

# **HOMEWOOD** *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 the Love, Joy, and Peace of our Risen and Living Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ bless you 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...*** You may recall these words, opening words written last year to help set the tone for our yearly report while the effects of COVID-19 and a season of uncertainty was settling in on our community and world. Our chaplain, Rev. Jim Neatrou had penned those words as part of our chaplain weekly updates during the first week of quarantine on our Homewood campus.

A season of uncertainty did surely set in, and life as we know it did indeed change. Family visits, activities, services, face to face interactions, and much of what was familiar, came to a screeching halt. We have endured the dark and stormy night, and it seems we are still fighting our way thru the darkness, but we do see and embrace the hope and promise of a bright and new day. It has been helpful to write this report during the season of Easter and Resurrection because it serves as a vivid reminder of promise, hope, and new life appearing when darkness, despair, hopelessness, and death seemed to win the day. Life and Love have the final say!

Our emphasis this year is on moving from a year of pandemic to a year of recovery. As our mission centers on providing compassionate, professional, and quality care, our focus for the upcoming year is on Recovery. We are sincerely thankful for doses of the vaccine and quick administration to residents, co-workers, and volunteers.

Vaccination clinics continue to be offered within our community as we care for one another and begin our return to a new normal, with residents enjoying safe distanced, masked, in-person activities and worship services, outings, and long overdue visits with family members and friends.

Technology and media continue to be gifts of assistance in our efforts and goals of reconnecting with each other in community. We continue to offer a variety of recorded services, FaceTime visits with residents in our Health Care Center, along with in-person visits and activities for all levels of care during these times to help connect our residents with loved

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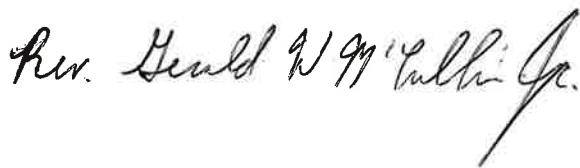
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ones, and others. We are happy to report that our in-house media channel will soon be complete, and ready for use in this year. With this blessing, a wide variety of in-house communications and programs will be made possible for all of our residents in all levels of care.

In this year of recovery, I pray and trust that we are emerging stronger as a whole community. I offer the word *Resilient* to pay tribute to a co-worker team from all departments who worked and continue to work countless hours in providing care, love and compassion to our vulnerable population. True teamwork, along with an appreciation of a variety of gifts devoted to service, selfless dedication to our community, our residents, and one another, was the noticeable gift during a long night filled with darkness and storm. I think of resilience, but also witness and testimony for our residents who have known isolation for much too long. In the midst of isolation and pandemic, I witnessed hope and truth that stems from faith – God’s promise of a new and better day; a promise of the Living One walking with us in the darkest of valleys, bringing us to new and pleasant pastures! In this year of Recovery, we will continue to fight the pandemic with God’s Love as we strive for our goal of reconnection with one another in community.

On behalf of our entire Homewood Community, our Executive Director, Lisa Defibaugh, and our leadership team, 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,



Rev. Jerry McCuller, Jr.  
Director of Pastoral Services