



A CASE FOR REDISCOVERING PEACE





“My time spent in prayers, reflection, and recreation at the Abbey of the Hills has continued to assist my spiritual growth, discernment in matters pertaining to my role as bishop and provided a place to ‘just be with the Lord’ in his Real Presence and in nature...

This welcoming community and shared purpose have transformed numerous lives, reminding us of the importance of nurturing our intimacy with God, receiving inner peace which can assist us in our spiritual and human flourishing.”

Bishop Donald DeGrood, Sioux Falls Diocese

WELCOME TO THE ABBEY OF THE HILLS

**“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
Not as the world gives do I give it to you.”**

John 14:27

Step through the doors of the Abbey of the Hills, and the world's rush fades. Sunlight filters through stain glass, the scent of pine fills the air, and the rhythm of nature invites reflection and renewal. Founded in 2013 on the grounds of the former Blue Cloud Abbey, established by Benedictine monks in 1950, the Abbey continues a sacred legacy of care and hospitality.

Guests from all faiths and from all walks of life come to pray, hike, write, or simply gather. Whether for spiritual retreats, family reunions, or business meetings, experiencing peace that lingers long after they leave.

Your support ensures this sanctuary remains vibrant, welcoming, and a place of renewal for generations to come.

THE NEED FOR PEACE

“75% of adults reported experiencing moderate to high levels of stress in the past month and nearly half reported that their stress has increased in the past year”

– American Psychological Association.

Why is rediscovering peace important to our wellbeing? According to The National Institute of Mental Health, stress affects everyone:

- Daily life: work, school, family, daily responsibilities
- Sudden negative changes: losing a job, illness, loss of relationships
- Long-term stress can harm your health and/or cause serious health problems

Do you relate to being a(n):

- Employee who feels the need to find peace from a stressful job;
- Farmer who faces the stresses of raising crops and plummeting livestock markets;
- City-dweller who endures bumper-to-bumper traffic;
- Homemaker who wishes for more social interaction;
- Person who lives with addiction, mental health issues, or a disability;
- Parent who recognizes the need to spend more time as a family;
- Individual/Couple who feels the need for peace in their relationships

No matter who you are, stress affects you in some way.



How can you reduce stress and find peace at The Abbey of the Hills?

- Come for a private stay for a day, a night or a week
- Attend a retreat that is best suited for your needs/interests
- Walk the trails and spend time soaking in the beauty of God's creation
- Bring your family and “unplug” from technology and reconnect with each other
- Attend a concert in the beautiful church with angelic-like acoustics
- Journal, read or pray inside or outside of the Abbey

When I came I didn't see the beauty in anything. I never saw my child's death as being a blessing. I didn't want to be alive anymore, I couldn't find value in living at all. Now as I'm ready to leave The Abbey, I thank God for sending me here to find peace and discover that I am worthy.



DRIVE-TIME TO THE ABBEY:

Aberdeen, SD: 1.5 hrs.
Sioux Falls, SD: 2 hrs.
Fargo, ND: 2 hrs.

St. Cloud, MN: 2.5 hrs.
Twin Cities, MN: 3.5 hrs.
Omaha, NE: 4.5 hrs.

PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS

**“Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished
you have done for us.”**

Isaiah 26:12

What does The Abbey of the Hills offer to help you find peace?

- Retreats
- Concerts
- Family Reunions
- Business Gatherings/Meetings
- Personal Getaway

Besides the various retreats and concerts scheduled throughout the year at The Abbey, you can come and enjoy a private stay. Relax and recollect while unplugging from the stressors you may have in your life. From retreat rooms to private cabins to the lakes, the Abbey has a unique array of accommodations to fit your needs.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to “rediscover peace” at The Abbey of the Hills. Located halfway between Fargo and Sioux Falls, The Abbey’s secluded location is what makes the space and place unlike any retreat center in the region.

WHAT TO DO...

