



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 30, 2025
FOURTH 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. 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

LENTEN OFFERINGS

Visit <https://stmaryofthehills.org/lent> to learn about worship & Formation offerings during 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 Church library.
- **Listening to Your Life': Journaling as a Lenten Practice** – We'll continue exploring journaling as a Lenten discipline on Wednesday, April 2, at 10:30 am in the Barrett Room. Class will convene in-person and through Zoom. Zoom link is found at <https://stmaryofthehills.org/lent>.
- **Evening Prayer** – Held at 4 pm in the Church on Wednesdays
- **Stations of the Cross** – Prayed on Fridays at noon in the Church
- **Rite of Reconciliation** – The Reconciliation of Penitent, or 'Confession', is offered Fridays from 11 am until 11:45 am, and anytime by appointment. Contact Fr. Andrew to learn more.

TODAY'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION OFFERINGS & PROGRAMMING

- **Rector's Forum:** At 9 am, we continue our series "Signs of Life: Why Church Matters," developed for use by the Society of St. John the Evangelist in the Barrett Room.
- **Fifth Sunday Parents Circle:** From 9:10 am to 9:50 am, parents of children, from newborn to high schoolers, are welcome to join together for a Fifth Sunday gathering with coffee and conversation around the fireplace in the Parish Hall.
- **Children & Youth:** At 9:10 am, children, youth and adults are invited to join us upstairs for a new program out of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia. We'll read a story together, talk Scripture together and get creative together. It's collaborative Formation.
- **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. This week the children will learn about the Temple, a House for God.

ECW BRUNCH TODAY – Following the conclusion of the 10:10 am service today, ECW will be hosting a parish potluck brunch. Please join us for the fellowship gathering today! Note that **ECW will not meet in April**.

EASTER FLOWERS – If you would like to make a gift toward flowers or music in honor of or in memory of a loved one as we approach Easter, please complete the form located outside the main office. You can place your form in the offering plate or in the wooden box outside the office. You can also contribute through the "Giving" tab in your Realm Profile, selecting either the Flower Guild or Choir Fund. Please use the memo line to indicate whether your gift is in honor or memory of someone special. April 13 is the deadline for inclusion in the Easter bulletins.

VOLUNTEER FOR VBS JUNE 18-20 – We will join Ruple Memorial Presbyterian Church again this year for VBS, which will be held June 18-20. This year's VBS theme is *Wild Wonder*, where kids will embark on a fun-filled exploration of God's incredible creation. Volunteer online at <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/VBS>. Deadline to register is Tuesday, April 1.

ABOUT JOHN DONNE

Commemoration: March 31

Priest and poet John Donne was born in 1572 in London and ordained in 1615, after which he served as royal chaplain to King James I. Known as a distinguished "metaphysical poet" in English literature, his sonnets and sermons are among his most notable publications. The Hymnal 1982 features two of his hymns: "Wilt thou forgive that sin, where I begun" (140, 141), and "When Jesus died to save us" (322). (Adapted from Episcopalchurch.org)

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:

03/30: Andrew & Amanda Hege, Eleanor, David

03/31: Bo Henderson

04/01: Juliana Henderson

04/02: Lindsey Herring & Dallas Swoveland

04/03: Kate Hill

04/04: Norman & Janet Hillis

04/05: Torre Hinnant & David Brendle

In the Diocesan Cyle of Prayer: Parish of the Holy Communion, Glendale Springs

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, Emily R., Bob, Marty, Joe D., John, Angelina, Tom, Sheila, Stan, Nicholas, Emily, Jennifer W., Kristin L., Corrine C., Nick, Kim, Rebecca, Marge M., Andrew C., Nancy, Jim, Lucy, Chris M., Mary M.

****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: Ira Pierce, George, Ed, Fred, Leah Honeycutt

For those with other concerns: Mary, Marcia, Paul, Corinne D., Emily, Spencer Armstrong Family

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Caitlyn, Chelsea, Hanna, Katherine, Kelley, Taylor Griffis, Anna, Libba, Nicole, Amanda, Mills

For those celebrating a birthday:

03/31: Rick Lawler, Will Postlethwait

04/02: Anna Rundell

04/05: Page Parsons, Anderson Page, Zachary Page