

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

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER, 2011

Simple Gifts ... "Pa rum pum, pum, pum"

By Rev. Duane L. Sich

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

How did it happen that the drum beat and fanaticism of Black Friday before Christmas has overtaken and pretty much drowned out the message and meaning of Good Friday before Easter? Think about it, if Good Friday hadn't happened, there wouldn't even be a Christmas at all. If Jesus hadn't died on the cross and paid the sacrificial price for our sin and the gift of salvation – if Easter hadn't happened – we wouldn't

know (or probably care) about Christmas. Unfortunately, the way Christmas is done today often shows a "care-less" and no connection attitude to the cost of the cross.

The cost to cover Good Friday was paid at Calvary. The cost of Black Friday seems to be a conversion (more so a perversion) of the shepherds and wise men bringing gifts before baby Jesus. The reason for the season is not to seek discount prices or to jump start the economy; rather to prepare and share the gift God has already paid for and given to all people.

Well, forgive me. My intent in this message is not to make anyone feel

guilty or to mess up Christmas preparations and special gifts you have or are planning to purchase. Most people reading this already know that Christmas traditions have taken a sorry turn from what it used to be and probably what it is supposed to be. So how do we get "back on track?" How can people of faith (today's shepherds or wise men and wise women) stand firm in faith against the Black Friday marketing frenzy? Where do we turn to see the shining star to guide us to the manger? How can we re-hear the angel's proclamation of Peace on Earth that has been buried

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

- ★ Jim Fischer, Ed Vidingshoff and all the "Friends" who performed at the Christmas Concert on Sat. Dec. 3rd. It was another wonderful kick-off for the Christmas Season!
- ★ All those who attended the Christmas Concert... over 700 of you! Thank you for coming!



- ★ The following "Angels" who helped make the Christmas Concert happen; Marion, Esteban, Matt, Ted, Susan, Michele, Tahlia, Nick, Anna, Elan, Doug, Joann, Judi, Steve, Doris, Dave, Jay, Sue, Racheal, Herb, Trevor, Nick,

- Rodger, Wayne, Jessie, Jennifer, Brent, Gene, Carolann, Olie, Yvonne, Erma, Larry, Bill, Ken, CeCe, Tina, Marlene, Lynnette, Mike, Gayle and Tina.
- ★ We are especially grateful for the hospitality of First Presbyterian Church!

FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER

A Ministry Of Relationships

The Carpenter's Tool Box
is a monthly publication of
FRIENDS of the CARPENTER
P.O. Box 65358
Vancouver, WA 98665
(360) 750-4752

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Simple Gifts ... "Pa rum pum, pum, pum"...continued from page 1

beneath sale flyers and TV ads?

The answer is in relationships. First and foremost, it's our relationship with God. Not a pious or politically correct one or a pretend relationship, but a personal one with Christ. It's like the shepherds and wise men who first came to Christ (Christ-mass) to see and worship Him. They came hoping and believing that He was God's promised Messiah; they trusted the prophecy of God's promise. They came in person to connect and see "God With Us."

At the Friendship Center, we welcome all to come and see Christ in our midst. Often it's a humble procession, interspersed with people from a wide range of life situations and positions. Some come looking for help; others come to help. As we get "mixed together" in God's love and the interactions of the activities, almost

instantly there is awareness and acceptance of God's presence. Soon the gift of God is personal and precious to each person. It's a genuine Merry Christmas every time, every day!

Secondly, the way back to a better Christmas is in our relationships with each other. Like the cross itself, Christmas is both vertical and horizontal. The vertical being our relationship with God, the horizontal being our relationships with each other. For some, the horizontal relationships and friendships formed give them a first and convincing glimpse of God or Christ-like love. When the vertical and horizontal relationships are in proper perspective, the cross becomes the focal point of Christmas.

In many ways, the Friendship Center is metaphorically like the simple dwelling where Christ was born. Each

day, today's shepherds and kings come to see Christ, to pay homage in Christ's presence, to bring and receive gifts of God's love. It's a simple and sincere place, holy and precious as people gather to worship and work together. Merry Christmas and Happy Easter occur every day as we fix our focus and build our faith upon the cross of Good Friday.

Come and see! Come celebrate and worship! Come to bring and receive gifts of God's love to build up faith, to form friendships that reflect God's light, and to take our place in the Body of Christ. Thank you for all who have helped make this ministry one which proclaims and renews God's Peace for all people. Thank You!



M e r r y
Christmas –
Pa rum pum
pum pum!

Volunteers Light The Way

Every day volunteers welcome and work with guests who come to the Friendship Center. Like woodwork itself, people are joined together. Stories shared between friends create a bond of trust, understanding and encouragement. Rough edges in people's lives are removed and smoothed. Faith shines like a glossy lacquer finish. Volunteers are always needed. As we end this year and approach the new, consider becoming a Friends of the Carpenter volunteer.

