

# Nightwatch News

August, 2023

## “Stepping out of the boat”

By Deacon Frank DiGirolamo, Executive Director



The familiar phrase is a reference to Matthew 14:29, Jesus calling Peter to come to him. It signifies trust and faith. With his eyes on Jesus, Peter walks on stormy seas.

**Ben stepped out of the boat to work for Nightwatch 17 years ago.**

I met Ben 10 years ago on street ministry. We were on outreach together in the Seattle jungle, talking with “Oliver.” Oliver had lots that he needed to get off of his chest, and Ben was always attentive. Several times, there were long periods of silence, and I thought the visit was over. But Ben kept glancing at Oliver,

waiting, to see if there was maybe anything else. And that’s when the real stuff started happening. He and Ben had a beautiful prayer time. He said, “Ben, you make me feel truly seen. Thank you.” This story sums up Ben and Nightwatch for me. Gifted at matching the pace of the other, and masterful at seeing the Christ in others.

In the past 10 years, Ben has restarted, rebuilt, and grown our street ministry program. We now encounter over 200 folks each week, in the stormiest of life’s conditions. To walk the streets with Ben is an experience. Thousands know him well. And Christ is present in those relationships (Matt. 18:20).

As Ben steps out to serve in new ways, our street ministry will continue, thanks to the amazing team that Ben formed: Rev. Michael Cox and Rev. Paul Benz and our many faithful volunteers.

**All of us at Operation Nightwatch: the board, staff, volunteers, donors, and those whom he has served... wish Ben abundant blessings of peace, love and joy, always.** It has been an honor to have walked with him on this stretch of the journey.

Your support enables Nightwatch to build relationships on the stormy seas of Seattle. ●

## Walking by faith

By Ben Curtis,  
recently retired from Street Ministry

People keep asking me for words of wisdom as I've been wrapping up my time here. All I can keep coming up with is 'trust God.' In the end, it really is all about faith.

Nightwatch runs on faith. Believing that God will watch over us as we tread the most dangerous parts of our city. Entrusting each person that we encounter into the care of the Almighty as we walk away. Having faith there will always be enough to keep the lights on every month.

My leaving Nightwatch is about trusting God and taking a leap of faith. Things are still coming into focus, but one thing my wife and I are feeling called to is foster care. I've run into so many folks on the streets who had negative experiences in foster homes, and we want to move 'upstream' on the spectrum of homelessness.

**So, I'm 'stepping out of the boat' and continuing to walk by faith on my journey.**

Thank you to all who have supported me and Nightwatch over the years. May God bless you. ●



# NIGHTWATCH

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

## ***Save the date!***

Join us in-person  
once again for our  
annual fundraiser.  
This year, it's dinner!

**Together Again**  
**Thursday, November 2**  
*More details to follow!*

## **Volunteer Orientation**

**Wednesday, August 16,  
7:30 pm**

Come on in, take a look  
around, and hear about all of  
our volunteer opportunities.

We'd love to meet you and  
get you connected!

302 14th Ave S, Seattle 98144

RSVP  
volunteer@seattlenightwatch.org

# Memorials & Tributes

## Memorials

Chuck Beavers  
Marge Beavers  
Bill Branom  
Mary Branom  
Kim Canda  
Maria & Greg Van Horn  
Janice Creason  
Gary Crevling  
Sharon Pevera  
Craig Davis  
Bruce Davis  
Patricia Dennis  
Robert & Roberta Brown  
Robert Domzalski  
Mark & Lisa Domzalski  
Pat Domzalski  
Tony Domzalski  
Mark & Lisa Domzalski  
Pat Domzalski  
Keith & Kay Forbes  
George & Carolyn Rippee  
Chris Graff  
Norma Jean Hanson  
Steve Graves  
Harvey & Geri Nelson  
Ed Harrell  
Jason & Coleen Marta  
Mal & Effie Higgins  
Linda & Mike Martin

