

The Carpenter's Tool Box

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 10 OCTOBER, 2009

Not More Light, Just Less Darkness by Rev. Duane L. Sich

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world! Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12

In order to have a shadow, something must block the light. A shadow is not possible without light. For many, it's not that the Light of Christ is not shining upon them, it's just that something is restricting it – blocking it from their sight and creating a shadow. Often the shadows of life seem more present and powerful than the light. Oh, that's not the truth, but darkness does have a devastating and depress-

ing power. On the other hand, it's amazing what a ray of light can do to the darkness. It pierces and splits it. The light of a single candle can lighten a dark room. The "Light of Christ" can cause one to walk "even through the valley of the shadow of death" and not be afraid.

Friends of the Carpenter invites and absolutely needs volunteers to come shine and reflect Christ's Light amongst all who gather here. The Friendship Center is open every week day, **Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.** We

welcome all people into this special place and space where many may not know exactly what to expect or even why they came. Those who are hurting or hoping for some difficult situation in their life to change have heard that Friends of the Carpenter is a good place to "check out." They come, perhaps hoping for help or a benevolent hand out. It's the way many have learned to survive or been reduced to beg; they just wander day-to-day and just "drop in."

Equally, volunteers often feel awkward or over-

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A Ministry Of Relationships

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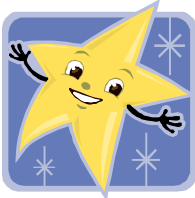
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THIS MONTH'S STARS! THANK YOU'S TO...

★ **Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene** for the generous use of their 15 passenger van to make our trip to the Oregon Zoo on Sept. 23. We very much appreciate their sharing that resource with us!



pieces, funded in part by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Ed has designed a new poster for us and is working on a new video presentation as well. Thanks Ed!

★ **Ed Vidinghoff** for his work with the Care Committee on our new promotional

★ **Bazaar volunteers** – We had 7 volunteers staffing a booth at the NW Yovel

sponsored by our partner Rehoboth Messianic Congregation on Aug. 2 and then 12 more for our 2nd appearance at the Vancouver Sausage Fest on Sept. 11-13. Many Thanks to all that helped us spread the Word about our Ministry and bring in some much-needed financial support at the same time.

Not More Light, Just Less Darkness ... continued from page 1

whelmed at what they "wood" (would) do. It can be uncomfortable not knowing who they might encounter, what to say, how to really help without getting in over your head; again not really knowing what to expect. The setting of the warehouse, the shop equipment and all the projects sitting around seem to suggest that "it's about the woodwork." But it's not! The wood is merely the method to mix people together. Many feel they cannot do the woodwork projects, some would rather not. But that's like looking at the shadows and not seeing the potential and power of "The Light." What feels so right at the Friendship Center and helps everyone are the relationships that are formed while the activities unfold. Conversations and personal connections begin to move and remove the barriers that block "The Light."

It can be humbling and frustrating when people come to the Center who are homeless and hurting from problems and consequences; it can seem over-

whelming and impossible to make much of a difference with what looks like so little being done about the personal problems. But that's looking at the shadows. In the activities and interactions, it's "The Light" that pierces the darkness. A promise often offered is, "Your situation may not change much by being here today, but you will be changed." A changed person can begin to deal with changing their situation. When a person sees even a glimmer of "The Light," it lifts their soul, it strengthens their spirit and they see new hope. Eyes are lifted from the shadows and the darkness begins to disappear. Having someone accept you and sit with you to listen and reflect God's love soon removes the darkness, at least for that day. Then, like the manna in the wilderness and the Israelites daily dependence upon it, little-by-little people's lives are fed by the friendship and they learn new habits and hold the hands of friends as they follow "The Light."

However, more than those who are homeless are

helped. Blessings abound as friendships form between those who have much and those who have little. For volunteers, it can be very humbling and awkward when we come with ample life comforts and our accumulated possessions to interact with those who have so little. It's surprising to find that we are not judged, envied or encroached upon by those who have less. Seldom do I feel (and my guess is, most of the volunteers) more fortunate than when we spend time with friends who live very modest and often deprived lives who give thanks for every blessing they enjoy, especially for simple blessings which those with abundance often overlook or take for granted. It's amazing when one who is homeless asks prayer support for family and friends less fortunate than themselves. It's humbling, yet inspiring, to be with those who give thanks for "their daily bread" when they have "no other bread." They reflect Christ's Light in a way that shines very bright to remove the shadows that

can be produced by the bounty and abundance of possessions.

The truth is there is plenty of Light, we all just desire less darkness. Jesus said, "*I am the Light of the World and those who follow me will walk in the light of life.*" With "The Light" shining bright, it's simple to see how to help each other with our problems. It becomes much easier to give and to get along as the Body of Christ nurtures every part.

Wherever you are, look to the Light and help others to see it as well. If you can, your presence and participation at the Friendship Center is needed. Please come by and see where you can fit in. For those who support us from afar, Thank You! We are grateful for all the prayer and financial support to Friends of the Carpenter. Thank you and Walk In The Light!



