

Nightwatch News

May, 2018

Cringe-worthy

By Rev. Rick Reynolds



I don't think I'm any more self-centered than the next person, but I sure seem to blow my opportunities to show love to strangers often. How about you?

Last Friday, two of us were previewing how we were going to manage an experimental outside breakfast opportunity. As board-member Bruce and I sat quietly outside, discussing the options, a young woman appeared.

"Can I use the bathroom?"

Well, see, the church that hosts us expects that our guests will only be in the space overnight. So I had to tell her "Sorry, no." What followed was all the invective a distraught homeless person can pour out. It made me sad, for her, for me, for the whole mess we find ourselves in locally.

Now, a week later, I wish I could have a do-over. I think my "by the book" approach was cringe-worthy. I'm hoping I get another chance, somehow, to do kindness to a stranger, even if there is a cost.

Lord give us wisdom and strength to love our neighbors and the strangers among us. ●

Shared suffering

By Ben Curtis, Street Minister

A few months ago, a homeless friend had his backpack stolen, and with it, his beloved concertina. "David" was heartbroken. His concertina helped pass the time, connected him with people, and let him earn a few bucks. Without his 'squeezebox', he felt lost.

A volunteer posted something on Facebook. Almost immediately, someone bought a concertina and had it shipped to Nightwatch. It was Christmas, and we all had a warm fuzzy feeling watching David open the box.

Excitement turned to disappointment. It was the wrong kind of concertina. Who knew? He sat, dejected.

Why does it matter? Music can bring joy, and make us feel closer to our Creator. And our sharing David's suffering let him know that he wasn't alone in the world. Homeless people struggle with loneliness and feeling worthless. A musical instrument won't resolve all of David's troubles, but it can be a start.

After the "wrong" concertina was sent back, things were looking grim. David seemed hopeless. Meanwhile, we kept shopping. Finally, we found the instrument. But could we find David? This was no easy task.

After weeks of searching, we found him, just last Friday. The street ministers gave him the new concertina. He was ecstatic, hugging me. "Now I finally have my life back." This hopefulness is a wonderful thing – and love has been kindled by faithful volunteers and generous donors.

Thank you for giving us the chance to serve, by your gifts and prayers for Nightwatch. ●



NIGHTWATCH

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

give BIG



GiveBIG is May 9!

You can support
Nightwatch and
schedule your donation
starting April 26.

[https://
www.givebigseattle.org/
operation-nightwatch](https://www.givebigseattle.org/operation-nightwatch)

Volunteer Open House

Find your favorite
volunteer job!

Thursday, May 3, 2018

7:30–8:00 pm

RSVP or questions:
info@seattlenightwatch.org

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

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

- Bill Branom

Mary Branom

Charley Bush

Paul Rollins

Matthew Byk

John Byk

Craig Davis

Bruce Davis

Robert Domzalski

Mark & Lisa Domzalski

Tony Domzalski

Mark & Lisa Domzalski

Pat Domzalski

Gary Edwards

Janet Buck

Lyle & Shelley Staley

Bud Forbes

Carol Bragg

Brian & Pat Hogan

Francis & Virginia Merritt

Robert & Margaret Merritt

Rhoda Peel

Rick & Lorri Reynolds

George & Carolyn Rippee

Jim & Fern Smith

Jim & Jan Sullivan

Kathleen & Clio Thomas

Tony & Kim Ulkekul

Kenneth Winslow

& Celia McBride

Nancy Winslow
- Keith & Kay Forbes

George & Carolyn Rippee

Lina Frisbie

Aaron & Sue Feik

Ozie & Ora Gibson

Hal Gibson

Pete Gudger

Cheryl Gudger

Mal Higgins

Linda Martin

Mary Ellen Ingersoll

Jim & Jan Sullivan

Dick Lamb

Charlotte & Frederick Cook

Al & Maxine Lobb

John & Jody Fenlason

Margaret Mack

Steve & Marion Mack

Donald Mayo

Christopher Calderon

Andrew Pine

Paul Pemberton

Regina

William Harr

Edith Root

Jim & Frances Reynolds

Jack Root

Leonard Root

- Dick Shipe

Gary & Theresa Shipe

Jane Shipe

Mary Speltz

Greg Speltz

LaVerne Sugamele

Lee & Gretchen Monteith

Anne Louise Todd

Kathleen Todd

Gene Todd

Kathleen Todd

Zollie & Sylvia Volchok

Tony Volchok

& Cindy Monsen

Glenn & Shirley Weed

Andy & Ramona McBeth

Jim & Cynthia Weaver

Gilbert Weiss

John Weiss

& Corry Venema-Weiss

Leonard Woodgate

George & Carolyn Rippee

Mary Wooldridge

Holly Boone

Tributes

- Jennifer Byk

John Byk

Mollie Chaffee

Mary Liz Chaffee

Victoria Palmen

Geri & Harvey Nelson

Mike Potts

Catharine Fletcher

Anna Seidler

Fran & Frank Abbott

Steve Shivers

Rick & Lorri Reynolds

Little green tips

By Ann Sakaguchi

I love spring. I love seeing the little green tips coming up in the flower beds. I know the green will grow up into something else; something bigger, and maybe colorful. It keeps me curious, to imagine what may blossom from the green tips. What will spring bring?

Likewise with people, we can imagine how they might blossom and what they may become. At Nightwatch, this is happening right now, in our apartments for seniors.

We have an open room, so Marlene and I have been busy interviewing folks who would like to move in. We need to be careful when we select a new resident. Where did they live before? Did they pay rent? We want to be sure they can abide by our simple rules (“No smoking in the common areas”), get along with others, and can pay the modest rent. We ask for references.

Not all formerly homeless people can give us the answers we’re looking for. Some have never paid rent (“I lived with friends on their couch”.) Others have skipped out, without paying, in the end. We have to be careful, yes, but sometimes we need to take a chance.

So it is with “Melvin.” He’s been homeless for nine years and has no rental history. We want to watch him grow, because we see little green tips. There is so much right about him that we’re willing to take a chance; we hope that he blossoms fully in a stable living situation.

Thanks for supporting Nightwatch and the seniors like Melvin. We wouldn’t be able to give chances to folks like him without your donations.

Lord, thank you for letting us watch little green tips grow up into beautiful things. ●



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:

<http://tinyurl.com/zjo64fd>

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


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

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

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