High Braes Refuge

Christian Retreat Ministry

Jesus said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest a while." Mark 6:31

The word "rest" is mentioned in the Bible nearly 400 times, and for good reason. Rest may well be the thing we seek more than anything in life. In fact, it seems we are always *busy* trying to find something to help us find rest...rest from work, heavy responsibility, pain and struggle. At times, we just need rest from life, but rest isn't something we do very well these days.

In 1896, a man by the name of John Davidson built a large home in the foothills of the Adirondacks. Over the fireplace he inscribed these words…

Deus haec otia fecit

"God has made this a place of rest"

Little did he know that more than a century later that very home would be used for just that purpose.

Those words from the fireplace describe the heart of this ministry today, a place of rest and renewal. High Braes

Refuge is just a place on a map, but to the thousands of people that have visited this place for nearly 45 years, it is far more significant.

For many, it became the place where they found their rest in Jesus Christ. For others, it is the place where God restored their hope, gave direction, gave perspective and strengthened them for life once again. It's not that the buildings or grounds have any power, but the One that

The Braes Vision

A Focus on Small Group Retreats

At the Braes, we focus on accommodating the small group. A group between 7-20 people is the ideal size for our facility, although we can sleep 31. In many facilities a group that size would not be possible due to minimums, or the cost would be prohibitive.

We have come to believe in the value of small group retreat ministry. These retreats allow for a level of intimate ministry that cannot be found in larger groups.

There is a lot of good that can come from disconnecting from everyday life together for an extended period of time. **It can transform lives and ministries.**

Think Outside the Normal Retreat Box

Men's, ladies and youth retreats seem to be the norm when it comes to church retreat planning. However, many churches have abandoned these types of retreats altogether. When you ask why they say, "lack of interest" or "everyone is too busy."

We would like to encourage churches and ministries to think out of the normal retreat box. What area of your ministry could benefit from a time away with a small group? **Let us make some suggestions.**

Church Leadership Retreats

We are convinced that all churches and ministry leaders need what we call "Bookmark Moments." It's those moments where you come together and seek God, renew vision, and shore up those places of ministry that have become shaken.

Counseling and Recovery Ministry Retreats

This world is getting harder to navigate all the time. We have been told the need for counseling is growing exponentially. We've also been told that group counseling and recovery events can be very effective.

Couples Enrichment Retreats

Christian marriages are in trouble. Maybe you have someone in your church that has a special place in their heart for strengthening marriages. Quality marriages don't come easy. It takes investment and time to encourage renewal and growth.

Prayer and Planning Retreats

Can you think of a more important time to pray? As the world changes, the darkness seems to grow deeper. As ministries, we need time for prayer and vision seeking.

Special Life Circumstances Retreats

Many of us deal with some kind of special life circumstance. Maybe it's a common health problem in ourselves or in a member of our family. Maybe it's some kind of common trouble where you just need support, advice or someone to pray with who understands.

Use your imagination. How could you help you ministry or those in it by time away to focus, pray, seek God and just listen. Don't underestimate the value of time away together.

What is High Braes Refuge

The ministry of the Braes is to host groups that are seeking to provide Christian based retreats. We provide all meals, overnight accommodations and some activities depending on the time of year. Our main goal is to take care of your group so you can accomplish your retreat goals.

Where: The Braes is located in foothills of the Adirondack Mountains in the southern part of the Tug Hill Plateau about 1 hour north of Syracuse and about 50 minutes south of Watertown.

The Manor House

All retreats are housed in a building called the **Manor House**, a 7000 square foot 1900th century mansion. This building sits high on a hill surrounded by 310 wooded acres.

We focus on serving one group at a time providing your group with the most privacy possible. You won't have to compete with other groups for the same space. While you're here, the house is yours.

What's Provided

All retreat rates are per person and include overnight accommodations, meals and some activities depending on the time of year. You can review rates on our website at **highbraes.org.**

Accommodations: The Manor House has seven sleeping rooms. We have a total of 24 beds with all rooms having between 2 and 4 beds. All rooms have at least one King, Queen or full size bed and is ideal for marriage enrichment events. All rooms have there own bathroom. A Lodging Diagram can be found on our website.

Meals: Your retreat rate includes all meals and snacks. We believe in fresh, home made cooking. All meals are served buffet style, and we would rather throw something away than have guests go without, so be ready to stuff yourself.

All meals include a main entre as well as extras to fit the desire of most anyone. We are happy to accommodate special dietary needs such as gluten free and vegetarian, as well as considerations for food allergies where ever possible.

A snack is provided during the evening for every night of a groups stay. In addition, coffee and hot water for tea and hot chocolate are available throughout your stay.

We know that good food is important, and we plan to show you we feel the same way.

Meeting Space

The Manor House was built as a large home and that home-like feel remains today. The Living Room is the most common small group meeting area with four full couches and one love seat. Additional chairs can be added if needed. The living room has a fire place with a fire log set. It also has a wall mounted 55 inch TV with DVD player, Apple TV and an additional HDMI port for connection to a computer for those wishing to use the TV for displays.

The Parlor: The second area is the Parlor with one full couch, one love seat and three chairs. This room is ideal for smaller breakout groups.

Chapel: If you need a larger space for a group meeting or activity you can use the chapel. The Chapel consists of one large room with stackable chairs that you can set up in any way you like for your group needs or removed for an activity. It has seating for 50 and can be heated for cooler season use. A firepit is located nearby for seasonal bonfires.

Beautiful Property

Though the Manor House is often considered the center piece of the Braes, we believe the property is just as special. There is over 2 miles of trails that meander through 310 wooded acres up to Stony Brook Falls and come back along the ridge over looking the river. No matter the season it is quiet and private, and offers the opportunity to spend time walking with friends or just wonder by yourself just to think and pray. A wagon ride to the falls is always available depending on the season.

Like Coming Home

One common phrase we have heard from those that come to the Braes is this, “As soon as I pulled in the driveway it was like coming home.” We want your group to feel like they are coming home for the weekend. God has set aside a special place here in Redfield, New York. In the last 45 years, He has used it in countless ways. The next time you want to disconnect from life with a group, think about the Braes.

High Braes Refuge

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