



A CASE FOR
REDISCOVERING PEACE





*Here, at The Abbey of the Hills, in the silence...
God speaks.*

WELCOME TO THE ABBEY OF THE HILLS

“May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.”

2 Thessalonians 3:16

The Abbey of the Hills Inn & Retreat Center opened in 2013 after the closing of the former Blue Cloud Abbey. Blue Cloud Abbey was built and established by Benedictine Monks in 1950. Due to dwindling numbers, Blue Cloud Abbey closed in 2012. In 2013, The Abbey of the Hills Inn opened as a non-profit 501(c)(3). The Abbey of the Hills is committed to maintaining the harmony and holiness of this very special place in the world. The space and place is open to all faiths, whether you like to write, hike, pray or play.

This beautiful place is often described by its guests as peaceful, prayerful, sacred, hospitable and holy. When crossing the entrance into The Abbey of the Hills’ more than half-a-century old building, you can immediately rediscover peace and reconnect with yourself. You experience a unique and peaceful state in which your mind, body, and soul may deepen your relationship with God.

May your soul be filled with peace and gratitude as you continue to read and discover more about this peaceful and faith-filled destination called The Abbey of the Hills Inn & Retreat Center, located in the heart of the Midwest.

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

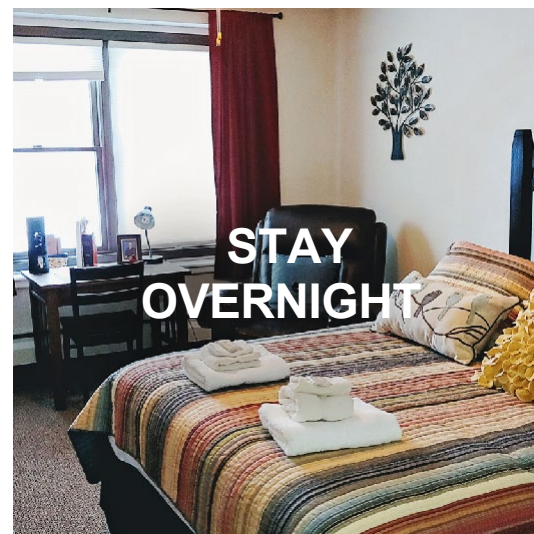
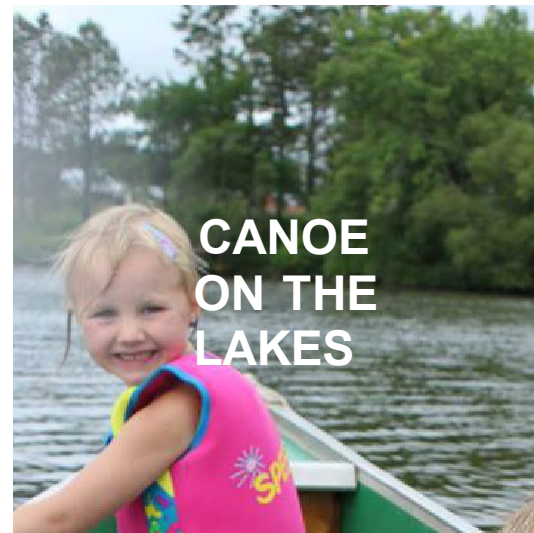
What does The Abbey of the Hills offer to help you find peace?

- 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...



AT THE ABBEY OF THE HILLS



YOUTH GROUPS



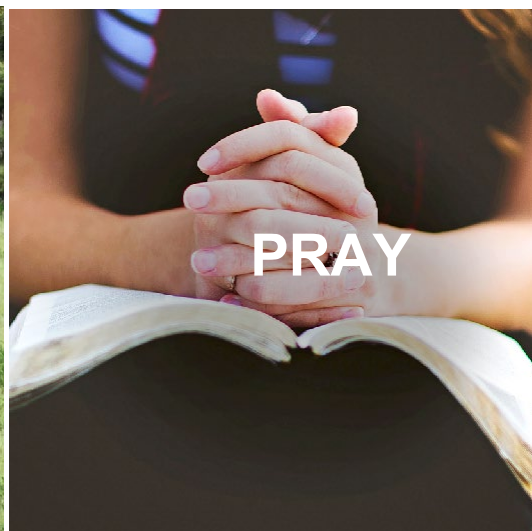
REUNION WITH FAMILY



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?

