

AT MARTINSBURG

A Continuing Care Retirement Community

On behalf of our Homewood community in Martinsburg, we extend greetings to all of our congregations and members within The Penn West Conference. May grace and peace be yours in abundance!

It was a dark and stormy night aboard the Good Ship Homewood and we were landing in the land of the Non-touches and Safe-Distances... These words were penned by our Chaplain, Pastor Jim Neatrou, as part of our chaplain weekly updates during our first week of quarantine. We often talk about change and growth from year to year in our reports, but this year change due to Covid 19 has brought many challenges to our daily routines, and as a result, increased creativity to think outside of the box has afforded different methods of caring for one another.

Many restrictions are in place for the protection of our residents and co-workers, along with their families in order to keep our community safe. Even our pastoral care at the moment of writing this report is limited to phone calls, printable resources, recorded services on Facebook, etc., ways in which many of you are familiar with right now. Despite challenges that seem daunting, we have been fortunate and blessed with our co-workers and residents who have adapted quickly to this “season of uncertainty” and “sheltering in place”. And, as a result, to date our community has remained free of the virus. We are extremely proud of our entire community, and very thankful for everyone off campus who have supported us through prayer, and more.

In this difficult time where families are unable to visit, face to face activities at a halt, communication by means of media have helped us maintain contact between residents and their families, home clergy and congregations, among others. Technology and media have served as wonderful tools of assistance during these times to help connect our residents with loved ones, and others. These tools have helped us raise questions about the future of technology such as Skype or Face Time as a means not only in this time of pandemic, but in “normal times” to help connect family members with their loved one in an “end of life” scenario. Family members separated by distance may be provided an opportunity to say goodbye, when otherwise they may not have the ability. Our leadership team will continue to explore these options and possibilities for the future.

Covid-19 has required us to hit the STOP button on many projects, plans and activities, but some are coming quickly to the forefront as a much needed blessing. We will soon be receiving an in-house media channel for residents in our Health Care Center, so that a wide variety of in-house communications and programs might be shared with our residents.

On behalf of Homewood, we thank you all for your prayers and support for our community as we minister together in Christ's name. Together, and with God, all things are possible!

In love and service of The Risen Christ,
Homewood at Martinsburg Chaplain Department
Pastor Jerry McCuller Jr. & Pastor Jim Neatrou