



“My Rock Star Reverend”

The Rev. Monique Ortiz
In 2014 Sherry gave me
this precious photo of her.



As I held it in my hands, it warmed my heart when I read how she had dedicated it... we hugged and I remember saying to her, “I do wish I could live-up to that name for you, and all I love and serve!”



You see, there were so many times throughout the seven-plus years that we had been in each other's lives when I could not be there for Sherry. Times when she was once again, in need of a blanket, of food, clothes, medicine, a ride, when she felt sick or was in the hospital. Many times, when she

would sleep near the Bart station or somewhere on the streets, the many times when she felt sad, anxious, happy, in pain, worried –times...so many times...yet, as we know 'time' does not stand still. Life continues to happen all around us and Sherry knew that all too well.

She embraced life to the fullest, loved people, but most of all God and adored her son, James whom she promised I would meet someday. She also loved being a part of Night Ministry and throughout the many years, would frequently attend both of our weekly Open Cathedral Services and our Tuesday Night OC Gathering and Bible study.

Little did I know that this petite woman whom I had met during one of my night shifts in the Tenderloin toward the end of 2008 would become my sister and I, her “Rock Star Reverend,” but that was just occasionally!

Every time I think about her, it brings a smile to my face. Sherry was one of a kind! I cannot even remember how many times she fired me as her pastor – I suppose it was every time I was unable to be there for her when she needed something. At times, we would even laugh about it after her anger or disappointment would dissipate and I was back on her good side, I'd tell her that I had never been fired by any boss especially as many times as she had fired me!

Indeed, Sherry and I shared much laughter; and yet, there were times of deep nostalgia when she missed her old life at home with her husband and son. Seasons when at every Open Cathedral Service, she would sing, “This Little Light of Mine,” or needed to be baptized yet, one more time until she would reach her 7th baptism as she would remind us, “The Holy Spirit told me so, and anyway seven is God's number of completion.” Moments when she felt the need to recite her favorite Scripture from Isaiah 41:10-13 -- her, “will and testament” she would call it.

Oh, and how she loved handing me notes during our OC Services.

She never ceased to amaze us! One evening after our OC Mission Service while a new class of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) students were with us, Sherry insisted she needed prayer and to get rid of a demon she felt within. She sat on the sidewalk and as we were praying, her affect began to change. I will never forget the seminary students faces, I thought they were going to quit CPE and Night Ministry that evening!



That was our Sherry, never afraid to speak her mind, to ask for prayer, to kneel on the pavement as she received Communion, and to bounce right-back-up one illness after another. Until late December 2015 when living on the streets had taken its toll. On December 30, a doctor from SF General called since apparently, I was Sherry's only emergency contact. She let me know that Sherry had been admitted a day-and-a half prior with meningitis and was failing rapidly.

Rev. Valerie, Tammy and I were able to be at her side that day as she went home with the Lord she loved so much. Just one month prior, Sherry was baptized for the seventh time as she had wished.

With the unfailing love and support of the Faithful Fools Street Ministry, one month later we celebrated Sherry's life, raised funds for her cremation and the County was finally able to locate Sherry's next of kin, her son, James who I finally met (as Sherry had promised I would someday). We met the day he and his father picked-up her ashes which were placed in a beautiful urn given by Rev. Vicki.

It was an honor and a profound blessing to have been given the opportunity to walk such a journey with Sherry, and to have loved her so; even though, it is not humanly possible for any of us to live-up to the name, “My Rock Star Reverend.” Sherry will always remain my sister and a salient part of Night Ministry as so many others have been, are and will be. Sherry was special, though, I find that every sister and brother whom we are called to love, serve and walk along side with – are as amazing and uniquely precious. What many do have in common as well, aside from their beauty and fortitude of spirit -- their struggles on the streets are similar, the only emergency contact or “family” they have, may be one of us from Night Ministry, and painfully – for many as with Sherry, their life is cut short.



“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous hand. All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced....For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.”

Upcoming Events

8th Annual Cabaret

Please join our good friends Alexis Miranda, Galilea, John Weber, Davida, Bobby Ashton, Jeff Johnson, Marco Middlesex, Sable Jones, Olivia Hart and others for a memorable night of song, dance, food and fun benefiting Night Ministry and those whom we serve.

Friday, August, 11, 2017

Friday, August, 11, 2017
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131
7:00 pm to 9:30 pm
\$35.00 (tickets available at the door)
Snacks and beverages provided

Save the Date for our Annual Gala

October 21, 2017
Theme: Aloha Makahiki – A gathering of Love
Place: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell, San Francisco, CA 94109
5:30 to 8:30 pm

Hawaiian Style Luau with live entertainment, small plates, wine, specialty drinks, soft drinks, and auctions – silent, live and reverse.

