

the hermitage

December 2, 2017

Dear Friend of The Hermitage,



We are coming to the end of another year in the life of The Hermitage, and we enter the Advent season with expectation. Perhaps you had a chance to sojourn here – to rest and be restored. We find more and more that The Hermitage is a place many of our friends, new and old, return to in their spiritual pilgrimage. **For this we are grateful.**

Hundreds of individuals and dozens of groups have come to retreat. Their reasons for coming vary, but what they leave with often has a similar resonance. Let me share some of their comments:

"You provide a fertile environment so that others may seek and be attentive to God's presence."

"We are deeply glad and grateful to discover The Hermitage. Thank you for every generosity – in food, invitation, prayer, art, sleep, and silence."

"There is so much good in this world and this time away has allowed me the patience to see it again."

My sense from these comments is that once people enter the quiet at The Hermitage they encounter a very active God who embraces, softens, leads, loves and strengthens for service. **For a place of contemplation, so much happens at The Hermitage!**

Like these guests, we are grateful for the rhythm and solitude of The Hermitage. This year has been a year searching and reflecting while also looking forward, of dreaming and visioning as we, the Board of Directors, explore expanding the residential community and what renovation and building might happen as a result. Co-directors David and Naomi Wenger's days are full with tending the space and providing a place and a way to pray. We are grateful for their continued presence and ministry, and the many who have supported the ministry of The Hermitage in the past year.

I hope the retreatants' comments above have blessed you as they did me when I read them. In order to continue to provide these opportunities and sustain the ministry of The Hermitage, would you consider a year-end gift of support?

Your prayers and gifts are deeply appreciated. Thank you.

Blessings,

Deanna Risser
President, Board of Directors

P. S. Your gift before December 31 will truly make a difference. If you wish, you can also make an online donation at hermitagecommunity.org. Thank you.



11321 Dutch Settlement Rd
Three Rivers, MI 49093

(269) 244-8696

hermitagecommunity.org