

Nightwatch News

Thanksgiving 2019

Jolly?

By Rev. Rick Reynolds

It has stayed with me through 26 Decembers. I never knew that Christmas could be so grim for people without a home.

If only I had been less absorbed by my own Christmas traditions and my own set of expectations. I needed to be more thoughtful about other people. Here's what happened.

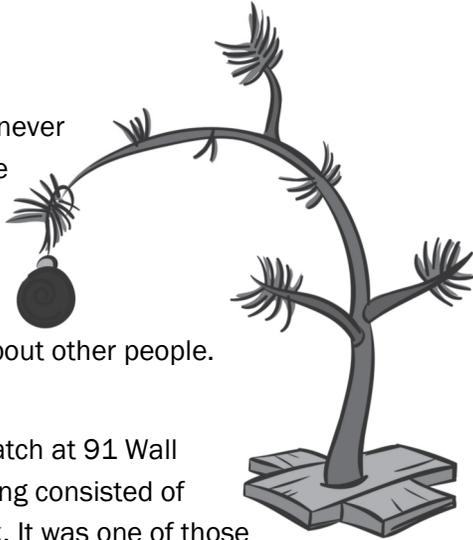
Homeless folks would line up in front of Nightwatch at 91 Wall Street. It was a lousy system. And our landscaping consisted of a very muddy patch of dirt and a rough sidewalk. It was one of those endless months of rain we often get in Seattle. Homeless people were coming to Nightwatch looking like drowned rats. Meanwhile, all of downtown was full of wealthy people doing their Christmas shopping and having their family celebrations. Going to shows. Riding in the horse carriages. Living it up.

Standing in the drizzle, one of our friendly homeless guys "Greg" made a suggestion. "You know what we need, Pastor Rick? We need a Christmas tree, right here." And to show me just where Nightwatch needed to put a tree, he stomped his foot in the muddy parking strip right outside our bedraggled front door. Splat.

"Well sure, why not?" I said. And so we had a Christmas tree, and have had, pretty much every year since. Because we all need a little Christmas, right this very minute.

Good news for the poor. That's why that Child was born. We kind of miss the point if we don't include everyone in the circle of community. Your gifts make it happen, with God's help.

Lord, lead us in the way of life that is truly Life. ●



NIGHTWATCH

Serving the night community in the name of Christ

Two dollars

By Ben Curtis,
Street Minister

Side streets in Pioneer Square can be real dark. One night I noticed a figure in one of the doorways. I approached cautiously, holding out socks to assure the person I was there to help, not harm. My gentle greeting was met with a harsh retort. He made a quick apology. "I'm sorry man, I've had a rough day. Getting harassed — need some space."

No problem. I wished him a good night before turning to leave.

A few steps away, the man called out to me, "Do you guys take donations?"

Surprised by the question, I turned and said, "Of course." I returned, slowly, and he offered me two dollar bills. "I may not have much, but I've got more than others." I thanked him and once again left him with well wishes for the night.

I was taken aback by the generosity of the man who seemed to be having such a difficult time. I remembered the Gospel story of the widow who gave two coins at the temple. It seems easy enough to be generous when we have an abundance. But how about when we are struggling? I love it when people on the street teach me lessons.

O Lord increase my faith! ●



SOCK IT TO HOMELESSNESS

Open House
Sunday, November 24
12:30–2 pm
302 14th Ave S, Seattle

www.seattlenightwatch.org/sock-it

Don't worry if you miss our open house. We accept socks all year!

Many thanks to all who participated at our First Light Fundraising Breakfast!

With a special thanks to our sponsors:
University Kiwanis
The Biella Foundation
Lytle Enterprises

