

## What is the gift that Faith and Sharing has been to you?



By Terri McCormack  
Vancouver Island

On Vancouver Island, on the afternoon of August 16th, during our summer retreat, a Faith and Sharing 50th anniversary celebration was held. We opened the doors to former retreatants and our sponsors to come celebrate with us in a lay-led service, fellowship and cake. It was an honour to have Bishop Remi De Roo, who encouraged our community's beginnings in 1974, to join us. During our service, cards and pens were handed out and we were asked to reflect and write down our response to the question "*What is the gift that Faith and Sharing has been to you?*"



Each person was then invited to come forward and pin their card on a banner. The banner was repurposed from the 1983 Faith and Sharing retreat held at the University of Victoria, BC which Jean Vanier animated.

62 cards in total were created with these words and sayings on them :

*appreciation - belonging - calling - caring - community - encouragement - everything - faith - family - fellowship - forgiveness - friendship - frolic - giving -*

*happy - hope - Jesus - joy - love - loving - music - open heart - peace - place - renewal - sharing - simplicity - spiritual home - support - truth - wonder - a way of live and path to wisdom - a fully human, fully alive community where everyone is welcome, everyone is a friend and everyone belongs - a week of kindness - beauty of place and people - being inclusive - Faith and Sharing has given me joy, fun, Jesus and friends - Faith and Sharing has given me my new and old friends and it has made me happy - friends of community - gift of understanding and compassion - giving my time and myself to the*



*people - hope for unity - I am awesome! - I love being here with my best friends, Michael and Susan - intimate friendships - it is the call of Faith and Sharing which is my life - my openness and faithfulness - Jesus present in my brothers and sisters - love my sisters and brothers in Jesus - the ability to let go - we are a faith and sharing family - my presence, also WIFI - opening my heart and my eyes - my spiritual roots and foundation in God's fellowship from age 6 to 51 - reunion with family - the beautiful spirit and energy that you bring here - the gift of love, thank you faith and sharing - the power of love, love one another*

Wow! So many gifts that our Faith and Sharing community has been and is to so many people. 💜