

# the hermitage

December 1, 2016



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.

**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:

*The peace and the solitude of this place and the hospitality offered was healing to my soul. Thank you for stewarding this place where God's voice and Presence are given attention above all else. I look forward to coming back!"*

*"I love this place - where the rest and renewal are real, the worship is meaningful, the nature is healing, and the meals are a spiritual discipline of joy."*

*"I came here with a heaviness...and a desperate need for rest.... I leave here renewed with a great urgency to MAKE TIME for solitude. I look forward to quarterly retreats here where my introverted soul in an extroverted personality can find rest."*

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!**

The year included sabbatical time away for our spiritual directors David and Naomi, and the welcoming of Zac and Kristi Bowman Cooke in mid-June as long-term volunteers. Together they are each using their gifts and interests to continue to provide a way and a place to pray at the Hermitage.

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 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.** Please make your donation online at [hermitagecommunity.org](http://hermitagecommunity.org). Thank you.



11321 Dutch Settlement Rd  
Three Rivers, MI 49093

(269) 244-8696

[hermitagecommunity.org](http://hermitagecommunity.org)