7th Annual Auction a Success!

Thank You! The Friends of the Carpenter Auction & Banquet was a HUGE Success! We had more attendees than in previous years', and received at least the same, if not more in financial support. We thank all who helped make it happen! Numbers, names and a financial report will follow in next month's newsletter!

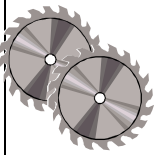
**VIEW CHRISTMAS SHIPS ON THE RIVERS!
Parties Open!**

On the Willamette with Chili & Chowder at the Rocky Point Marina: Dec. 13th, 4 pm - \$50 each (limit of 20)

On the Columbia with Dessert at Floyd & Betty Frakes: Dec. 15th, 7 pm - \$40 each (limit of 22)

Call the office to Buy Your Spot! (360) 750-4752

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY
<u>October 18</u>	Open Shop 1-3
<u>25</u>	Open Shop 1-3
<u>November 1</u>	Open Shop 1-3
 <u>8</u> PDX Tool Show	Open Shop 1-3
<u>15</u> Mission Presentation at Salmon Creek Methodist	Open Shop 1-3
<u>22</u>	Open Shop 1-3

HALLOWEEN H.



Women's underwear, Men's... offices at the Friendship C

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>October 18</u>	<u>19</u> Open Shop 1-3:30 pm	<u>20</u> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>21</u> Noon Worship & MOVIE	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	<u>24</u> 
<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> Open Shop 1-3:30	<u>27</u> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>28</u> Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am Night of Song & Praise at St. John Evangelist	<u>31</u> Woodworker Show & Tell—Off Site HALLOWEEN HUGS DAY
<u>November 1</u>	<u>2</u> Open Shop 1-3:30	<u>3</u> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>4</u> Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am Woodworker	<u>7</u> Salvation Army Bazaar on 112th Tool Show at Portland Expo
<u>8</u>  PDX Tool Show	<u>9</u> Open Shop 1-3:30	<u>10</u> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>11</u> Noon Worship & NEWSLETTER VETERAN'S DAY CENTER IS OPEN	<u>12</u> 	<u>13</u> FRIENDSHIP CENTER CLOSED FOR VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY	<u>14</u> Good Shepherd Lutheran & St. John Evangelist Bazaars
<u>15</u> Mission Presentation at Salmon Creek Methodist	<u>16</u> Open Shop 1-3:30	<u>17</u> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>18</u> Noon Worship & EVENT	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> Open Shop 9:30-11:30 am	<u>21</u>
<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> Open Shop 1-3:30	<u>24</u> Center Devotion & Activity 9:30—11:30 am	<u>25</u> Noon Worship FRIENDSHIP CENTER CLOSING AT NOON	<u>26</u> HAPPY THANKSGIVING! FRIENDSHIP CENTER CLOSED	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 

HALLOWEEN H.U.G.S.* DAY on Saturday, October 31st, 10 am –12 noon

*(That's Hats, Underwear, Gloves and Socks!)



On Saturday, Oct. 31st, we are holding a HUGS distribution for those in need. The Friendship Center will be open from 10 am—12 noon for a morning of Hugs and Halloween Treats! Come on Down to the Center for a Fun Time! All are invited!

Additional H.U.G.S. are Needed!

We are asking ESPECIALLY looking for donations of Women's underwear, Men's gloves and men's underwear. Donations will be accepted at our offices at the **Friendship Center, 1600 W. 20th St., Vancouver.** Thank you!!!!



FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER

October,
2009

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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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 Product at Upcoming Bazaars & Christmas Boutique



**Christmas Boutique -
The Center Will be Open Again**

Once again this year, Friends of the Carpenter invites everyone to come to the Friendship Center (1600 W. 20th St.) at your convenience, enjoy a cup of coffee or hot cider and a sweet treat, check out what God is doing through our Ministry and while you're there, shop for Christmas presents for that special someone, family members and friends. A Friends of the Carpenter Christmas Boutique will be set up for your shopping pleasure, **Tuesday, December 8th through Friday, December 18th, including Sat. December 12th but excluding Sunday, December 13th. The Boutique will be open 10:00 am to 2:00 pm** for purchasing FOC products, special Christmas gifts and wooden ornaments. We hope to see you all there!



**10th Annual Night of Song & Praise, Benefit for
WHO (Winter Hospitality Overflow)**

Fri., Oct. 30, 7:00 pm
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Salvation Army Bazaar

Sat., Nov. 7, 9am—4 pm
Salvation Army on 112th

Catholic Daughters Holiday Bazaar

Sat., Nov. 14, 9 am—3 pm
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Follow That Star Bazaar

Sat., Nov. 14, 9 am - 4 pm
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH JIM FISCHER and FRIENDS

Featuring Special Guest Artists! Sunday, December 6, 2009
2 performances - 3 pm & 7 pm

At the Royal Durst Theater, 3101 Main St., Vancouver, WA
Tickets available !

\$15 Presale tickets \$20 Day of Show tickets
Contact the Friendship Center at 360-750-4752