Clark Hoyt  
Jackie Hoyt  
Mary Ellen Ingersoll  
Jim and Jan Sullivan  
Dean & Hattie Kimble  
Kathy & Jeff Greiner  
Ron Kimble  
Carl & Heather Craven  
Al & Maxine Lobb  
John & Jody Fenlason  
Danielle Lorenz  
Dave & Maryanne Enslow  
Joanne Mera  
John & Karen Thielke  
Elmer Molzahn  
Sherianne Caldwell  
Harold Mork  
Paul Eriks  
Emma Murray  
Maria & Greg Van Horn  
Joanna Ngai  
Jerrod Larson  
Chantel Zapata Pray  
Robert & Nellie Porter  
Bob Porter  
Mike Potts  
Catharine Fletcher  
Mary Santi  
Stephen Santi

Jon Schold  
Anthony Chang  
Dick Shipe  
Gary & Theresa Shipe  
Joey Smith  
Chari & Bill Apperson  
Greg & Mary Speltz  
Jack & Sheila Giesler  
Arthur John Swanson  
Terry & Linda Biggs  
Clio Thomas  
Jim & Jan Sullivan  
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok  
Cindy Monsen  
Glenn & Shirley Weed  
Carolyn Neitsch  
Leo Werlech  
Theresa Werlech  
Gary White  
Eugene White  
Lisa Connolley  
Leonard & Vernus Woodgate  
George & Carolyn Rippee  
Mary Wooldridge  
Holly Boone & Pat Braus

## Tributes

Ben Curtis  
David & Sharon Nichols  
Anita Riksheim  
The DiPietro Family  
Kim Bundy  
Laurie Fisher  
Joy Lauderbaugh  
Luna Guzman-Mao  
Anthony Chang  
Nathan Hautala  
Robert & Toni Hautala  
Rev. David Hicks  
Aaron & Sue Feik  
Dottie Kiehle  
Harvey & Geri Nelson  
Rick Reynolds  
Michael & Sandra Birdsall  
Dick & Carol Grieves  
Kerry Hegedus  
& KerriLyn Vander Heyden  
Doug Hart & Carole Powell  
Carl Westphal  
Denny Shaw  
Carol Sue Janes

## Eating together again!

**By Tonette Winston,  
Director of Housing  
and Shelter Services**

Great news!

**We have reopened our Dispatch Center for meals inside, and are serving a full hour earlier, at 8 pm.** Now our guests can get into shelter earlier, for more down-time and sleep.

We will stop the “to go” meals, which began during the pandemic to keep folks safe. The Dispatch Center will

again become a meeting place for a moment of rest, conversation, and reflection of the day’s hardships and joys.

“Matt” was a guest of Nightwatch before the pandemic. As he went through the serving line, he would thank the volunteers for the delicious meal and enthusiastically share about his day. The evening meal gives folks, like Matt, an opportunity to decompress before heading off to shelter. Our staff and volunteers are honored to be part of it.

We’ve learned a lot over the years about our clients’ journeys, their hopes for the future and how we can support them. Breaking bread together leads to sharing. Laughter fills the air. Sometimes voices are raised in debate about sports, or to explore the validity of rumors that might negatively affect the homeless community.

We are always here to clear up any questions that might be floating around, and to offer support. **Our goal is to love, provide moments of safety, and assist folks on their journey.**

Your donations enable us to serve 150 hot meals and provide 89 safe places for folks to sleep every night of the year. Please keep it coming! ●



## Shopping List

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

- Bottled water (16 oz.)
- Protein & chewy granola bars
- Individual bags of chips
- Cookies and pastries
- Fruit
- Shampoo & conditioner
- First aid cream
- Razors
- Toothbrushes
- Lotion
- Soap & body wash
- Men’s new athletic socks
- Twin size sheet sets
- Clean, durable blankets

For more information, or to schedule a donation drop-off: [info@seattlenightwatch.org](mailto:info@seattlenightwatch.org)

## Amazon Wish List:

Ship donations to our door!  
<https://bit.ly/ONWlist>



## Shelter Dispatch Center & Senior Apartments

302 14th Ave. S  
Seattle, WA 98144

**Contact us:**  
PO Box 21181  
Seattle, WA 98111

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

[Info@seattlenightwatch.org](mailto:Info@seattlenightwatch.org)  
[www.seattlenightwatch.org](http://www.seattlenightwatch.org)



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