

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 4:7

FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

Changing Lives with Love

# The Carpenter's Tool Box

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Summer 2017



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## A People Called Together

By Tom Iberle

'We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction'

1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

We're often asked by many who are unfamiliar with our ministry, "Is Friends of the Carpenter a church?" It's a valid and understandable question. After all, our very name includes a reference to our Lord Jesus, the Jewish carpenter. Add to that our faith-based aspect, our daily prayer and praise, and our many devotional wood products, and it is easy to see why some-

one would wonder just what is the nature of our organization. Our standard answer to the question is "No, Friends of the Carpenter is not a church, but a ministry where many church members come to live out and practice their faith". That seems to suffice for most everyone who asks the question. However, let's dig a little deeper into the origin of the word 'church' and take another look at things from our current understanding.

While Jesus and his disciples would have used Aramaic to converse, most Biblical Scholars believe that the New Testament was written in Greek. Two Greek words are used in Scripture for 'church' - the

first is *Kuriakon*, which translates to house of *Kurios* (the Lord), which would refer to the physical building. The other word for church is *Ecclesia*, which is the root of our word ecclesiastic. *Ecclesia* is translated as 'a people called together'. In other words, an assembly or gathering of believers.

On Sunday, our Sabbath day for worship in Christianity, the Friendship Center is quiet. There are no services there on that day, sacramental or otherwise. To me, that means your Friendship Center doesn't quite fit the definition of a *Kuriakon*.

However, I contend that we do fit the definition of an *Ecclesia* at Friends of the Carpenter. Believers and non-

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 42828  
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 Newsletter

believers alike gather at the Friendship Center every weekday, for a variety of reasons. Many come for the fellowship and for the meaningful activities we provide. Every day at 9:30 am, the tools and equipment are turned off and we gather together for prayer and praise, a short message, and an opportunity to share successes and struggles, challenges and what we call 'God sightings' - instances of where someone sees the work of the Lord in their life.

Many of those who gather appreciate having the opportunity to find structure and purpose for their day, or want to try out a new skill or discover one they didn't know they had. Our volunteers love being able to share their time and talent with us, to support our Mission in a variety of ways. In addition, some come for the coffee and pastries, some for shelter from the elements, some for the clean

and sober, welcoming atmosphere. I hear all the time how valuable the sense of safety is for many whose lives outside of the Friendship Center are full of chaos and uncertainty.

It seems to me that when you combine all of that, it vividly and accurately describes a 'people called together' for a common purpose - supporting each other, listening to each other and helping each and every one to make progress in their journey on this Earth.



Does that process go smoothly and without any mistakes or difficulty? Of course not, we're talking messy human beings and lots of sawdust here. But when it does work, those of us on staff revel in being able to stand back and watch in awe as God's Grace and Power infuse the Friendship Center with a holiness that is

precious and sublime. So, is Friends of the Carpenter a church? Depends on your perspective, but I would argue definitely Yes if we're talking about that sense of *Eccllesia*, a gathering of those looking for a better way to live out their lives.

Of course, we also have dozens of supporting churches where services are held every weekend, and we constantly encourage those who visit during the week to seek out and find a faith community to join and participate in. We deeply appreciate the connection to and the backing we receive from our congregations. We wouldn't be able to keep the Ministry going without them.

And we wouldn't be able to keep the doors open without the great generosity of the rest of our donors - individuals, businesses and other community partners - who believe in our Mission and regularly provide the safety, structure and purpose that so many find waiting for them at 1600 W. 20th St. Thanks and Blessings to each and every one of you for making all of that possible!!

## Volunteer Happenings

In May, Friends of the Carpenter hosted **Liberty Mutual Insurance**. Two groups of energetic and hard-working volunteers joined us on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> as part of their '**Serve with Liberty**' program. The volunteers helped with a variety of projects, including building bird houses and updating our product inventory system. Thanks so much to everyone at Liberty Mutual Insurance!!

Friends of the Carpenter hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation event on April 19. Over 70 volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to socialize with each other, received a flower pot decorated by FOC participants, enjoyed catered appetizers/desserts by DuckTales and heard an inspirational message from Daybreak Youth Services Outreach Director, Steve Becker. If you or anyone you know may be interested in helping out either at our Friendship Center or 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Thrift Store, please contact me. We are always looking for new volunteers!



Steve Becker, Daybreak Youth Services at Volunteer Appreciation

Thank you

John Ryan  
 Volunteer Manager  
 360-750-4752  
[johnr@friendsofthecarpenter.org](mailto:johnr@friendsofthecarpenter.org)

## In the Community.....



Come join the fun at  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

8310 MacArthur Blvd.  
 Vancouver, WA 98664

**Independence Day Picnic**

**Tuesday, July 4th**

from 5:00 to 8:00 pm  
 Food, Games and Family Fun



# Calendar

## Upcoming Events

- Closed Tuesday, July 4, for the holiday
- Closed Monday, September 4 for Labor day
- Annual Auction & Dinner  
Saturday, October 21

## Friends of the Carpenter Board of Directors:

- President:**  
Grover Icenogle
- Vice President:**  
Rev. Josh Rowley
- Treasurer:** Linda Otton
- Secretary:** Sandy Mathis
- Thrift Store Liaison:** Frank Stowe
- Bill Parsons
- Bob McKusick
- Brent Stahl
- Charles Mackey
- Lois Smith
- Wendy Wright

## H.U.G.S Party Coming Soon! Wednesday, July 19th 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Friendship Center

Donations of new women’s socks and underwear, toothbrushes and deodorant especially needed!



