



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA MAY 11, 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES – Our Summer Concert Series kicks off today at 3 pm. The High Country Improv Collective returns to St. Mary's with their own special blend of spontaneous, musical joy. The St. Mary's Friends of Music sponsor free concerts every month from May through October. Come and bring a friend! All are welcome! Learn more about the season's lineup at stmaryofthehills.org/music.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CREATION THROUGH A CELTIC LENS – Join us for the adult forum series in May led by The Rev. Torrence Harman. Class continues on Sundays at 9:10 am and we're also adding a weekday option with the same curriculum on Wednesdays at 10:30 am, prior to noon Eucharist. We'll continue to explore the Celtic Way woven within our Western Christian Tradition, highlighting the sacredness of earth, the interrelatedness of all life and finding the Holy in ordinary rhythms of living. Contact Torrence at 804-436-7591 or Lindsey Herring at Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org with questions.

THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PARISH WORKDAY – We made some great progress and extend a heartfelt thank you to those who continue to support this ministry.

PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES NO LONGER ACCEPTED – For many years, St. Mary's parishioners have collected their used prescription medicine bottles for reuse at the Community Care Clinic. The Clinic is no longer able to accept these used medicine bottles and we will no longer collect them in the Foyer. Thank you for your many years of faithful support of this ministry!

FOOD LION GLEANING PICKUP – St. Mary's picks up food gleaned from the Blowing Rock Food Lion each weekday to deliver to the Hunger and Health Coalition. This team is growing and looking for new volunteers to join in the pickup on weekday mornings. Contact Glary Gloster at 704.650.2014 to volunteer or if you have questions.

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 25 PICNIC – Save the date for our annual Welcome Back Picnic after the 10:10 am Eucharist on May 25. Join us as we get reacquainted with our seasonal friends!

VBS REGISTRATION – VBS runs June 18-20 and this year's VBS theme is Wild Wonder, where kids will embark on a fun-filled exploration of God's incredible creation. Through activities, nature discoveries and inspirational lessons, children will grow in their admiration and understanding of the world around them. Register at <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/VBS>.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR GEORGE BALL – The Memorial Service for George Ball, longtime member of St. Mary's who died in March, will be held on Saturday, May 17, at 1:30 pm at St. Mary of the Hills. A reception will follow in the Community Room at the Blowing Rock Art and History Museum. An obituary is available online here: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/wataugademocrat/name/george-ball-obituary?id=58316398>.

ABOUT PACHOMIUS OF TABENISSI

Commemoration: May 15

Born in 292, monastic Pachomius of Tabenissi is credited for creating the first formal monastic rule of life. Pachomius was drawn to ascetism in his younger years following his release from military imprisonment. He structured his life around manual labor, prayer and serving impoverished people and communities. Others were drawn to this way of life and soon a formal monastic community was born. This type of monastic community gained appeal among those unable to endure a life of solitude. A federation of monastic communities emerged from this movement, and included houses for both men and women all unified under a common organizational structure. Pachomius and his followers developed the first set of monastic rules to guide and structure life within these communities.

Adapted from forwardmovement.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:

05/11: Joseph & Susan Miller

05/12: Suzanne Miller

05/13: Cobb & Cindy Milner

05/14: Jane Milner

05/15: Mitch Mitchell & Leslie Billingsley

05/16: Paulette Mitchell

05/17: Perry & Jan Mixer

In the Diocesan Cyle of Prayer: Church of the Ascension, Hickory

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, India and Pakistan

For all affected by natural disaster

For healing: Dale, Bill & Jorgann Rogers; Jeff Hedden; Christine; John; Ann Greene; Bob Barham; Clare; Erin; Emily R.; Bob; Marty; Evie; Charlie; Kaye; Bolick Family; Janeli, Daniel & Bennet; Lynn Turnbow; Marg; Faith; Corinne; Jerry & Steph M.; Belinda Scanlon; Ginger (Alex); Doug T.

****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: Michael, Denver, Gae, Marshall Culp

For those traveling this week: Alex Lawler, Gigi Poole, Darren & Angie, Josh, Lindsey

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Caitlyn, Hanna, Katherine, Kelley, Taylor Griffis, Anna, Libba, Amanda, Hannah, Jordan, Jennifer, Corinne, Lauren

In thanksgiving: The election of a new Bishop of Rome and for the ministry of Pope Leo XIV; Hampton's graduation

For those celebrating a birthday:

05/06: Dave Reule

05/09: Mary Galke, P.J. Martin

05/10: Andy Sicard

05/15: Greg Rhoads

05/16: Leslie Temple

05/17: Ray Williams

For those celebrating an anniversary:

05/09: Cobb & Cindy Milner, Greg Rhoads & Lynn Searfoss

05/13: Bill & Donna Devereux