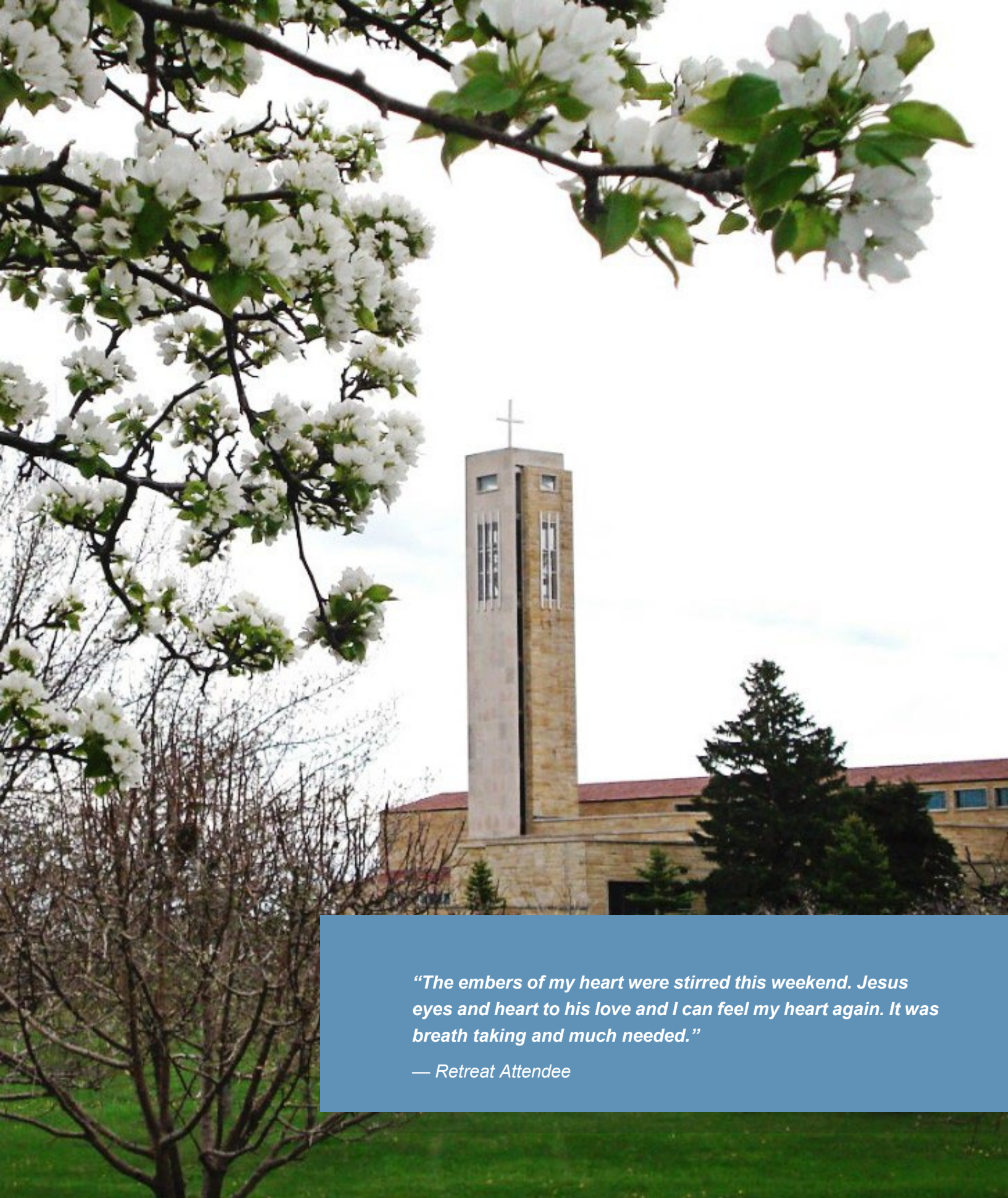
As a non-profit and community resource, The Abbey of the Hills is open as a retreat center as well as an Inn.