## Activity Corner

by Dan Neeley, Activity Coordinator

Greetings everyone, this last quarter has been a very active one. The Easter season was wonderful. The devotions were very meaningful. For products, we had a mix of new items alongside the old. Sales were great. Thanks to all for your fantastic support. In the Center, we dyed over 15 dozen eggs one week, and decorated 6 dozen wooden eggs the next. These all went out into the community. The rest of the quarter, we had a great time as well. During Spring Break, we had groups come from as far away as California and Seattle to serve with us. We made a cute little tri-cycle bird feeder and a new style bird house. These items are available for sale today. We made puzzles for day care centers with LDS groups, organized our inventory and supply closet with groups from Liberty Mutual Insurance. All in all, they’ve made me sweat to keep ahead of all the activity. Can you say spring time finally made it? The catch of the day is garden stakes. See our ad, but we have every variety that can be planted, and if we don’t have it, we can make it; anything can be scroll-sawed on a garden stake. Going forward, we are looking forward to the summer activities and groups this summer. We can design activities suitable for any age and any group size. Come check us out. For those with a bucket list, add going to the Center for morning devotions to it. This is a must do. For those without a bucket list, if you’ve never attended the morning devotions, you are missing something wonderful. Come visit us at 9:30 every morning: songs, prayer, name game, a different speaker every day. You won’t be sorry!

## The President’s Viewpoint By Grover Icenogle

As listed in our Strategic Plan, the Friends of the Carpenter’s Strategic Values – compassion, creativity, God’s love, ministry, recognition, safety, social justice, stability, and stewardship – are among the standards that sustain our ministry.

To write this column reasonably free of my personal opinion, I looked up definitions of each word online – mostly from the Random House Dictionary. Each statement is primarily the words (italicized) of the relevant definitions. My goals are to slow your reading of, and stimulate your thinking about, a list of words. Words are important.

**Values**, based on *merit and importance*, are the moral principles and accepted standards of each person and of the social groups people form.

With **compassion** one feels *deep empathy for another person troubled by misfortune*, and one feels *a strong desire to alleviate the suffering*.

With **creativity** one rises *above traditional ideas, rules, patterns, relationships and the like to create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, interpretations, etc.*

We live in **God’s love**, *a profoundly tender, even passionate, affection by which God takes pleasure in a feeling of warm personal attachment*

*with humans and humankind.*

**Ministry**, based on *servanthood*, is the offering of care or aid by attending to needs or necessities and is the contribution to comfort or happiness.

Through **recognition** one *accepts the legitimacy, and the right to attention, of all individuals regardless of their personal circumstances.*

Focusing on **safety**, the *freedom from risk of injury, danger, or loss, is essential to the success of the ministry and to the upholding of the other values.*

Being alive to **social justice**, the *living in company with others while guided by truth, reason, and fairness, creates an equitable and morally truthful community.*

Having **stability**, the *loyalty or steadiness of character or purpose and the resistance to change, is the counterweight to flexibility in a face of a changing culture.*

Through **stewardship**, the *responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving, one ensures the continuity of the ministry.*

