



**ST. MARY OF THE HILLS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS!

We are so glad that you are here. If you are a guest among us, we invite you to complete a 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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – The Parish Office will be closed Monday, February 19, in observance of the President's Day holiday.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION TODAY

- **Godly Play** for children ages 3 to 10 occurs at 9:00AM in the St. Luke Room on Sunday mornings. This morning, Lindsey Herring and Sue Sweeting are introducing children to the Mystery of Easter.
- **Rector's Forum** – During the season of Lent, we are exploring a study based on Hilary Raining's book, *Joy in Confession: Reclaiming Sacramental Reconciliation*. We begin with some introduction to the rites for Reconciliation in our *Book of Common Prayer* and continue with a deeper theological exploration of sin, shame, forgiveness, and joy. Grab a cup of coffee and join us at 9:00AM in the Barrett Room (second floor, above the Parish Hall)!

A CONCERT IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH – The Friends of Music is sponsoring "Wake and Forget, Dream and Remember: A Concert in Honor of Black History Month" this evening at 6:00PM. The concert showcases a broad spectrum of music by black composers from familiar spirituals to lesser-known works. All are welcome.

FEAST OF ST. MATTHIAS – The Feast of St. Matthias will be observed Saturday, February 24 with Holy Eucharist at 9:00AM.

BUY BOONE LUNCH - The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a 'Buy Boone Lunch' Event at F.A.R.M. Café on Thursday, February 29, 11:00AM-2:00PM. Our support allows FARM Cafe to use donations made during the 'Buy Boone Lunch' event to support its mission to provide high quality meals to all. In addition to offering a sponsorship, we will join F.A.R.M. Cafe in serving lunch to the community. If you are available, we would love to have you join us! Sign-up is available online.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 12:00PM each Friday during Lent. All are welcome.

CONFESSION – The Reconciliation of Penitent, commonly called Confession, is available on Fridays, 11:00AM-12:00PM, and at any time by appointment. Contact Fr. Andrew if you'd like to make an appointment or to learn more about the Reconciliation in the Episcopal Church.

MORNING PRAYER – Morning Prayer, a short service of scripture and prayer (15-20 minutes), is offered each weekday morning at 8:30AM in the Church. Looking for a new spiritual practice this Lent? Join us!

CENTERING PRAYER – Lindsey Herring, Christian Formation Coordinator, will be offering an introduction to Centering Prayer, a contemplative spiritual practice that allows us to quiet the heart and rest in God's presence, during Lent, beginning at 4:30PM on Wednesdays. Evening Prayer follows at 5:15PM.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY – During the season of Lent, we will read "The Sign and the Sacrifice" by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury. Copies of the book are available in the library for a suggested donation of \$10. Discussion of Part I will begin next week; check the Lent page of our website for times and locations.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

- Are you interested in becoming an office volunteer? We need regular weekly volunteers to assemble our Sunday service bulletins and ready the parish pews for services. Contact our new Director of Finance and Administration, Michael Marshall, at Michael@stmaryofthehills.org to learn more.
- Volunteers are also needed to assist weekly in Godly Play and help with Vacation Bible School, which will be held Monday through Wednesday, June 17-19, at St. Mary's. This is a partnership with Rumble Presbyterian. We will need volunteers for props, song-leading, teaching, snacks, check-in, carpool and much more. Contact Lindsey Herring at Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org if interested or to learn more.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

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

In our Parish Prayer Cycle, we remember this week:

02/18 Martha Jones

02/19 John Jordan & Coleman Burgess

02/20 Maureen Justice

02/21 Lisa Kaufmann

02/22 Butch & Donna Kerns

02/23 Chris & Angela King, Kirra Bush, Bella Weaver & Sophia Weaver

02/24 Dick & Louann Kitchell

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer: Lake Logan Conference Center, Valle Crucis Conference Center

For our nation and those in positions of public trust: Joseph, our President, Roy, 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 throughout the world and especially for those impacted by severe flooding in Sri Lanka

For healing: Peggy, Mary Jane, Debbie, Dennis, David S., Joe, Virginia V., Adam, Mary Ann, Handi Alejandro Santiago, Kent Wells, Dennis, Lisa Kaufmann, Dale, Catherine, Bill, Dale, Catherine, Pat, Lynn, Collins family, Mary Dean, Mark Bennett, Jennifer, Brittany, Jorgann Rogers, Allan Morrison, Larry, Jeff Hedden, Belinda, Siri, Gary, Kay McCloskey, Christine, Jo-Anne Findt, Luella, Clare, Michael Curry, Ann Greene, Greg, Dick, Bob Barham

****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: Jane Rogers, Steve, Gus Alfieri, Jim, Michael Neff

For those with other concerns: Corinne, Blair, Josh, for a family in pain, relationships and transitions

For those traveling this week: Ann, Juliana, Gillian and JoAnn, Darlene Van Dyke

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Megan Redford, Crawford, Selby, Hanna, Caitlyn, Emily

For those celebrating a birthday this week:

02/16 Lora

02/18 Genie Starnes

02/19 Ryan Postlethwait, Alma Ward

02/24 Charlene Barham

For those celebrating an anniversary this week:

02/22 Julia & Zach Bennett

02/24 Michael & Amanda Silverman