

Neighborhood Stories

Discovering the Gifts of Neighbors

featuring

2 NEWTOWN ARTISTS

When citizens are aware of each others' gifts and well-connected to each other, studies show that people and communities do better, from having higher test scores to fewer colds.

SCOPE works with neighbors to discover “gifts” and “assets” that already exist in neighborhoods and to strengthen relationships between neighbors. Our goal is lasting community change “from the inside out”—change driven by citizens and built upon abundance to be found within neighborhoods.

This issue of “Neighborhood Stories” features two talented artists who live in the Newtown community of Sarasota.

These stories have been shared by neighbors and recorded by SCOPE's Newtown Neighborhood Team.

To learn more about SCOPE's Neighborhoods Initiative, contact April Doner at (941) 365-8751 or adoner@scopexcel.org



Mary Butler



April Doner



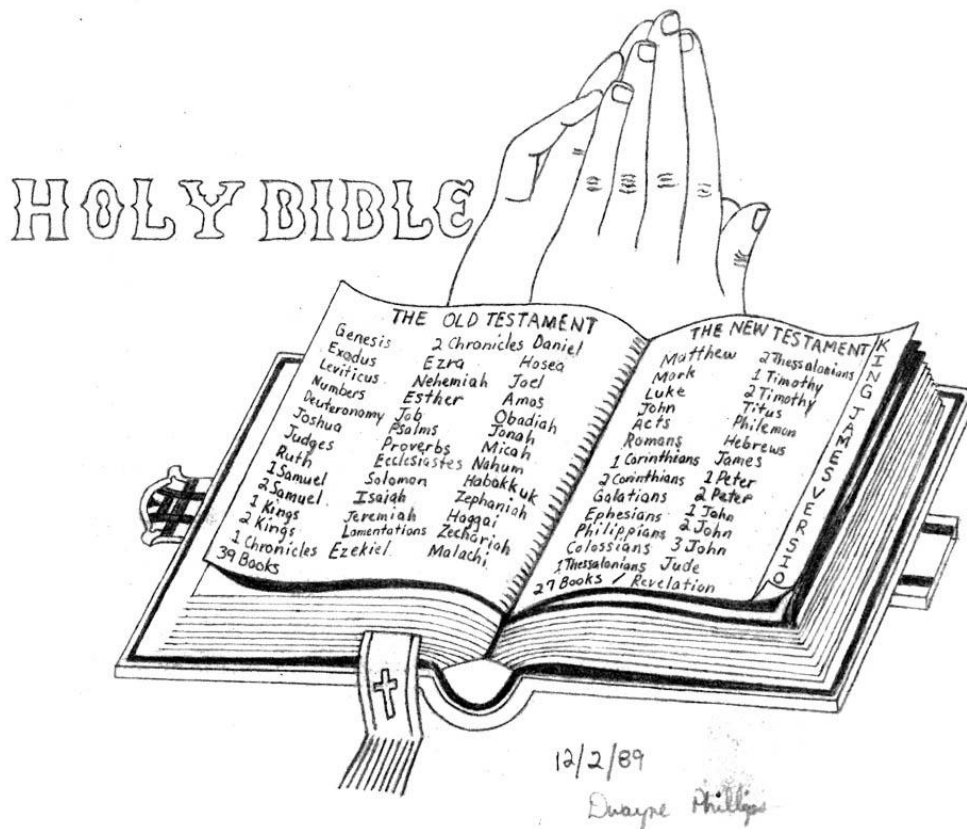
www.scopexcel.org

“Connecting and Inspiring citizens to create a better community”

◦ Dwayne Phillips



Dwayne Phillips is a talented line artist who also has a gift with words and humor and a strong innovative style. He has a precise style and gift with words and humor which he combines to create original cartoons, and is skilled at recreating styles of other artists.

