

Home Views

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

*Galatians 5:22-23
NRSV*



*From the "Cat
Jeffrey Church
School
Curriculum", art
by William Ho.*

Jeffrey dedicates his day to God. In a harsh place he stretches up to God for comfort and inspiration.

[Based on Christopher Smart's poem: For I Will Consider My Cat Jeffrey.]

Perhaps life is all about celebrating God and people.

Resident

Reflections on joyful and devout pilgrimage in the company of God and neighbour

Greetings from the Board

On behalf of our Board, I would like to thank all our supporters. Your generosity allows us to sustain the existing home ministries and promote new ones. The need for Christian community is urgent.

We have approximately 18 months remaining in the ministry's reserve fund. This puts our existing programs at risk. Please consider how you can help. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Our financial situation continues to be serious.

In Christ, Kimberly Oliver, Chair

Greetings from the Chaplain

We are so very grateful to our donors who have fostered this ministry since 1996. Without you, none of our shared life in Christ could happen. Residents continue to bless with their hospitality and spiritual insights. Friendships flourish. God is glorified as people who once were strangers now delight in each other's company.

If someone asked me, "Why should this ministry be supported?" I would point to boarding home community moments like this one.

A Journey With Friends by Mary Rae Shantz, BHM team member

Music is an important part of community life in the boarding home we visit. It unites us, and lets us share in a non-threatening, welcoming way. Music is especially fun at our annual bbq. One of the residents was a quiet man who did not regularly join our meetings, but always stayed for the music at the BBQ. A couple of weeks ago, he went missing from the home. Later his body was found.

How could we be a healing force in the midst of this type of pain? On that day music opened up a venue for the men to share their fears, and their tears. The music soothed the community. We sang old favourite hymns, peaceful hymns, and between the hymns the men shared memories of our friend.

Our last song was He's Got The Whole World In His Hands. We closed with a verse using everyone's name, and at the end we included the name of our dear friend. Then a resident led us in prayer, and invited us to join in.

It was a difficult evening, but it was an important meeting for everyone in our ministry. It demonstrated how much desire there is to be in community, to share our pain, our laughter, our tears, and our music, as together we share this journey on earth.

ALONG THE PILGRIM ROAD WE NEED EACH OTHER

Pilgrimage With God and Friends

*I will pour out my
Spirit on all people*
Acts 2:17 NIV



Jeffrey ponders his journey. In this painting by Sue Miller he is about to enter the home.

Life in this complex, nuanced, strangely wonderful, and troubled community will certainly not be easy. But still, a pilgrimage is all about setting out on the road to closer union with God and neighbour. Here, Jeffrey is spiritually readied for his travels by the light of God.

Boarding Homes Ministry

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.boardinghomesministry.ca

In Thanksgiving: our ministry has been led out beyond church walls to engage our neighbourhoods, and be blessed by new friends. Isolation is an unholy and fearsome thing. The Holy Spirit, the gift of Pentecost, moves, swirls, challenges, encourages, equips and sends out Christians for ministry. In concert with the Spirit our donors help build new communities in which hearts are opened.

In Thanks: for journeys into the heart. Your kind support allows a boarding home community to gather around the prayers of a friend. She is buoyant, funny, faithful, and lives in a most stressful place. This valued friend longs for prayers about *peacemaking*. Her own spiritual yearnings shape the community. And so our donors help foster peace - the peace of God - shared in a difficult place.

In thanksgiving for the kindness of our supporters, and all that you have made possible - can we return the favour? Christians can be strengthened as they recount their journeys. Can we invite you now to mark your own pilgrimage? God has led you many a mile. There have been friends won, and love shared. There have likely been sore losses. Hearts were tested. And God was glorified as you faithfully found your way along the road of life. Perhaps your spirit might be lifted as you take pen in hand and rededicate some moments from your own pilgrimage.

And always: grace attends your journey through the twists and turns of each day.

Founded in 1996 Boarding Homes Ministry is an ecumenical ministry of the Presbyterian Church and nurtures Christian community by linking the residents of boarding homes with visitors from congregations. Regular visits are established, and relationships flourish as new friends embrace life in Christ.

To Donate And Support Peacemaking Communities

Send a cheque with enclosed donor card. Or, a cancelled cheque to use PAR, pre-authorized remittance. Indicate the amount for monthly withdrawals. By credit card; on BHM page at canadahelps.org. Please also consider our ministry in estate planning.

\$50 provides weekly support, food and resources for home visits;

\$25 helps provide pastoral training for team members;

\$100 helps fund major Christmas and Easter dinners in the homes;

\$20 aids in training for seminary students;

\$50 helps towards our very popular summer bbqs;

\$40 helps circulate of our Cat Jeffrey Church School Curriculum.

In Thanksgiving: we are co-travelers headed for a land of no further tears, a land of eternal welcome and joyful banqueting in the presence of the One who loves supremely. Here and now, your financial partnership of our boarding home communions lets them gather in love. Your donation helps to spread love. It furthers gentle care. It allows a community to hear these words, and then respond in the way of healing love: *"When things in the home get really bad, I write down prayers"*.