



**ST. MARY OF THE HILLS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 3, 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, Amanda White and Lynne Bell continue to share the "Faces of Easter" series.
- **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)!

CHORAL EVENSONG – Join us for Lenten Choral Evensong today at 3:00PM in the Church. Led by the parish choir, this service of sung evening prayer includes readings from sacred scripture, ancient prayers set to beautiful music, and a holy space for silence and reflection. All are welcome!

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 tomorrow, 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.

BREAD OF LIFE AT HOSPITALITY HOUSE – Looking for a place to get involved in the mission and ministry of St Mary of the Hills? Join a Bread of Life Team. We have four active groups supplying meals for over 100 people on four different nights (once a month) at Hospitality House, our local emergency shelter for those experiencing hunger and/or housing insecurity. We are seeking new volunteers to contribute, help prepare, and deliver food. Seasonal support is also welcome. Please contact Sue Wilder (suejackpaintfly@aol.com) or Mike Austell (austellmike37@gmail.com) for more information.

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

RECONCILIATION (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:

03/03 Renee Lyons

03/04 Mark & P.J. Martin

03/05 Mike & Sarah Matthews

03/06 Daryl Mathias

03/07 Jeff & Paige McBride, Stevie

03/08 Ed McCauley

03/09 Kay McCloskey

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer: St. David's, Cullowhee

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.

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: Jim, Michael Neff, Rachel Ferguson, Peter

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

For those traveling this week: Luba, Darlene, Dallas

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Megan Redford, Crawford, Hanna, Caitlyn, Emily, Neta, Lindsey E.

For those celebrating a birthday this week:

03/03 Van Joffrion, Nedra McCraw, Larry Turnbow

03/04 Olivia Knight

03/05 Mark Curry, Spencer Blackburn

03/07 Suzanne Miller

03/08 Iris Caldwell, Anne Jones

03/09 Buddy Fore