

The Carpenter's Tool Box

Christ calls us to minister with all in need of safe haven by being a caring fellowship
and providing a sense of purpose through interaction with people of faith

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Don't Just Help Someone Out..... Help Them In

By Rev. Duane L. Sich

"Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts." "If the foot were to say because I am not a hand, I don't belong to the body that would not keep it from being a part of the body. If the ear were to say, because I am not an eye, I don't belong to the body..." "If the whole body were just an eye, how could it hear? And if it were only an ear, how could it smell?" "And so there is no division in the body, but all its different parts have the same concern for one another. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised; all the other parts share its happiness." Corinthians 12:12, 15, 25

Friends of the Carpenter was "born" (13 years ago)

because of my frustration that church charity was ineffective and congregational hospitality was insincere. This scenario occurred in the church I served over and over, and in all likelihood, in most other churches as well. Those who are homeless or in crisis come to a church seeking assistance; they hope, maybe even believe that something good will happen, that someone will care and "come through" in helping them out. After sitting and sharing with the pastor (or whoever else might be in charge of benevolence) if funds are available perhaps a night in a motel, a voucher for gas, groceries or medication might be offered. Sadly much like when a business transaction is completed, after the help is handed out the assumption, expectation

and even the desire of both the donor and the recipient is to leave and go out rather than to stay longer. To go further to figure something out for either party gets harder. Getting personally involved takes more time and might reveal more truth about the problem and the gift than either party wants to explain. But if it stops with the hand out and going out, at best it's "a band aid" that really requires better treatment. Regardless how good the gift or how great the need, only helping someone "out" is the wrong direction. Helping them "fit in" is a better solution and a much bigger and beneficial gift.

At the Friendship Center, volunteers often ask, "What do you want me to do?" Being present and being ready to receive guests is the

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

★ Salvation Army, Divine Consign and Kathleen Honeycutt for supplying cookies and cupcakes for our Halloween HUGS Event & Party on Friday, October 28th!

★ All the churches and individuals who brought in Hats, Underwear, Gloves and Socks for the party as well!

★ New members of the Board of Directors, and the faithful continuing ones!



★ New woodworker, Richard McNully for hand carving a new wood sign for Friends of the Carpenter.

★ John & Mary Lynn Shilvock and Rick Stello, for coordinating the hospitality and cooking for the Sept. Veteran's Board meeting at the Friendship Center.

FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER

A Ministry Of Relationships

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

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Don't Just Help Someone Out, Help Them In ... Continued from page 1

most important task; it truly is the greatest gift. Being patient but also pro-active to watch and welcome all who come to the Center. Oh, there's never a shortage of what to do. It's a warehouse "for Pete's sake," and there's either a mess to clean up or one to make as we work together on a project. Think of it this way: we are human beings, not human doings. The tasks we do at the Friendship Center are primarily designed to build friendships, not products. The woodwork or whatever other activity we do is the vehicle for friendships to be formed. The wood products are the by-products; what we really manufacture is love.

Look again at the scripture passage above. As in a human body, the love at Friends of the Carpenter becomes the blood cells that flow between the parts. It brings healing to the parts that are hurt. Hearts are filled with hope; genuine happiness happens as each part, each person participates. It's amazing seeing and experiencing how each part and each person brings some-

thing unique to share - actually necessary gifts for the wholeness to be accomplished. At our recent H.U.G.S. party (distribution of Hats, Underwear, Gloves & Socks) two of our guests were deaf. They were first-timers and had never been to the Friendship Center before. They were told they would receive this simple gift at the party. But it was a party, right? So before we just "handed out the HUGS," we played a simple Halloween Bingo game. Instead of numbers, the bingo card had pictures of pumpkins, ghosts, and other Halloween images in each square. Obviously these persons couldn't hear the descriptions that were being called out; where they were seated, they couldn't see the images that were being held up as the description was called out. Fortunately the dilemma of the disability was quickly noticed. A volunteer was positioned beside them, after the bingo pictures were announced, that picture was given to the volunteer to show to the two new friends. Soon, rather than just sitting and struggling through the

event, the fun began to flow. The game was almost "rigged" so everyone would win ... but not if you couldn't play the game. Soon they were coming back with their prize and pleased to be a part of the party. However something even more significant happened. In the effort to communicate, hand signals, legitimate and looks-like-it sign language began to be used. We worked through the alphabet and they displayed and corrected the proper hand signals. We all laughed together. When they left, there were hugs more than Hats, Underwear, Gloves and Socks that were exchanged. They signaled they would be back! Oh, in all likelihood it will get harder and BETTER! That's a good thing! That's Friendship!

Volunteers are needed at the Friendship Center ... not to be human-doings but human beings! Don't worry, we'll find things for you to do while you wait to welcome our guests. Ideally, please sign up for a regular time - once a week, once a month or whatever schedule works best

for you. The more we can count on and "cover" the hours the Center is open, the greater the gift of hospitality and "helping people in" can happen. We'd even like to open the Center on weekends; however that will require volunteers to open/close and supervise the safety and activities at the Center.

