

The Carpenter's Tool Box

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 8 AUGUST, 2008

“Give ’Til It ... Feels Good” by Rev. Duane L. Sich

“The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as they have personally decided, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver. God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.” II Corinthians 9: 6-8

There are many quotes and slogans suggesting that success requires sacrifice and even suffering. For example: “No pain, no gain;” “When the going gets tough, the tough get going;” and “Give ’til it hurts.” No question; any significant success is generally stressful, sacrificial and anything

but simple. Just as an athlete’s hard work produces strength, self-pride and fulfillment, if not awards and prizes, so it is with any positive endeavor. When you work hard at something you believe in, regardless how difficult, you feel good about it.

The volunteers and those of us who work with Friends of the Carpenter are often commended for our hard work and commitment we give to a difficult cause. Accolades are given for the willingness to work in an arena where enormous difficulties, ridiculous dysfunction and daily disappointments regularly occur. Cynicism would seem

likely when routines aimed at situations of despair and desperation often produce little or no evidence of any meaningful difference. But ask any of us ... truly, it feels good! Oh it’s not the failures of “few fruits” that feel good; rather it’s realizing that you are doing a good thing, even a godly thing. And just like the unconditional grace that God gives, so the efforts, time and even the expense seems a small token of thanks to God and a tiny step towards the example Jesus set for discipleship. Once you get started, it soon feels not so hard and actually quite good!

But there’s a lot more to it than just feeling good.

Continued on page 2

THIS MONTH’S STARS! THANK YOU’S TO...

- ★ **Teri Owen** for providing Haircuts to 13 friends at our last SHARE House Brunch and Wood-working Event.
- ★ **Marilyn Andrews** for addressing all the auction invitations, some 500 of them!



- ★ **Cle Nickels** for her friendly, faithful weekly service at the Hospitality Desk at the Friendship Center

- ★ **Cindy Stinton-Brown**, General Manager at the Phoenix Hotel for assisting several of our friends during the hot summer days.
- ★ **Bob Ruby**, for his help with building benches with Youth Rotary Interact group, (and for hauling trees!)



A Ministry Of Relationships

The Carpenter's Tool Box is a monthly publication of

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“GIVE 'TIL IT ... FEELS GOOD”

Frequently the initial motivation to get involved (either physically or financially) is a sense of call, a desire to help those who are homeless and a sort of obligatory responsibility to share one's blessings. Volunteers often approach the ministry with caution, and sometimes confusion as to what they are actually getting involved in. However, what is wonderful and always seems to work with our woodworking ministry is that the activities create a community which takes the focus off any differences and begins fitting people together, even as the woodwork pieces are being put together. In the safe and supervised setting, with things to work on together, genuine hospitality happens. Laughter, levity and caring conversations soon make one realize that this isn't hard at all ... in fact, it's fun!

Events conclude, more often than not, because it's

time to stop rather than anyone wanting it to end. Persons who came from essentially different worlds depart with hand shakes and hugs, hoping they will see each other again soon. Frequently volunteers who worked hard, leave happy, thanking Friends of the Carpenter and thanking God for the experience, the adventure and the new awareness of what really helps those who are homeless. When hope is rekindled in an atmosphere of hospitality and happiness, it's predictable – good things start to happen.

Scripture says it's true, but somehow it's still surprising, the greater gift is often received by the giver. Those who came ready to “work out,” to get involved and to give of themselves find that in the relationships, stories were shared that gave inspiration and encouragement to the volunteers. Persons who live with less, who have handled the unbelievable

and are facing enormous misfortune give a witness to God's all-sufficient grace. Homeless persons, who in most other settings would have had nothing to contribute, now had the opportunity to give, to be involved, to laugh with new friends and to leave having held hands, rather than just receiving a hand-out. For volunteers, it's humbling to realize the great blessings God has given even to the least of these and especially to those who have more. It makes complaining, worrying, even thinking about worrying seem senseless. That's a great gift to receive and makes one really realize the joy of giving, of being a cheerful giver!