San Francisco Night Ministry
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NIGHTLY NEWS:

Our Staff

The Rev. Lyle J Beckman, Night Minister
The Rev. Monique Ortiz, Associate Night Minister
The Rev. Dr. Laura Rolen, Coordinator of Crisis Line Counselors
The Rev. Rod W. Seeger, Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor
The Rev. Silvia Tiznado, Assistant CPE Supervisor
The Rev. Daniel Borysewicz, Minister of Sacred Space

Assistant Night Ministers

The Rev. Daniel Borysewicz
Chaplain Adam Briones
The Rev. Donald Fox
The Rev. Bernhard Fricke
The Rev. Thom Longino
The Rev. Valerie McEntee
The Rev. Karen Perkins
The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop
The Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer
The Ven. David Stickley

Deacons to Night Ministry

The Rev. Marcus Crim
The Rev. Victoria Gray
The Rev. Nancy Pennekamp

Governing Board Members

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From the Night Minister

Kintsugi (“golden joinery”), also known as Kintsukuroi (“golden repair”), is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. As a philosophy, it treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise; and becomes a valuable process that makes a piece even more beautiful for having been broken.



Night Ministry meets people where they are, often broken, even shattered by all sorts of circumstances and situations of life. Night Ministers and Crisis Line Counselors are broken too, yet together we seek, find and affirm healing, transformation and wholeness that can take place in each of us, by a creator who cares for us deeply and makes us new each and every day. Even out of our brokenness can come new hope, new life and new possibilities. That is our work and our prayer as we move forward into the future.

This newsletter will give you some information about the ministry we provide, the people we serve, their needs and concerns, as well as about the programs we offer. For more information, please visit our website (www.sfnightministry.org) or contact us by e-mail at office@sfnightministry.org.

Thank you for your interest in this important and unique ministry, and for your partnership, support and encouragement as we move forward.

Lyle J Beckman
Night Minister



Category	Crisis Line	Open Cathedrals	Night Ministers	Total
Female	3,872	3,731	2,328	9,931
Male	1,924	8,391	6,226	16,541
Transgender	277	355	472	1,004
Total	6,073	12,477	9,026	27,576
Religious/Spiritual	1,253	12,131	5,509	18,893
Moral/Ethical	1,532	11,250	3,951	16,733
Lonely/Depressed	2,144	2,763	2,035	6,942
Anxious/Afraid	1,508	1,678	1,567	4,753
Psychiatric	1,016	410	940	2,366
Anger	1,441	906	1,089	3,436
Grief	888	379	854	2,121
Suicidal	278	101	323	702
Relationship/Family	3,277	10,971	4,002	18,250
Abuse/Violence	1,311	850	1,237	3,398
Addiction/Substance	629	1,818	1,972	4,419
Sexuality/Gender	173	742	1,158	2,073
Health/Medical	1,118	688	1,243	9,244
Job/Vocation	1,023	4,326	1,940	7,289
Financial	743	7,374	1,293	9,410
Housing	491	4,086	1,525	6,102
General Information	158	2,475	3,086	5,719

Value of the Night Ministry

Reflected in Comments from Persons Helped and Others We Meet at Night

“If you hadn't talked with me (two nights ago), I wouldn't be here. You helped save my life.” An expression of gratitude by a man struggling with suicidal thoughts. We met him in a local donut shop and talked and prayed for hours.

“Whenever I see you walking in my neighborhood, I feel comforted. It's as if God really does care about us here.” A resident of a single room occupancy hotel in the South of Market area.

“Why is it I can talk to you about my deepest fears? I can't even talk to my wife about all these things.” A caller to our crisis line.

“I don't know how I could have managed without the Night Ministry. Whenever I get distressed, I know I can always call. Night Ministry is always there. You help me get by.” Another caller to our Crisis Line.

“I never thought I'd be part of a church ever again. I walked away years ago, but Open Cathedral has made me feel at peace. I'm praying again, and feel that God has called me here. I truly love everyone here, and know they love me too.” A regular Open Cathedral participant.

“You're everywhere. When do you sleep?” A taxi driver who drives at night and sees us quite often in various neighborhoods of San Francisco.

“They'll listen to anyone, and help anyone they see. I think they might be angels.” One man living on the streets to the man next to him.

We're no angels, but we are responding to God's call to offer pastoral care, counseling, referral services and crisis intervention to all people in the middle of the night. Thank you for your faithful support.

