



September/October 2012



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

To tell the truth, I really didn't know Niki Powell that well. Yes, she volunteered regularly, but as the Executive Director, I'm not at the downtown Hospitality Center all-that-much. While I do try to spend at least one night downtown to keep in touch with everyone there, the way Nightwatch has grown takes me in a number of other directions as well, and having a Program Coordinator to oversee downtown allows me to follow them.

But I knew who Niki was. She was slight and shy, and she smiled a lot. For the longest time after she started volunteering, she hung pretty much on the periphery. She helped serve coffee, and it was as she was handing a hot mug to someone that I saw many of her conversations happening. She obviously liked being at Nightwatch because she kept coming back. I remember wondering whether I should specifically introduce her to some of the guests so she could get more involved.

Now we're still dealing with the turbulence that followed in the wake of Niki's death. All of us who have any connection with Nightwatch are handling it in our own way. Our guests are not only mournful but angry: how could someone they thought they knew raise up his hand against Niki? Donors may be wondering whether this organization they have supported has lost its way, allowing such a thing to happen. Volunteers may

be questioning whether they themselves are safe.

Naturally, I wrestle with my own questions. Were there signals that I missed? Is there anything I could have done differently/better that would have assured nothing like this had happened? Am I in the wrong "business"? I had come out of retirement to take the position of serving as Nightwatch's Executive Director; was it time for me to retire again?

But then I come across the detritus that washes up on the shores of the Internet in the postings of various disgruntled individuals. To them, this incident has only confirmed their worst prejudices. Niki's murderer embodied the truth about all homeless people: they are all no better than "subhuman," likened to "cockroaches" and "diseased rats," worthy of nothing but corralling by "armed guards."

And then I think, No! I know those things aren't true! I know it from my observation of the evident vulnerability of so many who come to Nightwatch, bullied by the simple meanness of others and by a system which often just has no patience for them. I know it from the acts of unasked kindness I have received from so many of them, but offers to help when I'm struggling with a load to their prayers directed toward my healing when I'm not-at-my-best. I know it by sitting in the Nightwatch worship service with them (a service that exists due to their initiative) and hearing of the sorrows they carry for the hardships of others, and the concerns they offer for their care.

Yes, an unspeakable evil was committed when Niki was killed. But the evil is greatly compounded when others would seek to condemn a whole group because of the deed of one.

When Niki's death was publicly revealed, one of our guests expressed to me his anger at her accused murderer by saying,

"He had no idea how he was affecting the lives of everybody here." Indeed. And however others associated with Nightwatch may deal with the turbulence associated with Niki's death, I know that I cannot give up on all the others here because of one person's evil.

Which forces me to conclude that I am really in the right "business," after all.

Gary L. Davis



Niki Powell
1980 - 2012

INTERN TO ASSIST WITH EAST SIDE

Mikaila Smith, a student at PSU studying social work, will be joining Nightwatch as an intern in October. As her primary duty, Mikaila will be serving as liaison between downtown and our operations in SE. While keeping in touch with the current activities of the Mobile Hospitality Center and SE Hospitality Center, she will also be working with the Executive Director in expanding Nightwatch's outreach on the East Side.

Welcome, Mikaila!

FROM THE (NEW) PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Salvete:

My name is Kieran McCourt and I am happy to be introducing myself as the newest Operation Nightwatch Program Coordinator. After a week at Nightwatch, I am getting to know some people and looking forward to meeting the rest as the year goes forward.

By now it might seem like old news, but I was placed at Operation Nightwatch by Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest. As a JV, I'm committed to living out the four pillars of JVC, social and ecological justice, spirituality, simplicity and living in community with seven other JVs who serve at other non-profits throughout Portland.

Before my flight out to Portland, I've spent my life in Philadelphia, PA. I grew up in Philly and went to college in Philly at Saint Joseph's University. In May, I received my degree in Classical Studies and a concentration in fine art photography. ("salvete" is a Latin hello.)

It's been wonderful to be welcomed into the Nightwatch family already, and I look forward to learning about all the experiences that everyone brings to Nightwatch.

Pax vobiscum,

Kieran

BENEFIT CONCERT FEATURING PORTLAND CHAMBER MUSIC, NOV. 3

Save the date! On Saturday, November 3, Portland Chamber Music will be holding a benefit concert for Operation Nightwatch at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1432 SW 13th, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

[Portland Chamber Music](#) is a non-profit musical group whose mission is "to make economically feasible, mentally ingestible, local art music available throughout Portland." Its repertoire includes both classical and contemporary music, and its vision includes partnering with Operation Nightwatch by providing free music lessons to those who endure the challenges of homelessness.

Tickets are \$10 (student and low-income \$5). They may be purchased in advance from us by calling 503-220-0438 or emailing info@operationnightwatch.org. They will also be available at the door.

NIGHTWATCH WEL- COMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

A sign that things are hopping at Nightwatch is that we have expanded the size of our Board of Directors. We are pleased to welcome these new members:

Eric Dahlin is a partner with Davis Wright Tremaine. He also serves on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of the Portland Metropolitan Area. Eric is an avid outdoorsman, enjoying cycling and backpacking, and has also served as game-clock operator for the Trail Blazers.

Carolyn Norton is a staff attorney with the Oregon Law Center, a non-profit statewide legal aid organization, who represents low-income clients on issues involving housing or employment. Having moved to Portland from Chicago, Carolyn has worked with a number of non-profits in her career and is committed to bridging cultural divides wherever she can.

