



Among the “r” words that seek to tangibly encapsulate the mission of Fairhaven, (***rest, renew, refresh, refocus, replenish, restore, recreate***), the experience of rest is central. This informs the design and décor of the grounds and of our facilities. Moreover, facilitating the experience of rest shapes and informs the retreat offerings and the day-to-day routines and rhythms of our guests.

The rest sought by Christian leaders in the context of contemporary ministry can often be primarily physical. Those familiar with the beauty and solitude passionately affirm Fairhaven as a place of physical rest.

In speaking with his disciples Jesus offered rest of another kind, “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” (Matt 11: 28 – 30, The Message)

This rest transcends the realities of the day-to-day and the challenges inherent in contemporary ministry. May I suggest it is a covenantal rest. In contrast to circumstantial rest, covenantal rest has as its foundation the revelation of the character of God in Jesus Christ; His care, His compassion, His righteousness, and His faithfulness. It is a rest that renews, restores and sustains emotionally and spiritually. It is not a rest that can be pursued any more than counting sheep can bring on restful sleep. Rather covenantal rest requires a posture of openness and receptivity.

The season of Advent invites us to a posture of quiet pause, of reflection, waiting and expectancy of eternal significance. With anxious contrast, consumerism and consumption compete for the temporal conviction of our hearts. Covenantal rest on the other hand is characterized by heartfelt peace. It is, I would suggest, the story of Christmas.

The Peanuts’ character Linus warmly captures our hearts with his recitation of Luke 2 in a Charlie Brown Christmas . . . “Fear not,” “For unto you . . .,” and “Peace.” These are the qualities inherent in covenantal rest.

The message of deep rest however is not just a proclamation limited to the nativity. It can be a reality that comes with the presence of Christ birthed in our present day-to-day experience. I invite you to join us as we grow in openness and receptivity to Jesus' covenantal rest.

One of the ways that openness and receptivity manifest itself is in trust. It has been a while since our last newsletter. This has been a season of growing in trust as we have endeavoured to live into a more restful posture here at Fairhaven. God in His faithfulness has been evident in ways that can only be attributed to His provision. Allow me to share by way of update and for your encouragement.

- Gwen and I enjoyed a wonderful season of dinner/dessert events (Alberta/BC in the spring; Saskatchewan in the fall). The continued prayer, support, and encouragement of the extended Fairhaven family daily touch the hearts and lives of those who come seeking rest and renewal. A few examples.

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to take a retreat here in this beautiful spot. From the moment we came through the gate we could sense God's peace. Then we were so delighted with the cookies and that you have been praying for us! The cabin suited us to a T. The splendor of His majesty is surely seen here in Fairhaven.

God met us here in our prayer times, and through scripture and other reading and has helped us clarify our future directions in His service.

Thanks again and may the Lord bless you in bountiful ways as you serve Him!"

"We wanted to say how much we have enjoyed the stay here at Fairhaven. Thank you for making us feel so welcomed and for providing a place of rest and refreshment. What a huge blessing you have been to our family through counselling and providing an amazing place to stay. We thank the Lord for your ministry."

- God's provision and blessing has been wonderfully evident in the area of staffing: Gerry and Heather Wyman have reengaged with the ministry on a part-time basis. Dan and Kristi Bittle joined Fairhaven at the beginning of May as part of an extended sabbatical and season of volunteer support. They, along with their young family, served until the end of September with a primary focus on grounds and maintenance. This was so mutually beneficial, we've begun to wonder if this is a model for consideration moving forward! Two days after the Bittles left, Marlin and Susan Kroeker joined us on site. Evangelists at heart, they are in a season of discernment and God has led them to serve at Fairhaven for the fall and winter months. Moreover, our local volunteer base continues to grow as needs present. Only God could have orchestrated the coming together of these most tangible blessings.



- Our housekeeping staff continues to serve as the liaison between our guests and Fairhaven. Though guests rarely have opportunity to interact with them, Colleen and Carol diligently and with care-filled attention to detail create a welcoming space and an inviting context in which to meet with God.

- Provision for a renovation (currently underway) to the Country Cottage.
- Exciting to see the growing awareness across denominational lines of Fairhaven and what is available through the ministry.
- Ongoing work on the strategic plan including expanding the definition of 'Christian leaders' as the mission of Fairhaven continues to grow. Our mission includes serving pastors, missionaries, and leaders of para-church organizations, and their respective staff members; faculty and staff from Christian colleges, universities, and seminaries; Christian counsellors; and Christian business leaders.
- The privilege of hosting a growing number of smaller board/staff, prayer, leadership, and spiritual formation retreats. In 2018 guided retreats led by Fairhaven staff and guest facilitators will be added to the ministry options.

We would invite you to pray for one of our newest retreat offerings coming up in 2018

Space for God
A time where you can slow down, think deeply and listen quietly.
March 15 – 18, 2018
Facilitated by Jamie Boda

As we retreat together, we will explore a cadence of time that allows you to experience God in solitude and community.

Together we will respond to Jesus' invitation to "Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Thursday March 15th (7:00PM arrival) – Sunday March 18th (11:00AM departure).
Cost: \$395.00 (includes retreat, meals, and accommodation)
Registration: info@fairhavencanada.com (Space is limited. Register early)



As a spiritual director, Jamie seeks to nurture spiritual health in those who desire a deeper awareness of God. The primary means of accomplishing this is through three-way conversations with the Holy Spirit at the centre of the conversation.

Jamie loves to accompany others as they journey with God. She enjoys witnessing people coming alive in Christ as they hear His voice. Jamie finds great joy in walking with others as they walk with God, hear His voice and experience His work in their lives.

Along with Matt, her husband of 30 years, Jamie has five daughters, 4 sons-in-law and six grandchildren. She has lived on both sides of the Canadian/American border and has traveled internationally, ministering to Christian workers around the globe.



IN CONCLUSION

Thank you for your continued partnership in the mission of encouraging the health and renewal of Christian leaders. The dinner tour surveys confirmed the awareness that these are indeed challenging times for those in contemporary ministry. The need for a place like Fairhaven is without question. Thank you for giving, whether through prayer, financial gifts, shared talents and skills, inviting others to partner with us, or through referring guests to us. Together this is making a profound difference in the hearts and lives of those called to kingdom purposes. As we approach the end of 2017 may I encourage you to prayerfully consider sponsoring a ministry leader to come to Fairhaven or a year-end gift that may be used to continue the blessing this place has become to so many.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the onsite team, and our volunteers, Gwen and I wish you and yours a wonderful Christ-centered season.

Tony Schnare,
Executive Director.

FOLLOW US

on Facebook & Instagram



fairhavenministries



fairhavencanada

FAIRHAVEN LEADERSHIP RETREAT CENTER
#1-8191 Rogers Road, Vernon, BC V1B 3M8
250.260.1616 • fairhavencanada.com

Fairhaven is now able to receive donations via e-transfer to donation@fairhavencanada.com
For additional giving options please visit our website at fairhavencanada.com/donate