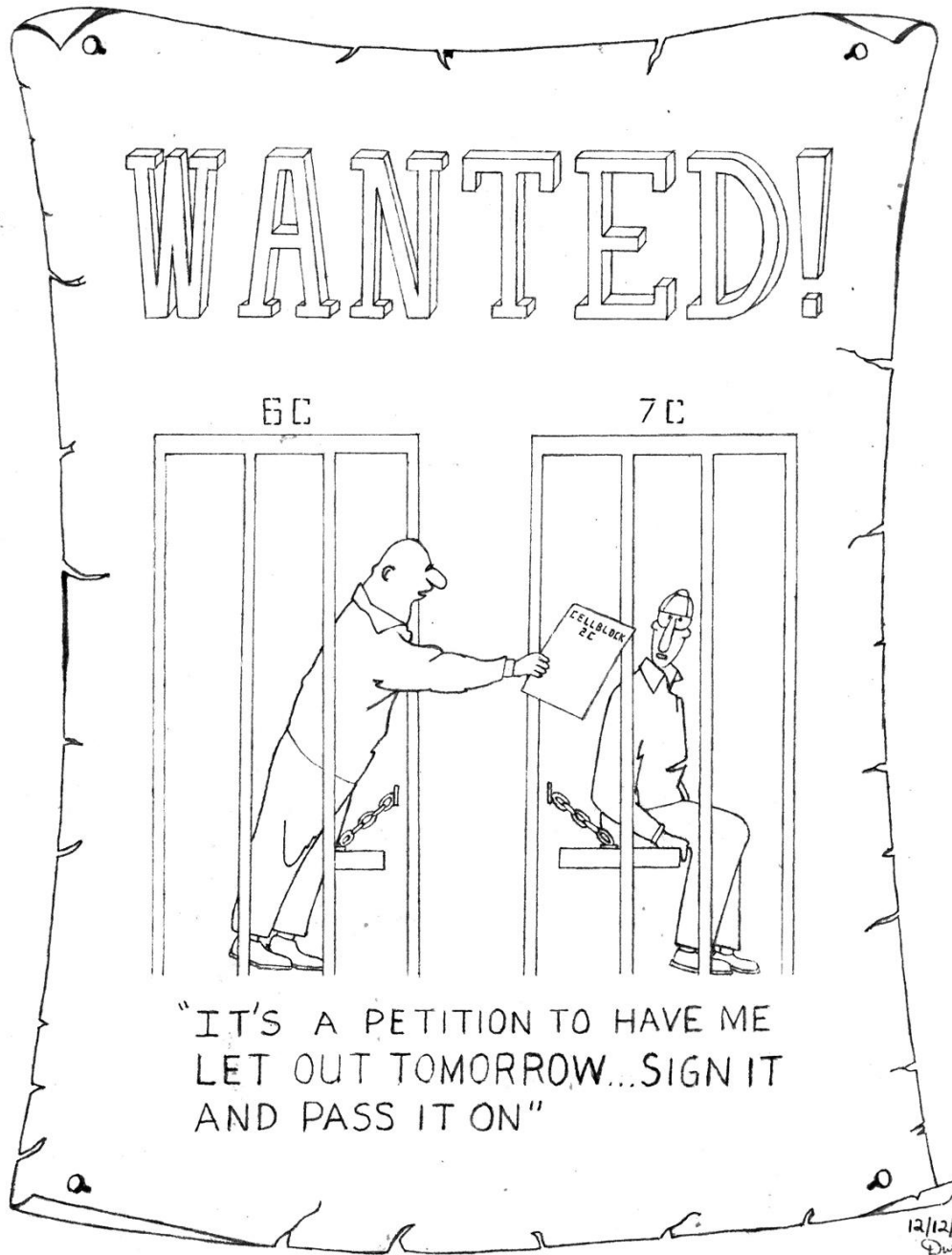


“My dream for the Newtown community is for us to come together. We need each other to live better and survive. We can do alright on our own but it’s like having a family—a complete family. It’s part of survival to make life easier and more enjoyable.”

Dwayne's inspiration in creating artwork:

"Being able to create something that wasn't there.

Something is better than nothing. Even being able to make two lines, it's an artwork to you because you did it...



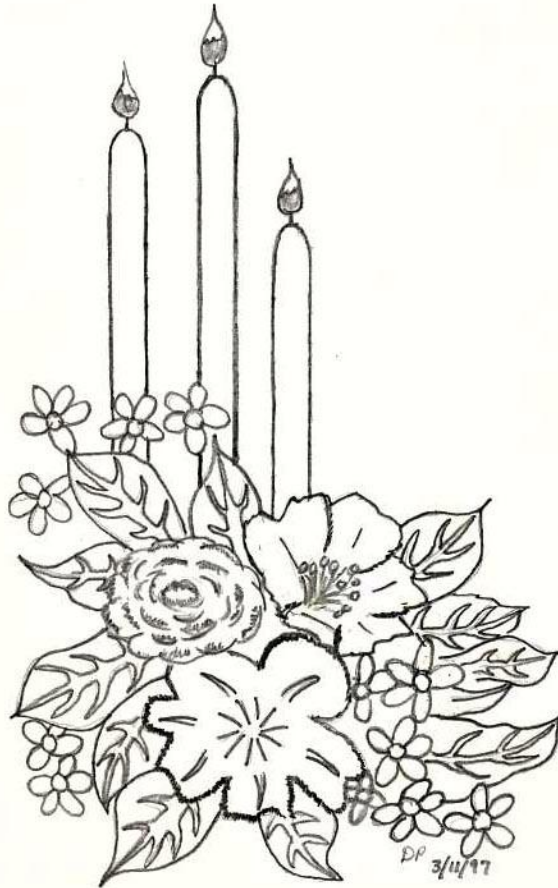
***...When you put something forth from your own effort,
it can become art."***