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 3:00 PM 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.

After their time here, many can go back to their lives feeling God's peace guiding them.



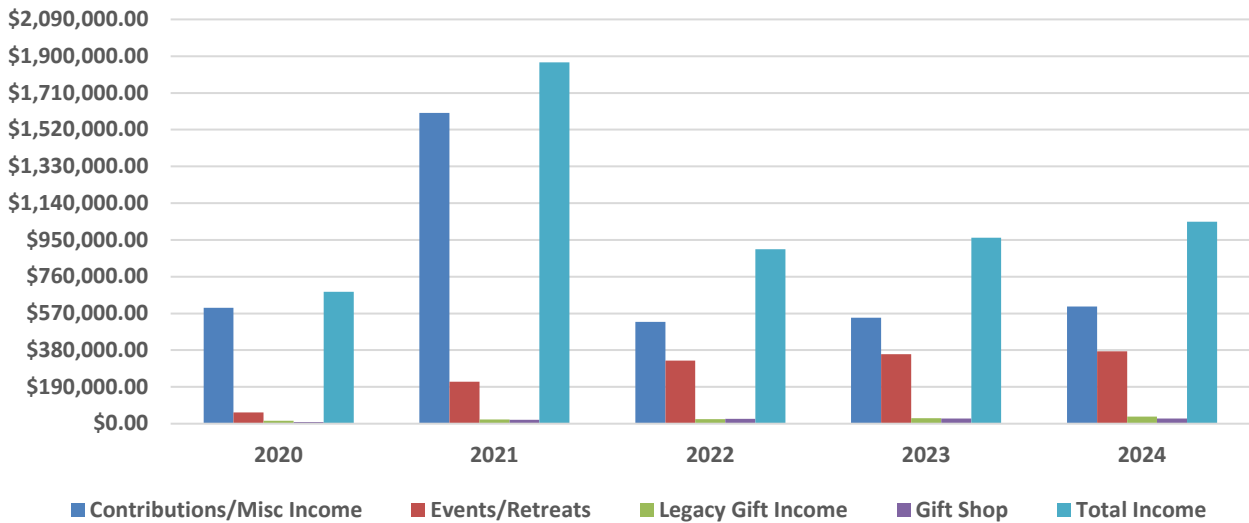
“The embers of my heart were stirred this weekend. Jesus eyes and heart to his love and I can feel my heart again. It was breath taking and much needed.”

