



**ST. MARY OF THE HILLS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA
JAN. 5, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

Connection Card in the pew rack so that we might connect with you further. More information about our parish is available online at www.stmaryofthehills.org. Members of our Vestry (elected lay leadership) are identified by name tags with yellow lanyards. Seek them out for details about our congregation's life and ministry.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNCTION OFFERED TODAY – Unction, prayers for healing and anointing with holy oil, will be offered following both the 8 am and 10:10 am services today.

INTERGENERATIONAL STORY TIME: CHRISTIAN FORMATION TODAY – All parishioners are invited to join us for a special Epiphany reading by fellow parishioner Owene Courtney. She'll tell us more about the Three Kings and their journey to Bethlehem through the story, "Ahmal and the Night Visitors." Originally a one-act opera, this work portrays the life of a boy named Ahmal and his visit by the Magi seeking a place to rest. We'll learn about truly engaging with the act of giving and embodying the spirit of love regardless of circumstances. This Formation offering is relevant to all ages, adults and children alike. Please join us in the Parish Hall around 9 am for Epiphany Story Time.

THE EPIPHANY – Following the 12 days of Christmas, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, recalling the journey of the Magi to visit the infant Christ and bearing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Holy Eucharist will be offered on Monday, Jan. 6, at noon in observance of this festival day.

'DRAWN TO THE LIGHT ON AN EPIPHANY EVENING' – On Tuesday, Jan. 7, from 5 pm to 7 pm, we will gather to reflect on what starlight on a cradle scene offers the landscape of our lives over two thousand years later. Owene Courtney and Torrence Harman will lead a gathering where we reflect on the Epiphany story, ponder what "gifts" we have to bring to the Light and share a simple supper. We'll conclude with Compline. This event is sponsored by the Women of St. Mary of the Hills. Please RSVP to Owene Courtney at owene_courtney@yahoo.com or 904.553.7338 by Jan. 5.

NO JANUARY ECW MEETING – There will not be a January meeting as ECW is taking a winter break. Weather permitting, the ECW will meet in February and celebrate Valentine's Day.

SAVE THE DATE: FEB. 23 TOUR OF HOMES MEETING – The Tour of Homes Chairs and those who desire to be deeply involved in this annual fundraiser will be having a dinner meeting on Feb. 23. Email Billie Rogers at billie.rogers@kw.com if you're interested in attending.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the Church: Sean, our Presiding Bishop; José our Bishop; Andrew, Sam and Gary, our clergy; for our Vestry and staff; for all the people of this parish

In our Parish Prayer Cycle, we remember this week:

01/05: Sue Wilders

01/06: Ray Williams

01/07: Rick Williams & Barbara Yale-Read

01/08: Beau Wilson

01/09: Greta Wilson

01/10: Ham Wilson

01/11: Molly Wilson

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Church of the Epiphany, Newton

For our nation and those in positions of public trust: Joseph, our President; Donald our President-Elect; Josh, our Governor; all those who hold elected office; and for those who offered themselves for election this year

For all who suffer from war throughout the world and especially for the people of Ukraine and Russia, the Korean peninsula, Yemen, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Israel and Palestine

For all affected by natural disaster, especially those impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton

For healing: Dale, Bill & Jorgann Rogers, Jeff Hedden, Christine, John, Ann Greene, Bob Barham, Clare, Bill Tessien, Emily R., Suzie W., Lynn Turnbow, Grace, Bobbie, Tom, John Horne, Joe Dyer, Joe Doswell, Mark Tribby, Jennifer, Helen Wells, Darren Van Dyke, Harry Steele, Carol Gray, Lora, Chris M., Mary M., Andrew C., Ben Cook, Vinny, Lucy

****Please note that the names on this list will remain for four weeks, unless the office is notified that the person(s) needs to remain on the list for a longer period of time.****

For those who have died: John Monguillot, Bernie Earp, Tom Clemens, David C.

For those with other concerns: Pat, Marcy, Cindy, Luca, Clemens Family, Betty Joan

For those traveling: Ann & Bob Jones

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Caitlyn, Mary Ella, Emma Unkovic, Chelsea

For those celebrating a birthday:

01/01: Ann Bagg, Mark Martin, Shawn Poole

01/03: Molly Rogers, Bob Shorkey, Molly MacMartin

01/04: Kirra Laws

01/08: Jim Snow

01/10: Jim Brooks, Joe Dyer, Chris Metzger

Celebrating an anniversary:

01/06: Joe & Mary Ellen Raulerson