

Nightwatch News

October, 2019

The pizza matters

By Rev. Rick Reynolds



I was in the back of a local shelter, keeping an eye on some pizzas still in the oven. The other street minister was out front, cutting the cooked pizzas and loading plates with pepperoni slices. The rich smell of pizza floated through the shelter—run by another organization who is gracious enough to let us invade once a week.

“Am I doing anyone any good back here?”

(I remember thinking.)

Almost instantly, some guy I never saw before stuck his head in at the kitchen door.

“Hey Rev! Can you say a prayer for me?”

I’m not even sure how he knew I was back there, laboring in solitude.

“Sure, Brother. What’s your name?” “Shaq,” he replied

I put my hand on Shaq’s shoulder. “Lord, grant Shaq the wisdom to know your will, and grant him the strength of the Holy Spirit to do it.” Shaq thanked me and melted back into the night of the darkened shelter.

It’s not just about the pizza. But the pizza matters.

Lord, we can do nothing without your guidance, and your strength. Grant these to us all, in abundance. ●

Sometimes, I’m the mom.

By Tonette Winston,
Dispatch Center Manager

The other night I was in the Dispatch Center when I heard a commotion outside. I checked it out. Two clients were in a heated discussion. I asked what was up, and asked them to lower their voices.



They were boarding our courtesy van, driven by volunteers. The van hauls folks to our shelter in the U District. They were fighting like kids over who would get to sit in the front seat! There was no common ground, so I decided the client with physical challenges would be seated in the front. The other client ranted on and on about being first in line and how unfair this whole system was. “He has to be kidding!!” I thought.

As the van prepared to leave, the client who was so upset confessed that he appreciated the way I made the decision. His life is so out of control lately that the ability to control anything is hard to give up.

I often think of the daily struggles of our clients, and my own personal challenges, and wonder “Why am I here?” I don’t know the answer, but **if I can make someone feel better about their predicament, isn’t that a nod from God?** A mom needs that! ●

Your support gets people off the street every night.



NIGHTWATCH

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

Nightwatch
First Light
Fundraising
Breakfast

**Start the day right.
Get inspired!**

**Wednesday, October 23
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

Embassy Suites, Pioneer Square
Details and registration:
[www.seattlenightwatch.org/
firstlight](http://www.seattlenightwatch.org/firstlight)

SOCK IT TO HOMELESSNESS

**Sunday, November 24
12:30–2 pm
302 14th Ave S, Seattle
www.seattlenightwatch.org/sock-it**

Volunteer Open House

Come and see us!

**Thursday, October 3, 2019
7:30–8:00 pm**

RSVP or questions:
volunteer@seattlenightwatch.org
<http://tinyurl.com/ydaqfjxs>

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Chuck Beavers	Henry Hoffman	Dick Shipe
Marge Beavers	Marlyn Hoffman	Gary & Theresa Shipe
Bill Branom	Mary Ellen Ingersoll	Stephen Shipe
Mary Branom	Jim & Jan Sullivan	& Marta Pasztor
Chris	Dean, Harriet & Ron Kimble	Mary Speltz
Norma Jean Hanson	Heather Craven	Greg Speltz
Craig Davis	Jeanie Smith	Sue Stewart
Bruce Davis	Lea	Tom Stewart
Robert Domzalski	Anonymous	& Bonnie Takasugi
Mark & Lisa Domzalski	Al & Maxine Lobb	Robert "Mugs" Tracy
Tony Domzalski	John & Jody Fenlason	Eileen Anderson
Mark & Lisa Domzalski	Thomas Osborne	Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Pat Domzalski	Margaret Osborne	Tony Volchok
Mollie Fitzsimons	Bud Palmberg	& Cindy Monsen
NW Christian Church	Les & Carol Nelson	Shirley & Glenn Weed
Women's Fellowship	Marie Porter	Curtis & Carolyn Neitsch
Bud & Trudy Forbes	Sally Lower	Leo Werlech
Rhoda Peel	Barbie Sharrard	Theresa Werlech
Mal & Effie Higgins	Joy Lauderbaugh	Mary Wooldridge
Linda Martin		Holly Boone

Handshake and fear By Michael Cox, Street Minister

I have been talking with Larry and his girlfriend, Karen, every Monday for a few months.

They are always drunk. Sitting in their own little world on the same bench, they seem to never move. I wonder how they get booze if they never get up from the bench. They have always been kind and friendly to me. "Hey Mike, you out here doing your thing!"

I love to hear Larry and Karen talk about their childhoods. What elementary school they went to, bus rides, teachers that gave them attention. I tell Larry he would be a good teacher or coach. He is patient and loves kids. He is moved by the encouragement. His favorite high school teacher told him the same thing.

Larry asks me if I know why his feet are numb. They have been tingling for a month. He tells me that it started after his mom died. "She was my everything." I offer my condolences and talk about my mom's recent passing. We talk about stress and anxiety manifesting in the form of physical ailments. I tell him that alcohol abuse can damage your body, affecting blood flow, organ function, etc. Sometimes God speaks to us through what we are experiencing with our body. His tingling feet could be the Holy Ghost trying to tell him something. I offer to pray for him.

Larry stretches out his hand and grips mine. **It's not a halfhearted hand-grab. He is holding on for dear life.** We pray and he shakes my hand again. I offer to take him to the hospital, and give him my card.

I hope he gets sober. I hope he doesn't drink himself to death.

Hold Larry, God. "I cling to you; your right hand upholds me (Psalm 63:8)." ●

Nightwatch relies on the support of folks like you. Please give today.



Tributes

Caring people
Patricia & Eugene Styer
Man Lung Li
Eric Lam
Phillip Lorente
Anonymous
The Park Family
Kirstin Ward
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Greg & Mary Speltz
Robert Petersen

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:
info@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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Seattle, WA 98111

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