— Retreat Attendee

FISCAL POSITION

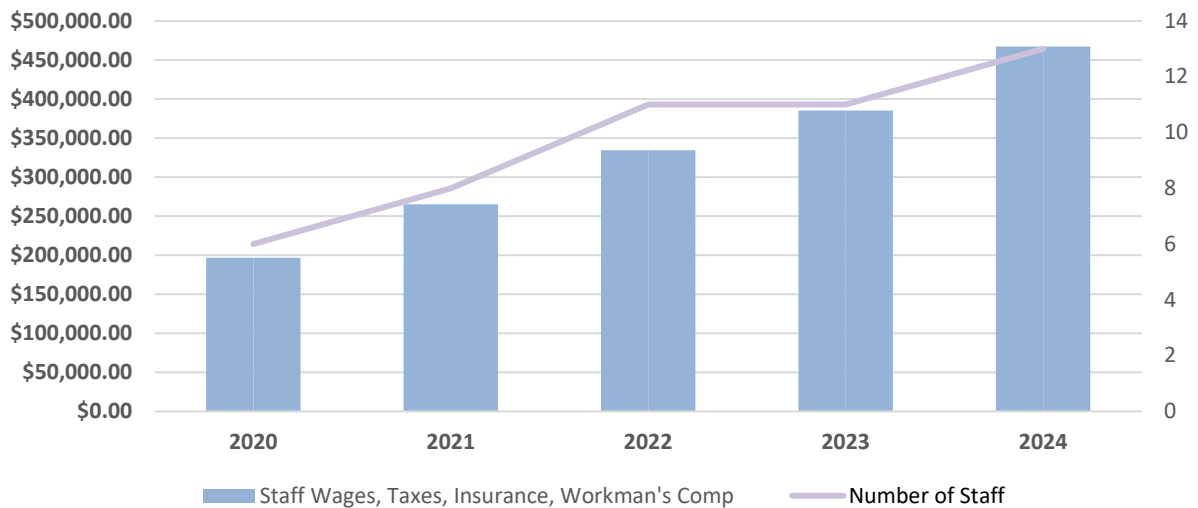
As a not-for-profit, The Abbey of the Hills has celebrated many years of financial stability.

