

FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER
December

Changing lives with love

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Dear Friends, Let us love one another because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God . 1 John

FRIENDS
of the
CARPENTER

Changing Lives with Love

The Carpenter's Tool Box

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2015

Prepare the Way

By Tom Iberle

He (John the Baptist) went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Luke 3: 3 - 6

Regular readers of this newsletter won't be surprised if I say that this month promises to be busier than usual. In addition to our usual daily and weekly program of faith-sharing opportunities, woodworking projects and other kinds of activities, and our regular December-related events, we plan on opening the new day center program in partnership with Share in the middle of December and break ground on the new shower and laundry facility as well. Whew! The building will be

abuzz with new faces, new energy and lots more of God's Love and Grace.

Having this flurry of preparation and activity take place right in the middle of the Advent Season seems especially appropriate. The word *advent* means 'coming into being'. From a faith perspective, the four Sundays before Christmas are a time of preparation to get us ready to welcome the Light of the World, the Christ Child, into our homes and our hearts. We have much for which to prepare this year at Friends of the Carpenter, and we greatly appreciate your continued prayers of support and monetary and in-kind donations that help keep us all going – volunteers, participants and staff.

When the doors to the day center open for the first time later this month, there will be a range of services offered. While there will not be any overnight accommodations, the day center will provide a safe, warm and dry place to come in out of the winter weather throughout the week – every day from 7 am to 5 pm, including Saturday and Sunday.

There will be charging stations for electronic devices and a place to rest up. Another crucial element that will be available is a range of outreach workers – case managers, connections to mental health and substance abuse counseling, and housing, education and employment services.

While we are aware that hygiene services are an ongoing and critical need right now, we need more time to make those a reality. Design, permitting, planning and scheduling and then actual construction are on track to open showers, laundry and additional bathrooms in early 2016. Our partners in the building industry have sent out an appeal to contractors and trade associations for willing suppliers of all the expertise we will need to add the facilities above that will be a part of the day center, but that will become a permanent part of our building.

So we have much to do to prepare the way for what God has planned. Please keep all of us and those plans in your prayers.

Another recent development has brought more change and opportunity to Friends of the Carpenter.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Prepare the Way 1
- Activity Corner 2
- Church Beyond Walls 3
- Holiday Product Sale 3
- December Volunteer Spotlight 4
- Calendar 5
- 2nd Chance Thrift Store 5
- Contact Info 6
- Product of the Month 6



Products of the Month

Believe it or not, Christmas is just around the corner. Pre-order from our new collection of 2015 Christmas Ornaments – perfect stocking stuffers, teachers gifts and more! Visit the Friendship Center to view the entire collection.



2015 Christmas Ornaments

Prices range from \$5 to \$25

Pre-order on-line today:

friendsofthecarpenter.org

Or visit our store at: 1600 W. 20th Street
Handmade in Vancouver, Wash.

Scan to donate online



Scan or text
CARPENTER to
42828
To Join Our Online
Newsletter

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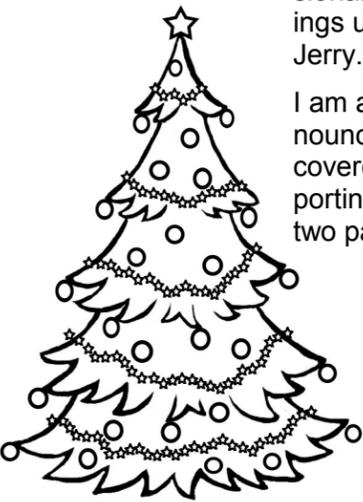
Our long time Financial Secretary Jerry Swan stepped away from that role at the end of October to spend more time with his wife Trudy and the rest of his family. We give Thanks to Jerry for his faithful service in support of our Ministry. His expertise has been a great blessing in making sure that our fiduciary responsibilities are clean, transparent and carried out with the utmost care and professionalism. God's Blessings upon you and yours, Jerry.

I am also pleased to announce that we have ably covered that financial reporting role by combining two part-time jobs – that of

Office Assistant and Financial Secretary – to create our fourth full-time position. While we have yet to officially settle on a name for that role, we do know who will fill it – Mary Rose, our Office Assistant who was hired earlier in 2015. Mary has been a wonderful addition to our staff from the very beginning, and is diving into this new opportunity with great enthusiasm and grace. Jerry generously agreed to assist Mary over the past couple of weeks with helping her learn her new responsibilities. It has been a blessedly smooth transition. Many Thanks to both of them for keeping our fi-

nancial systems secure and our accounting above board and competently handled.

