



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

AUGUST 10, 2025 | NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

HOLY HIKE THIS AFTERNOON – Families with children, along with all parishioners, are invited to “Discover God’s Creation” through a hike this afternoon at Trout Lake on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The hike will begin at 4 pm and be a leisurely 2-mile walk on flat terrain, perfect for all ages. The day will conclude with a scavenger hunt and Evening Prayer outdoors. Reach out to Michelle Curry at michellecurry523@gmail.com with questions.

FEAST OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN AUG. 17 – All are encouraged to join us as we celebrate St. Mary the Virgin with The Right Reverend Brian L. Cole, visiting preacher and the fifth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee.

CHORAL EVENSONG AUG. 17 – The St. Mary of the Hills choir will present a special Choral Evensong at 3 pm on Sunday, Aug. 17. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Music and all are welcome.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: AUG. 17 – The annual Blessing of the Backpacks will take place at both the 8 am and 10:10 am services on Sunday, Aug. 17, as well. Educators and students are invited to bring a briefcase or backpack or lunchbox—whatever works for you—as we ask God’s blessing upon the new academic year.

AUGUST BACKPACK DRIVE – Please join the Outreach Committee as we support our local schools with a Backpack Drive for the month of August. We would like to encourage you to bring in a backpack with school supplies for donation to our local schools by Aug. 31. Suggested items to pack your backpack with include pencils, notebooks, 16 count boxes of crayons or colored pencils, yellow highlighters, earbuds for computers, erasers, glue sticks and scissors. Contact Michelle michellecurry523@gmail.com with questions.

ANNUAL MEETING AUG. 24 – The Annual Meeting of the parish will be held on Sunday, Aug. 24, at 9 am in the Parish Hall. Please make plans to join us as we mark another year in the life of this congregation and look forward to the future into which God is calling us.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN GIRLS NIGHT OUT AUG. 12 – The ECW will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 5:30 pm at Hellbender. We are going to celebrate and toast the hard work everyone put in for the Tour as well as the blessings we all have. Hellbender is located on Sunset Drive. We have reservations for 25, so please RSVP to Sue Wilders suejackpaintfly@aol.com or 561-371-5989 as soon as possible.

SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 6-8 WEEKEND WITH WESTMINSTER ABBEY – All are invited to join us for a weekend of special events featuring Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey, the Rev. Canon Dr. James Hawkey, and Mr. Martin Castledine, Dean’s Verger at Westminster Abbey. Stay tuned for more details.

COFFEE MINUTE VOLUNTEERS – This is our primary point of contact each Sunday following the 10:10 am Eucharist and it’s a great time of fellowship. Partner with a friend to host and help cultivate a space of hospitality and welcome. Contact Director of Hospitality & Facilities Bill Devereux at bill@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:

08/10: Bobby Ball
08/11: David & Barbara Ballesty
08/12: A.J. & Jane Barghothi
08/13: Bob & Charlene Barham
08/14: Tom & Tina Barrett
08/15: Bill Battaglia
08/16: Lynne Bell

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: La Capilla de Santa Maria, Hendersonville

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, Russia, the Korean peninsula, Yemen, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Israel, Palestine, India, Pakistan and Iran

For healing: Dale; Bill & Jorgann Rogers; Jeff Hedden; Christine; Ann Greene; Bob Barham; Clare; Kaye; Kay McCloskey; John; Sylvia; Evie; John H.; Susan; Lynn Turnbow; John T.; Mike & Sarah Matthews; Lynn S.; Jim Tabor; Leigh; Pat B.; Myra; Susie Brown Wright; Darlene; Lucy; Chris M.; Mary M.; Renada; Will; Sandi; Renee; Wanda; Margaret; Van; Carolyn; Betty; Nioucha; Larry; Garris Haynes

****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: Shelby, James, Gabby, Tim, the Rev. Helen Tester

For those traveling: The Hayes family

For those with other concerns: David Matthews & Aarti Matthews; Josh; Corinne; Raquel, Savannah and Delilah; Lamar; family & friends of the Rev. Helen Tester

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Caitlyn, Katherine, Kelley, Anna, Hanna, Lauren, Jennifer, Corinne, Amy, Dani

For those celebrating a birthday:

08/10: Olivia Rickenbaker
08/11: William White
08/12: Gale Buchanan, Alex Lawler, Katy Thompson, Bill Pearson
08/15: Heather Cameron
08/16: Dale Sandusky, Cynthia Tessien

For those celebrating an anniversary:

08/11: Bill & Joellyn Gibbons