BLUE CLOUD ABBEY
MARVIN, SOUTH DAKOTA

**LEARN THE
ABBEY'S
HISTORY**



**OBSERVE
WILDLIFE**



VOLUNTEER



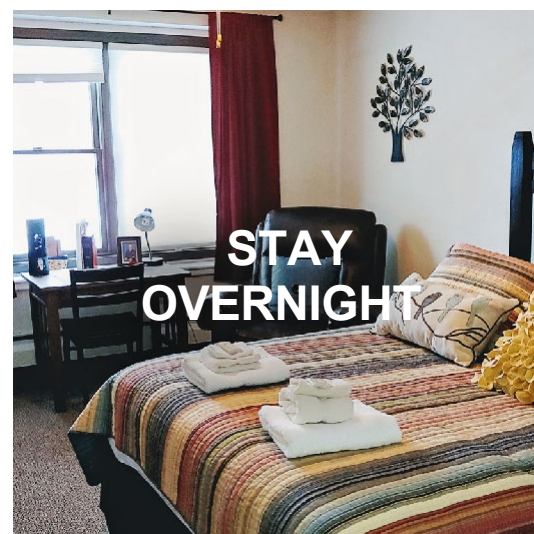
**CANOE
ON THE
LAKES**



**CELEBRATE
ECUMENISM**



REFLECT



**STAY
OVERNIGHT**

AT THE ABBEY OF THE HILLS



YOUTH GROUPS



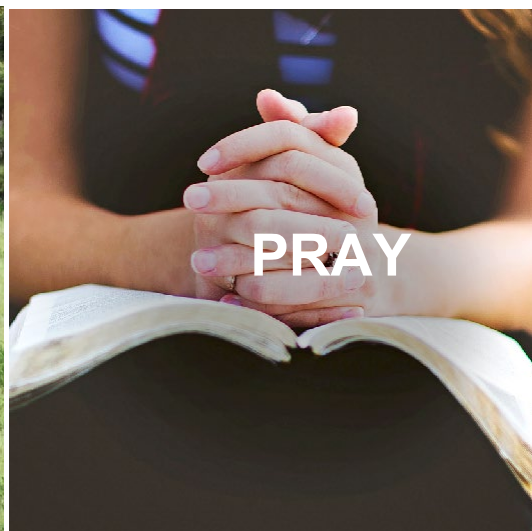
REUNION WITH FAMILY



STAY IN A HERMITAGE CABIN



HIKE ON THE TRAILS



PRAY



STROLL THROUGH THE ORCHARD



ENJOY PERSONAL RETREATS



EAT HOME-COOKED FOOD

WHY IS THE ABBEY SO UNIQUE?

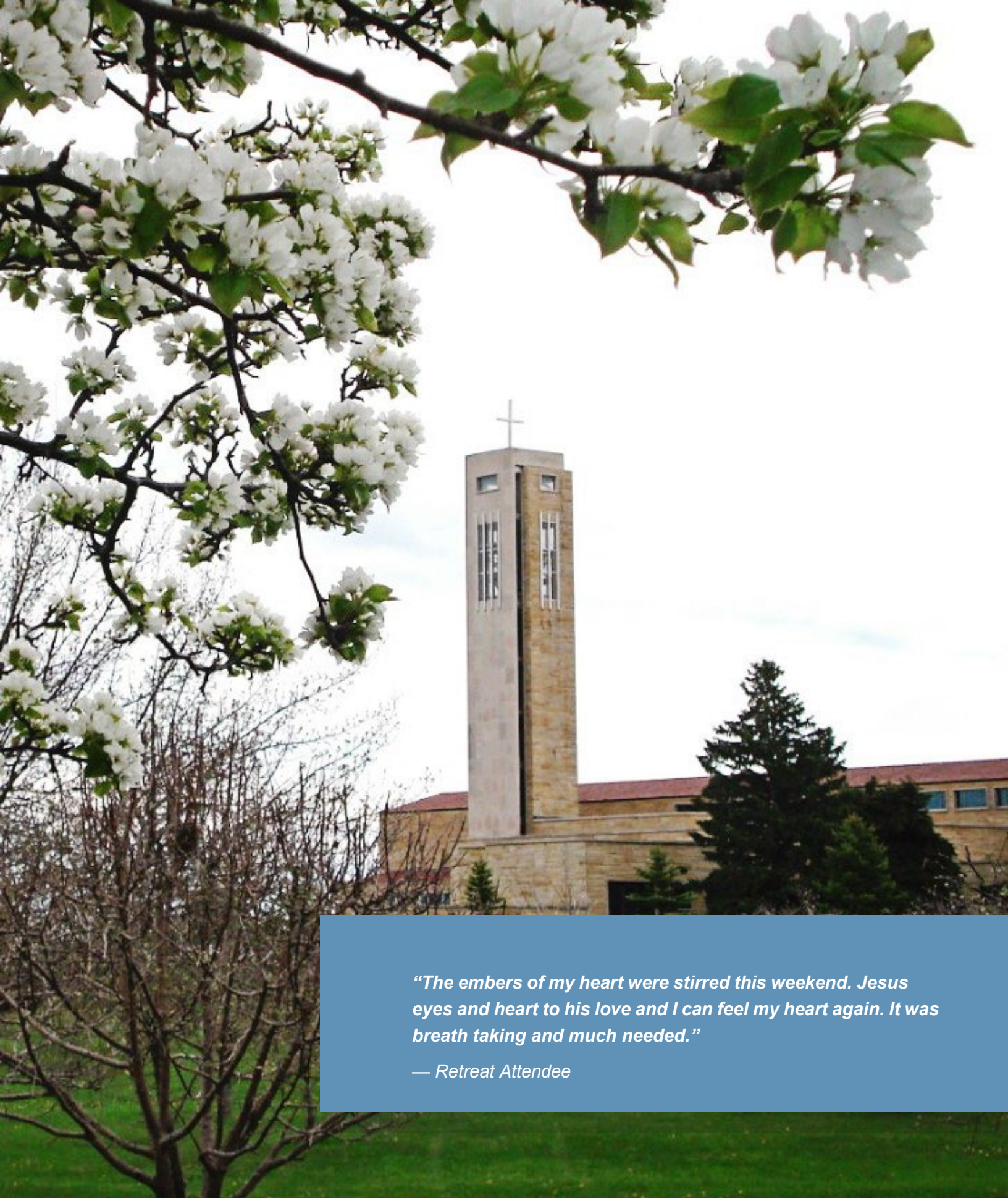
As a non-profit and community resource, The Abbey of the Hills is open as a retreat center as well as an Inn.

