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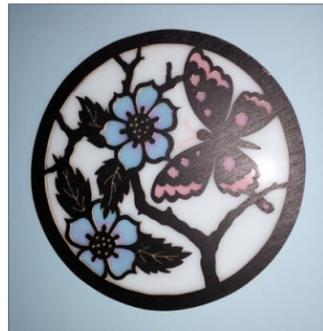
Contact Us!

- Phone 360-750-4752
- Tom Iberle, Executive Director
Cell 360-903-3626
- Michelle Rouse, Administrative Manager
Cell 360-558-2246
- Craig Cluff, Facilities Manager
Cell 360-558-2245
- Jerry Swan, Financial Secretary
- Bernie Gerhardt, Volunteer & Community Outreach Manager
- CJ Haney, Activity Coordinator
- Andre Provost, Community Service Coordinator
- Samuel Abron, Shop Assistant
- contact@friendsofthecarpenter.org
- www.friendsofthecarpenter.org
- www.facebook/friendsofthecarpenter
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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

Products of the Month

Spring is here, a season of rebirth and a time to contemplate our spiritual well being. And Mother's Day is just around the corner – our butterflies are sure to brighten her day!



Mother's Butterfly (PL13025) \$20.00

Make your gift unique: attach a plastic circle to the back to color the images (as shown at right)

Buy yours on-line today:

friendsofthecarpenter.org

Or visit our store at: 1600 W. 20th Street

Handmade in Vancouver, Wash.



Changing Lives with Love

The Carpenters Toolbox

Volume 17 Issue 4

April 2015

Christ is Risen!!

By Tom Iberle

He is Risen indeed!! That Easter acclamation often starts our prayer time at Friends of the Carpenter. We see evidence of that Risen Spirit constantly at our Friendship Center. It gives us hope to see the awesome transformations that take place through our Ministry because of God's Grace.

This month, I would like to share with you a little information from our recently completed Annual Report to give you some idea of what has been happening at the Friendship Center over the past year and especially over the past few months.

In short, we are happily and blessedly bursting at the seams. The number and range of people coming to our Ministry are both growing substantially. For example, we saw an average of 80 participant visits per month in 2010. Starting in 2012, there has been a sharp trend upward – 103 participant visits per month in 2012, 150 visits per month in 2013, and a remarkable 225 per month this past year. In addition, our special needs population has grown to about 70 visits per month. When you add in those com-

ing to perform Community Service with us, our total in 2014 comes to at least 300 client visits per month. That's double the number from the previous year, triple what we saw two years ago and five times the number in 2011!

That means all of us – Volunteers, staff and our partner organizations – are all running as fast as we can to keep up with the demands of providing a high quality program for the varied group that comes through our doors every weekday. Up to now, we have been managing pretty well. But there are strains and growing pains. For one, our space needs are getting to be more and more pressing. We have a Building Committee that continues to look at those needs and provide ways to address them, but it's a very big job. We may need more help with that whole area in the months and years to come. Another challenge is that the variety of life issues experienced by many of the folks with whom we minister continues to grow. We are taking steps to broaden the range of services we provide, but that

takes time and planning to achieve. In the short term, we ask for your prayers and could use some additional volunteer help to keep things going.

To give you some idea of what things are like lately, I would also like to share with you the experience we had just recently. I thought Wednesday March 18th was one of the most remarkable days we have had at the Friendship Center in a while. We had so many wonderful and blessed things going on all at once. Over the course of that day we had well over 100 people in the building involved in a wide range of activities.

Our regular Wednesday afternoon events have been growing in size and diversity over the past several months. There were 45 of our Love Gifts given out that day. In addition, we had two other vibrant and life-giving activities going on at the same time; one that happens weekly and the other that is now a monthly service we are able to offer. The first activity was our beloved partner program that is known by its acronym – WAPI – which stands for Water Pasteurization Indica-

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tor. I don't have the space here to go into a lot of detail about what that program is accomplishing here and all over the world. You can go to our website and learn more about it, if you're interested. I do know that they put together 700 WAPIs that Wednesday. The second activity was our newest valued Ministry partner that goes by the name Hands of Favor. Their mission is to build self-esteem, confidence, and a positive self-image by providing free haircuts and grooming services. Their tagline

is 'Doing God's Work one haircut at a time'. Derek Thompson, his wife Regina and their partner Abel are now blessing us with their presence and their expertise every third Wednesday and they provided more than 20 haircuts on the 18th. You can check out their new website at www.handsoffavor.org. Lastly, we had the Young at Heart group of about 20 visitors from New Heights Church stop by for a tour and some shopping in our newly remodeled Product

area. It was quite a day!