Amanda Tabaka-Fernandez first connected with Nightwatch as a downtown volunteer. She works as a nanny and an actor. She writes, "The homeless population in Portland is in dire need of so much more than food and clothing. A unique organization like ONW is really contributing a much needed, but ignored, service for people in need of warmth, human connection, acceptance, and overall hospitality."

We are blessed and happy to have all of them on board!

CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT FOR NIGHTWATCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

*Christmas? REALLY? AL-
READY???*

Yet it will be here before we know it, and we need to plan ahead. Particularly, we need to begin

collecting items to put together into the Christmas stockings we give out to all guests who attend. The Christmas stockings typically contain helpful items such as these:

- combs
- razors
- chapstick
- toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- gloves
- knit caps
- Kleenex (pocket pack)
- soap
- shampoo
- lotion
- sewing kits
- candy

Any in-kind or monetary contributions to help with the stockings would be welcome.

SOCKS: DEPLETED! BLANKETS: GONE! FUNDS: EXHAUSTED!

We ran out of blankets earlier this year. Then we ran out of socks. But we had a solution then. We dipped into our Blankets/Socks Fund and ordered more.

Now those blankets are gone. And the socks similarly will soon be. And now we have no money now to buy more—right when the seasons are changing and the nights are getting longer and chillier.

So we need help so we can help our guests who are exposed to the elements. We need blankets. We need socks.

Please help us. If you cannot directly send some socks or blankets our way, you can certainly make a donation specified for the "Blankets/Socks Fund."

That way we can assure that no one will have to suffer the cold.

OTHER WISH LIST ITEMS

- Coats and jackets (Large and X-Large)
- Razors
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant

IN REMEMBRANCE AND HONOR

We are grateful to have received the following special gifts:

Donor	Recognition
Family of Christ Lutheran Church	In honor of Roger Fuchs
Brian Szmanski	In memory of Ilya Vasiliev
Robert & Gayle Burrow	In honor Lee Kilbourn and Anita Woodside's wedding
Palmer Pardington	In honor Lee Kilbourn and Anita Woodside's wedding
James Chassé	In honor Lee Kilbourn and Anita Woodside's wedding
Tristen Collins	In honor of Roger Fuchs

CHAPLAIN'S NOTES

September Light

*Give us the strength to understand
and the eyes to see...*

*--from Black Elk's prayer according
to John G. Neihardt*

We are rapidly approaching the autumnal equinox. After that, the nights grow much longer. But already the rays of sunlight are traveling a greater distance through the atmosphere due to the sun's changing angle. This softens the light and changes colors even as autumn leaves will add their own changes. It is for me a magical time of year. I thank God for the eyes to see.

Just before vacation in late August, I did another marathon car repair session. When your car is 29 years old and has 433,000 miles, you get to do one or two of those. It's been 16 years and 150 K miles since I last did the clutch and overhauled the transmission. In 1996, I could buy every part I needed. Now, only a few parts still come from Honda. Some are from the aftermarket or salvage yards. Others I fabricate or rework myself. It took a million decisions and judgment calls about replacing some parts, fixing others. After two weeks of that, my brain was very tired. One more comment or question from those around me--or 30 seconds of commercial radio-- could send me into overload. At last the job was finished--and it worked perfectly. Thank God! Again I realized how

how tiring intense mental activity can be if the body is already tired from physical activity, hunger, or lack of sleep.

With "the strength to understand and the eyes to see" we may get a glimpse of the intense mental activity--and the tiredness--in some faces coming through our doors at Operation Nightwatch. May our hospitality provide a place of welcome, warmth and rest. May we be September light to soften the colors of life. May we provide a magical time of year.

--Pastor Roger

WILL THERE BE OUTINGS THIS FALL?

The monthly outings we take with our guests is certainly a highlight for them. Whenever we step off the bus from one trip, they are eager to know where the following month's will be.

At the time being, the only answer we have to give to their question now is, "Nowhere." That's because we don't have sponsors to fully fund the expenses for the proposed outings.

You can change that by yourself becoming a full or partial sponsor for one of the proposed outings. Here's the schedule. Can you contribute?

September	Corn Maze (\$175)
October	OMSI (\$200)
December	Christmas lights (\$75 remaining)

Simply indicate on any contribution that you would like it to go to the "Outings Fund."

IS THAT OLD CELL PHONE WORTH ANYTHING? (OR THAT USED INK CARTRIDGE?) YOU BETCHA!

What sort of electronic junk do you have taking up space in your drawers? You know--the old cell phone, the broken digital camera, the used ink cartridge?

Well, Operation Nightwatch can get money from those things! And not only those, but also old GPS devices, MP3 players, iPods, calculators, PDAs, video game consoles and games--essentially, any hand-held electronics. By partnering with recycling company Planet Green, we can earn up to \$5 for every spent ink cartridge and up to \$40 for every used cell phone.

All you have to do is to drop off your used electronic junk with us (you can include cell phone batteries and even cell phone chargers!). Just bring them down to us.

Working together, one cartridge and cell phone at a time, not only will be help the planet, but we'll also raise money for our work.

OPERATION NIGHTWATCH BOARD

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Retired College Administrator

Doug Davidson
Mortgage Loan Officer
White House Mortgage

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NEWSLETTER
PRODUCTION TEAM
Al & Gloria Bowen
Gary Davis
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Mount St Helens outing

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OPERATION NIGHTWATCH

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