Fairmount
Perspective
Dedicated to Faith, Family & Community

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Growing in Faith: One Wednesday at a Time



Austin Beamer (right) leads a Bible study with Residential Living residents Jake Bare (left) and Jay Martin (center), sharing Scripture and growing in faith together.

When Austin Beamer first walked through Fairmount's doors in May 2024, he had no idea how much one Wednesday a week would come to mean to him.

The idea to volunteer began when Austin heard about residents at another retirement community who rarely received visitors. The thought stayed with him—what if he could spend time with people who might otherwise go without?

"It pulled on my heartstrings," Austin recalled. "I thought, I can take a day to bless people in those situations."

He arrived at Fairmount without a plan or a schedule, simply making himself available and trusting God to direct his steps.

More than two years later, Austin faithfully continues to connect with residents every Wednesday. What started as a simple desire to bless others has blossomed into meaningful friendships, new opportunities to serve and a community that has become a blessing in his own life.

People First

Ask Austin what keeps him coming back, and the answer is simple: the people.

When he began volunteering, Austin helped with bingo in the Valley View Activities Room. But it was the conversations with residents that left the greatest impact. Those casual visits gradually became lasting friendships.

Whenever he encounters a resident who is struggling, his first instinct is to look beyond the circumstance and get to know the person.

"You have to learn who they are," he explained. "Win them as a friend."

For Austin, meaningful service begins with listening, building trust and showing genuine love. Before someone can accept help, they need to know the person offering it truly cares.

That conviction reflects Austin's own faith journey. He describes giving his heart to God at 12, his soul at 19 and his mind at 29. Today, he sees his life as belonging to God and relies on His strength to guide him.

Rather than arriving at Fairmount with a specific mission, Austin allowed his faith to shape his service as relationships developed and new opportunities emerged.

An Open Door to Share God's Word

Those growing relationships eventually opened

...continued on page 3

Fairmount *Perspective* is published quarterly for the residents, staff, volunteers and friends of Fairmount, a Christian retirement community governed by a Board from the Weaverland Conference of the Old Order Mennonite Church.

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Dignity • Integrity
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Faith First: The Foundation of Fairmount's Mission

The President's Perspective

At Fairmount, our tagline, "Faith, Family, and Community," reflects more than a set of values. It reveals the foundation upon which Fairmount was built and the purpose that continues to guide us each day. While family and community are essential parts of who we are, faith is the leading driver of our mission, shaping how we serve residents, support one another, and steward the resources entrusted to us.

Fairmount
Dedicated to Faith, Family & Community

Our Christian faith reminds us that every person is created in the image of God and worthy of dignity, compassion, and respect. This belief influences every aspect of life at Fairmount, from the care provided in our Health Care and Personal Care neighborhoods to the relationships nurtured throughout our campus. Faith calls us to see beyond tasks and responsibilities and instead focus on serving people with love and grace.

The Apostle Paul writes in Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. " This verse serves as a powerful reminder that our daily work is more than a profession—it is a calling. Whether providing care, maintaining our facilities, preparing meals, welcoming visitors, or supporting residents in countless other ways, each act of service becomes an opportunity to honor God.



Faith also provides direction during times of change and challenge. It inspires hope, encourages perseverance, and reminds us that our ultimate purpose extends beyond ourselves. As C.S. Lewis once wrote, "Don't shine so that others can see you. Shine so that through you, others can see Him." At Fairmount, we strive to live out this principle through humble service and genuine care for others.

Because faith is at the center, family and community naturally flourish. Strong relationships are built on shared values, mutual support, and a commitment to caring for one another. Residents, team members, volunteers, churches, and community partners all contribute to an environment where people can belong, grow, and thrive.

As we look to the future, Fairmount remains committed to the faith that has guided us for generations. It is the foundation of our mission, the source of our strength, and the reason we continue to serve with purpose, compassion, and hope.



Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO



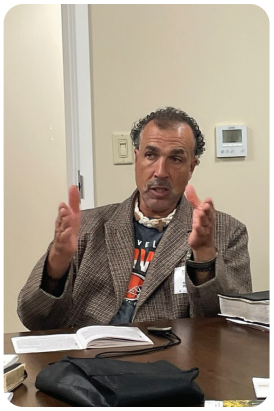
Growing in Faith: One Wednesday at a Time

(continued from page 1)

the door to another way to serve. About a year after Austin began volunteering, he developed a friendship with Chaplain Gene Weaver through conversations and visits with residents. Recognizing Austin's heart for people and his knowledge of Scripture, Gene invited him to lead a devotional in the Valley View Health Care neighborhood and a Bible study with the residential living community.

Austin is quick to acknowledge Gene's encouragement in making the opportunity possible. For him, however, leading a devotional or Bible study is about more than teaching. It is another opportunity to build relationships and grow alongside others. Residents bring their own knowledge, experiences and questions to the discussions, often giving Austin new perspectives to consider.

One Wednesday at a Time



Austin's story is a reminder that serving God doesn't always begin with a grand plan. Sometimes, it starts by showing up, helping with bingo and taking time to visit with someone.

More than two years later, that one Wednesday has become a meaningful part of Austin's week and his life. What began as a desire to bless residents has also blessed him, bringing lasting relationships and opportunities to share the faith that shapes his life.

His advice to others is simple: start with the person in front of you. Build the relationship. Show love. Then trust God with what comes next.

Fairmount Announces Three New Leadership Roles







Fairmount recently said farewell to two longtime team members, Kent Richard and Deb Fitzwater, following 37 and 29 years of dedicated service, respectively. Kent helped shape Fairmount's growth and establish traditions such as the annual Benefit Auction, while Deb brought joy and connection to residents through her compassion and creativity. We are grateful for their lasting contributions and wish them both well in retirement.

As Fairmount looks ahead, Mitchell Hanna (right), who joined Fairmount in 2017 as Director of Marketing and Communications, has stepped into the role of Vice President of Residential Living and Marketing. Kirstin Patterson (middle), who joined Fairmount in 2024 as Communications Manager, now serves as Director of Marketing and Communications. Julie Vanderhoff (left) has also joined the team as Director of Activities, succeeding Deb.

We thank Kent and Deb for their many years of service and look forward to this next chapter with Mitchell, Kirstin and Julie.

Fairmount
333 Wheat Ridge Drive
Ephrata, PA 17522-8558
717.354.1800
www.FairmountHomes.org

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Items of Interest

Give the Gift of Life
Make a difference this December by donating blood! The Central PA Blood Bank will host a blood drive on Thursday, December 10, from 11:30am–6:30pm in the Crest View Gathering Room. Schedule your appointment by visiting cpbb.org or calling 800.771.0059.

Stitching Together for a Good Cause
Mark your calendar for February Quilting Days on February 6, 9 and 10, 2027! Join us as we stitch beautiful quilts for Fairmount's Annual Benefit Auction, September 11, 2027. Whether you're a longtime quilter or simply enjoy lending a hand, we welcome you to be part of this meaningful tradition.

Together, in Faith, Family & Community

37th Annual Benefit Auction & Barbecue
Thank you for supporting Fairmount's 37th Annual Benefit Auction & Barbecue! Gross proceeds totaled approximately $230,000, helping provide 743 days of care for residents who have exhausted their financial resources through no fault of their own.

Matching Grant
Thanks to your generosity, we raised nearly $80,000 toward a new call bell system. We are grateful for your support!

Faithful Give
Thank you to everyone who supported Fairmount through this year's Faithful Give. Together, we raised over $10,200.

End-of-Year Appeal
Watch your mailbox for our end-of-year appeal letter in the coming weeks. Your gift will support Fairmount's Sharing Fund and help make continued care possible for residents in need.

