

# 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  
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### “Hospitality Builds Up The Body Of Christ”

by Rev. Duane L. Sich

*“Keep on loving one another as believers in Christ. Remember to welcome strangers in your homes. There were some who did that and welcomed angels without even knowing it. Remember those who are in prison as though you were in prison with them. Remember those who are suffering as though you were suffering as they are.”* Hebrews 13: 1-3

“It is hard for us to comprehend, but hospitality in the ancient Near East was originally offered to complete strangers. People who appeared from the unknown might bear gifts or might be enemies. Because travel was a dangerous venture, codes of hospitality were strict. If a sworn enemy showed up at your doorstep asking for food and shelter, you were bound to supply his request, along with protection and safe passage as long as he was on your land. All sorts of people had to travel at times through enemy territory, which meant that hospitality to strangers was a matter of mutual survival. It was a kind of social covenant, an implied commitment to transcend human differences in order to meet common human needs. It is not surprising then, that hospitality was a hallmark of virtue for ancient Jews

and Christians. But in scripture, hospitality reflects a larger reality than human survival codes. It mysteriously links us to God as well as to one another. Hospitality in biblical times was understood to be a way of meeting and receiving holy presence. Although providing hospitality was risky, it was a risk taken in faith. After all, the stranger just might be an angel – a messenger of God!” (From Soul Feast by Marjorie J. Thompson)

So many of the folks we meet at the shelters first appear as strangers seemingly walking through “enemy territory.” They appear to want and need hospitality. Most have been hardened and wounded in their life journey. They stand in lines, watching and waiting to see how “this system” works. However, there’s a big difference between hospitality and charity. One treats you with care, the other more like a client. Even as an observer, its easy to see the difference. If you’ve not “been there,” one can only image what the difference actually feels like.

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## “Hospitality Builds Up The Body Of Christ”

When you don't know them personally or know their story, you are vulnerable to making unkind and inaccurate assumptions and judgments. Some seem comfortable and patient about the forthcoming charity. Others display an assertive cockiness that and make you think they are accustomed to this process and believe they deserve the charity or even better. But many others seem quite humbled, grateful and even ashamed to be standing in a line of this sort.

Often just a simple smile or saying “Hi” can pierce through the awkwardness and judgments and open a door for hospitality to begin. Being personal puts a connecting link in place that can transform the process from merely helping someone with a problem to offering true hospitality to a person in need. It's the first step of forming a friendship.

The surprising gift of hospitality is that in giving, the giver also receives. Both the host and the guest become beneficiaries. It works at every social and status level. Hospitality offers an opportunity for solidarity – to feel with and for another person. By welcoming someone into our space and into our lives, we also welcome in and become acquainted with their

situation. As friendships form, we take in and can begin to identify with where the other person is in life and what they are facing. Whereas, if relationships are merely motivated by “what's in it for the receiver,” or the giver believing “there's nothing they need,” these friendships will soon fade away or become fractured by acts of exploitation or power. When you and I view and treat all people with sincere hospitality, when we welcome the stranger (or for that matter, anyone) with acceptance, respect and kindness, and a willingness to engage, something holy happens. Like a ray of light that shatters the darkness, like seeing an angel in our midst, Christ appears! Both the giver and the receiver experience gratitude for a gift given and received. Grace becomes a “seed” for friendships to form and grow .

The mission of Friends of the Carpenter is to build positive and productive relationships. Faith in God is the foundation and motivation. Our three monthly woodcraft events, (and regular other special activities) create an atmosphere of sanctuary – a place for safe and simple encounters to occur. But more than just a simple safe activity, we challenge everyone to “lean

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into” the hospitality – to trust and take a risk that something holy will happen. Obviously it doesn't happen every time. Sometimes the guests (participants) only come for the goodies (vouchers). Sometimes the hosts (volunteers) don't feel there is any gift there for them. Sadly, “seeds” often fall on hard and weedy soil (that's another parable). It always takes time to “cultivate the soil” and “nurture the seeds.” But then many times, what God does and is doing in our midst, pleasantly surprises us. Mysteriously and miraculously, both the hosts and the guests are blessed and begin to build a friendship. Ultimately, we trust that the Body of Christ is being built up. Not only will new folks find their way into the life and fellowship of different churches, but those of us who regularly attend will walk in knowing we have truly offered hospitality. Testimonies tell of angels in our midst!

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your financial support and encouragement of this ministry. As always, we welcome volunteers to “try it.” We're convinced “you'll like it,” and experience God's “Body Building!” Give us a call and come be hospitable with us!”



## HARVEST NIGHT AUCTION & DINNER FRIDAY, OCT. 3rd At Club Green Meadows

**Don't Miss Out** on an exciting line up of auction items that have been received for both the Silent and Live Auctions. Here are a few.

