



# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA MARCH 16, 2025 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

## 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](http://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

### SUNDAY CHRISTIAN FORMATION OFFERINGS

- **Youth:** Youth Formation occurs at 9 am in the St. Mary room.
- **Rector's Forum:** During Lent, we'll return to a series we began several years ago, "Signs of Life: Why Church Matters," developed for use by the Society of St. John the Evangelist. This year, we will pick it up again, trusting that rich conversation and reflection will once again emerge.
- **Children & Worship:** This offering runs through the first portion of the 10:10 am service. The children begin church as usual, process from the Church together and rejoin their families during the Peace.
- **Note:** Godly Play is taking a break during the season of Lent.

**VESTRY MEETING** – The Vestry meets Tuesday, March 21, at 5:45 pm in the Barrett Room. All are welcome to attend.

**FIFTH SUNDAY PARENTS CIRCLE MARCH 30** – Parents of children all ages are invited to join us for Fifth Sunday coffee and conversation from 9:10 am to 9:50 am in the Parish Hall by the fireplace. Children can be dropped off in the nursery or meet upstairs for special programming. This month's Parents Circle is hosted by [Michelle Curry](#).

**ST. MARY OF THE HILLS BRUNCH MARCH 30** – Join us for brunch on Sunday, March 30, after the 10:10 am service. All are invited to this Lenten feast day of fun and fellowship. It's a potluck event so keep an eye on this space for an RSVP announcement that will follow and we'll fill you in on more details as the date draws near.

**TORCHBEARERS NEEDED** – The Acolyte Guild is looking to add Torchbearer teams to the 10:10 am services. Torchbearers learn about Episcopal customs and traditions, contributing to a deeper understanding of the church's rituals and practices. They carry torches representing the "Light of Christ" during the processional, recessional and gospel procession. Contact the church verger, [Michelle Curry](#), by email at [verger@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:verger@stmaryofthehills.org) or by text at 828-719-9508 if your child is interested in participating.

**EASTER FLOWERS** – For many, it is a tradition to make a gift toward flowers or to our music program, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, to be acknowledged in the Easter bulletins. If you would like to do so, please complete the form located outside the main office. You can place your form in the offering plate, the wooden box outside the office or return it via mail. April 13 is the deadline for inclusion in the Easter bulletins.

**VOLUNTEER FOR VBS JUNE 18-20** – Volunteer registration is now open for Vacation Bible School June 18-20. Visit <http://www.stmaryofthehills.org/VBS> to register. Registration is not yet open for children.

## ONGOING IN LENT

**Book Study** – Join Fr. Andrew in reading Henri Nouwen's classic book, "Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World." Conversation circles convene on Tuesdays from noon to 1 pm in the Barrett Room.

**'Listening to Your Life': Journaling as a Lenten Practice** – We'll continue exploring journaling as a Lenten discipline on March 19 at 10:30 am in the Barrett Room. Class will convene in-person and through Zoom. Zoom link is available online: <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/len>. For more information contact Owene Courtney at 904.553.7338 or email [owene\\_courtney@yahoo.com](mailto:owene_courtney@yahoo.com).

**Evening Prayer** – Evening Prayer will be held at 4 pm in the Church on Wednesdays.

**Stations of the Cross** – The Way of the Cross, also known as the Stations of the Cross, will be prayed each Friday in Lent at noon in the Church. All are welcome!

**Rite of Reconciliation** – The Reconciliation of Penitent, commonly called 'Confession', is offered each Friday in Lent from 11 am until 11:45 am, and anytime by appointment. Contact Fr. Andrew at [rector@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:rector@stmaryofthehills.org) to learn more.

# 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:**

03/16: Doug & Mary Galke

03/17: Bill & Joellyn Gibbons

03/18: Jim & Joyce Gibson

03/19: Gary & Judy Gloster

03/20: Richard Goewey

03/21: Frances Goodman & Charlotte Fox

03/22: John & Cecilia Grasinger

**In the Diocesan Cyle of Prayer:** St. Joseph's Chapel and students, staff and faculty of Christ School

**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., Bob, Marty, Charlie, Pam L., Joe D., Lucy, Mary M., Charlie, Lance, Gae, Lynn Turnbow, a family in distress, Wayne, Hunt Phyllis, John, Angelina, Tom, Sheila, Stan, Nicholas, Emily

*\*\*\*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:** Cloe, Thomas Whittington, Ira Pierce, George

**For those with other concerns:** Mary, Marcia, Paul

**For those who are traveling:** Season, Lawler & Redford Families, Darlene

**For safe pregnancy and delivery:** Caitlyn, Chelsea, Hanna, Katherine, Kelley, Taylor Griffis, Anna

**For those celebrating a birthday:**

03/18: Lynn Searfoss

03/19: Orian Carter, Cathia Silver