

## *the hermitage*



November 28, 2015

Dear Friend of The Hermitage,

It has been a blessed season in the life of The Hermitage this year. 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. The year has been full for our spiritual directors David and Naomi and for the facility. 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:



*I truly feel wrapped up in the arms of a loving and extravagant God here. Each visit softens my heart a little more to make a place for the gentleness of Jesus.*

*Truly, some of the most powerful moments of being led and loved by our God happened here.*

*Being at The Hermitage reminds me of what God intended the world to be like – loving nature and fellow humans by serving God with my heart, mind, body and soul. Reflection and solitude and quiet center me and make me realize how beautiful and precious this life is that God has given me.*

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!

Let me share the rest of the story from some of our guests, for in almost every case comments end with gratefulness.

*Thank you so very much for all you do and all you have done to make The Hermitage such a sacred place for me and many, many others...*

### ***co-directors***

David Wenger  
Naomi Wenger

*Thank you so much for helping to hold this place ... for peaceful rest, for your words of wisdom, for your gentle and gracious hospitality, for your gifts of food and warmth and well-mowed trails.*

*I am grateful for the variety of music at meals, accompanying simple and delicious fare; for my encounter with Creation-sky, water, grasses, insects, a frog,*

continued...

*chipmunks, four deer, a squirrel, and other messengers of grace; for a bed in which to rest, a chair in which to read, for paper and crayons to be creative with, for Gerard Manley Hopkins in the library, and various journals sampled here and there; for the stillness in which to hear God's voice, and be embraced again in God's loving arms.*

I hope these comments 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 gift before December 31 will truly make a difference.

As the year draws to a close and we celebrate Advent I pray God's peace be with you and your friends and family.

Your prayers and gifts are deeply appreciated. Thank you.

Blessings,

Deanna Risser  
President, Board of Directors  
The Hermitage Community

P. S. If you would like to make an online donation, look for the Donate button on our website, [hermitagecommunity.org](http://hermitagecommunity.org)