



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA JAN. 26, 2025 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

CHRISTIAN FORMATION – NEW! YOUTH FORMATION BEGINS TODAY – Teens, middle school and high school students are invited to join us at 9 am in the St. Mary room for our new Youth Group kickoff class. We'll get to know one another and our youth educators, have breakfast, talk about the Episcopal Curriculum for Youth and learn about Noah's Ark. Email questions to Formation Director Lindsey Herring at Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org.

OTHER SUNDAY FORMATION OFFERINGS

- **Children:** Our elementary-age children will gather upstairs in the St. Luke Room at 9 am today to learn about the "Parable of the Good Shepherd."
- **Children & Worship:** This offering runs through the first portion of the 10:10 am service. The children should begin church as usual with their families. They will leave together during the Gloria and rejoin their families in the Nave before the passing of the Peace. If you'd like to learn more or volunteer, please email Joanna Reule at jrreule@gmail.com.
- **Rector's Forum:** Join us at 9 am in the Barrett Room for the start of a series on approaches to religious pluralism. As people of a world with a multitude of faith traditions, we'll explore different ways to faithfully interact with religious diversity.

FORWARD DAY BY DAY – Be sure to pick up the most recent copy of the Forward Movement's quarterly devotional "Forward Day by Day" located throughout the parish. Our friend and fellow parishioner Owene Courtney is April's featured writer.

WELCOME & HOSPITALITY –

- **Welcoming One Another:** The Vestry is creating a name tag initiative for the parish to help us welcome visitors and guests, as well as get to know one another better. This simple act of hospitality can make a difference as we know from Matthew 25:35: "... I was a stranger and you welcomed me ...". You can pick up a name tag when you arrive, fill it out and return it before leaving. There will be designated locations for name tag pickup and drop-off. Contact Sue Sweeting for more details at 828.406.9376 or sweetingsue75@yahoo.com.
- **Altar Flower Offerings** – If you are looking for a meaningful way to honor someone or to remember someone who has died, please consider making a gift to the flower guild for altar flowers for a particular Sunday. Your offering will be noted in the weekly announcement sheet.

SUPPORT PECM – On Jan. 28, we'll be serving a meal to approximately 38 students who attend the Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry at 3rd Place, Boone. We need two very large lasagnas, large salads with dressing, drinks, Italian or French bread and dessert. For details and to volunteer, contact Sue Wilders Suejackpaintfly@aol.com or 561.371.5989.

ECW FEBRUARY MEETING – ECW will be hosting a dinner meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 5:30 pm. Come and join us to celebrate Valentine's Day and all those we love. Bring your favorite dish or dessert. RSVP Sue Wilders Suejackpaintfly@aol.com.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS – St. Mary of the Hills Vestry met on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Highlights included a review of 2024 financial statements, conversation about our Vestry covenant, dreaming about new ministry initiatives, as well as updates on projects around our building and campus. The Vestry also affirmed Outreach allocations totaling \$13,100 to support the Diocese of Navajoland's efforts to provide clean water, a March event with Rise Against Hunger, and the Watauga Housing Trust.

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:

01/26: Bill Battaglia

01/27: Lynne Bell

01/28: Mark & Debra Bennett

01/29: Zach & Julia Bennett, Grace

01/30: Leslie Billingsley & Mitch Mitchell

01/31: Alex & Rachel Blackburn, Spencer and Alice

02/01: Natalie Bovino & Ken Johnson, Lula

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Peter by the Lake, Denver

For our nation and those in positions of public trust: Donald our President; Josh, our Governor; all those who hold elected office.

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, and those impacted by fires throughout California.

For healing: Dale, Bill & Jorgann Rogers, Jeff Hedden, Christine, John, Ann Greene, Bob Barham, Clare, Bill Tessien, Emily R., Suzie W., Lynn Turnbow, Joe Dyer, Joe Doswell, Gary L., Belinda Scanlon, Mary M., Ben C., Bill Courtney, Zoe, Gae, Elizabeth S., Harry, Sandra, Kim Reitzel

****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: Tom Clemens, Bill Tribby, H.C. Moretz, Beulah Saunders, Gary L., Jeannette Mitchell, Cathy Seiler, Logan

For those with other concerns: Donna, Susan, Donna L., Hal & Melaine, the Lane Family

For those traveling: Susie

For those on pilgrimage: Valerie & Peter Purcell

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

For those celebrating a birthday:

01/27: Larry Jones

01/28: Donna Lemnoui

01/29: Ben Milner

01/30: Scott Turnbow

01/31: James Galke

02/01: Gigi Poole