By The Rev. Valerie McEntee

For over fifty years San Francisco Night Ministry has sought to lighten in the darkness for those who have a hard time finding hope or compassion in the middle of the night. I am so excited about the ways our light has been growing these past few years.

After several years as a satellite Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) site under the auspices of Stanford, we recently moved a step closer to having accreditation as our own free standing CPE site. The site visiting team noted that they were impressed with our CPE program and with our ministry.

Though Night Ministry was started as an explicitly Christian organization, we have been slowly growing our light in an interfaith direction to better serve the folks of many different faiths whom we encounter at night both on the phones and on the streets. Our CPE program has helped us do this, brining in students of several different faith streams as well as interfaith ministry students, some of whom have stayed on as Assistant Night Ministers.

This, in turn has helped us serve those who come to us for help, compassion, and understanding better. Now our Board of Directors is formally considering revising our charter to reflect the fact that we now serve folks of many faiths and have staff from a variety of faith backgrounds. Add to this our growing corps of volunteer Crises Line Counselors, our thriving Open Cathedral services, and the energy and dedication of our Board and I feel sure that Night Ministry's light will only shine brighter in the years to come.

Night Ministry at the Faithful Fools... A way to discover my humanity!

When I arrived in San Francisco a few months ago I was deeply impressed by the number of homeless people in the streets, and by their young age. I was moved by the way some kind people answered to the needs of these suffering persons, especially the Night Ministry who welcomed them every Tuesday evening to the Faithful Fools building in the Tenderloin for their Tuesday Night Gathering.

This small group includes students bringing food, homeless coming from Tenderloin, volunteers (even French are accepted!) and by Pastor Monique and future pastors in the Clinical pastoral Education program. This village is like an oasis of peace for its guests.

-First, the food from USF is absolutely great, and it is pleasant to eat fresh vegetables and healthy food.
-Then without cross-talking, everybody is able to check-in: that means to share what has been important for them during your week: that means that it is a place where you are listened to. Suddenly you are able to put words on your suffering:
-illness of your husband with his new known short life expectancy, -increasing problem of your housing, - being disgusted with yourself because of the evolution of your Mental illness, -discovering of your social vulnerability because of years of crack and increasing criminal record.

At that point, as Jesus did it many years ago, Pastor Monique, Saint Monique should I say, is busy touching, cuddling, drying the tears, blessing, praying... giving everyone there the concrete hope that God is here with them on their hard way.

Through homeless people I've discovered what Faith means: Some of them say as I have never heard before, how God is their friend, how God is their hope day after day, how they surrender their life in God, how praying every day is important to survive, how the bible is their compass. I can tell you that when we share the next Sunday's gospel at the end of our meeting, it gets width, height, depth and a taste of actuality.

Thanks be to God and to our new family!

Isabelle
Paris-San Francisco



Every Thursday...



Each Thursday, Thrivent member Amy Gutierrez observes her neighbor, Monique Ortiz, prepare for Open Cathedral, an outdoor English-Spanish worship service in the heart of San Francisco.

The services are open to all, but are specifically designed to be a safe, friendly place for some of the city's most marginalized residents. San Francisco has one of the highest homeless populations in the U.S. The ministry aims to nourish spirit and body for that population by providing meals after each worship service

Inspired by Ortiz's work, Gutierrez thought about how she could contribute to the effort. Her solution: Lead a Thrivent Action Team to make a meal for those attending Open Cathedral. But instead of asking other adults to join her volunteer team, she challenged her then-10-year-old daughter Kayla and her friends to team up and help make a difference. A heartwarming experience in serving others. Gutierrez used Thrivent Action Team seed money to purchase food and paper products. Under her supervision, Kayla and her friends cleaned, chopped, diced and spiced chicken and vegetables. They simmered soup while sharing stories about their families and their different cultures. When the pint-sized sous chefs finished in the kitchen, they helped pack up the soup and headed for Open Cathedral.

"I didn't really understand the impact this would have on so many people. But as soon as that first bite of food touched their lips, I could see how it made them light up."

The Action Team volunteers helped set up, visited with those who gathered, participated in worship, served food and cleaned up. After the service Kayla and her friends jumped right in, serving more than 80 people a warm cup of soup.

"This is about far more than serving the homeless," says Gutierrez. "It's about capturing the opportunity to live generously, letting your light shine and watching as wonderful things unfold."

