

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

The Carpenter's Tool Box

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

Board of Directors:

Rev. Duane Sich,
Craig Soleim, Tom Such,
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and Dale Clark

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“Unbind Him and Let Him Go!”

by Rev. Duane L. Sich

“When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had been buried four days.” “Deeply moved, Jesus went to the tomb entrance and said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Then Jesus called out, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ Lazarus came out but his hands and feet were wrapped in the grave cloths, as well as cloths around his face. Jesus said to the people there, ‘Unbind him and let him go!’”
Verses from John 11:1-44

Yes, Jesus gave Lazarus life, but then he asked Lazarus’s family and friends to unbind him and let him go! Lazarus was alive, but stumbling as he walked. He was blind because of the burial cloths that were holding him captive and incapable of really living. Wow ... what a directive and what an opportunity!

Just imagine the sight. Lazarus had been in the grave for four days. His family and friends were still grieving and slowly becoming resigned to his death. But then Jesus spoke and gave Lazarus life and Lazarus staggered out of the tomb. The burial cloths must have been soiled and stinky by this time, but the people were probably only too will-

ing and eager to run toward him to hold him, to hug him and to help him fling free those burial cloths. Jesus said, “Unbind him and let him go!”

When I go down to the shelter it is so easy to hear the echo of Jesus’ words. There are so many people (not just the poor) who are all wrapped up in symbolic burial cloths and the bondage of problems and poor priorities. People who have life but are restricted from really living because of addictions, dysfunction, disabilities and a history or pattern of making bad decisions. They are staggering and stumbling through life and blind to the blessings that God has placed before them. Jesus’ words still ring out to you and to me, “Unbind them and let them go!”

Jesus is counting on us to do it. The miracle of life is a God-thing, but the miracle of community is something we have to make happen. And just like the stinky, soiled and repulsive burial cloths

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“Unbind Him and Let Him Go!”

that had Lazarus all wrapped up, there will be times when it's gonna be a bit messy for us to get involved also. However, there's a simple way to make it feel better and work better. It's by building a friendship. Lazarus's family and friends ran to help him because they loved him. When you and I form friendships with folks who need help, you don't so much see the problem as you see the person. You don't so much count the cost as you want to reach out with care.

It's sort of amazing to me how easy it has become to sit with someone at a court hearing to just give them a tiny bit of support and encouragement to get through it. Or to give someone a ride across town (with their backpack and

baggage in the trunk) to an appointment or just “give them a lift” to the library or maybe to a restaurant where they can be inside for a while. It feels really nice inviting friends to our home for a simple meal or just to watch TV, realizing they mostly socialize at the shelter dining rooms and seldom if ever get to choose a TV channel. Friendship makes all the difference. I could, and often have given significant cash gifts and canned food offerings to various charities and causes, but it doesn't even come close to the joy of a friend saying, “Thank you” for simply sharing some personal time and giving them a bit of encouragement. Taking off those “burial cloths” and unbinding folks is a blessing both ways.

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Friends of the Carpenter is about forming friendships. It's creating that safe space and supervised activity where folks can meet and greet each other. It's a sanctuary ... where we become the living sanctuary ... and Jesus is very real between us. Burdens become lighter and our joy becomes brighter. The bondage of things that restrict and blind us fall away and we become “bound together” in the Body of Christ! Everyone sees and feels God's blessings a bit better! Thank you for your prayers, support and involvement in this ministry. There's a place for you in the circle of friendship, but wherever you are, there are people around you who need to be set free. Jesus says, “Unbind them and let them go!”

Warehouse & Office Update

What a miracle! Friends of the Carpenter will take possession of our new (to us) warehouse and office complex this November! We are so grateful to God and to the many others who have prayed for and paved the path for this expansion of our ministry. The address is 1600 Simpson Street, located on the west side of the railroad tracks between Mill Plain and Fourth Plain Boulevards. There's a “ton”

of clean up and “elbow grease” that is needed and we'll appreciate having help. Work days are set up for Oct. 30th, Nov. 10th, & Nov. 22nd. If you would like to volunteer, please call our office 750-4752. We are delighted and excited about this space and place, and plan to move in by December 1st. We invite all our friends to a Christmas “Open House” on Sunday, December 14th. Again, we



express our thanks to Wade McClaren of Bluebird Transfer for the 2 years of rent-free warehouse space. Thanks also to Mr. Wilf Zilke for the four month warehouse transition space. And to 1st United Methodist Church for the office space and hospitality of the staff, which made our time there, seem like our home for this past year!

