

The Carpenter's Tool Box

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 10 OCTOBER, 2008

“No Handouts But Many Helping Hands”

by Rev. Duane L. Sich

Jesus said, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.” The righteous will say, “When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirst and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?” Jesus replied, “I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these my friends, you did it for me.” Matthew 25: 34 - 40

A friend of mine now living in Tacoma, WA shared the notes she took during her pastor’s sermon about the seven levels of giving. The pastor said, the least fulfilling level of giving is “sadly and reluctantly.” Actually, it’s probably better not to give than to give reluctantly, at least for the giver. God wants no grumpy givers, rather cheerful ones.

The second level is to give less than is needed but in good spirit. Many donors never get beyond this level and sadly never really understand or enjoy the full measure of giving.

The third level is giving

only after being asked. This level is sort of understandable. There are so many requests for support these days; so many organizations, so many areas of need and endless opportunity to increase services; the requests just keep coming. Even generous givers are inundated with requests and eventually reduced to responding only to requests. It can take the joy out of giving and make one feel like a charity vending machine.

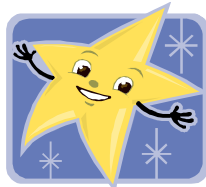
A better alternative is to give before being asked. This fourth level puts the giver back in control and allows you to direct your

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THIS MONTH’S STARS! THANK YOU’S TO...

- ★ The over 75 Auction volunteers who worked so diligently in creating such a lovely and fun Auction and Banquet.
- ★ Nancy Miller who won the Diamond Stud Earrings during the Auction Centerpiece Raffle, and then donated them back to the Ministry!

- ★ John McDonagh who continues to meet with the Board of Directors for assistance with Strategic Planning & Fund Development



- ★ Gene Johnson, FOC Auctioneer. This is the 5th year he and his wife have traveled from Montana . This year Gene came from New Orleans where he is volunteering with hurricane damage repair.
- ★ Mike Donahue of KOIN 6 News, our Auction M.C.

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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compassion to a cause you are passionate about. But be careful about this level; to be calculating and closed to new opportunities can result in a calloused heart and cause you to become complacent and minimize your commitment and gratitude.

The fifth level is where the giver doesn't know who is receiving the gift. This level probably raises personal fulfillment because it puts the responsibility and accountability of the gift upon someone else. It may feel like unconditional grace (and it is) but it's also unconnected grace. Think about it ... is this how you would give Christmas gifts or Birthday gifts to loved ones?

The sixth level is anonymous giving – one who gives and the recipient doesn't know who gave the gift. Those who do this experience a special sort of joy and a reward that only comes from God. To see someone blessed by a benefit you made possible but they don't know where it came from can be fun and very fulfilling. It's scriptural: God has promised blessings when your giving is so secret that even the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing!

However, the highest level of giving is not to give charity at all, but to help someone by giving them an ability to work, the potential to overcome or remove obstacles and the personal encourage-

ment to empower the recipient to rebuild self respect and regain self esteem from their peers.

It was a high compliment when my friend shared that as she listened to her pastor list this highest level of giving, her mind immediately thought of Friends of the Carpenter – a place where people are always welcome, where they always receive, not a hand out, but a helping hand; and hands to hold and hands (and hearts) with which to work together, to worship together, to work out the anxiety, the fears, the frustration and desperation that destroys the human spirit. I thank her for the high compliment, her comprehension of what the ministry of Friends of the Carpenter is and does ... and for her heart-felt donation to continue our work!

When someone is hungry or in a desperate “fit,” whether you know them or not, whether they know you or not, both the donor and the recipient probably feel better when that person is fed or their “fit is temporarily fixed.” However for people of faith to feed only physical food to a perpetual line of hungry people and not to feed

their spirit, not give them a place and a process to fit in, to not give them the invitation and opportunity to find their God given gifts and purpose would be unfaithful giving.

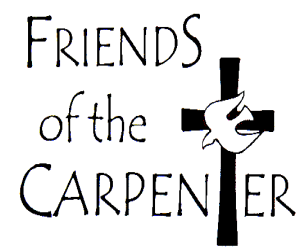
Friends of the Carpenter is now celebrating our tenth year of existence. From the onset and still today, we know that hospitality builds hope, friendship is the emotional and spiritual fuel that directs and determines our journey, as well as our destination. The fellowship of faith is a community that personally cares for its members and continually calls out for others to join in the circle of love. Friends of the Carpenter needs “Level Seven” givers: people who comprehend the mission and ministry we do together, whose commitment and support is not only with your dollars but persons who personally pray and as they are able participate in this ministry of outreach, hospitality and love to all people ... to empower us all to become the Body of Christ.




