

Nightwatch News

March, 2019

The depth of despair

By Rev. Rick Reynolds



A tent city was supposed to move during the snow storm. Compassion won out, the move was delayed a week. The snow piles were still a challenge, as the campers and volunteers loaded up water-logged pallets and soggy personal effects for the transition to another host church.

This particular camp is home to people with multiple health problems. The fire department had to physically move one

camper out of his tent, because there was no other way to get him out. A camper on dialysis could not contribute to the effort, nor could his wife, who has her own health problems.

One elderly woman was found in the church basement, on the floor, covered in a blanket, sobbing. She had a friend who would house her, but it was late, and how could she get there? And what could she do with her all her stuff? Her despair had paralyzed her.

We delivered her to her temporary home in Lynnwood. Her stuff is in storage. And she has been granted a housing voucher. Things are looking up, thanks be to God, and to Operation Nightwatch. But surely, we must do better as a community. Old ladies should not have to live in tents.

Lord, why must anyone sleep outside? Show us the way forward. ●

Lots of heroes

By Liz Fenn,
Shelter Dispatch Center Manager

It was dubbed “Snowmageddon” and it lived up to its name. Was it four or five snow storms in a row hitting our area? It seemed the snow would never end. Events were cancelled, roads became impassible in places, Plan A became Plan B or C. There was a lot of shuffling. **Through it all, Nightwatch stayed open.**

When I couldn't make it out of my driveway, one of our volunteer heroes drove his 4-wheeler to pick me up for work, and take me home at midnight. Volunteers who could make it to Nightwatch covered for the volunteers who could not.

These heroes meant that homeless people at Nightwatch could get a hot meal and make it to the shelters. In the middle of the snow-storm, Nightwatch was saving lives. That's what heroes do.

We like to think we can control what goes on around us. These snow storms prove that we are really powerless, ultimately. We are not in control at all. We are not the center of everything. We have to recognize that we have to trust in other people to step up, and accept our own limitations with grace and humility. We have to give ourselves over to the God who Knows Better. Sometimes, laying low is best thing we can do.

To all the heroes of the past several weeks: thank you for keeping people safe at Nightwatch. And thank you to our donors who made it all possible. ●



NIGHTWATCH

**Serving the night
community in the
name of Christ**

Done with paper newsletters?

We can email the monthly Nightwatch News to you!
Sign up at:
<http://eepurl.com/x5Epv>

Or email:
coleen@seattlenightwatch.org
(include your first & last name)

Volunteer Open House

Find your favorite
volunteer job!

**Thursday, March 7, 2019
7:30–8:00 pm**

RSVP or questions:
volunteer@seattlenightwatch.org

Find out more:
<http://tinyurl.com/ydaqfjsx>

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Charley Bush
Linda Bush
Chris
Norma Jean Hanson
Harold Christopher
Jack & Merle Patterson
Jim & Frances Reynolds
Dorothy Clement
Norm & Melinda Lobb
Tom Cunningham
Kathleen Cunningham
Marie Davidson
Lola Marie Davidson
John Detwyler
Lee & Gretchen Monteith
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski

Tom Ebert
Theresa Werlech
Kim Forman
Jerry Shigaki
Juan Gallardo
Daisy Neves
Effie & Mal Higgins
Linda Martin
Douglas Hom
Craig Swedberg
Loreli Lamarca James
George & Carolyn Rippee
Harriet Mihara Jurcan
Kiyo & Sho Doi
Cheryll Kelly
Clint Kelly
Dick Lamb
Mark Larson
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Norm & Melinda Lobb

Dick Shipe
Gary & Theresa Shipe
Jane Shipe
Mary Speltz
Greg Speltz
Annie Tarpley
Joy Lauderbaugh
Sandy Tonseth
Ed Tonseth
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Andy & Ramona McBeth
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone

Tributes

David & Ruth Ard's
50th Anniversary
Christ Our Hope Church
Sue Feik
Aaron Feik
Man Lung Li
Shutyea Yeung
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Jane Shipe's 90th Birthday
Gary & Theresa Shipe
Stephen Shipe
& Marta Pasztor
Randy Silver
Kirstin Ward
Lori Todd
Harvey & Geri Nelson

Grace

By Ann Sakaguchi

The text on my phone came early on Saturday morning. "Incident at shelter. Please call." Ugh. My heart started racing and I felt a knot growing in my stomach.

Every Saturday morning, some faithful and generous Nightwatch volunteers set up a little table outside the shelter entrance. They offer coffee and breakfast to the guys leaving the shelter for the day. This morning was different.

One guest decided to loudly express his opinions to the volunteers. He used hurtful words and ugly racial slurs. Others got involved, and more shouting and some shoving ensued. Hearing about this second hand, I was mortified.

I feared for a couple of things. Did anybody get hurt? Will the volunteers ever come back? Will our church hosts be mad at us?

It turned out that some of our homeless friends actually tried to calm the agitated one. No one was physically hurt. And the volunteers chalked it up to someone just "having a bad day."

My heart rate returned to normal and the knot in my stomach went away. I thought about the guys that tried to help. I appreciated the grace expressed by the volunteers and realized that what the scripture says is true: His grace is sufficient. It is sufficient for us all; the grumpy client, our volunteers, people who are homeless, you and me. ●



Shopping List

Please help by collecting these items for us to distribute to our homeless friends and tenants (travel sizes are preferred):

- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Shave cream
- Dental floss
- Lip balm
- Hand sanitizers
- Multi-vitamins
- Cough drops
- Pain relievers
- Kleenex packs
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bulk drink mix

For more information about these items please contact:
liz@seattlenightwatch.org

Amazon Wish List:

Ship donations to our door!
<https://amzn.to/2NwV2JG>

Amazon donates to Nightwatch when you shop through Amazon Smile!
Here's the link:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0964027>

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206-323-4359 Administration
206-860-4296 Senior Housing
206-329-2099 Shelter Dispatch

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