

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

The Carpenter's Tool Box

Volume 6, Issue # 9

September, 2004



The Carpenter's Tool Box
is a monthly publication
of FRIENDS of the
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“It’s A Funny Fraternity”

by Rev. Duane L. Sich

“Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together. There is one body and one Spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you.” “Each one has received a special gift in proportion to what Christ has given.” “By speaking the truth in a spirit of love, we must grow up in every way to Christ, who is the head. Under Christ’s control all the different parts of the body fit together, and the whole body is held together by every joint with which it is provided. So when each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up in love.” Ephesians 4: 3, 4, 7, 15 & 16

Perhaps few of you know this but I’m a biker! Yep, throughout my adult life, I’ve had several different motorcycles. However, as far as the stereotype macho image goes, mine is pretty mild. I started with a little 50 cc Vespa. Next a Honda 350; later I up-graded to a Suzuki 850. Now I’m enjoying a 1987, 1200 cc Goldwing with full dress. It’s a touring bike. Julie and I just finished a delightful eight day road

trip around Eastern and Northern Washington. We started out through the Columbia gorge, went up to Lake Chelan, across the North Cascade Highway, drove up Mt. Baker/Mt. Shuksam, took a ferry over to San Juan Island and then came safely home.

What a neat ride and adventure. But one of the mysterious perks about being a biker is the funny little fraternity that bikers all seem to belong to when you are on the road, women bikers as well. Regardless what size or model your bike is, doesn’t matter if you are decked out in leathers or just wearing a t-shirt and tennis shoes or whether you’re riding in town or out in the county, bikers all seem to automatically wave at each other as they meet on the road. Whether you’re a biker or not, I’m pretty sure you know what I’m talking about. You see it happen all the time. Oh, it’s not 100% but it amazes me how almost complete and nearly consistent the practice seems to be. I do it too and it feels good!

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For most, I think it’s more than just a superficial wave. You seldom see a stranded biker alone on the roadside. Cars seem to pass by like bikers are invisible but I’ve seen bikers brake for each other, stop by to check out what the problem is and to offer help if they can. When my son and I had our mishap in the California Redwoods a few years ago, the very first group of bikers stopped, they let us use their cell phone and stayed with us until the necessary help showed up.

Well, I’m sure there are exceptions, but this is the kind of unity, the sort of doing your best to preserve the unity, the kind of being connected that the Apostle Paul was speaking of when he urged believers to be fit together and to be connected to the head in the Body of Christ. Wouldn’t it be nice if we did have this indiscriminant, automatic and get involved kind of attitude and effort! It would be a wonderful witness. People would easily notice, and The Body would build itself up in love. It would feel AND IT WOULD BE very, very good! Well, if bikers can do it, surely believers can and should do it even better. But it makes me sad, and we should be startled when we realize that it’s not even

true in most churches, let alone for individual Christians.

Unfortunately, many churches do a very poor job of being welcoming and inclusive. Sadly, not just the poor and homeless, but often people who otherwise would perfectly fit in often feel unwelcome, excluded and a “who cares” kind of greeting when they enter a church. I have come to know that the poor and homeless do not see the church as a place of welcome or worship, but rather as a kind of charity ATM machine. They believe if they can just talk to the pastor and punch in the right pin number, i.e. pathetic story, the cash or coupons will come rolling out. Because they have no friends in the church and church people often seem un-friendly, they never feel anything close to that friendly biker wave.

My homeless friends often convey a perception that we church folks are hypocrites – they see us working hard to make God’s house pretty and safe for ourselves, and then just passing the plate and paying a tip from of our abundance to give hand outs to the poor. On the other hand, many who have successful lives and have earned the privilege and luxury of a comfortable life, often

drive by someone standing on a street corner and suspect a scammer. Thoughts such as, “If they just worked and didn’t live on welfare, they wouldn’t have to do that.” I’ve stopped to talk to some of those folks. Some of my impoverished friends have told me how humiliating it feels to be reduced to that being the only way that works to make enough money to get by. When you know someone, rich or poor, when you form a friendship, you learn fairly quickly who the con artists are and who’s in a real crisis. Friendship is the best filter to figure out what to do. But in addition, without an attitude and the effort to work at preserving the unity, well people will just pass by folks on the road of life without even a wave.

Well, again I’m sure there are many exceptions. Not all churches or church members are unwelcoming and uncaring. And many “sign flyers on street corners” are comfortably exploiting the grace and gullibility of good people. But we all know there’s a lot more connecting and personal caring that needs to begin and needs to be done. After all, it’s not a funny little fraternity we belong to. Rather, through faith we belong to the Body of

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What the Ministry Needs Volunteers!!

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, Friends of the Carpenter still needs (and undoubtedly until Jesus comes, will always need) more volunteers. God has blessed this ministry with a warehouse and plenty of workspace in which many people can gather for fellowship, fun and building faith. But without the volunteers to host, to help welcome and to involve our friends in safe and supervised activities, the building and the “Body Build-

ing” will go to waste. A previous newsletter listed 200 – 2 hour monthly volunteer positions we have identified to be filled. Our optimum ratio is 4 participants (those who are homeless) to each volunteer, which means if all our positions were filled, 1,000 persons would be active and involved on our premises each month. We know God will work many miracles through those relational encounters, but we are praying for and counting upon

volunteers to sign up and show up! Though most of what we do is simple and on-the-job training, quarterly volunteer orientation meetings will allow persons to learn policies and procedures of this ministry. Please pray that God will send out more laborers, and we are praying that God will send YOU!