En Hos

Under the auspices of an emergency overflow shelter sought from faith-based persons are generally full. Thus, the over-night hospital

- Provide space (Sunday through)
- Provide two (provided)

Share House people guests. Cots/beds trailer. Guests 9:00 pm each morning. No food host site. The program and facilities during the colder months be inconvenient. Jesus didn't give one of the least your “Inn?” Can church as a host

Things

As Friends of the Carpenter items are needed. We have resources c



- Volunteers – S
An AMAZING
received by Jon
WE ARE FOR

Emergency Winter Shelter Hospitality Host Sites Needed

Under the auspice of the Clark County Council for the Homeless, emergency over-night, over-flow accommodations are being sought from faith communities. Reports indicate that 30 to 50 persons are generally turned away each night because shelter space is full. Thus, host sites are being sought to provide over-flow, over-night hospitality. Churches will be asked to:

- Provide space (25 to 40 persons) for a one week period (Sunday through Saturday) from November through March
- Provide two host volunteers each night. (A supervisor will be provided)

Share House personnel will do all screening and registration of guests. Cots/bedding will be provided and stored in a utility trailer. Guests will not be allowed to enter the premises prior to 9:00 pm each night and will be asked to depart by 6:00 am each morning. No food service, showers or laundry will be done on the host site. The intent is to minimize the impact to the host's program and facility, while providing warm space and hospitality during the coldest part of the winter nights. Undoubtedly this will be inconvenient and perhaps a bit difficult. But thank goodness Jesus didn't give up when it got hard. Jesus said, "As you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me!" Will there be room in your "Inn?" Call the FOC office for information or to offer you church as a host site. 750-4752

Things that would help the ministry

As Friends of the Carpenter is growing by leaps and bounds, many items are needed that would greatly help. Please contact us if you have resources or ideas that would help us find.....



- Washer & Dryer (for the new warehouse)
- Photo Copy Machine
- Microwave Oven
- Forklift
- Rolling Platform Ladder
- Vacuum cleaner



- Volunteers – Specifically an Office Receptionist!!!
An AMAZING donation of office furniture and supplies was received by Jon Olson of 'Solutions' in Beaverton.
WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL for their generosity!

Bazaars Vendors Needed

Friends of the Carpenter will be displaying our wood product at several bazaars this season. Here's the "Bazaar" schedule:

- Oct. 25th - **Hudson's Bay**
- Nov. 8th - **All Saints' Episc.**
- Nov. 15th - **1st Church of God**

We will have morning and afternoon shifts for each "Bazaar". Please contact the office for your 'date' and time.

.....
HOLIDAY SHOP
NOW OPEN
FIND FRIENDS OF
THE CARPENTER
GIFTS & GOODIES
AT 1708 MAIN




Woodworker Tool Show at the EXPO

Friends of the Carpenter will have a booth at the Woodworker Tool Show again this year. The dates are November 14th – 16th. **Come to the show to see all the tools and demonstrations AND stop by our booth to say Hi!**



WOODWORKERS – if you would like to work a shift at the Tool Show, please call the office at 360-750-4752.

October & November 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
October 19	20 Auction Volunteer Appreciation Dessert 7 pm @ Trinity	21 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	22 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship	23 Serve SHARE Breakfast	24 Project Access @ Share House	25 Hudson Bay Bazaar 
26	27 SHARE Dinner & Event	28 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	29 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship	30 Serve SHARE Breakfast WORK PARTY @ New Facility	31 Project Access @ Share House	November 1 Woodworker Show & Tell @ Warehouse 2806 A NE 65th Ave.
 2	3	4 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	5 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship	6 Serve SHARE Breakfast	7 Project Access @ Share House	8 All Saints Episcopal Bazaar 
9	10 Veterans Day WORK PARTY @ New Facility	11 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	12 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship	13 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Event 1:30-3:30 pm	14 Project Access @ Share House TOOL SHOW Begins	15 SHARE Brunch Only TOOL SHOW 1st Church of God Bazaar
16 TOOL SHOW	17 FOC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30—9 pm New Facility	18 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	19 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship	20 Serve SHARE Breakfast	21 Project Access @ Share House	22 WORK PARTY @ New Facility
 23	24 SHARE Dinner & Event	25 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	26 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship	27 Serve SHARE Breakfast HAPPY THANKSGIVING	28 Project Access @ Share House	29 

