

# Nightwatch News

May, 2017

## Tuckered out

By Rev. Rick Reynolds



My friend Theophilus once said to me “If you don’t roll with the Spirit, you’re going to get tuckered out.”

Even in the Spirit, a body gets weary. We see it every night, when homeless people have been shuffling from one place to another, finding work, getting a meal, applying for help. When you have to carry your belongings, and are on your feet all day, you will get “tuckered out.” You may renew your strength, but you will still hit a wall.

Then I was reminded of the greater burdens

some of our homeless friends carry. A friend asked if I knew what happened on April 19. He knew full well – the Oklahoma City bombing. He worked on a rescue team, one of the first responders that day. He saw unspeakable horrors, things no one should have to witness.

I listened to his story and thanked him for his service. “But I wasn’t in the military,” he said. “There’s more than one kind of service,” I told him. “Then, thank you too,” he said.

*Lord, grant rest to all those weary folks who have served and will serve again. Bring relief to our homeless friends. ●*

**Update:** the City has provided temporary solutions to Nightwatch’s 75-bed shelter space crisis, for which we are most thankful. For further updates, follow us on Facebook.

## Tested and grateful

By Liz Fenn, Dispatch Manager

Recently I had one of those days in the Dispatch Center, the kind where nothing seemed to go right.

Lead cooks from two of our volunteer kitchen groups called in to cancel on back-to-back days due to illness. A key broke off in the lock of the toilet paper spindle in the men’s restroom. The exhaust fan in the staff bathroom emitted a burning smell. The washing machine drain overflowed with water and soap onto the floor creating standing water around the dryer. One of our ovens was not heating to temperature and we completely ran out of toothpaste and deodorant to give to our clients.

I had to laugh because it all seemed so surreal. Then I was reminded about something I read recently;

When someone goes hungry, another is dividing his portion.

When someone goes thirsty, another is digging a well.

Recently I had one of those days in the Dispatch Center, the kind where everything seemed to go right.

Phone calls to friends, colleagues and volunteers filled the vacancies. Inspired ingenuity and a paperclip got the broken key out of the lock. Disassembling and cleaning the exhaust fan eliminated the odor. Repairmen for the washer and the oven came out immediately to fix them. And an unexpected donation arrived at our door.

I have come to realize if we never have challenges, we will never know the joy of overcoming them. ●



# NIGHTWATCH

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

**give  
BIG**  
SEATTLE  
FOUNDATION

**Give BIG  
is May 10!**  
Support Nightwatch here:  
[https://  
www.givebigseattle.org/  
operation-nightwatch](https://www.givebigseattle.org/operation-nightwatch)

**Volunteer Orientation  
Open House**

The best way to learn about  
Nightwatch and the many  
volunteer opportunities.

**Thursday, May 4, 2017  
7:30–8:00 pm**

RSVP or questions:  
[info@seattlenightwatch.org](mailto:info@seattlenightwatch.org)

# Memorials & Tributes

## Memorials

Carol Benner George & Carolyn Rippee	Mary Ellen Ingersoll Jim & Jan Sullivan	Louise Solemslie Allen Solemslie
Bill Branom Mary Branom	Cheryll Kelly Clinton Kelly	Mary Speltz Greg Speltz
Charley Bush Paul Rollins	Ron Kimble Carl & Heather Craven	Zollie & Sylvia Volchok Tony Volchok & Cindy Monsen
Craig Davis Bruce Davis	Al & Maxine Lobb John & Jody Fenlason	Glenn & Shirley Weed Andy & Ramona McBeth
Tony Domzalski Mark & Lisa Domzalski	Charlie Maslow Lyle & Shelley Staley	Jim & Cynthia Weaver
Pat Domzalski	Max	Gilbert Weiss
Kay Forbes Bud & Trudy Forbes	Peggy	John Weiss & Corry Venema-Weiss
Pete Gudger Cheryl Gudger	Norm & Bonnie Riggins Rebecca Minelga	Erik Wyss
Leong Hom Doug Hom	Maureen Wells-Henderson	Donna Rodda
Will Hunter Dean Kimble	Dick Shipe Gary & Theresa Shipe	Mary Wooldridge Holly Boone
	Stephen Shipe & Marta Pasztor	

We were sad to learn of the passing of Bonnie Riggins, wife of our first director, Rev. Norm Riggins. Her dedication and hard work on behalf of Nightwatch will be forever remembered.

## Cleaning toilets

By Ann Sakaguchi

We have a lot of toilets at Nightwatch. We have some for our homeless friends to use in the Dispatch Center. We have others upstairs for our senior tenants to use. On most days, it's someone's job to keep the place clean, including cleaning the toilets.

Recently, I've been finding myself frequently rolling up my sleeves, putting on gloves and going in to clean toilets. Maybe our custodian got sick that day, or maybe there was an accident that needed urgent clean up. Whenever I do this, I ask myself "Is this the best use of my time right now?" The answer has always been "Yes. Because it has to be done right now. And there is no one else here to do it."

For most people, cleaning toilets is probably not a favorite thing to do. I'm one of these people, but my perspective is changing. After getting past the "yuck" factor, cleaning a toilet is, in some ways, very satisfying. The white porcelain is gleaming, after it's cleaned. Drips and spills are gone. The pristine, raised toilet seat almost seems inviting. The residual aroma of Pine Sol confirms the job is done.

At Nightwatch, a cleaned toilet stays clean for, oh, maybe 15 minutes. Once it's used, it's a dirty toilet again. And it needs to be cleaned. Again. And so it goes.

Yes, we help people with food, shelter, housing and hope. But right now, you may be wondering, "Why write about toilets?"

Because toilets, among a number of other boring or yucky things at Nightwatch, never get talked about. Because keeping the toilets clean at Nightwatch is important.

Thank you for your support. Your gifts help to keep the toilets clean. ●



## Tributes

Mary Chaffee  
Mollie Chaffee  
Ruth Chaffee  
Lois Lingren  
Jim & Frances Reynolds  
Our parents  
Clark & Evalea Beck  
Victoria Palmen  
Harvey & Geri Nelson  
Mike Potts  
Catharine Fletcher  
Jim & Frances Reynolds  
Vern & Marilyn Lolley  
Staff & volunteers  
Anonymous  
David Zucker  
Robert & Roberta Brown

## 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
- 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:

<http://tinyurl.com/zjo64fd>

### 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  
[www.seattlenightwatch.org](http://www.seattlenightwatch.org)



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