Especially needed are:

Activity Captains – 4 per day; organize and supervise activities

Wood Shop Captains – 4 per day; over-see operations and safety in the shop.

Office Receptionists – 2 per day; greet guests, answer phone and do office work.

2nd Chance Thrift Store Clerks – Sales and Floor Supervision

Call 750-4752 for information or registration for "your spot to shine!"

Where can you find...? Check Out the 2nd Chance Thrift Store

- Good used clothing, shoes, belts, purses, and hats?
- Used books in good condition?
- Mugs, glassware, dishes and other house wares?
- Christmas items and gifts?
- Children's clothes and shoes?
- An assortment of tools, golf clubs and other "garage stuff"?

- Knick-knacks to make your living space cozier?
- Nice jewelry?
- Interesting vintage items?
- Linens?
- Assorted craft items?
- Unusual treasures that you can't find anywhere else?

The 2nd Chance Thrift Store!!!








But wait! There's more! We also have the best prices around...and our valued volunteers will come pick up your donations of furniture!!

We are 3,500 square feet of retail space devoted to merchandising donated items. Please come in and check us out.

All the items come from you and your friends. We are always looking for donations that are clean and reusable.

We are open Monday thru Saturday from 10 AM – 5 PM.
3414 NE 52nd Street,
Vancouver, WA 98661
(360) 750-3867

DECEMBER 2011 & JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Oswald Chambers Study 2:00-3:00 pm	<u>20</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm	<u>21</u> 9:00 am Memorial for the Homeless Christmas Event 1-3 with Cascade Presbyterian Choir	<u>22</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am FV Bag Pipe Band rehearses @ FOC	<u>23</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am The Friendship Center closes at noon	<u>24</u> Christmas Eve 
<u>25</u> Merry Christmas! 	<u>26</u> The Friendship Center is Closed for Christmas Holiday	<u>27</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm	<u>28</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Afternoon EVENT 1-3 pm Woodturners meet	<u>29</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>30</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am The Friendship Center closes at noon	<u>31</u> New Year's Eve
<u>1</u> Happy New Year! 	<u>2</u> The Friendship Center is Closed for New Year Holiday	<u>3</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm	<u>4</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Afternoon EVENT 1-3 pm	<u>5</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>6</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>7</u>
<u>8</u> Rev. Sich preaching at Trinity Lutheran	<u>9</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>10</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm	<u>11</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am NEWSLETTER EVENT 1-3 pm	<u>12</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>13</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>14</u> Motorcycle Swap Meet at the Friendship Center 
<u>15</u> 	<u>16</u> Martin Luther King Day Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>17</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Pointman 2-3:30pm	<u>18</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Afternoon EVENT 1-3 pm	<u>19</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>20</u> Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>21</u>
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*The shortest day.
The longest night*
**Homeless Persons'
Memorial Ceremony**

December 21, 2011, 9:00 am
Friends of the Carpenter
1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver, 98660
Ceremony followed by refreshments
and fellowship.

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



During this Christmas season and throughout the
New Year, may you be blessed with every happiness!
From The Friends of the Carpenter Board of Directors & Staff:

*Brent Stahl, Judy Enders, Rodger Stevens, Bill Parsons, Mike Mattson,
Dave Slocum, Frank Stowe, Bob McKusick, Frank Washko, Gary Ervin,
Shirley Knight, Phil Sherman, Tom Tucker, Duane Sich, Jan Cox, Dan Nicholas
Carrie Slayter, Bill Jennings, Craig Cluff, & Jerry Swan*



December,
2011

Refused

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Craig Cluff, Shop Assistant
Jerry Swan, Financial Secretary

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

A Christmas Gift That Keeps On Giving!

Friends of the Carpenter will send a Holiday Gift Greeting and Certificate in honor of a friend or family member, for a donation of any amount to this ministry. Donations will be used for the benefit of our participant friends who find themselves in special need this Christmas season. Please complete the form below and mail it with your donation to:

Friends of the Carpenter, PO Box 65358, Vancouver, WA 98665

DONOR NAME _____

DONOR ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DONATION AMOUNT LISTED ON CERTIFICATE \$ _____

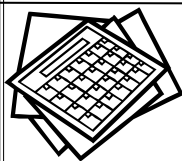
RECIPIENT NAME _____

RECIPIENT ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please send certificate to recipient Please send certificate to donor

For additional donations / recipients, please duplicate this form!



Year End Statements

All 2011 tax-deductible donations to Friends of the Carpenter must be received in the FOC office or US Mail post-marked by December 31st. The office will be closed several days through January 2nd, thus special arrangements must be made for hand delivered donations after Dec. 23rd. Financial Contribution Statements will be sent to donors prior to Jan. 30, 2011.

Thank You to all our donors!