THE ABBEY OF THE HILLS INCOME SOURCES

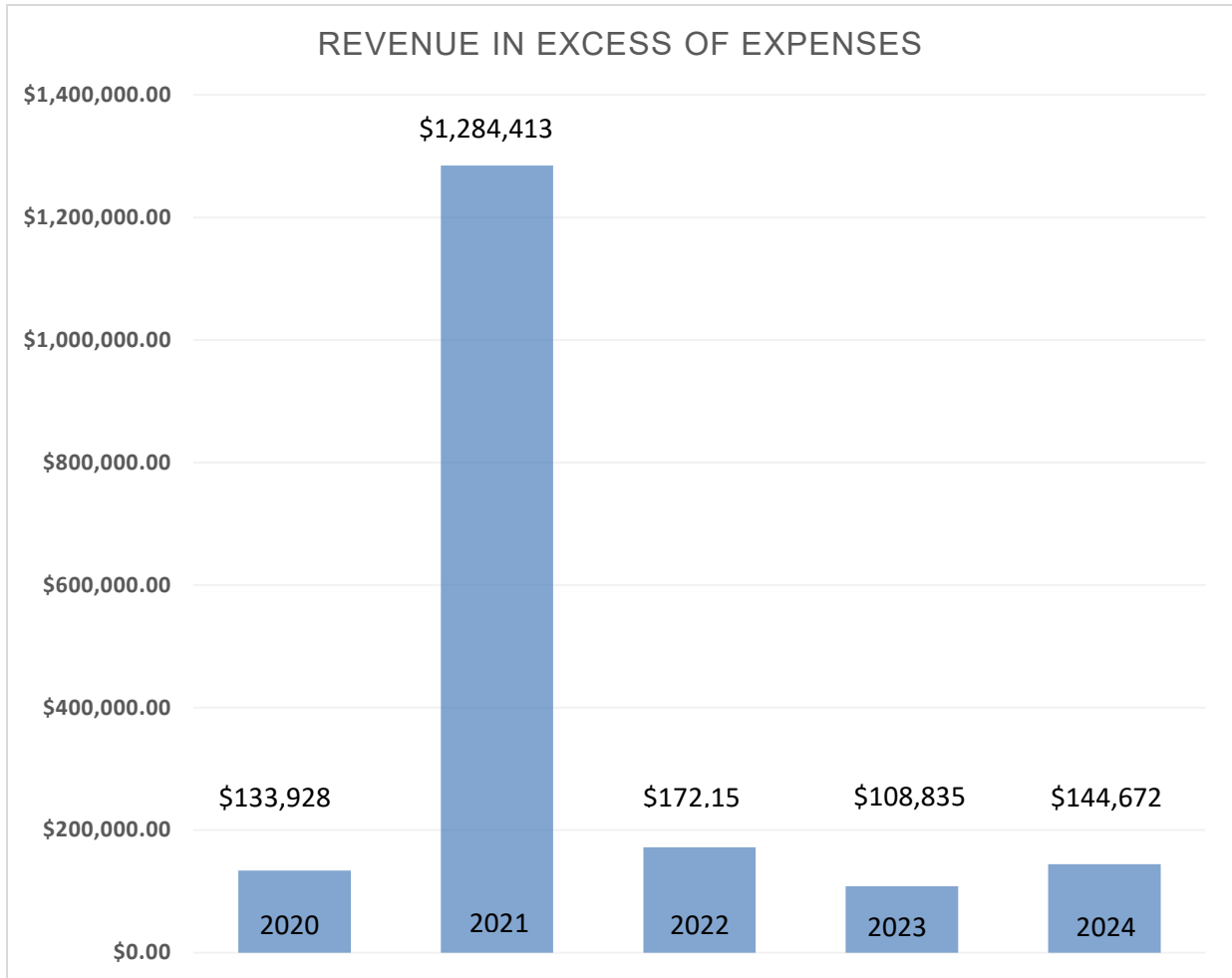


STAFF GROWTH

Growth in Terms of Total Staff Numbers,
Wages & Benefits



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
125 RETREATS & EVENTS ANNUALLY

The Abbey receives approximately
4,000 VISITORS ANNUALLY

Currently, The Abbey has
5,900 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:

- Repairing the Bell Tower and restoring the bell mechanism
- WI-FI infrastructure improvements
- Ongoing tuckpointing of the main building
- Roof repairs
- 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 '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

I was first introduced to The Abbey of the Hills Inn and Retreat Center when my wife and I attended the spring 12-Step Spiritual Retreat. Immediately captivated by the beauty of the grounds and the building's architecture, I felt an inspiring state of awe that grew in its intensity as we walked across the entryway. After being greeted warmly, we received a tour of The Abbey of the Hills and learned how it became the center of peace for the community it is today.

While recovering from the overuse of alcohol, one of the greatest gifts I received from practicing the principles of a 12-Step Program is a state of serenity. Since 1974, there have been 12-Step retreats hosted in conference rooms at the building, and I am truly grateful that the tradition continues today. As part of our gift to The Abbey of the Hills, current and former members of the 12-Step program contributed to the adoption of the Board of Directors room on the second floor of the Retreat Wing. It is now more beautiful and hospitable than ever.

The building's natural tranquility along with the ever-present Benedictine values of love, stability, hospitality, stewardship and community foster a place of peace unlike any other. The walls and the grounds are simply infused with spirituality and goodwill that can be sensed by all who are open to receiving God's peace and grace.

With a mission to "foster the rediscovery of peace," The Abbey of the Hills staff makes peace a priority so you can relax, enjoy renewed energy and heal. The hospitality offered, the prayers said, and service extended by the Abbey of the Hills staff are sincerely appreciated by all who attend 12-Step Retreats - and any kind of retreat. God bless the work of The Abbey of the Hills staff and volunteers!

- Eric H., 12-Step Retreat Leader



“I love the silence and peace of the Abbey – the world has enough noise! Here in the silence, God speaks.”

— Day of Recollection Retreat Attendee



“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 DeGroot, Sioux Falls Diocese

YOUR GIFTS

“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

Luke 6:38

The Abbey of the Hills, as a center where individuals can be rejuvenated, undoubtedly impacts the region in profound and positive ways. The increasingly stressful “normal” life challenges make The Abbey of the Hills a “diamond in the rough” resource. However, to keep this 100,000 square foot space a place of peace and healing, and for it to be the most financially viable and spiritually valuable organization that it can be and is, your help is needed.

Specifically, as noted on page 14, your help is needed to bolster spiritual retreats, make structural restorations, and support general operating funds. In doing so, your help will give more and more people the gift of peace.

Thank you for taking the time to read about The Abbey of the Hills and for all prayers, time, and treasures you offer to ensure the **GIFT of PEACE** is passed forward.

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