- Sailboating on Lake Washington
- SunRiver House
- Fitness Club Memberships
- Firehouse Birthday Party
- Quilts & needlecraft
- Bonneville Hot Springs Resort
- Cases of Wine
- 12 month steak packages
- Ocean Charter Fishing trip
- Egyptian Jewelry
- Husky football tickets & tailgater
- \$1,000 Utility shed
- Rockport shoes
- 8 person Horseback Trail ride
- Scenic Plane ride to San Juan's
- Beach Cabins
- Catered Dinners
- Wood products made by our volunteer woodworkers:

Jatoba Blanket Chest  
Oak Couch back table  
Oak Plant stands  
Alder End tables  
Children's furniture  
Curio Cabinets  
Entry Bench

Many novelty wood gifts

**AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!**

### TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR AUCTION & DINNER FOR \$25

**NOW is the time** to buy your tickets Don't miss out on this opportunity to have great fellowship, find wonderful deals on the many exciting services and merchandise at the auction, and enjoy a delectable meal at the same time with great friends! If you would like to host a table and invite your friends... seating can be arranged in groups of 8—10. Contact the Friends of the Carpenter office at (360) 750-4752 to reserve and purchase your tickets, ASAP! !




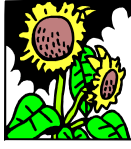

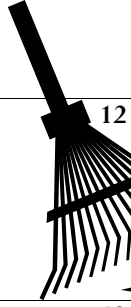


A special raffle drawing will feature 200 handcrafted mahogany jewelry boxes, which will be sold for \$10 a piece. One of the jewelry boxes will entitle the winner to a diamond cross pin donated by Runyan's Jewelers. We thank Dale Clark for the woodcraft of these lovely boxes, and Runyan's for the diamond pin.



#### Advertising Space Available for Auction Catalog....

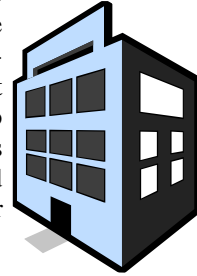
If you would like to promote your business, space can be purchased in the Auction Catalog. Costs are just: \$10 for business card size, \$25 for 1/4 page, \$50 for 1/2 page, and \$75 for a full page. The endorsing Churches of Friends of the Carpenter will also have space available to them

# September & October 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sept. 14 Messiah Lutheran & Eastwoods Pres. Mission Moment	15 FOC Board of Directors Meeting 5:30—9 pm	16 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	17 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship	18 Serve SHARE Breakfast	19 Project Access @ Share House	20 SHARE Brunch and Event 
21 Mill Plain UMC, 1st UMC & Orchards UMC Mission Moment	22 SHARE Dinner and Song Fest	23 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	24 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship	25 Serve SHARE Breakfast	26 Project Access @ Share House	27
28 	29	30 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	October 1 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship	2 Serve SHARE Breakfast	3 HARVEST NIGHT AUCTION & DINNER	4 
5 	6	7 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	8 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship	9 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Event 1:30—3:30 pm	10 Project Access @ Share House	11 Woodworker Show & Tell @ Warehouse 2806 A NE 65th Ave. 
12	13	14 Serve SHARE Breakfast Prayer Care Lunch	15 Serve SHARE Breakfast St. Paul Noon Worship	16 Serve SHARE Breakfast	17 Project Access @ Share House	18 SHARE Brunch and Event Ascension Bazaar
19	20	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 

## Warehouse Wish List and Update

We are SOOOOO grateful for our new donated warehouse location. Board Member, Wilf Zilke has graciously made available a 3,000 sq. ft. warehouse which allows us exclusive use (not shared space), plus ample storage for our materials and product. And we are designing plans and acquiring equipment for the first Friends of the Carpenter wood-work shop! Eventually, the Board of Directors intends to build or buy a permanent location, but for now ... THIS IS GREAT! Thanks Be to God and "Thank You" to everyone for your prayers, encouragement and support. Friends of the Carpenter is growing and going! However, we have not arrived! The additional space and opportunity has created some needs and wishes. Donations can be made in honor or memory of loved ones, and the gift will be acknowledged.



### Special Shop Tools & Office Equipment:

Shop Vacuum System (for the tools)	Surface/Thickness Planer
48 X 6 inch Free Standing Sander	Spindle Sander
Resaw Band Saw	Router & Table
Office Chair and Desk	Office (Carpet) Vacuum
Computer printer (we have the computer—Thank you Doug @ CompuDoc!)	



## Bazaar Vendors Needed!

It's that Bazaar time of year again. The time when... churches and community groups hold "Bazaars" to sell craft items... people attend "Bazaars" to buy goodies and things for Christmas ... Friends of the Carpenter recruits volunteers to help at "Bazaars"... Friends of the Carpenter will be displaying our wood product at several bazaars this season. Here's the "Bazaar" schedule:



October 18<sup>th</sup> - Ascension Catholic Bazaar – Portland

October 25<sup>th</sup> - Hudson's Bay

November 8<sup>th</sup> - All Saints' Episcopal

November 15<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Church of God

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

## Announcing A Concert to Benefit Friends of the Carpenter



### JIM FISCHER'S CHRISTMAS WITH FRIENDS

Featuring the Touch of Class Choir,  
and special guest artists!

Sunday, December 7, 2003  
2 performances At the Royal Durst Theater  
32nd and Main - Vancouver  
Tickets available soon for \$10 each!



**FRIENDS of the  
CARPENTER**

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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*

**Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart**



The Volunteer Appreciation BBQ at Salmon Creek in August was a beautiful evening of fellowship and giving thanks for all our volunteers and patrons. A time to give thanks for time, presence and prayers.

Our thanks to the AAMEN group for their presence and grilling the meat. We also give thanks for several of our participant friends who helped with the set-up, serving and clean-up. And to Salmon Creek UMC for the use of their Family Ministry area.

We give thanks for all who attended this special event.