



June 20, 2017

Dear Fair Haven Family and Friends:

As we roll into the dog days of summer, our excitement is growing by leaps and bounds, as we are in our final season of construction at Fair Haven! According to the construction schedule, we are less than 90 days away from the completion of Fair Haven's renaissance! I know many have suffered extraordinary inconvenience during our progress with respect to parking, building access, construction clutter and other matters, and we are profoundly thankful for everyone's patience during this process. And we are also extraordinarily thankful for the part – whether through patience or other support - that every single resident, family member, friend and associate has played in preparing Fair Haven for its next 50 years of service.

I know you join with me in thanking Mike Giles for his service as Interim Executive Director and health care administrator since early May. And it is my privilege this month to introduce you to Fair Haven's new Executive Director and health care administrator, Dan March, who will be joining our team on Monday, June 26. Dan's experience and background in ministry, hospitality and health care management is extraordinary, and we are so fortunate to have located him. I know you appreciate that Dan will be so well equipped to focus great efforts on fostering and strengthening our Christian environment and quality of life and care.

June Spotlight... **Meet Daniel H. March, NHA , MBA, MS, M Div**

Daniel March grew up in Decatur, Illinois, earned a BA in Religion from Millikin University, earned a Master of Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary, and went to work in pastoral ministry. After 16 years in pastoral care in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Dan returned to school at Kansas State University to earn an MS in hospitality management. Dan said that it was there that he “discovered gerontology, which was a perfect fit for my background as a caregiver and having served older congregations. I love learning the stories of residents and supporting them in active aging and vital involvement as older adults.” A few years later, Dan returned to Wichita State University for an MBA. He said that it was here that he gained “the tools and perspective to manage the business of caring.”

Reflecting on his varied experiences, Dan said, “My work as a long-term care administrator is every bit as much a ministry as what I did in the church for the first half of my professional life. What we do in senior care is we support residents and families on the toughest days of their lives. We serve, support, and protect some of the most dependent and frail members of society, so what we do is a ministry, a labor of love, and one of the highest callings.”

In his career life, Dan has served as the Administrator of a hospital-based Program of All Inclusive Care for Elders (PACE) for low income elders, worked as the Executive Director of a Methodist continuing care retirement community in Iowa, as the CEO of a Mennonite retirement community in Pennsylvania, and most recently



led a large, progressive Presbyterian campus in Pittsburgh, working closely with a dynamic post-acute, rehab program. In his last position with the Presbyterians in Pittsburgh, Dan says that his focus was limited to running the nursing home, and that while he enjoyed that, he looks forward to getting back into working with the whole spectrum of all the levels of care in a continuum like that offered at Fair Haven. “I am excited about the opportunity of collaborating with the doctors, dentists, and gerontologists of UAB to provide cutting edge services to the residents of Fair Haven. I also was particularly attracted to the leadership team of Methodist Homes of Alabama and Northwest Florida, especially Christopher and Mike based on the reference of my good friend and mentor Steve Shields of Action Pact.”

Over the last 17 years, Dan has had the opportunity to learn from national leaders, and traveled internationally to Norway and the Netherlands to study their models of elder care and dementia programming. “I’ve been blessed to be able to lead several communities and lead teams in changing the culture of nursing homes to embrace a more person-centered approach to care, so I bring that experience and passion to Fair Haven,” said Dan. And although he brings almost two decades of experience in nursing home culture change, Dan said, “I don’t pretend to know everything, and I look forward to getting to know the associates of Fair Haven, to joining them on the journey of culture change and helping the campus embrace a new model of resident care and personal services. I look forward to working closely with the Fair Haven associates, supporting them in what they do, listening to them, learning together, and having fun.”

Dan has this message he would like to share with our residents and their families. “As Executive Director, it’s my responsibility to oversee the business of providing care across the entire campus, and for first six months I’m going to be drinking from a fire hose, but my door is always open to residents and families. I enjoy knowing the people who live on my campus, I value their input. This is their home, and it is our privilege to work in your home, so your opinion matters to me, to Methodist Homes, and the associates of Fair Haven.”

Dan’s wife of 17 years is Gayle, and she is semi-retired, having worked as an electrical engineer and college professor. They have three grown sons (a CPA in Dallas, an attorney in Houston, and an electrical engineer completing a PhD at the University of Texas in Austin) and one grandson. Dan is excited that the move to Birmingham puts them at only a day’s drive from their boys.

I look forward to sharing with you again next month as our journey continues. Thank you for your continued support of Fair Haven.

Very truly yours,



Christopher W. Tomlin
President & CEO
Methodist Homes of Alabama & Northwest Florida