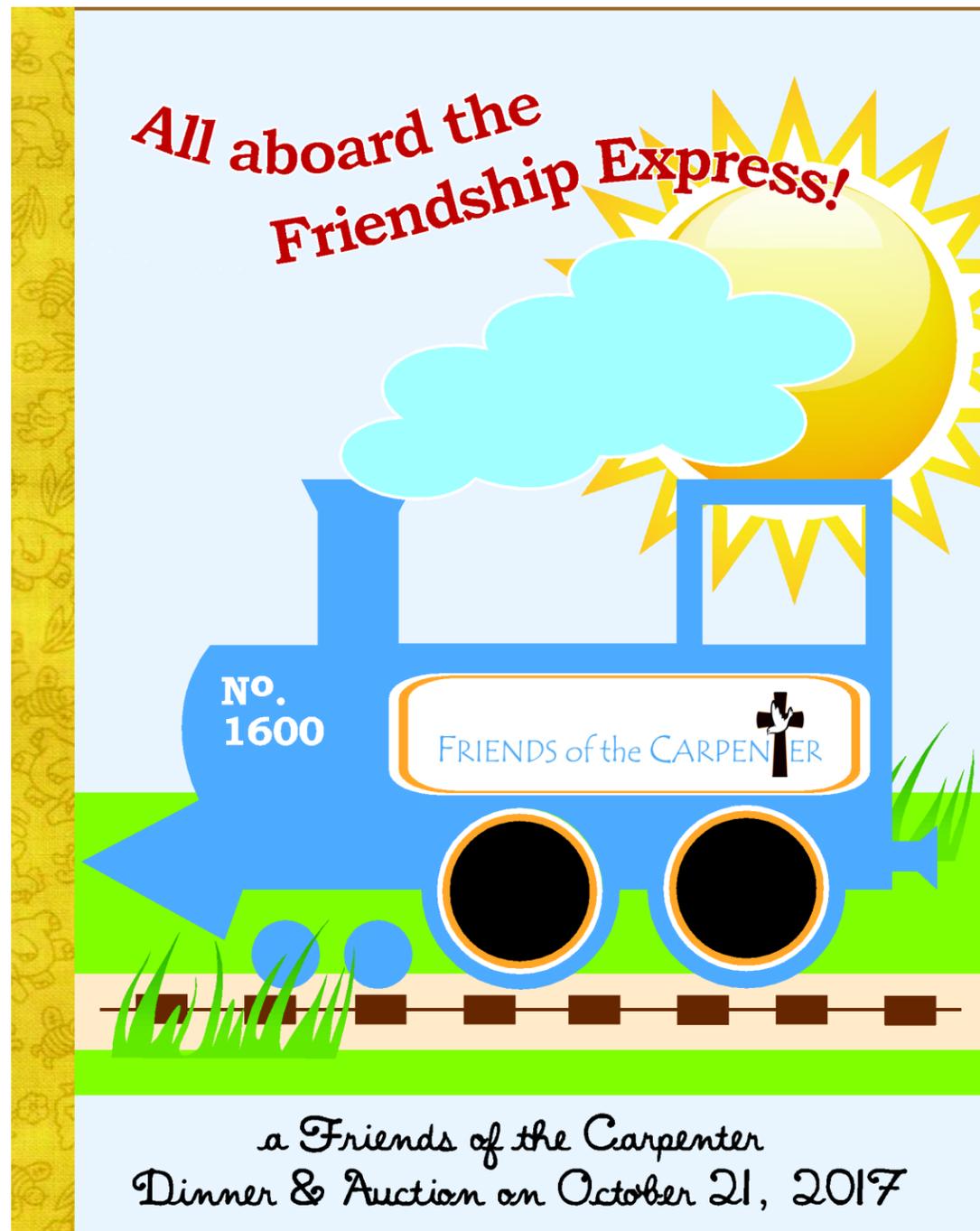
Values are important because they influence and express one’s ethical compass.

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Warehouse 23

100 Columbia Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

5:30 pm

Tickets are \$75.00 each or a table of 10 is \$650.00

Contact Michelle at 360-750-4752 or by email to [Michelle@friendsofthecarpenter.org](mailto:Michelle@friendsofthecarpenter.org)

for more information.

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



*Where Friends are helping Friends to succeed*

#### "Paying It Forward"

As always, I like to begin each of these articles with a simple Thank You to each and every one of you for your continual support of our efforts at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Thrift Store. Through your patronage as a customer and, just as importantly, as a donor of merchandise, you continue to enable us to be an element in the financial support of the Center and its work. Thank you and bless you for all you do.

The title of this article is "Paying It Forward." It seems appropriate to occasionally let others know what we are doing to further the Mission of The Friends of the Carpenter.

Among the programs we have started at the store is an outreach to churches and their needs. Currently, this means that gift certificates are being provided to the ministers' fund for those in need. Churches have different names for this, but this is intended for whatever program that minister may have to provide immediate help to a member in need. A recent example of that is a church that was helping a member whose house had burned down, taking with it the family's furniture and clothing. We aided that person so that the children could be clothed for school.

We also have worked with nearby schools to support their programs for families in need. This also is in the form of gift certificates and has so far helped needy families with new school clothes, baby clothing, Christmas gifts and more. Please note, if you work for a school as a volunteer or regular employee, and think you have a program that could benefit from this, please get in touch with Jim at the store. We are open to expanding this program of assistance.

We have a women's shelter that has been in touch with us. We look forward to working with them as they get geared up and ready for our help. Again, if you know of others who could use some help, men or women, please have them get in touch with Jim.

The Thrift Store has always had a Senior Discount Day (every Tuesday we provide a 10% discount) and run a 50% "Color of the Month" sale. In addition, we run a regular \$1.00 sale the last three working days of every month. And...as you well know, we work to provide low cost items every day. Our clothing prices have remained low over the entire 6 years of our store's operation. Our goal at the store is to care for the needs of our customer base.

There is also some exciting new changes at 2nd Chance: Sometime in the next couple of weeks, we will have a brand-new web site (different from our already popular Face Book site). I hope you will look it up and join us there. Info will be provided at the store and there will be a link on our Face Book page. What's that you say? You haven't viewed and "Liked" our page? Give it a try at this address:

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthecarpenter2ndchancethriftstore/>

Thanks again for all your help and support. I hope to see you at the store very soon.

Sincerely,

Jim Gutierrez  
Thrift Store Manager