



A Fond Farewell to Fairlawn's Boarding Homes Ministry

Every two weeks, for almost 20 years, a team of Fairlawners visited a boarding home on Bathurst St. In fact, until COVID, I recall that we missed only one visit. Most residents struggled with some form of mental health challenge and/or addiction. We brought food and conversation. We shared laughter and sometimes tears as we traded stories of loss and challenge. Sometimes we listened to music and sometimes we sat in silence. At Christmas we partied and sang songs, and in the summer, we looked forward to our annual Canada Day BBQ. For many years, Connie Buck would make her way to a local farm to buy fresh strawberries for the occasion, which was always a big hit! And who could forget the team's annual Christmas shopping expedition! What would it be this year.....tuques and gloves? Sweaters? Sweatshirts? PJ's? During COVID, visits were suspended but we continued to stay in touch at Christmas through greeting cards, a Tim Horton's gift card and by providing a catered Swiss Chalet chicken dinner.

To everything there is a season. Fairlawn's team was one of many that were supported by the Boarding Homes Ministry led by Rodger Hunter at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Rodger, an inspirational mentor to all of us, passed away suddenly in 2017 and the larger support ministry disbanded in 2022. Since then, many of our Fairlawn team have retired and so it is time to conclude the ministry. Over the years, we have had wonderful and dedicated team members who would all tell you how much they value the friendships they made on Bathurst St. I would like to thank my fellow team members for their dedication, friendship and wisdom. Many thanks to Rob (our fearless leader) and Sue Metcalf, Connie Buck, Doreen Lander, Judy Grout, Don Urquhart, Al Fleming, Linda Spears, Anne Rawson and Jim Benson.

Over the years, Fairlawners have donated generously to the Boarding Homes Ministry fund which made possible the purchase of Christmas presents and our annual Christmas party and Canada Day BBQ. Thank you! The balance of money currently sitting in the fund will be transferred to our Walk-in Support program. This seems most fitting as these two ministries share many of the same goals. At Walk-in Support, we open our doors to guests who are lonely and who struggle financially. We share food, fellowship and provide a grocery gift card to help stretch their food budget. This is important work that is only made possible by your financial support.

I am so grateful to be part of this congregation! We are not alone! Thanks be to God!

– Kathy Salisbury