So come take your place if not at the Friendship Center then find another place to fit in. Remember, "If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised; all the other parts share its happiness." It's better for everyone. It's better for the whole body!

Consider A Year
End Contribution
To Friends of the
Carpenter
Your Donation Will
Change A Life
With Love



The shortest day. The longest night

Homeless Persons' Memorial Ceremony

December 21, 2011, 9:00am

Friends of the Carpenter

1600 W. 20th Street, Vancouver, 98660

Ceremony followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Care packages available while supplies last for those in-need or to share with others.

Special Craft Activities coming up for the Holidays!

★ Tues., Nov. 27th

Christmas Card Making
for the Veteran's &
Troops overseas

★ Fri., Dec. 2nd

Paint Ceramic Christmas
Ornaments

Activities will be held
from 10:00—11:30 am at
the Friendship Center
All Are Welcome!

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 13 Rev. Sich Visits Salmon Creek UMC Woodwork Tool Show ends at PDX EXPO Center	14 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Oswald Chambers Study 2:00-3:00 pm	15 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm Community Band @ FOC	16 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Afternoon Event 1-3	17 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am FV Bag Pipe Band rehearses @ FOC	18 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	19
20 Rev. Sich preaching at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Portland	21 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Oswald Chambers Study 2:00-3:00 pm	22 Devotion & Special Craft Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm Community Band @ FOC	23 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Afternoon Event 1-3 Wood turners @ FOC	 The Friendship Center is Closed		26
27 Rev. Sich preaching at Trinity Lutheran Church, Vancouver	28 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Oswald Chambers Study 2:00-3:00 pm	29 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm Community Band @ FOC	30 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Afternoon Event 1-3	December 1 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am FV Bag Pipe Band rehearses @ FOC	2 Devotion & Special Craft Activity 9:30—11:30 am	3 Christmas Concert with Jim Fischer & Friends Grace Lutheran Luncheon at the Friendship Center
4	5 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Oswald Chambers Study 2:00-3:00 pm	6 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm	7 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Afternoon Event 1-3	8 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am FV Bag Pipe Band rehearses @ FOC	9 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	10
Christmas Boutique Open 10 am—4 pm Sat. 12-4pm						
	11 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Oswald Chambers Study 2:00-3:00 pm BOARD MEETING	12 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm	13 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm	14 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am NEWSLETTER Event 1-3	15 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am FV Bag Pipe Band rehearses @ FOC	16 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am
Christmas Boutique 10 am—4 pm - Wed. til 8 pm - Christmas Boutique 10 am—4 pm						
18	19 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Oswald Chambers Study 2:00-3:00 pm	20 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm	21 9:00 am Memorial for the Homeless Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Christmas Event 1-3	22 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am FV Bag Pipe Band rehearses @ FOC	23 Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	24 Christmas Eve 



Christmas Boutique Hours Extended

The Friendship Center Will be Open

The Friends of the Carpenter Christmas Boutique will be set up for your shopping pleasure: Wed., Dec. 7th thru Fri., Dec. 16th, 10am to 4pm; with extended hours on Wed. Dec. 14th until 8 pm; And open on Sat. Dec. 10th,

12 to 4 pm for additional shopping!! Friends of the Carpenter invites everyone to come to the Center, enjoy hot beverages and a sweet treat; check out what God is doing through our Ministry and while you're here, shop for Christmas presents for that special someone, family members and friends.

THRIFT STORE NEWS

Who needs you? We need you! The FOC 2nd Chance Thrift Store needs more volunteers. See old friends, make new friends, make \$\$\$ for FOC, unpack treasures, ring up sales. Come in pairs, come by yourself, bring 2 friends, but help us out! You don't need to get up early! We open at 10:00. Shifts are ONLY 4 hours long! No experience necessary. What better way is there to spend a mere 4 hours than serving your community and having fun doing it. Stop in and pick up an application, or call us at 360-750-3867.



FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER

November,
2011

Refused

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter,
please check the box and return it to your mail
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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

CHRISTMAS WITH
JIM FISCHER & FRIENDS
A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR FRIENDS OF THE CARPENTER



SATURDAY
DECEMBER 3, 2011
3 PM & 7 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4300 MAIN ST. VANCOUVER, WA 98663

TICKETS: \$ 20 CALL (360) 750-4752 FOR INFO

Featuring the Talents of..
Clark College Chorale at the 3:00 show
Northwest Harmony Chorus at the
7:00 show

This year, the concert will be held at
First Presbyterian Church,
4300 Main St., Vancouver.

Tickets NOW Available at: -

- ★ The Friendship Center
(1600 W. 20th St.),
 - ★ The 2nd Chance Thrift Store
(3414 A NE 52nd St.)
 - ★ Divine Consign (904 Main St.)
 - ★ Beacock's Music
(1420 SE 163rd Avenue)
- OR At the Door.
- ★ YOU can be a Ticket Seller Too!
Win a free ticket; Be entered in a
raffle for great prizes.
Call the office for details!