“It’s A Funny Fraternity” continued from page 2





Christ. We are all brothers and sisters in the family of God, and God is counting of “us kids” loving and helping each other along the way, regardless what we’re we are wearing and wherever we are traveling. Believers who live in abundance need to be doing much more than just saying “Thank You” to God and only “pitching in” pay offs to the poor. Churches and church people need to help all people and, as Jesus emphasized especially the poor, to feel more welcome in the family of faith and more motivated and invited to see the church as more than a meal ticket to get by.

We’re in this together. No, we’re not a fraternity of brothers having fun in the frat, we’re family members in the Body of Christ and we need to help each on the road of life.

Now, lest you feel I am biting the hand that feeds this ministry. I know the Friends of the Carpenter mission and ministry is the result of many, many believers “being there big-time” to pray for, to pay for and to personally participate in the “body building” events we do in the Body of Christ. I give thanks for the churches that have opened their doors and whose leaders and members have opened their

hearts to reach out with caring hands to form friendships with the poor. But there are still many other travelers on the journey who are broken down, who feel left out and left alone standing on the road. So please pray for all ministries and for this ministry. Wherever you can, join in; and if you can, please join in with us. Get involved in the work and witness of our faith so people everywhere will easily see that we’re not just waving, but that we’re really working at preserving the unity and producing God’s peace. It’ll feel even better than being a biker – Believe Me!

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sept. 19	20	21 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	22 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	23 Serve SHARE Breakfast	24 Project Access @ Share House	25  HARBOR LIGHTS AUCTION
	27 Cook SHARE Dinner <u>NO</u> Event	28 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	29 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	30 Serve SHARE Breakfast	Oct. 1 Project Access @ Share House	2
3	4	5 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	6 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	7 Serve SHARE Breakfast	8 Serve SHARE Breakfast	9 Woodworker Show & Tell 
10	11	12 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	13 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship ST PAUL EVENT 12:30—2:30 pm	14 Serve SHARE Breakfast	15 Serve SHARE Breakfast	16 SHARE Brunch & Event
17	18 	19 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	20 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	21 Serve SHARE Breakfast	22 Serve SHARE Breakfast Tool Show @ Portland Expo.	23 Tool Show @ Portland Expo.
24 Tool Show @ Portland Expo.	25 SHARE Dinner & Event	26 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	27 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship 12-12:30	28 Serve SHARE Breakfast	29 Serve SHARE Breakfast	30



**WOODY
EXTRAORDINARY**
Otto Bombardieri
volunteer who
shares much of
his talent with
the Carpenter.
He tends our m...



Otto stands behind the upcoming...



**C
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Featuring
Saturday
In an Afternoon
Performance
32nd and

♥♥♥ WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS ♥♥♥

WOODWORKER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Otto Bombach is one of our volunteer woodworkers who shares much of his time and talent with Friends of the Carpenter. He regularly attends our monthly Wood-

worker Show & Tell meetings, inviting many of his friends to come along with him. Just recently he helped to design and install a vacuum system in our shop at the Friendship Center. As a Friends of the Carpenter woodworker, he has

prepared many kits for the wood-working events. One of our large plant caddies was first designed and made by him – the “Bombach Box”.

Most woodworkers are very envious of his large and well equipped shop!!!

Otto and his wife Barbara have been married for 51

years! WOW! They have lived in many places, moving to Vancouver 6 years ago.

Otto is retired from Hughes Aircraft in southern California as a facilities engineer.

Their family includes 3 daughters and one son and five grandchildren, who live in Washington, Oregon and southern California. **Otto & Barbara** are active members at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, helping out wherever and whenever as needed.

Otto is 82 years young – he always has a smile and a thankful heart. His family, friends and many interests keep him busy. We give thanks for his friendship and participation with Friends of the Carpenter!



Otto stands beside an oak chest he made for the upcoming Harbor Lights Auction



Announcing A Concert to Benefit
Friends of the Carpenter

CHRISTMAS WITH JIM FISCHER & FRIENDS

Featuring special guest artists!

Saturday, December 4, 2004

In an Afternoon and Evening

Performance at the Royal Durst Theater

32nd and Main ~ Vancouver, WA



**FRIENDS of the
CARPENTER**

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September, 2004

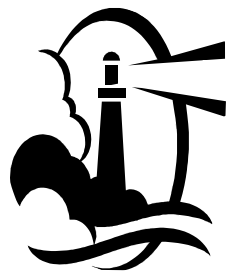
Rev. Duane Sich, Exec. Director
Cell Phone: 360-936-3461
Jan Cox, Program Manager
Cell Phone: 360-936-3421
Barbara Williams, Volunteer Coordinator
Cell Phone: 360-936-3490
Dan Nicholas, Shop Foreman
Cell Phone: 360-771-0761
Cindy Smith, Financial Secretary
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Inviting the Homeless to
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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*



**Come to the
Harbor Lights Auction
A Great Way to Show Your
Support of Friends of the Carpenter!**

A De'light'ful Meal is on Board at the Vancouver Inn at
the Quay. An Incredible Variety of Auction items to
please all tastes. Don't Miss The Boat!

Dinner tickets ~ \$30

Call NOW to Reserve ! (360) 750-4752

Invite your friends! Invite your co-workers!