

We would desire your prayers for this need. Any who wish to contribute to this project may simply designate the gift toward “staff home”.

Ron Born
President and Chairman of the Board



This year, our dinners will have particular significance as we introduce Tony and Gwen Schnare to you. Please join us to meet them, to hear Tony’s heart for the ministry of Fairhaven and to receive an update. Invite friends to come with you and reserve early.

Sherwood Park / Edmonton Area

Friday, April 10

NEW Location: Heartland Alliance Church
53105 Highway 21, Sherwood Park
Time: Dinner served at 6:30 P.M.
Reservations: Thelma Dubbeldam 780-922-5336
Fairhaven Office Toll Free: 1-888-732-1544

Calgary

Saturday, April 11

Location: Ambrose University College
150 Ambrose Circle SW, Calgary
Time: Dinner served at 6:00 P.M.
Reservations: Faith Jalving 403-686-4652
Fairhaven Office Toll Free 1-888-732-1544

Vernon

Sunday, May 3

Location: Best Western Vernon Lodge
3914 – 32 Street (Hwy 97) Vernon
Time: Dinner served at 5:00 P.M.
Reservations: Local 250-260-1616
Fairhaven Office Toll Free 1-888-732-1544

Lower Mainland (Surrey)

Unfortunately we were not able to match Tony’s availability with our venue for this Spring. Since this area is so important to our history and future, we will be looking at a dinner in the fall as a possible alternative.

Repeatedly, our guests encourage us through various forms of affirmation.

Recently guests wrote:

“As always, we feel very blessed to have been in the company and care of such a hospitable and redemptive organization! Moreover, we are blessed to retreat in such beautiful accommodations set in such glorious creation.”

“Thank you for all you do. I continue to experience the restoring and renewing Presence of Christ in my times here.”

Hopefully, these words will encourage you as you’ve invested in this ministry to bless the lives of our leaders and thus build the Church of Jesus Christ.

Thank you,

Len Frank

FAIRHAVEN MINISTRIES
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FEBRUARY 2015



“The opportunity to serve at Fairhaven gives expression to our joy in being able to extend to others the invitation to rest and renewal.”



INTERVIEW WITH TONY SCHNARE

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Tony and Gwen Schnare in late May. Tony will officially begin his duties as our executive director on June 1. To help acquaint you with Tony, I presented the following questions for his response.

...tell us where the early years of your life were lived and how that impacted who you are today.

I grew up on the east coast of Canada, just outside the historic town of Lunenburg, NS. This more rural area known as Northwest is located on the Fairhaven Peninsula. Steeped in a rich seafaring history, the reality of life dependent upon factors largely beyond one’s control was not lost on me as a young boy. It was in this context that a strong work ethic was formed along with the importance of preparation in anticipation of seasons of scarcity.

...what are some of the formative components to your faith journey?

Coming from Baptist and Anglican traditions, my parents settled on the Lutheran church as a place to raise my younger brother and me. Attending Sunday School and church were weekly occurrences during childhood, laying an early foundation for a belief in God.

During my teen years I was invited to a small Baptist church by a family friend. Here I first encountered and soon responded to the reality of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Those first experiences as a Christian where exciting. Life made sense and a new found purpose began to grow. In the quietness of my own heart, I somehow “knew” that being a Christian and

being in full-time ministry were synonymous.

Fast forwarding...sensing God’s leading for further education, Gwen and I decided to attend Bible College as a married couple. In preparation, we began attending a small country church where we gained valuable ministry experience and where the seeds of walking alongside a young couple and their family encountering the challenges of ministry were first planted.

This “seedling” of a vision was nurtured through attending school as married students where we discovered our shared gift for hospitality. There were also recurring opportunities where we were invited into stories of calling and of anticipation of ministry that were subsequently met with hardship and confusion. At the same time God was forming and shaping the internal. Through the death of a child and the disillusionment of a pastoral ministry experience that unraveled in the aftermath, the journey of relinquishing self-sufficiency and discovering a God who loves, who is trustworthy, and in whom I am invited to find rest began. . . and continues to this day!

These last 20 years at Briercrest have been wonderful years of healing, of restoration, and of significant personal growth and leadership experience.

In many ways I feel I’m still being formed. This present “component” began a couple of years ago when the

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vision of serving and encouraging ministry leaders in a retreat setting rose to the surface. Through a process of discernment in which God's very specific leading was increasingly evident, the invitation to join Fairhaven was extended.

....what prepared you for this new journey with Fairhaven?

Friendships—Being afforded the privilege of sitting with others during expressions of heartfelt pain, lament, and honest wrestling with life and ministry hardships has been transformative. Any preparation for this new journey comes as a result of the delicate trust extended by others in some of their darkest experiences and through the pain-inspired wisdom they have offered.

Failures—At a point in my life when discouragement seemed all-pervasive, a wise mentor invited consideration of Ps. 51: 16-17. The concept of brokenness and God's embrace of those with a broken and contrite heart before Him was life giving. The Message uses the language of "Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice." I have known both a shattered heart as well as the Father's unrestrained embrace.

