

Nightwatch News

April, 2020

We will get through this

By Rev. Rick Reynolds



Tonight, over 100 homeless men and women will show up at Nightwatch, hungry, cold, perhaps discouraged.

Their hands will be cleaned at the door. They will step in, get something to eat, and be quickly sent to a welcoming shelter off-site. Staff and some volunteers will make sure that food is ready, and that safety is maintained for all.

Night after night, this has been our practice, until this weekend. **To keep everyone safe, we are suspending meal service at Nightwatch.** We are going to supply pizza this Friday night, thanks to church support. After that, we will be looking for sandwiches in baggies, ready-to-eat food, cookies bagged up. And a reminder: There should be no bare hand contact with ready-to-eat food. Can you help with this?

Nightwatch will keep on trucking, one way or another.

Please pray for safety for all in our community, especially those who are still out in the cold. Be Kind. Be Nightwatch.

Lord, we ask for serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. ●

Collar

By Michael Cox, Street Minister

My boss told me I should wear a clerical collar, so I ordered three clergy shirts and hit the streets. The reaction has been fascinating.

Now people stop me to pray for them and their homeless camp. "Are you a real pastor? Thank you for your time, Father. Thanks for being here!" are the common responses.

People living on the street understand what the collar means. They know we are not case managers, or city workers tracking outcomes. We are not cops. They look at us from their tent and ask, "What church are you from?" **The collar is an invitation** to participate in the Kingdom of God.

Monday night I prayed with four people. Alex wanted prayer for his back. "It feels better, thanks for praying, Father!" Terrance grabbed my hand and yelled through a mouth full of booze, "Bless me pastor!" Jerry and I prayed for healing, finances, and peace on the steps of the bookstore. Donnie told me to pray as I felt led.

Donnie is someone I have known since he was a kid, twenty years ago. He's in his thirties now and in rough shape. He sleeps in the park, often with no shoes. Tonight is the first time he has seen me in the collar. He is sitting in a parking lot, staring obsessively at a five-dollar bill. I offer greetings and he does the same. He looks at my collar and grins from ear to ear. "Very nice, very nice." I ask him what he thinks of my new look. "I approve, very good!"

Donnie approves of your support for street outreach. ●



NIGHTWATCH

Serving the night
community in the
name of Christ



Save the Date!
GiveBIG 2020

Wednesday, May 6

Help our neighbors
who are most in need.
Early giving starts April 22.

[www.givebigwa.org/
operation-nightwatch](http://www.givebigwa.org/operation-nightwatch)

Volunteer Open House

Come and see us!

Thursday, April 2, 2020

7:30–8:00 pm

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

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Do Balch
Janet Buck
Robert Bradbury
Jane Ann Bradbury
Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Chauncey Burke
Jocile Parsons
Dorothy Clement
Norm & Melinda Lobb
Marie Davidson
Lola Davidson
Vernie Davidson
Lola Davidson
Craig Davis
Bruce Davis
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski

Bud & Trudy Forbes
Jim & Fern Smith
Keith & Kay Forbes
George & Carolyn Rippee
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Brian Keating
Pam & Clay Herbst
Richard Lamb
Luke Larson
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Norm & Melinda Lobb
Daisy Neves
The Neves Family
Angela Paulsell
Joel & Jan Melin
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher

Dick Shipe
Jane Shipe
Mary Speltz
Robb Peterson
Violet Stevens
Joy Lauderbaugh
Robert "Mugs" Tracy
Eileen Anderson
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Tony Volchok
& Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Carolyn & Curtis Neitsch
George & Carolyn Rippee
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus

Tributes

Queen Elizabeth
Quentin Crocheron
Kathy Todd
Harvey & Geri Nelson

We need you

By Ann Sakaguchi,
Deputy Director

What a time we are in.

As I write, restaurants and bars have been closed to diners. By the time you read this, more measures to contain the

COVID-19 pandemic will likely be put in place. In the meantime, we are all encouraged to practice social distancing and stay home.

How does that work if you don't have a home? If you rely on food from meal programs and food banks, how can you do this, in times like these? How does social distancing work for the most vulnerable, our homeless friends?

At Nightwatch, we're practicing safety. We require hand sanitation as guests come in the door. We are limiting the number of people inside. We're wiping surfaces daily, including chairs, tables and kitchen surfaces. And, always, we practice safe food handling. We do this for our homeless friends, our volunteers and our staff. Many of our faithful, hardy volunteers have continued to help. But as you read on the front page, **we are having to suspend our hot meal program, for the safety of the whole community.**

This is where you come in. We don't know what the future holds but we have hope. Please don't forget us, as you stay in your homes. We need your prayers now, more than ever. We would like to have "ready to eat" food items available to our clients—sandwiches in bags, whole fruit, lunch-size snacks, wrapped candy.

And of course, your ongoing financial support is critical. We've always said that we cannot do this work without you. That is especially true now.

At the beginning of this, public health officials advised us to be prepared to be without 40% of our workforce. **I did not know at that time that I would be the first employee out at Nightwatch.** I was exposed to someone with COVID-19. I'm not sick, but I am in quarantine at my home for 14 days. I do what I can from home, but I am eager to get back to my faithful, awesome co-workers.

Please pray for us at Nightwatch, for our homeless friends, for the community, for the world. ●



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
- Disinfectant wipes
- Bleach

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

Amazon Wish List:

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

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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