# 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.

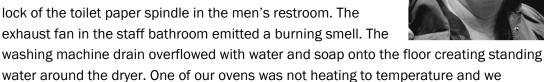
Lord, grant rest to all those weary folks who have served and will serve again. Bring relief to our homeless friends. •

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



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.

completely ran out of toothpaste and deodorant to give to our clients.

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** is May 10!

Support Nightwatch here: 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

## Memorials & Tributes

#### Memorials

Carol Benner George & Carolyn Rippee Bill Branom Mary Branom Charley Bush Paul Rollins Craig Davis **Bruce Davis** Tony Domzalski Mark & Lisa Domzalski Pat Domzalski Kay Forbes **Bud & Trudy Forbes** Pete Gudger Cheryl Gudger Leong Hom Doug Hom Will Hunter

Dean Kimble

Mary Ellen Ingersoll Jim & Jan Sullivan Cheryll Kelly Clinton Kelly Ron Kimble Carl & Heather Craven Al & Maxine Lobb John & Jody Fenlason Charlie Maslow Lyle & Shelley Staley Max Peggy Norm & Bonnie Riggins Rebecca Minelga Maureen Wells-Henderson Dick Shipe Gary & Theresa Shipe Stephen Shipe

Louise Solemslie Allen Solemslie Mary Speltz **Greg Speltz** Zollie & Sylvia Volchok Tony Volchok & Cindy Monsen Glenn & Shirley Weed Andy & Ramona McBeth Jim & Cynthia Weaver Gilbert Weiss John Weiss & Corry Venema-Weiss Erik Wyss Donna Rodda Mary Wooldridge Holly Boone

### **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

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.

& Marta Pasztor

# **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. 

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# **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

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