All of that is solid proof of that favorite introduction to prayer at the Center: The leader starts out 'Christ is Risen!' and all those present respond with 'He is Risen Indeed!' In this Easter Season, please know that the Spirit of our Risen Lord is alive and thriving at Friends of the Carpenter. We give Thanks for your continuing support of our Mission of Changing Lives with God's Love.



Friends of the Carpenter Annual Auction & Dinner
Saturday, October 17, 2015

"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" Amos 5:24

Activity Corner

Activities
Monday – Friday
9 – 4 pm

Wednesday
Event Activities
1:00 – 3:00 pm

As fast as things change, some wonderful things stay the same. The "Regulars" come and share our space and activities and many times bring their friends. Travelers pass through and new faces appear. Having been involved for (literally) years now, it is always an adventure to be here at the Friendship Center. Woodworkers and Wood Turners are providing the participants a wide variety of project kits and our Wednesday events are drawing even larger more diverse groups who enjoy the organized chaos together. It is really just good fun to see and hear the joyous noise we create.

We do have to help pay the bills now and then, so coming up on Saturday MAY 2nd we

will be having our Spring Product and Tool Sale. Anyone who has been to our last two marketing events or anyone who has never attended need to come and see all the physical changes to our building. Anyone who has been away for more than a couple of months needs to come by and see our new "classroom", inventory/storage/HUGS area to appreciate how economical we are becoming with our limited space. Ever evolving while we fulfill our mission to build community and give everyone a sense of purpose. So far so good – come along for the ride, we are all wonderfully made and have something to share.

PS: We still can use garden tools If you can spare them, planting season is near. Thanx in advance for your generosity. CJ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4/5 Easter	9:30 am Devotions 1:00 pm Staff Mtg	9:30 am Devotions 1:30 pm Point Man Ministries (Veterans) 7 pm VCCB Rehearsal	9:30 am Devotions 1 pm Afternoon Activity 4/1 5–6 pm Daniel Plan Class 4/15 8 am Church Sponsor Breakfast Clark County Food Bank 4/22 7 pm Woodturners 5/4–5/8 1 pm Newsletter Activity	9:30 am Devotions 7 pm Pipe Band Rehearsal 4/16 One (1) Day of Prayer for Clark County and WA www.onechurch1day.org 4/16 7 pm Volunteer Appreciation Friendship Center	9:30 am Devotions 4/3 5–8pm First Friday at Divine Con-sig 5/1 5–8 pm First Friday at Divine Con-sig 5/1 10 am Tool Sale Friendship Center	4/25 9:30 am Show & Tell 5/2 11 am–2 pm Tool Sale Friendship Center

DONATIONS NEEDED

Shovel, 1/4 inch ribbon, Material for making bags, bottled water



www.friendsofthecarpenter.org



2nd Chance Thrift Store

Is it your dream to climb Mt. Rainier? NO? Why not try volunteering!

Did you want to try skydiving? NO? Volunteering at the thrift store can be very satisfying!

Maybe you've wanted to tight rope over the Grand Canyon? NO? Volunteering can also be exciting!

Volunteering is "doable"! and rewarding! and fun! and safer than canoeing to Hawaii!

2nd Chance Thrift Store is always looking for reliable people

3414 NE 52nd St., Vancouver, WA 98661
360-750-3867 www.2ndchancethriftstore.org
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday



Beaches Cashback Event Raises \$1,183!

A special thank you to Beaches Restaurant & Bar for hosting a Cashback Fundraiser for FOC on February 17, which raised \$1,183.81.

"Beaches has a rich history of giving back to the community and we are grateful for their support and for this opportunity," said Tom Iberle, executive director.

Also a big thank you to all of our supporters who ate at Beaches on February 17 and let their server know they were there in support of FOC. Your time and generosity is very much appreciated – the event would not have been a success without your contributions!