

MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- December -

OUR FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR

It's our favorite time of the year! The rush of summer visitors is past, we're back to winter hours at the gallery, razor clamming season is upon us, and best of all, we're looking forward to family gatherings during the Christmas season.

We are blessed to have three grandchildren born last year, and another on its way, due in May. After a few challenging years, it is wonderful to see our children having children of their own. We try to help, do a little coaching, but refrain from giving advice--unless they ask!

We have had another great year at the gallery. The pandemic forced us to try something new--teaching online classes--that has now become a mainstay of our business. As much as I have enjoyed all the travel over the years, being able to spend more time at home is a welcome change. I thought Ann and I would sail off into our twilight years traveling and teaching workshops, and we will still do some traveling workshops in the future, but on a more limited basis than we did before.

One of my favorite quotes is by renowned American painter Edward Hopper. He said, "The artist's life is the best life, if you can get through the first 40 years." Well, we are set to begin our 37th year here at Wiegardt Studio Gallery. (The original name was Potrimpos Gallery, after the German bark that ran aground near Ocean Park back in 1896. People had difficulty with that name--I was asked if we sell pots here. Hence the name change to something more marketable.) As to the 40 years referred to by Mr. Hopper, I've accumulated enough years of painting now that I think I am finally getting it!

Many thanks to all of those who have purchased my paintings over the years. Pandemic restrictions brought some changes there, too, with more people feeling comfortable purchasing my originals online. Ann and I have always been grateful to have my paintings hanging in collectors' homes, and may we never take it for granted.

This Christmas season we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Our journey through this art business has truly been a journey of learning to trust God. He has been so faithful. May you know His peace during this time of year and may your homes be filled with family, friends, and delightful memories.

Eric and Ann



AWS Gold Medal of Honor