Jesus said, “As you serve one of the least of these, you do it to me.” As much as this is yet another request for support and our giving, I believe it is more so a promise from our Lord. It's a promise that when we give to such as these, Jesus appears in our very midst! It's a promise that if we personally connect ourselves to the gifts we give – that as we minister to those

in need, to those who are lost, those who are seeking support and a safe place, a sanctuary – when we give, we will see Him face-to-face. And to the ones to whom we give, we become the face of Jesus to them! God Bless You in your giving! God Bless you and your gifts that empower and invite others to the hospitality and hope of Jesus Christ. Come, you who are blessed by our Lord. Come see and be Jesus Christ in our midst!



**FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER
Founded —
October 1998
Celebrating
Ten Years of
God's Grace
and Goodness!**



SUNDAY	
October 12 Rev. Sich preaching @ Orchards Methodist	
19 Rev. Sich preaching @ Ridgefield Methodist	
Woodworker Show	
 26	Coo
 2	
 9	
16 FOC Presents at St. Andrew Presbyterian	



Donations will be
Thank you!!!!

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
October 12 Rev. Sich preaching @ Orchards Methodist	13 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm	14 Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	15 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship	16 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	17 Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	18 Cook SHARE Brunch NO EVENT
					Woodworker Show in Portland	
19 Rev. Sich preaching @ Ridgefield Methodist Woodworker Show	20 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm	21 Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	22 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & EVENT	23 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	24 Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	25 Bell Ringer Bazaar 9 am—4 pm Vancouver Heights United Methodist
 26	27 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm Cook SHARE Dinner & Worship	28 Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	29 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship	30 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	31 Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	November 1 Woodworker Show & Tell
 2	3 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm	4 Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	5 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & EVENT	6 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	7 Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	8 Follow That Star Bazaar 9 am—4 pm Good Shepherd Lutheran
 9	10 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm	11 <u>Veteran's Day</u> <u>Friendship Center Closed</u>	12 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & NEWSLETTER	13 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	14 Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	 15 Cook SHARE Brunch & HUGS EVENT
16 FOC Presents at St. Andrew Presbyterian	17 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm	18 Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	19 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship	20 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	21 Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	 22



H.U.G.S. Needed! (That is Hats, Underwear, Gloves and Socks!)

On Saturday, November 15, Friends of the Carpenter would like to add hats, undies, gloves and socks to what is typically shared on the breakfast meal line at SHARE House Shelter. We are asking ESPECIALLY for donations of men's white socks; plain, dark-colored beanie caps; men's gloves and men's underwear, sizes 30—36. All Women's underwear, gloves, hats and socks are also needed.

Donations will be accepted at our offices at the **Friendship Center, 1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver.** Thank you!!!!

FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER

October,
2008

Refused

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please check the box and return it to your mail carrier. We pay the postage.

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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

VANCOUVER  ROTARY FOUNDATION'S
Festival of Trees

This will be the first year Friends of the Carpenter will have a "Specialty Tree" sponsored at the Rotary Club of Vancouver's Annual Festival of Trees. This event occurs at the Vancouver Hilton Hotel the weekend of November 28, 29 & 30. The Friends of the Carpenter Tree will be beautifully decorated featuring special wood crafted Christmas ornaments. A current day figure of Jesus will be located at the foot of the tree surrounded by mirror-faced figures allowing the viewer to see themselves seated next to Jesus. We thank Jan Hampton, a professional designer, for volunteering her time and talent to coordinate our tree-team! Friends of the Carpenter will also have a vendor booth for the purchase of Christmas ornaments and other FOC product. Come enjoy the Festival and all the beautiful trees, stop by our booth - and spend some time beside Jesus.
Merry Christmas!



**Friends of the
Carpenter Product
at Upcoming
Bazaars &
Christmas
Shopping Events**

Bell Ringer Bazaar - Sat. October 25, 9 am - 4 pm
Vancouver Heights United Methodist
5701 MacArthur Blvd., Vancouver, 98661

Follow That Star Bazaar
Saturday, November 8, 9 am - 4 pm
Good Shepherd Lutheran
16001 NE 34th St., Vancouver, 98682

**10th Annual Night of Song & Praise, Benefit
for WHO (Winter Hospitality Overflow)**
Friday, November 7th, 7:00 pm
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
8701 NE 119th St., Vancouver, 98662

*We also invite visitors & shoppers to come to the
Friendship Center anytime, Monday-Friday,
9:30 am-4:00 pm for more availability of product.*