We thank the
prayed for and
Auction and D
Club Green M
autumn wond
delightful ente
Horizons Jazz
available thro
harvest meal.
Carpenter was
point slide sho
expenses, an es
with much app
all those who n
Susie and Ray
and Marilyn A
Williams, Don
Buker, Les an
Dawn Klinski,
Barbi Papenfus



Happy 5th Ann
Organizer Susie
celebration cake

Auction Blessings Beyond Measure

We thank the many friends who contributed to, prayed for and attended the HARVEST NIGHT Auction and Dinner, held Friday, October 3rd. Club Green Meadows was transformed into an autumn wonderland of amazing decorations, delightful entertainment compliments of New Horizons Jazz Band, an incredible array of items available through the auction, and a delicious harvest meal. The mission of Friends of the Carpenter was shared through a heartfelt powerpoint slide show made by Dawn Klinski. After expenses, an estimated \$20,000 was raised. It is with much appreciation and thanks that we list all those who made this event possible....

Susie and Ray Stephins, Nadine Swartz, Wayne and Marilyn Andrews, Doug Van Ness, Virginia Williams, Don and Marie Morrison, Rosemary Buker, Les and Betty Long, Gayle Kimsey, Dawn Klinski, Ed Vindinghoff, Michele Silvey, Barbi Papenfuse, Jim and Detra Swenson, Jack

and Elaine Eaton, Marc and Wendy Hartquist, JoAnne Haberer, Ira and Lillian Lewis, Bob and Karen West, Marejo Siewert, Phil McGuinness, John and Arlas Nemnich, Roger Brindle, Bill Stephins, Wayne Pueschel, Susan Bergeson, Steve Cox, Bob and Mary Mulcrone, Judy Falk, Jeneice Tonneson, Larry Williams, Sue Hamilton and Dean Flory, Sharon Marcotte, Tom and Leah Such, Jay and Sue Kitchin, Rick VanHoose, Judy Duncan, Margit Johnson, Connie Albin, Betsy Stephins, Amy Rich, Duane and Julie Sich, Barb Williams, Cindy Smith, Dan Nicholas, Jan Cox, Dan Clark, Chris Nolte, Wilf Zilke, Craig Soleim, and Mickie Drummond. As we celebrated our 5th year of the ministry, we are grateful to God and our benefactors for the faith and foundation upon which God is doing a mighty work.

Executive Director Duane Sich and Larry Siewert check out some of the Silent Auction items.



Happy 5th Anniversary to Friends of the Carpenter! Organizer Susie Stephins and Ray Sich prepare the celebration cake with candles.



**FRIENDS of the
CARPENTER**



P.O. Box 65358
Vancouver, WA 98665 October, 2003
Phone: 360-750-4752
Rev. Duane Sich, Exec. Director
Cell Phone: 360-936-3461
Jan Cox, Program Manager
Cell Phone: 360-936-3421
Barbara Williams, Volunteer Coordinator
Cell Phone: 360-936-3490
Dan Nicholas, Shop Foreman
Cell Phone: 360-771-0761
Cindy Smith, Financial Secretary
Email: Duane@friendsofthecarpenter.org
WEB PAGE: friendsofthecarpenter.org

Return Service Requested To:
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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*



Announcing A Concert to Benefit Friends of the Carpenter
CHRISTMAS WITH JIM FISCHER & FRIENDS



Featuring:
the Touch of Class Singers
and special guest artists!
Sunday, December 7
3:00 pm & 7:00 pm
2 performances at the Royal Durst Theater
32nd and Main - Vancouver



\$10 adults and \$7 students
Tickets NOW available at:
* Friends of the Carpenter Office
* Holiday Shop—1708 Main St.
CALL 750-4752 for additional locations!