

April 21, 2013



Hello Girlfriends!

I would like to invite all of you to attend our 2013 fall retreat at the St. Bernard Abbey Retreat and Conference Center in Cullman. This retreat center is truly a wonderful place to relax and enjoy some time as “Girlfriends!” There is a beautiful conference room where we have our general sessions, and the bedrooms are adjacent to the meeting area. The bedrooms accommodate two people (twin beds) and each has a private bathroom. The dining area is a short walk across the campus, and anyone needing to drive over can do so.

The dates are Friday evening, **October 18-20, 2013**. On Friday registration will begin at 5 pm. The set-up crew will be there by 2 pm if you need to arrive earlier. Snacks will be available, but you will need to eat dinner before you arrive, or you can go out to eat in the area. A Cracker Barrel and other restaurants are nearby. If you will be arriving after 10 pm, please let us know ahead of time if possible. The phone number for the retreat center is (256) 734-3946 and my cell phone is (205) 540-1515.

Dress is casual for the entire weekend. Bring comfy shoes, as we walk to the dining hall for meals. We now have a tradition of great fun playing games on Friday and Saturday evenings, so bring your “play clothes” or pajamas for this! Bring your favorite board games, also and label them, please! Last year we added a new game, “Catch Phrase,” which was a big hit!

The retreat center supplies our bed linens, towels and washcloths. You might want to bring your own water bottles, if you enjoy having bottled water. We do have access to a kitchen and a refrigerator, so we are able to enjoy snacks throughout the weekend. The meals which will be provided are Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast (total of 4 meals). For those who missed the biscuits and gravy last year, you’ll be happy to know that the regular hot breakfasts are back!

Our theme for the weekend will be *God – Our All in All*. Acts 17:28 tells us that “in him we live and move and have our being.” We are his children, and have the wonderful blessing of a close and personal relationship with the great God of the universe! This year our guest speakers are Tammy Tkach, Ginny Rice, Pat Halford, Becki Brown, and Barbara Dahlgren. Ann Hartmann will be our guest singer again this year! You can go to Ann’s website (annhartmann.com) to learn more about Ann’s music and ministry. We also look forward to another time of special music when Mary Jo Leaver shares her “Music to the Eyes” ministry. Becki Brown is the daughter of Pat Halford, so this year we have the very special treat of hearing from a mother and daughter!

We will plan to conclude the retreat at noon on Sunday so that those who need to get on the road will have the full afternoon for travel. For those who want to stick around and visit a bit, we can have prolonged “goodbyes” in the retreat center.

We hope you will help spread the word to others who might enjoy the weekend. If you have questions or need more information, contact me at (205) 663-7979 (home), (205) 540-1515 (cell) or email ruth.miller@gci.org.

Please fill out the enclosed registration form and return it by **July 30th**. This is important, because the retreat center is such a popular place and stays heavily booked. They need us to secure the number of rooms we’ll need ASAP! Later registrations will be accepted if space is available.

You can choose to send your payment in full, or send a \$25 deposit. If you send only the deposit, please send the balance no later than **September 30th**.

I’m looking forward to sharing this weekend with you in October!

With love,
Ruth Miller

**REGISTRATION FORM
FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT
St. Bernard Retreat Center
1600 Saint Bernard Drive SE
Cullman, AL 35055
www.stbernardabbey.com
October 18-20, 2013**

Registration begins on Friday evening at 5:00 p.m.
Breakfast on Saturday begins at 8:00 a.m.
Our first session will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.
The event concludes at noon on Sunday.
Check out the website listed above to learn more about the retreat center.

The cost for the retreat is \$125 per person, which includes registration, two nights' lodging and 4 meals. (Breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday & breakfast on Sunday)

(Please keep this top portion for your records)

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I would like to share a room with _____
(If you don't indicate a roommate, we will assign one)

Any Special Needs? _____

The cost is \$125 per person, which includes registration, two nights lodging, and 4 meals. *If you prefer a private room, the cost will be \$185.*

If you plan to attend during the daytime only, the cost will be \$50, which includes the 4 meals. (\$20 if you do not plan to eat the meals)

Make checks payable to Grace Covenant Fellowship.

_____ Payment in full is enclosed (\$125) or (\$50 or \$20 if not staying overnight)

_____ Deposit is enclosed (\$25) (Balance due by September 30th)

Please mail to 538 River Crest Way, Helena, AL 35080.