The Abbey offers unique spaces for retreats and lodging. It is a refuge for souls yearning for healing and connection with God at any time and on any day of the week. With 87 acres of nature and trails, The Abbey of the Hills Inn and Retreat Center is a gift to all who spend time on its premises.

The friendly staff does its best to continue the Benedictine hospitality that was so evident dating back to the time when the monks lived here. Each Monday-Friday, the staff gathers for an ecumenical prayer time, held at 11:45 AM in the lower chapel. The staff reads passages from the Bible, reflects on the day, and recites a litany of the names of people who have requested prayers. This practice keeps the staff, and anyone interested in attending, focused and centered on the mission to foster the rediscovery of peace. For over 60 years, prayers have emanated from the very foundation of bricks first laid by the Benedictine monks. The staff continues the peaceful tradition of prayers with dedication.

Because of its historical and rural location, The Abbey of the Hills serves as a true escape from life's stresses. Individuals truly rediscover peace at the Abbey of the Hills.

Many leave here touched by God's peace,
ready to bring it into their everyday lives.



“The embers of my heart were stirred this weekend. Jesus eyes and heart to his love and I can feel my heart again. It was breath taking and much needed.”

— Retreat Attendee

FISCAL POSITION

As a not-for-profit, The Abbey of the Hills has celebrated many years of financial stability.