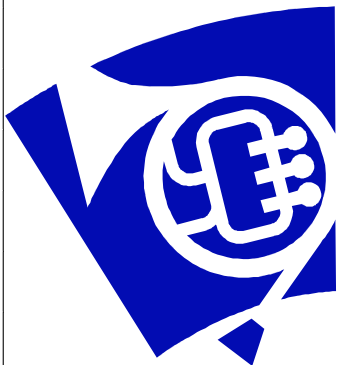
Though it sometimes seems insignificant in the world's terms, big changes really happen. Lives are changed; transformation begins to occur. Seeds of faith hit “good soil” and “foundation stones” are laid in place

upon which to build the Body of Christ. With new energy, the hunt for housing and employment is renewed. Those who need treatment or a new dose of patience find a way and probably a new friend with whom to walk step by step. And those who once felt that sacrifice and suffering was a responsibility and duty of discipleship now enjoy doing it just for the faith and the fun-of-it!

Come be a “cheerful giver” at Friends of the Carpenter. Your gifts, financial and physical, are needed but believe me – no, believe God – you'll be glad you gave and good things will happen for everyone. Call or contact the Friendship Center (750-4752) to set a time to share your joyful discipleship that will make a difference in others and mostly in you!

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Beacock's Brass Ensemble to appear at the Annual Auction on September 27







Contrary to what you may have read in last month's newsletter or on your invitation, we are very pleased that the musical entertainment we will be enjoying at the Auction this year will be provided by **Beacock's Brass Ensemble**. Make your reservations today so that you don't miss out on **the** event of the year!!

Rummage Sale Volunteers Invited to a Thank You Luncheon!

Please join us for an Appreciation Luncheon Friday, August 22 at 12 Noon Kamlu Retirement Inn 1000 NE 82nd Ave, Vancouver Please RSVP by Fri. Aug. 15 to Tom @ 750-4752

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>August 17</u>	<u>18</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm	<u>19</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>20</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship	<u>21</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Basket Meeting 1 pm Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>22</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am Noon Vol Luncheon Kamlu Retirement Inn	<u>23</u> Rev. Sich preaches at Messiah Lutheran
<u>24</u> Rev. Sich preaches at Messiah Lutheran 	<u>25</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm Cook SHARE Dinner & Worship	<u>26</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>27</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>28</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>29</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>30</u> 
<u>31</u> 	<u>September 1</u> Labor Day - Friendship Center Closed	<u>2</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>3</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>4</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>5</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am FOC at The Vancouver Sausage Fest!	<u>6</u> Woodworker Show & Tell
<u>7</u> FOC at the Sausage Fest!	<u>8</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm	<u>9</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am <u>Auction Meeting</u>	<u>10</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & NEWSLETTER	<u>11</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>12</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm	<u>16</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>17</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship	<u>18</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am <u>Auction Training</u>	<u>19</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am 	<u>20</u> Cook SHARE Brunch & EVENT
<u>21</u> Rev. Sich preaches at Beautiful Savior Lutheran	<u>22</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1—3:30 pm Cook SHARE Dinner & Worship	<u>23</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>24</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>25</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am <u>Auction Training</u>	<u>26</u> Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	<u>27</u> “10 Years of Ministry” Auction & Banquet

The Business of Baskets



The Basket Committee for the Upcoming Auction is busy gathering ideas and items for the many baskets we need for our auction. We welcome your ideas or donations of items or maybe you want to do a basket of your own. If this sounds fun or interesting to you, call Julie at 750-4752 and find out more! Our next meeting will be August 21st at 1:00 pm at the Friendship Center.

Some of the NEEDED ITEMS ARE:



Snack Food (Chips & Pretzels)

Christmas Items (i.e. hand towels/napkins)

Pasta and Sauces

Wine

Hot Chocolate Mix

Homemade Cookies

Frilly Girl Stuff

Cheese (day of auction)



August, 2008

Refused

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Judy Enders, 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

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER ~ ANNUAL AUCTION & BANQUET
“In Celebration of 10 Years of Ministry” SATURDAY, September 27, 2008
PO Box 65358, Vancouver, WA 98665 1600 w. 20TH St., Vancouver, WA 98660
(360) 750-4752 www.friendsofthecarpenter.org

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

GIFT DONATION – PROCUREMENT DEADLINE – September 10, 2008

* Donor Name: _____ Phone: _____
(As should be listed in auction catalog)

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

* Gift Item Name: _____ * Donor Estimated Value: \$ _____

* Gift Item Description – (specify all restrictions, conditions, expiration, etc.)

Donor Signature: _____ E-Mail: _____ Date: _____

If this is a gift certificate: () certificate attached () certificate will need to be made
Item needs to be: () picked up () will be delivered by donor () item attached
Will this item be available for display? () yes () no

*** = Important information we need to process your donation!**

A Gift Donation Form will be returned to you for your records



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION! DONATIONS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE! Tax ID # 91-1932953