Bumper sticker wisdom
By Liz Fenn, Shelter Dispatch Manager
About a month ago, on a car in front of me, I saw a bumper sticker that read, “Do You Follow Jesus This Close?” Clever, I thought. The question made me laugh as I instinctively let off the gas pedal to give a little more distance between us. Was this a question about tailgating? Or was it a question asking me if I follow Jesus?

Since that day, I have often thought of this question, albeit after doing something I would deem “un-Christ-like.” It’s a great question. It makes me think about the work I do and how I live my life; a self-assessment of sorts. I consider how I judge myself and others, too. It makes me ask myself if I do enough to show others that I am a Christian, in the ways that matter most.

If you’ve noticed a little more distance between you and Jesus, come to Nightwatch to volunteer. Here, you will meet new people, feed those who are hungry, help them find shelter for the night, pray for someone, listen to their story, get and give a smile, and make someone laugh. I guarantee you’ll be able to respond to that bumper sticker for yourself, and shorten the distance at the same time.

Lord, bless those who see a need and act on it.

To volunteer, contact Tonette at tonette@seattlenightwatch.org.

A Parable
By Rev. Rick Reynolds
Once upon a time, there was an old street minister who had been delayed on his way to work one morning. His meeting with a sober friend ran late. The traffic did not clear in front of him. He looked across the street, and behold, the bus to the office awaiteth, but not for long.

The old street minister would not make it, for lo, he doth not run for buses. Ever.

But as he drew nigh, a poor fellow in a wheelchair waved to the driver, having seen the plight of the old street minister. And behold, the driver had mercy and waited because of the kindness of the poor fellow who was missing a leg and hath not much in worldly possessions. “Verily,” thought the old street minister, “the kindness of strangers is sweeter than honey.” The end.

Nightwatch is needing to move forward with great haste to repair our building before the rains come. Can you do a kindness to strangers? Please help us raise the funds to keep Nightwatch out of the rain!

Lord, bless those who see a need and act on it.

To volunteer, contact Tonette at tonette@seattlenightwatch.org.
My inspiration
By Ann Sakaguchi
We lost another saint last month. Kay Abe, a good friend of Nightwatch, went home to be with her Lord.

Kay’s deep faith in Jesus Christ compelled her to serve hot, nutritious meals to hungry people in Seattle. She did this for decades, preparing food herself or leading others to do so. Under I-5 downtown, she served hundreds of people a night, four nights a week. Faithfully. Without fail.

Kay gathered food from donations and, in her gentle way, inspired others to help. By doing so, if health issues prevented her from serving, others stepped in. The ministry, The Lord’s Table, continued.

Kay fiercely stood by her Christian values. When told she would not be allowed to pray at a certain site, she declined to serve meals there.

“Ann,” you might ask, “why are you writing about this woman? What does she have to do with Nightwatch?”

Kay Abe was my introduction to homelessness, many, many years ago. I was one of the newbie volunteers who helped serve a meal downtown; I was hooked. She inspired me.

Kay’s ministry was not unlike what we do at Nightwatch. She was a remarkable woman. There are hundreds of remarkable people that help us at Nightwatch. Maybe you are one of these, serving faithfully, and feeding hungry and homeless people with love.

Kay did not want any honor or recognition be directed to her. She did not have a public memorial service. This is my way of honoring and memorializing her.

Rest in sweet peace, Kay. ●