Faithfulness—Ps. 121 begins with, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?" Rather than a question of curiosity, the Psalmist offers a rhetorical statement; a reminder of the weighty reality that, "My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." Here is a personal reminder to daily surrender the hurried reliance on my own strength and abilities and an invitation into the experience of growing trust, peace, provision, and rest that only He can offer.

....introduce us to your family.

Gwen and I have been married for 31 years. She is a nurse and works in the local hospital as an operating room technician. Gwen is excited for this next chapter in our ministry lives and will continue her nursing career at the Vernon Hospital. Our oldest son, Jon, is 30. He is employed full-time at Briercrest extending



his gifts of hospitality and service working in the year-round arena. Our middle son, Michael, is 23 and currently enrolled in the Advanced Care Paramedic program at SAIT Polytechnic. Working in this field gives expression to his passion for life and his deep compassion and care. Our youngest, Ian, passed away on December 24th, 1993 at the age of three months. Though he was with us for such a short time, the ripple effect of his life and death continues to reverberate through each of us, shaping and informing how we serve our Heavenly Father.

....what is it about Fairhaven that excites you to serve here?

God's invitation to health, to renewal, and to rest at the heart of Fairhaven's mission resonates with my personal calling. Since our first visit in 2005, Fairhaven has been a regular and intentional part of self-care and the cultivation of spiritual vitality.

Moreover, when grieving, broken, and uncertain regarding what lay ahead, we were the recipients of God's care, rest, and restoration incarnated through our local church family and through the folks here at Briercrest. The opportunity to serve at Fairhaven gives expression to our joy in being able to extend to others the invitation to rest and renewal.

....tell us something of the vision you believe God is giving you for this ministry.

I believe the emerging vision is twofold: To position the ministry for growth through a model of shared, sensitive, and sustainable leadership and to expand and enhance the opportunities for spiritual health and renewal available through Fairhaven. In these contemporary days, the rich heritage of Fairhaven as a place of rest, renewal, and restoration for those in ministry leadership is even more pronounced. Moving forward, nurturing the spiritual qualities of a health spa and a healing sanctuary that facilitate deep experiences of soul care and spiritual transformation for Christian leaders will be a priority.

....what will be your main areas of focus for the next years?

I like the language of "restful engagement" . . . deepening engagement with Christ, with others, and with oneself in which rest is experienced. In this next season at Fairhaven, this will find expression in facilitating options for more structured spiritual retreats, retreats focused on particular themes, and in cultivating day to day opportunities for personal engagement where support and encouragement can be offered.

We also recognize that "engagement" need not be limited to just on-site. We will be exploring options for an expanded off-site presence at conferences, in the provision of seminars and workshops, and through less formal meetings over coffee where prayer, support, and encouragement might be extended to those in leadership.

Expanding engagement will involve a process of administrative restructuring and unfolding a model of leadership designed to complement areas of strength and weakness I will bring to the ministry.

Finally, growing our facilities consistent with the high quality our guests have come to enjoy, growing the Fairhaven family of supporters who share the vision,

and growing our online profile will be priorities.

....how would you want the Fairhaven family to pray for you?

As with any career transition, we would welcome prayer for wrapping up well here at Briercrest.

Pray for wisdom in supporting our boys through this change, and particularly for our son Jon as he continues on here at Briercrest. And pray for discernment going into this next chapter in the unfolding Fairhaven story, that our hearts would be soft and responsive to the Father's leading.



RESTRUCTURING

When an organization engages in a succession process, as we have done, it often leads to restructuring based on the gifts, abilities and interests of the person selected. This restructuring is often a necessary and exciting challenge. However, it can also involve difficult and painful decisions.

One such hard decision for the Board of Fairhaven was to bring to an end the services of Garry Schmidt. Regretfully we cannot justify retaining Garry who has served us well for over five years as a counselor and spiritual director. We are grateful for the capable and caring way Garry has served many of our guests. For any who still wish to engage Garry's counseling services, he can be reached at garlynnne19@msn.com.

NEW POSITION OPENING

As many of you will be aware, this past year, Gerry Wyman gave notice of his retirement effective June 30, 2015. This does leave a large hole to fill as he and Heather leave Fairhaven in a few months.

There will be some change to the job description and expectations. The new position will be referred to as Director of Facilities, with oversight responsibilities for development and maintenance of the land, facilities and equipment.

Please contact us for more information if you are interested or know someone who may fit our needs for the future.

OUR NEXT PROJECT

Fairhaven has been strategically proceeding with a master plan of development from the time the property was purchased in 2000. It has been exciting to see how God has led and provided to bring the village to the point it is today.

Tony and the board are committed to see that the vision for Fairhaven strongly continues. This vision includes the ongoing development of the master plan.

An important component of this plan has always included three staff residences so that the large responsibility of caring for the facilities and the guests can be adequately shared. In looking at the current and future needs of the ministry, the board has decided to proceed with the construction of the third residence this year. This residence will become the home of Len and Fay Frank while they serve Fairhaven.

We will begin on the design and, if funds are available, start construction this spring. Currently, we do not have funds for this project and so this represents another step of faith in God who has so faithfully provided over the years.