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15th Annual Memorial Service To remember the poor and homeless who have died in 1996

Frank Alexander	Preston Klingmun
James Monroe	John Kondratyk
Anderson	Kenneth Krause
James R. Anderson	Clifford Law
Norris Anderson	Iosefo Leota
Donald R. Barnes	Gordie Luke
John D. Bauer	Mark Stephen
Carlos Bedia	Mansfield
Scott Bisgrove	Roy McClendon
Albert Bryant	Harold McKenzie
Rhay Butler	Ray Moony
John Burke	Geroge Morgan
Richard Campbell	Troy I. Muth
Ray Cheer	Jerry Nowlis
Richard Coen	Ron Olson
Willie Curtis	Louis Owens
Bobby Davis	Pat Patterson
Erven Day	Ramon C. Ramirez
Kathleen M. Day	Charles Rearden
Clarence Dill	John Rhodes
George Douglass	Henry Rivet
Dave Edwards	Herman Schreib
Anne Ekelund	Michael Severson
George Embry	Ray Snyder
Jose Mendoza	William Stephens
Garcia	David "Rainbow"
Richard Gerdes	Two Hearts
Bill Gore	Guy Vance
Robert M. Green-	Tom Vincet
wood	Bob Warner
Louise Haldane	Clarence Webb
Ed Hansen	Drew E. Wiley
Rita J. Hanseth	Gary Wilson
Vincent Hennessey	
Janice Hilbert	...and those who
William Hosea	remain unnamed.
Herman Hunter	
Lai D. Huynh	<i>Special Friends of the</i>
Daniel Iniquez	<i>Homeless</i>
James M. Jackson	Don Oldham
Philip J. Johnson	Edward Ottum
Jack Jones	John David Young
Mollie Kerbs	

Truth in a Flame

About forty people gathered in the cramped Compass Center chapel on January 3rd for the 15th annual Memorial Service for poor and homeless people who'd died the previous year. The service was delayed one week due to severe weather—snow, cold and rain which had caused additional hardship for homeless people and mud slides responsible for the death of at least one homeless man on Queen Anne Hill.

The service began with a prayer: "We remember before you today these our brothers and sisters. We thank you for giving them to us to know and love as companions in our pilgrimage on earth."

Stan Burriss, poet laureate of the streets, said, "When you're homeless you're on the cutting edge. Moment to moment and face to face it varies, and sometimes you fall into the haze that is too heavy to breathe." The Memorial Service was an attempt to give clarity through the haze, and life to the stories and struggles of individuals, our friends and companions.

After a sermon by Rev. Jean Kim and music by Catherine Condeff, people read the litany of the names—70 names long this year. As names were read, a candle was lit for each person.

During the time of sharing afterwards, Stan Burriss spoke more about what he saw: "I could see the list in those candles. Not nearly everybody who could've been on that list was. It could've been me. There's so much in those candles, including the people who remain unnamed." Joe Martin, a social worker at the Pike Market Clinic, talked about the flame of the spirit which lives forever. The theme of this year's service seemed to be contained in the flame, and in the paradoxes of life and death.

Stan Burriss saw children in those candles—each of the people represented was once a child in his or her mother's arms. But, he pointed out, "It's a mistake to think there is no violence in that candle." Many of the people on the list this year were known only by their street name, and some died violent deaths on the streets. Marion Sue Fischer once said, "The plural of paradoxes is paradise." But for this to be true we have to see and hold them all—the kid in that candle and the violence therein.

—Michele Marchand, with special help from Stan Burriss,
photos by Steven Sattergren

CATHERINE CONDEFF

