

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

The Carpenter's Tool Box

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FRIENDS
of the 
CARPENTER

The Carpenter's Tool Box is
a monthly publication of
FRIENDS of the
CARPENTER
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“What If ...“

by Rev. Duane L. Sich

“It so happened that a priest was going down the road from Jerusalem towards Jericho; when he saw the man, beaten and half-dead, he walked by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also came there; he went over and looked at the man, and then walked by on the other side. But a Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man; when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. He knelt down, bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil ...” and you know the rest of the story. Luke 10: 25-37

Think about it: What if the Good Samaritan had also passed by? What if the Good Samaritan had also been too busy, not willing to be bothered or get involved, not seeing the beaten man as a valued person within the Body of Christ? Well for one thing, probably the story wouldn't have been written in the Bible; perhaps the beaten man in critical condition (half dead the Bible said) would have died. The lesson left for us would have been lost forever. Wow, what a loss that would have been to the Christian faith. This story has been told and retold tens-of-millions of times. This lesson has led countless numbers of people

of faith to pause, to ponder and be much more pro-active with people caught in a crisis - persons whom we sometimes unwittingly, or worse yet willingly walk by. What if Good Samaritans today just walk by?

Recently I heard a story regarding the tragic death of the woman who had been apprehended for disorderly conduct in a Phoenix airport. You may recall, it made all the news reports a few months ago, with current updates. The report indicated that she was intoxicated, unruly and thus not allowed to board her flight. In the course of the airline rescheduling her, she became irate, agitated and aggressive. Probably for everyone's sake and security, she was taken into custody and placed in a secure room. Her hands were cuffed and she was chained to a bench because of her uncooperative and combative conduct. In her anxiety and agitation, and because nobody was continuously monitoring her, somehow – almost inconceivable – her attempts to free herself and

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“What If ...” Continued from page 1

manipulating the restraints which ultimately constricted her breathing, resulted in her self-strangulation. This lady died out of control, in a crisis and all alone. How pitiful! This was a human being – a wife and a mother of three, someone’s daughter, a sister, a friend. Though she had problems, she was a person with promise, potential, and a child of God on the pathway of life – however, a life tragically and pathetically ended. I’m told at her memorial service, her husband stated, if only someone had been with her. It wouldn’t have had to be an officer or official, a doctor or attorney, a professional or a pastor. If just a caring person had been there, the result would have been so much different. No one will ever know what other results were waiting for this life, this wife and mother of three? We can only ask, “What if?”

This is not to criticize or condemn the actions that were or were not taken in this incident, but merely to point out the power of NOT PASSING BY. Imagine all the “what ifs” that avail themselves to each of us everyday in our journey. What results are being realized or maybe ruined because we did or did not pass by? The lesson of the Good Samaritan

leads us to have a heart of compassion and eyes that focus on people, and particularly, people with problems whom we meet on our way. Our faith guides us to get involved, help out and not “cop out.”

The ministry of Friends of the Carpenter welcomes all people to stop by, not pass by. Not just people with problems (please), but a combination of persons who need help and persons who can help. The road of life is complicated and high-risk; people get “beaten up,” “broken down” and can look “half dead.” Along the fast-paced pathways of our routines and responsibilities, broken people get passed by, left alone and left out. More often than not, its not a professional that’s mostly needed; often its just a caring person – a person with compassion and the capacity to stop, listen and look in. God can take tiny gifts of grace and give new life and a new direction to a wounded traveler.

The Friendship Center is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Activities in the warehouse or the office provide a “point in the road” where people meet and healing happens. The woodwork or many other activities are merely a method to allow people to meet along the way.

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Our ministry has identified 200, two-hour volunteer positions for each month. Volunteers receive an orientation and explanation of procedures and policy. Schedules and activities are determined but also flexible so that time-slots are convenient, yet offering consistent opportunities for conversations and connections to occur. Many volunteers serve once or twice a month, some more, some less. It’s a simple process but truly sacred things occur. God’s love brings help and healing through the caring words and actions that are shared.

200 positions each month – YES 200! 40 woodworkers, 20 front desk hosts, 60 off-site activity event volunteers (at Share House, St. Paul’s Lutheran & the Wilsonville wood-runs to get salvage lumber), 20 weekday breakfast cooks (5:30 am @ Share House), 10 Friday morning/shower & clothes distribution monitors (at Share House), 20 weekday warehouse welcomers and project workers, 10 product room helpers and 10 to help with the monthly newsletter mailing. That leaves 10 other spots for special projects that “pop up” each month! Volunteers interact with at least 5 of our participant friends – that’s



5th Annual Christmas Concert With Jim Fischer and Friends

Featuring Clark College Vocal Jazz, Touch of
Class Chorus and Special Guest Artists

SUNDAY, Dec. 2, 2007

3:00 pm and 7:00 pm

at the Royal Durst Theater
3101 Main St., Vancouver, WA 98663

Please join us for this Musical Christmas
Celebration for the entire family!

Tickets NOW Available! \$15 Adults and \$12 Sr. Citizen/Student

Contact Friends of the Carpenter at (360) 750-4752 for tickets!
1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver, WA 98660



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FRIENDSHIP CENTER CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Bring Your H.U.G.S!