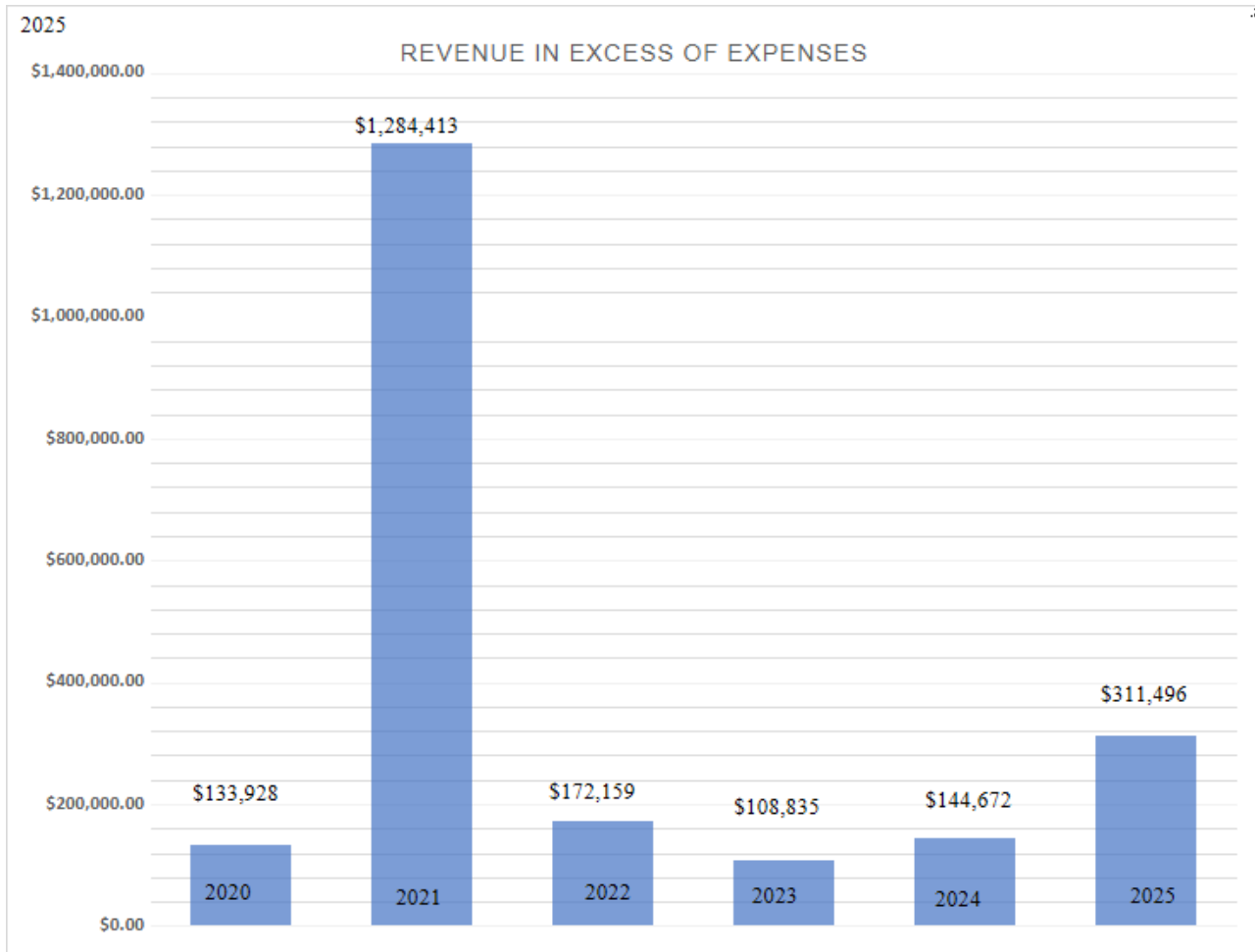
THE ABBEY OF THE HILLS INCOME SOURCES



THE ABBEY OF THE HILLS STAFF GROWTH



THE ABBEY OF THE HILLS



"The Abbey of the Hills is a God ordained beautiful sanctuary where His work in every guest can be fostered in spiritual growth, healing, discernment, meditation, education, and retreat.

Several years ago, we heard God calling us to support this vital ministry. We had read in awe about a courageous group who had responded to God's call to take a leap of faith to keep the legacy of Blue Cloud Abbey alive.

Our help and that of many more are needed so the Abbey's mission can be sustained and continue to grow! We know that all we have is God-given and our grateful response to His call must be generous."

John & Barbara Lockwood, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

THE ABBEY OF THE HILLS SUCCESS

Our Reach

The Abbey has hosted or sponsored on average

184 RETREATS & EVENTS ANNUALLY

The Abbey receives approximately

4,800 VISITORS ANNUALLY

Currently, The Abbey has

6,100 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

Evaluations

Evaluations indicate that guests rate their experience at

95% OR HIGHER SATISFACTION

RETREAT TOPICS & SPEAKERS



ACCOMMODATIONS



FOOD



REDISCOVERY OF PEACE



“Food was wonderful! Thank you! The grounds here & building are so beautiful. I could feel the presence of God here.”

— Retreat Attendee

CURRENT NEEDS OF THE ABBEY OF THE HILLS

Sponsorship of Programming Initiatives:

The Abbey of the Hills aims to enhance its programming by offering a variety of age-specific and theme-based retreats that are faith-affirming, culturally enriching, and artistically inspiring. These include, but are not limited to:

- Day of Recollection Retreats.
- Family Lifestyle Retreats: i.e., couples/marriage retreats, natural healing sessions, foster families, quilting and crafts.
- Retreats for Specific Groups: men's, women's, work-related groups, artists, veterans, Parkinson's support, grief support, confirmation preparation, and 12-step programs.
- Musical events.

Structural Restoration:

Continual improvement and maintenance of the Abbey and its grounds are essential for the success of the Abbey's mission. Current needs include:

- Roof repairs
- Ongoing tuckpointing of the main building
- Adding air conditioning in needed areas
- Additional landscaping, including planting new trees and creating walking trails

General Operating Funds – Gift of Peace

The Abbey of the Hills welcomes all visitors as Christ and your contributions help provide financial assistance to those who may not otherwise be able to attend a retreat.