Dwayne is also a poet. He specializes in poems that convey a striving towards God and some experimentation with humorous styles of writing. He is also skilled in singing and at finding emotionally moving ways to stage performance.

Originally from Newtown, Dwayne has many years of experience working in a woodshop plant where he gained experience running a motor, drill presses and saws and forklifts. He is looking for work and eager to learn something that will last.

Dwayne's family shares an exceptional talent in music and performance. Three of his brothers play instruments. One plays drums, one plays organ, piano, percussion and keyboard, and the other plays bass guitar. Dwayne's mother is a retired dancer who now teaches younger girls to dance through a church-based dance group. His father is the Pastor of New Bethel Church, a congregation that contributes a great deal to the community. Dwayne is a father of two girls and has 4 step-daughters with his new wife Victoria. His daughter Montyeaka is a gifted singer and a mother. Dwayne came up with the name "Diamond" for his younger daughter who is 12.

Dwayne is a perfectionist in whatever he does. People tell him that if they want something done, they will ask him because they can be sure it will be done right. He has experience in human relationships and tries to help others who are in difficult situations by counseling them.



🌀 Tony “Latroy” Sanders



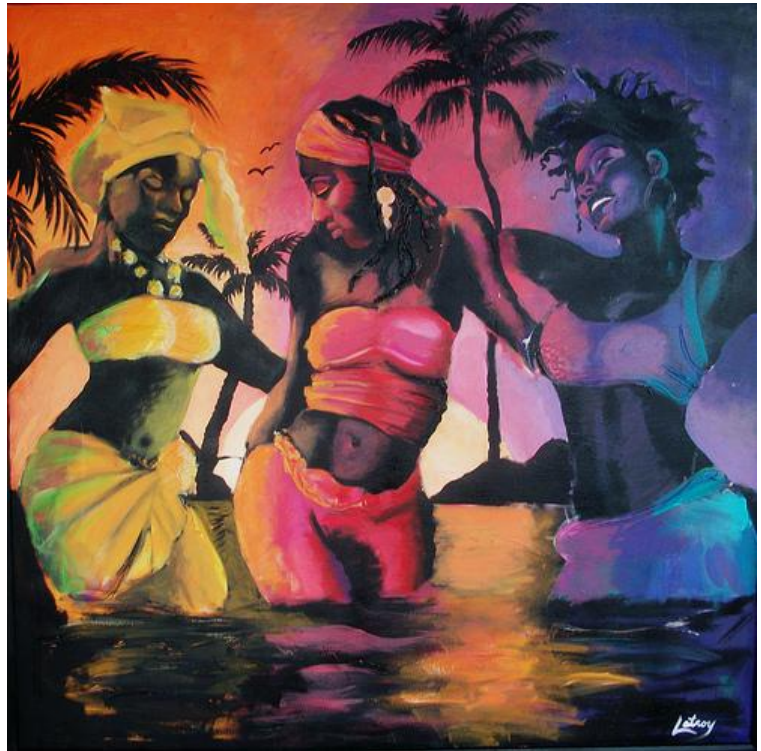
Tony “Latroy” is a gifted self-taught artist who has gone against the odds to work full time in his passion. He specializes in acrylics and airbrushing and has a great deal of experience painting murals, customized t-shirts, portraits as well as custom congo drums.



Tony enjoys meeting other artists and would like to be involved in exploring ways that local artists can help each other. Because it was his friend who helped him take the “leap of faith” to quit his old job at the post office and pursue his dream of being a full-time professional artist, he knows how much one artist can inspire another. He is looking for ways to get his artwork out in the community, into galleries or shows.

Tony cares deeply about community and has a passion for working with little kids. His dream is to be able to work with kids to teach them different ways of creating art and crafts.

He's interested in meeting other people who want to do something positive for the community.



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