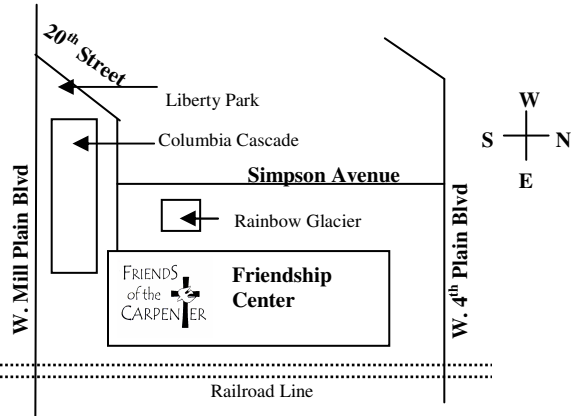
Sunday, Dec. 9, 2007

**At the Friendship
Center**

1600 W. 20th St.

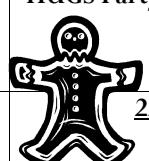
1:00 - 4:00 pm

- Come and tour the Friendship Center!
- Find that special gift
- Enjoy an afternoon of refreshments and spirit filled fellowship.



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 18	19 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1:30—3:30 pm FOC Board Meeting	20 Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Open Shop 1pm	21 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship	22 Thanksgiving Day Holiday Friendship Center Closed	23	24
25	26 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1:30—3:30 pm Cook SHARE Dinner & Worship	27 Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Open Shop 1pm	28 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Noon Worship & EVENT	29 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am Concert Volunteer Meeting 7 pm	30 Serve SHARE Breakfast Share Outreach 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	December 1
2 Christmas Concert 3 & 7 pm	3 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1:30—3:30 pm	4 Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Open Shop 1pm	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 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	8
9 Christmas Open House at the Friendship Center	10 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1:30—3:30 pm	11 Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Open Shop 1pm	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 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	15 Cook SHARE Breakfast & HUGS Party
16	17 Serve SHARE Breakfast Open Shop 1:30—3:30 pm	18 Serve SHARE Breakfast Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am Open Shop 1pm	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 8:30—11:00 am Open Shop 9:30—11:30 am	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
 <p>Friendship Center CLOSED for Christmas Holiday And will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2008</p>						



GIVING



On Saturday, Friends of the C like to add hats and socks to w shared on the line at SHARE. We are asking for donations of socks, plain, beanie caps, men's underwear.

Donations will be at the Christmas C 1st, the Frie Open House o bring your do offices at the Fr 1600 W. 20th St.

Thank you!!!!

Friday Treat

On Friday mornings, our hard working wood workers enjoy delightful conversation and a special coffee break time of pastries would and a great way special folks. week or a one t ing Julie at 750-

GIVING HUGS !



(That is
Hats, Underwear, Gloves and Socks!)

On Saturday, December 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.

Donations will be accepted at the Christmas Concert on Dec. 1st, the Friendship Center Open House on Dec. 9th, or bring your donations to our offices at the Friendship Center, 1600 W. 20th St. in Vancouver.

Thank you!!!!

I am Filled with Awe & Thanks to God for each of YOU!!

By Barb Williams

As I drive down Lake Shore Drive these days and see the autumn red colored trees lining the roadway, I am filled with awe and thanks to God for His beauty of each changing season.

.... when I am hiking in Central Oregon and see the mountain peaks and breathe the fresh air, I am filled with awe and thanks to God for His majestic creation.

....when I am at the ocean and see the breakers and hear them crash on the shore, I am filled with awe and thanks to God for his mighty strength and power.

...when I see a beautiful sunset that fills the sky with color, I am filled with awe and thanks to God for how He colors and orders things.

....when I hold a newborn baby and see it's tiny features and see it move and squirm, I am filled with awe and thanks to God for life.

...at Friends of the Carpenter events when people come together to do an activity, to be together, to talk, to listen, to laugh, to cry, I am filled with awe and thanks to God for bringing us all together to be the Body of Christ.

I am very thankful and give God thanks for the MANY friends I have met and gotten to know while on staff at Friends of the Carpenter. The many volunteers and "friends" alike have all been a very special part of my life and I am filled with awe and thanks to God for each of YOU!

Friday Treats Needed

On Friday mornings, our hard working wood workers enjoy delightful conversation and a special treat during coffee break time. Donations of pastries would be welcomed, and a great way to honor these special folks. Sign up for a week or a one time gift by calling Julie at 750-4752



Hospitality Hosts Wanted

Sit at the "front" desk—welcome and greet guests to the Center. Includes answering the telephone and doing any office type tasks as needed. Many days are available between Mon. - Fri.. Hours are 9 am—12 noon or 1:00—4:00 pm. One day a week or one day a month... any amount of time available is welcome! Please give us a call!

What If- continued from page 2

1,000 touches (and more) of God's love ... and as when Jesus touched people, so in your "time and touch," healing happens! Please, don't pass by. Put the Friendship Center on your regular pathway and be a Good Samaritan. Just think ... What If?

PS – If you cannot come by the Friendship Center, keep your eyes and heart open on whatever path you take. There are many wounded travelers out there who need grace.

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER
 1600 W. 20th St. 98660
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 Phone: 360-750-4752
 Rev. Duane Sich, Exec. Director
 Cell Phone: 360-936-3461
 Jan Cox, Program Manager
 Cell Phone: 360-936-3421
 Volunteer Coordinator—Position Open
 Dan Nicholas, Shop Foreman
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 Julie Sich, Product & Center Activity Coord.
 Cell Phone: 936-3463
 Judy Enders, Financial Secretary
 Email: Duane@friendsofthecarpenter.org
 WEB PAGE: friendsofthecarpenter.org



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*

A Christmas Gift That Keeps 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!