

Nightwatch News

August, 2023

“Stepping out of the boat”

By Deacon Frank DiGirolamo, Executive Director



The familiar phrase is a reference to Matthew 14:29, Jesus calling Peter to come to him. It signifies trust and faith. With his eyes on Jesus, Peter walks on stormy seas.

Ben stepped out of the boat to work for Nightwatch 17 years ago.

I met Ben 10 years ago on street ministry. We were on outreach together in the Seattle jungle, talking with “Oliver.” Oliver had lots that he needed to get off of his chest, and Ben was always attentive. Several times, there were long periods of silence, and I thought the visit was over. But Ben kept glancing at Oliver,

waiting, to see if there was maybe anything else. And that’s when the real stuff started happening. He and Ben had a beautiful prayer time. He said, “Ben, you make me feel truly seen. Thank you.” This story sums up Ben and Nightwatch for me. Gifted at matching the pace of the other, and masterful at seeing the Christ in others.

In the past 10 years, Ben has restarted, rebuilt, and grown our street ministry program. We now encounter over 200 folks each week, in the stormiest of life’s conditions. To walk the streets with Ben is an experience. Thousands know him well. And Christ is present in those relationships (Matt. 18:20).

As Ben steps out to serve in new ways, our street ministry will continue, thanks to the amazing team that Ben formed: Rev. Michael Cox and Rev. Paul Benz and our many faithful volunteers.

All of us at Operation Nightwatch: the board, staff, volunteers, donors, and those whom he has served... wish Ben abundant blessings of peace, love and joy, always. It has been an honor to have walked with him on this stretch of the journey.

Your support enables Nightwatch to build relationships on the stormy seas of Seattle. ●

Walking by faith

By Ben Curtis,
recently retired from Street Ministry

People keep asking me for words of wisdom as I've been wrapping up my time here. All I can keep coming up with is 'trust God.' In the end, it really is all about faith.

Nightwatch runs on faith. Believing that God will watch over us as we tread the most dangerous parts of our city. Entrusting each person that we encounter into the care of the Almighty as we walk away. Having faith there will always be enough to keep the lights on every month.

My leaving Nightwatch is about trusting God and taking a leap of faith. Things are still coming into focus, but one thing my wife and I are feeling called to is foster care. I've run into so many folks on the streets who had negative experiences in foster homes, and we want to move 'upstream' on the spectrum of homelessness.

So, I'm 'stepping out of the boat' and continuing to walk by faith on my journey.

Thank you to all who have supported me and Nightwatch over the years. May God bless you. ●



NIGHTWATCH

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

Save the date!

Join us in-person
once again for our
annual fundraiser.
This year, it's dinner!

Together Again
Thursday, November 2
More details to follow!

Volunteer Orientation

**Wednesday, August 16,
7:30 pm**

Come on in, take a look
around, and hear about all of
our volunteer opportunities.

We'd love to meet you and
get you connected!

302 14th Ave S, Seattle 98144

RSVP
volunteer@seattlenightwatch.org

Memorials & Tributes

Memorials

Chuck Beavers
Marge Beavers
Bill Branom
Mary Branom
Kim Canda
Maria & Greg Van Horn
Janice Creason
Gary Crevling
Sharon Pevera
Craig Davis
Bruce Davis
Patricia Dennis
Robert & Roberta Brown
Robert Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Tony Domzalski
Mark & Lisa Domzalski
Pat Domzalski
Keith & Kay Forbes
George & Carolyn Rippee
Chris Graff
Norma Jean Hanson
Steve Graves
Harvey & Geri Nelson
Ed Harrell
Jason & Coleen Marta
Mal & Effie Higgins
Linda & Mike Martin

Clark Hoyt
Jackie Hoyt
Mary Ellen Ingersoll
Jim and Jan Sullivan
Dean & Hattie Kimble
Kathy & Jeff Greiner
Ron Kimble
Carl & Heather Craven
Al & Maxine Lobb
John & Jody Fenlason
Danielle Lorenz
Dave & Maryanne Enslow
Joanne Mera
John & Karen Thielke
Elmer Molzahn
Sherianne Caldwell
Harold Mork
Paul Eriks
Emma Murray
Maria & Greg Van Horn
Joanna Ngai
Jerrod Larson
Chantel Zapata Pray
Robert & Nellie Porter
Bob Porter
Mike Potts
Catharine Fletcher
Mary Santi
Stephen Santi

Jon Schold
Anthony Chang
Dick Shipe
Gary & Theresa Shipe
Joey Smith
Chari & Bill Apperson
Greg & Mary Speltz
Jack & Sheila Giesler
Arthur John Swanson
Terry & Linda Biggs
Clio Thomas
Jim & Jan Sullivan
Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Cindy Monsen
Glenn & Shirley Weed
Carolyn Neitsch
Leo Werlech
Theresa Werlech
Gary White
Eugene White
Lisa Connolley
Leonard & Vernus Woodgate
George & Carolyn Rippee
Mary Wooldridge
Holly Boone & Pat Braus

Tributes

Ben Curtis
David & Sharon Nichols
Anita Riksheim
The DiPietro Family
Kim Bundy
Laurie Fisher
Joy Lauderbaugh
Luna Guzman-Mao
Anthony Chang
Nathan Hautala
Robert & Toni Hautala
Rev. David Hicks
Aaron & Sue Feik
Dottie Kiehle
Harvey & Geri Nelson
Rick Reynolds
Michael & Sandra Birdsall
Dick & Carol Grieves
Kerry Hegedus
& KerriLyn Vander Heyden
Doug Hart & Carole Powell
Carl Westphal
Denny Shaw
Carol Sue Janes

Eating together again!

**By Tonette Winston,
Director of Housing
and Shelter Services**

Great news!

We have reopened our Dispatch Center for meals inside, and are serving a full hour earlier, at 8 pm. Now our guests can get into shelter earlier, for more down-time and sleep.

We will stop the “to go” meals, which began during the pandemic to keep folks safe. The Dispatch Center will again become a meeting place for a moment of rest, conversation, and reflection of the day’s hardships and joys.

“Matt” was a guest of Nightwatch before the pandemic. As he went through the serving line, he would thank the volunteers for the delicious meal and enthusiastically share about his day. The evening meal gives folks, like Matt, an opportunity to decompress before heading off to shelter. Our staff and volunteers are honored to be part of it.

We’ve learned a lot over the years about our clients’ journeys, their hopes for the future and how we can support them. Breaking bread together leads to sharing. Laughter fills the air. Sometimes voices are raised in debate about sports, or to explore the validity of rumors that might negatively affect the homeless community.

We are always here to clear up any questions that might be floating around, and to offer support. **Our goal is to love, provide moments of safety, and assist folks on their journey.**

Your donations enable us to serve 150 hot meals and provide 89 safe places for folks to sleep every night of the year. Please keep it coming! ●



Shopping List

Please help by collecting these items for us to distribute to our homeless friends and tenants (travel sizes are preferred):

- Bottled water (16 oz.)
- Protein & chewy granola bars
- Individual bags of chips
- Cookies and pastries
- Fruit
- Shampoo & conditioner
- First aid cream
- Razors
- Toothbrushes
- Lotion
- Soap & body wash
- Men’s new athletic socks
- Twin size sheet sets
- Clean, durable blankets

For more information, or to schedule a donation drop-off: info@seattlenightwatch.org

Amazon Wish List:

Ship donations to our door!
<https://bit.ly/ONWlist>



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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