

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER  
 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 and knows God. 1 John

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER



Changing Lives with Love

# The Carpenter's Tool Box

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2015

## A Place to Call Home By Tom Iberle

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8*

There is a critical affordable housing crisis in our community right now. Maybe you've read or heard some of the stories and statistics. Rents are rising faster here than anywhere else in the country - by some estimates a two-bedroom apartment costs 15% more today than the same time last year. The vacancy rate is 2%, well below the national average of 6.8%. There are almost 30,000 households in Clark County who are cost-burdened by housing. That means that more than 30% of their income goes to pay rent - and for some 10,000 of those families more than 50% of their income goes to rent.

Whatever your housing situation happens to be right now, try to imagine for a moment what it would be like to be one of those families. You're in a danger zone where any financial difficulty can cause you and your family

to become homeless. Illness, temporary job loss, a rent increase or any other unexpected bill can be an insurmountable financial problem.

Our community has begun to respond to this urgent situation. Some small steps have been taken to deal with this challenge. Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt formed an Affordable Housing Task Force made up of government, non-profit and citizen representatives. That group devised three new Ordinances that the City Council approved unanimously on September 21<sup>st</sup>. These ordinances provide some protection for renters which will help families struggling with cost-burdened housing. You can read all about these changes on the City's website - [www.cityofvancouver.us](http://www.cityofvancouver.us) - go to Our Community and click on Affordable Housing.

The faith community is responding too. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, St. Andrew Lutheran Church hosted an interfaith workshop called *God's Work - Our Hands:*

*Working Together to End Homelessness.* Ten creative ideas were distilled from the suggestions of the small groups who gathered there. The leaders of the St. Andrew taskforce along with other faith community representatives are planning a follow-up process to decide on which of those ten ideas to focus. There are also congregations considering whether to open their grounds to safe car camping. A workshop on the subject will be held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm.

In September the City Council also took action on another important issue to the homeless community. In response to a Federal Court decision, they passed an ordinance that makes it legal to camp on city property between the hours of 9:30 pm and 6:30 am. Current city code classifies camping as a misdemeanor violation. Many of our participants at Friends of the Carpenter are regularly ticketed for those kinds of violations. Most, if not all, of those Friends are not able to pay the fines that come

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## 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  
*Must be pre-ordered; delivery by December 1*  
**Pre-order on-line today:**  
[friendsofthecarpenter.org](http://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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with the tickets. The result is often jail time, a critical mark on your criminal history, and yet another burden on a life in crisis. With the new ordinance, it will be legal to camp on city property by the end of October.

Another reality is that Vancouver now has a 'tent city' in existence, legal or not, in the neighborhood around Share House at 13<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln. It's another situation crying out for a response.

All of those folks, plus oth-

ers around town, are greatly in need of a safe place to spend the day-time hours. The Friends of the Carpenter Staff and Board of Directors have been meeting with our partners at the City and Share over the past few months. We have devised a plan for a city/county-funded Day Center to be opened in our building sometime later this year. It would operate seven days a week and provide case management, basic personal hygiene like showers, and a place to

rest up and be protected from the weather. We will share more about that project in future newsletters and on our website. So stay tuned.

All of the steps above are moves in the right direction. None of them will solve the crisis of homelessness and the lack of affordable housing by themselves. But we are called as a family of faith to join together and come up with ways to make sure all of God's children are cared for and treated with dignity and respect. I look forward to the dialogue to determine how to do that and what role Friends of the Carpenter can play in collaboration with the entire community.

Thanks for your continuing and heartfelt support.



**GIVE MORE 24!**

**Thank you!**

By donating to FOC on Give More 24! you helped us to raise \$11,340, with a matching donation for 'Gifts given in honor of Ed Lynch' And making a difference by helping us 'Change Lives with God's Love!'

**Activity Corner**

Wednesday  
Event Activities  
1:00 — 3:00 pm

As I write this, you could not yet tell it was Fall. Though the nights are nippy, the days are glorious. It helps keep the mood and energy levels high. October is a favorite month of mine because school is back in session and a scheduled order has returned from the more disorganized summer chaos. At FOC it doesn't seem to matter...LOL... because this is one of the busier times around here. We are all working to get our Auction (Oct 17th) items finished. For the first time in recent history, the Activity Center will have 3 items up for bid: A wrought iron Garden Bench; a wooden Bench for Two; an Outdoor Table and 6 Chairs. All of this wonderfully restored furniture was donated by a woodworker and lovingly sanded, oiled and polished by Participants over the last 7 months. Why did it take so long? Come and see how artfully they were cared for by the numerous hands who have touched them and your question will be answered. I am very humble and proud of everyone.

But that event is only the first of three.

Secondly: We are also having our Pre Holiday Product Sale on Friday, October 23rd. This one day event is the first time public showing of the 2015 Christmas ornaments and many other things. Craig and I will be pulling out our items large and small not seen in a while. We could use your support so please come and get the holiday season started with us.

The third "Funner" or "Funnier" event will be the Care Committee's Harvest Party on Wednesday, October 28th. There will be a great luncheon and we were thinking of making the Name the Pumpkin Face a contest as part of the afternoon. (We have already started on this project - you should come down and see the creativity you can measure on the little wooden face shapes cut out by our scroll saw unit). I am in AWE of these guys. All are welcome... so hope to see you at one or all of our activities. CJ

**October 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	10/17 5:30 pm — 10 pm
	1:30 pm Staff Mtg	1:30 pm Point Man Ministries (Veterans Support Group)	10 am Faith Sharing Group	10:15 am Discipleship Class	1—3 pm Woodturning Class	<b>Dixieland by the Columbia River Auction &amp; Dinner</b>
	10/12 Columbus Day	7 pm VCCB Practice	1 pm Wednesday Afternoon Activity	7 pm Pipe Band Rehearsal	10/23 10 am—3 pm Pre-Holiday Product Sale	Hilton Vancouver
			10/7 7pm Auction Volunteer Training	10/15 One (1) Day of Prayer for Clark County & WA State		10/24 9:30 am Show & Tell
			10/14 7pm Auction Volunteer Training			
			10/21 11—4 pm Hand of Favor Free Haircuts			
			10/28 7 pm Woodturners			



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

**WOODTURNING CLASS**  
Class will begin October 9th and will be held every Friday from 1—3 pm

- \*The 2nd Chance Thrift Store is in need of volunteers.
- \*Friends of the Carpenter's operation as it is today, depends on the thrift store.
- \*We have had to close a few times lately, for lack of volunteers.

One third of Friends of the Carpenter's yearly income comes from the 2nd Chance Thrift Store. The income from the store is enough to pay facility expenses (postage, utilities, electricity, phones, propane for heat, vehicle operation building maintenance) and administrative expenses for the whole year.

We are keeping the facility in operation! Allowing the ministry to live out its Mission of providing safety and a sense of purpose to so many.

- \*Volunteers are maintaining the quality ministry by keeping the store alive and well!
- \*They enjoy what they are doing at the store. Volunteering can be fun!
- \*Knowing the difference they make is great motivation!

A few key people are going to be greatly missed next year. It will take a few more volunteers to fill their shoes. FRIENDS OF THE CARPENTER NEEDS YOU!!!

Together we are making a tremendous difference! Consider being a part of the difference we are making.

Come into the store, fill out an application, and become a part of the fun!