



**ST. MARY OF THE HILLS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 25, 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

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, Olivia Knight and Elizabeth Sudderth begin the Lenten series "Faces 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 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)!

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!

LENTEN BOOK STUDY CONVERSATION CIRCLE – During the season of Lent, we are reading "The Sign and the Sacrifice" by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury. Discussion of Part I begins this week. You can join us in person on Tuesday at 10AM or virtually on Thursday at 6PM. Visit the Lent page of our website for more details and Zoom link.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP – VBS will be held at St. Mary of the Hills June 17-19 in partnership with Rumble Memorial Presbyterian. Planning is underway and we need committed volunteers to register their interest by March 4. Please let us know the areas in which you'd like to offer your time and talent by visiting us online at <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/VBS> and filling out the volunteer form. Contact Lindsey Herring at Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org with questions.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Stations of the Cross is 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 Director, is leading Lenten sessions of Centering Prayer, a contemplative spiritual practice that allows us to quiet the heart and rest in God's presence, at 4:30PM on Wednesdays. All are welcome, newcomers and lifelong practitioners alike.

EVENING PRAYER – Following the conclusion of Centering Prayer, all are invited to join us as the sun begins to set for Evening Prayer. This short service of prayer and thanksgiving occurs Wednesdays during Lent at 5:15PM. Join us!

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – 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 Michael Marshall at Michael@stmaryofthehills.org 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:

02/25 Dave Kline
02/26 Olivia Knight
02/27 Chris & Antoinette Kollmer
02/28 Alex & Bre Lawler
02/29 Rick & Beth Lawler
03/01 Sid & Donna Lemnoui
03/02 Kitty Lumpkin

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer: St. Matthias, Asheville

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: Virginia V., Adam, Mary Ann, Handi Alejandro Santiago, Kent Wells, Dennis, Lisa Kaufmann, Dale, Catherine, Bill, Dale, Catherine, Pat, Lynniss, 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, John, Christine, Susan, Mitch, Andy

****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, Kalen, Michael, Steve, Gus Alfieri, Jim, Michael Neff

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

For those traveling this week: Luba, Darlene

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

For those celebrating a birthday this week:

02/25 Greta Wilson, Belinda Scanlon
02/27 Chip Myers
02/28 Helene Harper, Sue Corcoran