Legacy Giving: Securing the Abbey for Future Generations

An endowment fund for the Abbey of the Hills has been established through the South Dakota Community Foundation. Donations can be made directly to SDCF at PO Box 296 Pierre, SD 57501 or by visiting the Abbey website at www.abbeyofthehills.org and clicking on the endowment link. Please note "The Abbey of the Hills account when donating directly.

The Abbey of the Hills is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) EIN 46-4176934
Please remember the Abbey of the Hills in your end-of-life charitable giving plan.

A STORY OF PEACE

Attending a women's healing retreat at Abbey of the Hills was one of the most restorative experiences of my life. At my age, I wondered if something like this was still meant for me, if healing and transformation were still possible, or if it was too late for real change. I can say with complete sincerity, this retreat was exactly what I needed.

From the moment we arrived at the Abbey of the Hills, a deep sense of peace surrounded us. The serene grounds, historic spaces, and quiet places for reflection created an environment that gently invited rest, healing, and connection.

This experience reminded me that no matter your age, the heart is always capable of healing. It is never too late to reconnect with your spirit, release what no longer serves you, and step forward with renewed strength.

-Ann S. Aberdeen, SD

I was first introduced to the Abbey of the Hills during a spring 12 Step spiritual retreat. From the moment I arrived, the beauty of the grounds and the architecture created a deep sense of awe, followed by a warm welcome that set the tone for the entire experience.

In recovery, one of the greatest gifts of the 12 Step journey is serenity. The Abbey of the Hills has long been a place where that gift is nurtured. Since 1974, 12 Step retreats have been held here, and that tradition continues to change lives today. In gratitude, members of the 12 Step community helped adopt and restore the Board Room, making it an even more welcoming and hospitable space.

There is a natural tranquility at the Abbey that, combined with its enduring values of hospitality, stewardship, and community, creates a place of peace unlike any other. It is a place where people can step away, be renewed, and experience true healing.

The Abbey of the Hills lives its mission to foster the rediscovery of peace in a very real way. The care, prayer, and hospitality offered by the staff and volunteers leave a lasting impact on all who come.

-Eric H., 12 Step Retreat Leader



"I love the silence and peace of the Abbey..... Here in the silence, God speaks."

— Day of Recollection Retreat Attendee

The Fruits of your **GIFTS**

“Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

The Abbey of the Hills is more than a place-- It is a sanctuary where hearts are restored, souls are renewed, and God's Peace takes root. In a world that moves quickly and often demands too much, this sacred space offers stillness, reflection, and spiritual nourishment.

Your support today ensures The Abbey can continue this vital work. It allows retreats to flourish, care for the building to endure, and operations to remain vibrant. More than that, your generosity plants seeds for the future, securing The Abbey as a lasting haven of peace for generations yet to come. With your prayers, your time, and your gifts, The Abbey of the Hills can continue to pass forward the gift of peace, guiding hearts now and leaving a spiritual legacy for all who follow.



WAYS TO Partner with the Abbey of the Hills

Monthly Donations - Support the Abbey with a monthly contribution. This can be set up through your financial institution, Donor Advised Fund, or you can establish a monthly gift online at (<http://www.abbeyofthehills.org>) by clicking the “Donate” button.

Support Annual Campaigns: Contribute to Abbey of the Hills annual initiatives, such as:

- Abbey Capital Campaign
- Gift of Peace Campaign
- Sponsorship of Fundraising events such as the Fall Banquet and Annual Hog Roast

Additional ways to partner with the Abbey:

- Estate gifts
- Gifts of Stocks & Bonds
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Harvest Gifts (e.g., grains)
- Endowment Giving
- In-kind Donations (please verify specific current needs with the Development Director)
- Adopt a Room Project
- Amazon Wish List (accessible via the Abbey website www.abbeyofthehills.org)
- Volunteer Opportunities: The Abbey needs your time & talent! If you would like to volunteer please contact the Abbey at 605-398-9200 or email abbey@abbeyofthehills.org.
- Promote and attend events: Stay updated on upcoming events by visiting (<http://www.abbeyofthehills.org>), liking and follow the Abbey on Facebook, or by calling 605-398-9200.

Mailing Address: If you prefer to donate via mail, please send checks or money orders to:

The Abbey of the Hills
Attn: Development
PO Box 38
Marvin, SD 57251

Development Office Contact: For any inquiries, please reach out to our Development Office at 605-398-9200 Ext: 113 or via email at margaretartz@abbeyofthehills.org.



Thank you for your support!

abbeyofthehills.org | 605-398-9200 | abbey@abbeyofthehills.org