Volunteer Open House

Come and see us!
Thursday, December 5, 2019
7:30–8:00 pm

RSVP or questions:
volunteer@seattlenightwatch.org
<http://tinyurl.com/ydaqfjsx>

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

D. Myrle Bixler	Hal Hansen	Harold & Norma Rogers
George & Carolyn Rippee	Elizabeth Hansen	William Rogers
Ruth Bixler Keepers	Mal & Effie Higgins	Jack Root
George & Carolyn Rippee	Linda Martin	Leonard Root
Bill Branom	Mary Ellen Ingersoll	Katie Schwarzhans
Mary Branom	Jim & Jan Sullivan	Jean & Sherwin Flewelling
Charley Bush	James Iverson	Dick Shipe
Gail & Jay Winberg	Marilyn Iverson	Gary & Theresa Shipe
Bill Chee	Jack La Pointe	Stephen Shipe &
Christine Murphy	Gerald & Helen Hussey	Marta Pasztor
Chris	Al & Maxine Lobb	Mary Sigurdson
Norma Jean Hanson	John & Jody Fenlason	Pam & Clay Herbst
Joe Curtis	Rosemary Miller	Robert "Mugs" Tracy
Robert & Roberta Brown	Jack & Merle Patterson	Eileen Anderson
Robert Domzalski	Daisy Neves	Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Mark & Lisa Domzalski	The Neves Family	Tony Volchok
Tony Domzalski	Bud Palmberg	& Cindy Monsen
Mark & Lisa Domzalski	The Lovsted Family	Mary Wooldridge
Pat Domzalski	Mike Potts	Holly Boone
Chris Graff	Catharine Fletcher	
Norma Jean Hanson	Queen Elizabeth	
	Quentin Crocheron	

More gratitude

By Ann Sakaguchi,
Deputy Director

So here we are. The "holidays" are upon us. Thanksgiving is all but over. We've all been reminded to be thankful. We've all been encouraged to think about what we might be grateful for. Gratitude.

To be honest, around here at Nightwatch, it's pretty easy to be grateful all the time. Every where you turn, there is evidence of generosity and kindness, for which we are thankful. People come here to give us time: volunteers. These volunteers bring food for our homeless friends: donors. The lights and heat stay on because people give financially: more donors. When people need a fresh pair of socks, we can offer them: sock collectors. We are grateful.

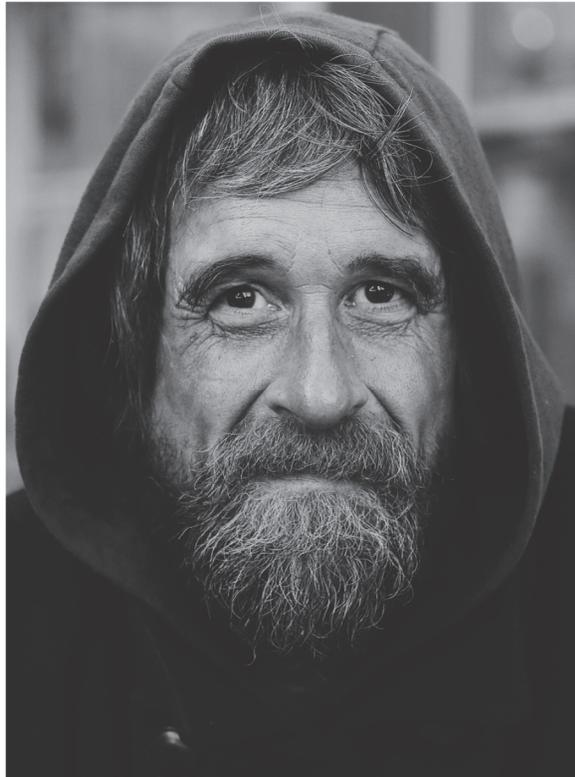
Last month, we held our annual fundraising event, First Light breakfast. We are grateful for all who came and gave and for those of you gave, but could not attend. It is humbling, always, to see the faces of our supporters; this event is a big deal for us.

After the breakfast, we tally up the donations, and check the website to see who gave what, online. One donation stopped me in my tracks. It was a recurring, monthly donation of \$1. We checked the name; it is one of our homeless friends, wanting to contribute.

Gratitude. This homeless friend felt gratitude for what we do. Some would say that \$1 is a humble donation. We are humbled, to receive this "widow's mite."

If you missed it, you can still give in response to First Light. Go to www.seattlenightwatch.org/firstlight. Our new video is there, too.

Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do. ●



Tributes

Courtney Hirata
Hillary Omdal
Mary Oaksmith Nichols
Cammy Hendrix
Larry Sato's birthday
Amy Sato

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
- Gloves
- Beanie hats
- Bulk drink mix

For more information about these items please contact:
info@seattlenightwatch.org

Amazon Wish List:

Ship donations to our door!
<https://amzn.to/2NwV2JG>

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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