"When my mom asked me to be part of this project, I expected we would just make soup, drive to San Francisco and serve it," recalls Kayla. "I didn't really understand the impact this would have on so many people. But as soon as that first bite of food touched their lips, I could see how it made them light up." They also heard stories from those in attendance, learned about their struggles, witnessed the power of faith, and saw how joy and laughter can exist during sad situations. The entire process helped Kayla and her friends' experience how they can make a meaningful difference for – and learn from – those in true need. "I learned people can be blessed in different ways," says Kayla. "Some have an unlimited supply of happiness, while others have an unlimited supply of kindness. But the most important thing I learned was that these people have so much courage and bravery." For more information about Thrivent Action Teams, go to www.Thrivent.com

Open Cathedral – What Is It?

Two things we know about Jesus of Nazareth is that he was a carpenter, someone who built buildings for a living, for most of his adult life. And then he was an itinerant preacher and healer with many followers. Sometimes he taught in a synagogue or temple, but more typically he preached to people gathered somewhere outdoors. Oddly enough, however, there's no mention in the gospels of Jesus combining his two vocations in a way that seems all too obvious for modern-day churchgoers. There was no building fund or restoration project – no known effort to house his congregation of followers.

That oddity or irony provides a good starting point for understanding what the 21st century institution known as Open Cathedral is and isn't. It is a San Francisco church congregation that gathers weekly for Christian-based worship at two outdoor locations. It is not a temporarily unsheltered congregation in need of a permanent home. It is right where it wants to be and needs to be, for a congregation of people who, for any number of reasons, do not want to venture into a church building, welcoming or not

Another misconception about Open Cathedral is that it's a feeding ministry preceded by worship. Services conclude with a meal,

often provided through the generosity and effort of another local congregation. But that is not why most people are there, any more than "coffee hour" is the principal draw for people attending a service in a church building.

Over time, an outside observer learns that people attend Open Cathedral services for the same reasons that motivate any collection of church-goers – to get in touch with their spiritual side, be inspired by biblical readings and a sermon, and be part of a worship community that cares and looks out for each other. Not all are homeless street dwellers. Many live in low-cost SROs, but have chosen Open Cathedral as their regular worship service and congregation.

The Sunday afternoon Tenderloin service (at the Leavenworth and McAllister entryway to U.N. Plaza) started on Easter Sunday in 2008 and has been there weekly ever since, rain or shine, 51 weeks a year (the exception being the last Sunday in June, when the space is occupied by the Pride Parade). The liturgy, with readings, prayers, hymns, passing the peace, and Eucharist, would be familiar to any mainline Christian. Over the years there have also been life-cycle sacraments and liturgies – baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Most services are presided over by Associate Night Minister Monique Ortiz, Marcus Crim with Revs. Vicki Gray and Nancy Pennekamp serving as deacons, and a cadre of lay congregants serving as ushers.

The Thursday evening service is held in the plaza next to the 16th and Mission BART station. Rev. Monique conducts these services in Spanish (her native language) and English, and the annual calendar includes a Maundy Thursday footwashing. Once it was apparent that Open Cathedral had a stable worship community, Night Ministry added something else familiar to conventional churchgoers, a regular Tuesday night gathering for Bible study at Faithful Fools.

Night Minister Lyle Beckman got the idea to start Open Cathedral after attending a regional workshop led by Ecclesia Ministries founder Rev. Debbie Little. Little's inspiration came in 1994 when, fresh out of seminary and wondering what to do next, she ventured out one day with some sandwiches, socks, and other items she thought might be useful to homeless folks in Boston. Aside from the challenges of homelessness and the conditions and circumstances that lead to homelessness, Little encountered a population with unmet spiritual needs who, like herself, preferring being outside to in. That led to a weekly communion service in Boston Common dubbed "common cathedral."

And from there the idea spread to dozens of affiliated Ecclesia street services and ministries throughout the U.S. as well as Australia, the United Kingdom, and Brasil (where Nancy and I attended Igreja na Rua [literally church in the street] service led by a retired bishop on a Saturday night in Rio de Janeiro).

Open Cathedral operates outside of Night Ministry's traditional night hours, but it serves some of the same clientele, whose spiritual needs don't go away when the sun comes up. It is not an anti-poverty program in the sense of trying to lift people out of poverty. Night Ministry and Open Cathedral are more basic than that – meeting people where they are and as they are, with spiritual support to help them navigate their way through the next hour or the next day or week. It is what any of us might ask for and hope to get from our spiritual community, and without having to think about the building fund.

