.

### CELEBRATE THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

**A Faith Based Class For People Who Need Help In Their Addiction With Drugs & Alcohol. Also For Those Wanting to Support and Learn More about the Recovery Process.**

**Facilitated by Brian D. Collister**

**LOCATION:** Friends of the Carpenter - 1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver, WA 98660

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 15th

**TIME:** 6:00 pm

**CONTACT:** Brian at (360) 773-2448

**FRIENDS of the  
CARPENTER**  
1600 W. 20th St. 98660  
P.O. Box 65358  
Vancouver, WA 98665  
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Jan Cox, Program Manager  
Cell Phone: 360-936-3421  
Barbara Williams, Volunteer Coordinator  
Cell Phone: 360-936-3490  
Dan Nicholas, Shop Foreman  
Cell Phone: 360-771-0761  
Julie Sich, Product & Center Activity Coord.  
Judy Enders, Financial Secretary  
Email: Duane@friendsofthecarpenter.org  
WEB PAGE: friendsofthecarpenter.org

FRIENDS  
of the  
CARPENTER



May, 2007

P.O. Box 65358  
Vancouver, WA 98665

*Return Service Requested*

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WA

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*



## 5th Annual Auction and Banquet Saturday, October 6, 2007 Red Lion Inn at the Quay



- *Proceeds to Benefit Friends of the Carpenter -  
A Ministry of Relationships; and Hope for the Homeless*

### **NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE AUCTION!**

BUSINESS PRODUCTS, SERVICES, WEEKEND OR WEEKLONG  
COTTAGES, DINNER ENGAGEMENTS, SPECIALTY HOBBY OR SPORTS  
ITEMS, ATHLETIC OR ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS, NOVELTY GIFTS,  
BASKET ITEMS, CERTIFICATES, ETC.

Your gift and generosity will be acknowledged in printed form and  
shared with the auction attendees. All gift/s are tax deductible.

Call (360) 750-4752

An Auction Procurement Form will be sent to you.