So it's shaping up to be a particularly lively and holy Advent Season in so many ways. You are most welcome to pay us a visit and check out the Day Center once we have it up and running – check our website for updates or give our office a call. God's Love and Grace will be flowing all through the Friendship Center throughout the Holiday Season and into the Year of our Lord 2016. Thanks for your continuing support.



Activity Corner

Wednesday
Event Activities
1:00 — 3:00 pm

Hello Everyone - Happy Holidays ! Once again, we are going into the 12th Month. This year has flown by and we are contemplating our blessing. The Friendship Center Family want to wish all of you a holy and healthy festive season.

Having said that, we are not stopping for a minute. Our December will be busy as usual. Mark your calendar for Friday DECEMBER 11th. Three wonderful events are happening on the same day.

First: Starting at 10am and going to 3pm: We will be having our HUGE HOLIDAY SALES DAY. All of our items large and small will be available for purchase as mementoes or gifts for your nearest and dearest.

Second: Starting at 11:30am to 1pm: We will be cashing in our contest winning of a very special " Espresso Coffee Bar".

Third: We will be hosting an Open House for the new Day Center for the Clark County and Share House personnel. Everyone will be seeing the new working space for the first time.

A special thanks to all of our Church Partners who have been hosting holiday events or selling our products, so lovingly provided by our woodworkers, scroll saw wizards, participants and volunteers. We appreciate the support you give.

I want to thank all of the many people who have helped keep me busy and out of trouble this year.

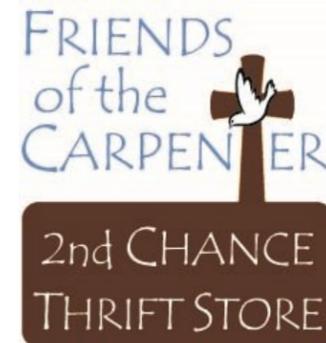
As we close out 2015, we keep looking forward and gearing up for the Jan 20th HUGS party. As always, you are invited to come down and have some fun with us. CJ

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	9:30 am Devotions	9:30 am Devotions	9:30 am Devotions	9:30 am Devotions	9:30 am Devotions	No Show & Tell until January 23rd
	1:30 pm Staff Mtg	1:30 pm Point Ministries (Veterans Support Group)	10 am Faith Sharing Group	10:15 am Discipleship Class	1-3 pm Woodturning Class	
	12/21 5pm Homeless Memorial at St. Paul Lutheran Church	7 pm VCCB Practice	1 pm Wednesday Afternoon Activity 12/16 Good Deeds with Beads 12/16 11-4 pm Hand of Favor Free Haircuts	7 pm Pipe Band Rehearsal 12/17 One (1) Day of Prayer for Clark County & WA State	12/11 10 am-3 pm Product Sale 11:30 am-1pm Coffee Bar Noon-1 pm Day Center Open House	
					Open until 12 pm on Christmas Eve Thurs. Dec. 24	Closed Christmas Day Friday Dec. 25



HUGS
coming
January 20th



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

THANK YOU!!

This is a time for counting our blessings and appreciating what we have.

The thrift store has been blessed over and over with:

*Abundant donations of items continue to come in. Without these we would not have merchandise on the shelves. Thank you to the generous people who continue to donate quality merchandise.

*Reliable, caring, capable volunteers who continue to maintain their commitment to the cause of making money for Friends of the Carpenter and their ministry. The volunteers even ENJOY coming to work! They sort, clean, price, stock shelves, ring up sales, keep the store clean, and greet customers with a smile. Thank you volunteers!

*Customers that are complimentary, cheerful, and have become our friends. Thank you for making us part of your shopping routine.

*God's Providence to ensure that the needs of the store are taken care of. Many times when someone can't make it, another volunteer calls to ask if they could come in to work. How did they know they were needed? That happened this past Saturday. We were going to have to close when someone came forward to work. Because of that, we kept the store open and made \$325. This is what makes the store work...over and over again!!! Thank you for your willingness to serve in such a meaningful way!

Thank you to all those who have committed to volunteering this past year! Without each and every one of you, there would be no thrift store!