John Cumming



Greetings and God's peace to you. My name is Rev. Daniel Borysewicz, a Hospice Chaplain, Night Minister, Spiritual Guide, Reiki Practitioner, and Social Activist. It was a year ago Palm Sunday that I decided to accept the opportunity of becoming the Sacred Space Minister. Bringing a spiritual presence as an Assistant Night Minister with the San Francisco Night Ministry the people in the community for the past 2 years has been very rewarding and gratifying for me. The goal of Sacred Space SF is to meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of the LGBTQ community.

Stepping into this new role was exciting and daunting at the same time. Restarting Sacred Cocktails and reviving a pastoral presence in the Castro were my initial priorities. An important counsel I received from the previous Sacred Space Minister was to "make it my own" -- and that has been a guiding principle over this past year as the mantle of Sacred Space Minister settles more comfortably onto my shoulders. As a queer white man, an ally to the transgender community and an advocate for dismantling misogyny, racism, and privilege, it is important for me to embody these passions into my ministry. My work with dismantling shame surrounding sexuality and gender identity, which began while I was in seminary (Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA) has motivated me to help others to begin the process of healing and seeking a place of wholeness from that shame. This healing can allow us to truly love ourselves, which can allow us to love others as we love ourselves and God, as Jesus expands upon in his teachings.



Being open to the inspirations of Spirit is an influence in my ministry with Sacred Space SF. During San Francisco Pride weekend each year, there is a resource fair held on Friday afternoon, prior to the TransMarch. One of the most marginalized members of the LGBTQ community are transgender people, especially transgender people of color. Last year, I felt this community might benefit from a pastoral presence offered by Sacred Space SF and Sacred Space SF signed up for a booth at the resource fair (pictured below). Then, one week prior to the TransMarch, the shootings in Orlando happened. As I was leaving the

quarterly SF Night Ministry staff meeting the Monday after the shootings, Spirit told me that our booth would no longer be only to offer information, we would be there to offer 'prayers of healing for broken hearts'. I immediately put out a call to clergy I knew and started planning how we would offer healing of broken hearts. The day of the event, we had nine clergy offering prayers, with a compassionate and loving presence for those who stopped by our booth. Individuals created prayer flags which I later placed on the community altar in the Castro memorializing the victims in Orlando. Some people were anointed by oil. There was a bowl of consecrated water with bowl of earth from the Southwest beside it and some people grounded themselves in the soil and wash away their sorrows in the blessed water. Some people also availed themselves to a Tibetan Singing Bowl and smudging of sage smoke. Our presence was well received and we provided shoulders to cry on and loving embraces for those who sought them. At the 2017 TransMarch Resource Fair, it in my intention to offer prayers and blessings for all bodies.



Sacred Cocktails is a monthly gathering of folks in a local bar for fellowship and sharing of our faith and spiritual journeys. Over the past year, we have had engaging conversations that included the spirituality of sexual intimacy, being a long-term HIV survivor, transgender alliances, 'growing old gay', the spirituality of political engagement, Black Women's Lives Matter, a shaman's perspective of soul injury more. To connect with a great audience and to preserve the valuable insights from these conversations, I have utilized Facebook Live to live stream for some of them and have posted them on their Sacred Cocktails Facebook page. You are invited to join us at 6:30pm on the first Monday of each month at the Lookout (16th & Market, SF).

This ministry would not be possible without the support, guidance and encouragement of the Sacred Space SF Advisory Board. Comprised of both religious and non-religious community members, the Advisory Board brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this ministry. The Advisory Board includes Rev. Lyle Beckman, JoEllen Brothers, Rev. Angela Brown JD., Rev. Michael Cronin, Shaun Haines, Patrick Hall, Rev. Dr. Cameron Partridge, and Brother Karekin Yarian. One of the improvements to the administrative aspects of Sacred Space SF Advisory Board is a covenant of roles and responsibilities to outline the ministry's needs from its advisory board. This has proved to make new board member recruitment more successful. I am extremely grateful for the Advisory Board and their willingness to server in this capacity. May God bless them with continued abundance and wellbeing.



I am grateful for the many opportunities to engage with people through Sacred Space SF. The conversations we have about seeking ways to live life to the fullest and to provide comfort and a compassionate heart to those who live on the margins of our society. Many of the marginalized within our society are members of the LGBTQ community, especially the transgender and queer people of color. As part of this ministry, I attend queer and transgender poetry readings, queer panel discussions, Transgender Day of Visibility and other events where those marginalized within the marginalized LGBTQ community congregate. I pray that my continued presence as the Sacred Space Minister will help to bring Divine love, mercy and grace to the people that I encounter each time I am out on the sacred streets and in the sacred spaces of San Francisco.

