

Night Watch (Part 2)

The most common misconception about the homeless is that they are different than other members of society. This notion is entirely false and its persistence is a discredit to the many remarkable individuals like those that Night-Watch encounters. The homeless differ only in their housing situation and not their character. These individuals are construed as neardowells and "bums" but through my experience with Night-Watch(a program providing aid to the homeless) meeting a number of these individuals, I can personally attest to the fact that this is the farthest thing from the truth.

My stereotype of the homeless was quickly shattered when I met an individual of unparalleled intelligence. This man was a computer programmer and mathematician whose knowledge of mathematical principles dwarfed that of anyone I had ever met. As a high school Calculus student I am no stranger to the world of mathematics, its computations and its complexity. This remarkable individual squared numbers in his head that I would not attempt without a calculator. In mere seconds he could tell me the square of 17 or the answer to 26×15 . While listening to his explanations and shortcuts to these problems I felt I was talking to a college professor or noted mathematician not just another guy from the streets. This gentleman broke my mental mold of who a homeless person was and was exhibit A in a long line of evidence which countered the stereotype of a homeless person.

The next person I encountered further broke down my predisposition toward the homeless. From across the room I heard so artfully crafted a sentence that I immediately took notice. The origin of this masterpiece was the mind of a writer, thinker, poet, and to my surprise a homeless man. Listening to this gentleman was like reading an Ayn Rand novel. This gentleman put this vocabulary to use writing part time to various publications and practicing poetry while working out of a homeless shelter. His adept use of language was a strong contrast to the people holding "will work for food signs" whom I was so accustomed to seeing.

While the two aforementioned characters prove every level of society has its intellectuals it is also true, that all tiers of society contain the friendly neighbor, the jokester, and the cat lover. The third individual character I encountered was the epitome of these roles. This man and his cat were quite a pair. One humorous anecdote this fellow told was of his cat's territoriality. "Buster*s done good keepin those rodents away from the bridge, they don't bother me at night anymore, the other day he encountered a big ol' raccoon and ran 'em off, I thought to myself 'man I sure would love to see what Buster could do if he had all four legs'"

My experience has shown me that the homeless are no different. All levels of society include the same basic parts and our version is no different than theirs. Whether you live in an upscale neighborhood or under a bridge, you are just as likely to be a poet, a mathematician or just a fun guy. At the surface it may not seem extraordinary and it may seem foreign to those of us who have not taken the time to look but upon examination everyone in our society is essentially the same.

*Name has been changed



Story By
Jonathon Branch &
Hannah Knibb

A Dog's Purpose (from a 6-year-old)

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home. As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience. The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why." Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life -- like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that,

so they don't have to stay as long."

Live simply.
Love generously.
Care deeply.
Speak kindly.
Remember, if a dog were the teacher, you would learn things like:
When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
Take naps.
Stretch before rising.
Run, romp, and play daily.
Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
Be loyal.
Never pretend to be something you're not.
If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.



Local Pastor Recognize Holy Week

At First United Methodist Church in Liberty during Holy Week In April, which lead up to Easter and the greatest day for Christians, the church open its doors and invited the community in. They held 30 minute services every day that week at noon. There was a different pastor on each day from one of the local churches. The services are open to all in celebration of Holy Week. The pastors that lead the sessions were
Sam Shore at Grace Lutheran
David Hobson at Rocky River Friends
Tim Friar at Mount Pleasant Baptist
Gene Dean at First UMC
Brian Harrington at First Baptist



**THERE ARE
3 TYPES OF PEOPLE
IN THIS WORLD:**

*THOSE WHO
MAKE THINGS
HAPPEN,
THOSE WHO
WATCH THINGS
HAPPEN,
AND THOSE WHO
WONDER WHAT
HAPPENED*



**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT**

**Now A Second
Location**

At Quality Inn Burlington
Hwy 49 and I-85
Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Mark Your
Calendar



**Celebrate
Liberty
Independence
Celebration
Sat July 11**

**Vendors
Food—Music
Kids Activities
Live Fireworks**

**Vendor Spaces
Available**

Visit Web For More Info
www.celebrateliberty.org
622-4276

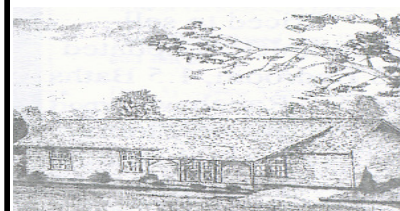
**YE OLD
COUNTRY
KITCHEN**

NEW Winter Hours

Closed Mon & Tues & Wed
Thur & Frid 4:30-8:30
Sat & Sun 11:30-8:30

Daily Buffet & Full Menu Items
Kids Menu
Wed & Sun—Country Buffet
Thur-Country/Italian Buffet
Fri & Sat-Country/Seafood Buffet
Wed thru Sat- Country Lunch Buffet

Come See Us!



Millstone Catering

Snow Camp, NC
Private Parties Welcome
Catering Services

327 Drama Road,
Snow Camp, NC
Ph 336-376-6991
Bryan & Melodee