



**ST. MARY OF THE HILLS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024  
FIFTEENTH 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](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**

**OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY** – The Parish offices will be closed Monday, September 1, in observance of Labor Day and will reopen Tuesday at 9 am.

**UNCTION** – Unction, prayers for healing and anointing with oil, is offered today following both the 8 am and 10:10 am services.

**TODAY'S FORMATION**

**Godly Play** – This morning at 9 am upstairs in the St. Luke room, Amanda White and Sue Sweeting are telling a Godly Play story that centers around the question, "Will God be there, no matter where we are?" and the Great Family, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah. All are welcome!

**Rector's Forum** – *The Letter of James - An Epistle of Straw?*

For the next several Sundays, we will be reading from the Epistle of James during worship. Martin Luther once referred to this New Testament letter as "an Epistle of Straw." Join us on Sunday morning at 9 am in the Barrett Room for an introduction to this early Church letter and the ways in which it might apply to us as followers of Jesus here and now.

**RSVP FOR DINNER & A MOVIE FAMILY NIGHT SEPT. 8** – Families with children and their grandparents in honor of Grandparents Day, are invited to join us at 5 pm on Sunday, Sept. 8, in the Parish Hall for a pasta dinner, showing of the Disney film "Up" and a little discussion. Vegetarian option provided. RSVP by Tuesday, Sept. 3, to [lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org).

**REGISTER FOR CAREGIVER CONVERSATIONS SEPT. 8** – Ruple Memorial Presbyterian, AppFaithHealth and St. Mary of the Hills have partnered to offer active listening training to caregivers, lay leaders and church staff from 2:15 pm to 2:30 pm on Sept. 8 at Ruple. Register online at <https://rumplechurch.breezechms.com/form/b724d4> by September 1.

**RSVP FOR ECW MEETING TUESDAY** – All are invited to attend the next ECW meeting at 5:30 pm this Tuesday, Sept. 3. Parishioners Owene Courtney, Katherine Metzger and Gigi Poole, along with two others, will be giving a presentation about their pilgrimage to Ireland and sharing stories of their transformational journey. ECW is providing an Irish-themed main dish. Please bring an Irish-inspired side or dessert. RSVPs are necessary! RSVP to Sue Wilders at [suejackpaintfly@aol.com](mailto:suejackpaintfly@aol.com) or Suzanne Miller at [suziline41@gmail.com](mailto:suziline41@gmail.com).

**ECW SEPTEMBER DIAPER DRIVE** – The ECW diaper drive begins Tuesday and runs until the end of the month. Please bring packages of diapers to the ECW meeting Tuesday. You can also drop them off in the Church foyer throughout September. Donations benefit the Children's Council of Watauga County.

**PARISH ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOW-UP** – Thank you all so very much for joining us at the Annual Meeting last Sunday. We had roughly 50 people attend and join us in celebrating God's faithfulness in community. We elected four new Vestry members: Mike Matthews, Luba Skibo, Bob Miller and Bob Rhoads. Visit <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/annualmeeting> if you'd like to see a copy of the updated annual report. Copies are available at the Church as well.

**AUGUST VESTRY MEETING** – View highlights from the August 20 Vestry Meeting, as well as approved minutes from previous months, online by visiting <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/vestry>.

**MENTORS NEEDED** – Western Youth Network works closely with local youth referred by Watauga and Avery County schools to get volunteer one-on-one mentors. Youth are paired with safe, reliable volunteer mentors who can commit to spending a couple of hours weekly with the young person as a good role model. WYN is in need of volunteers for this mentoring program. Visit <https://www.westernyouthnetwork.org/our-work/mentoring/> for more information and volunteer applications.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

*Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gwendolyn Adams Courtney and Owene Hall Weber,  
great grandmothers of Ada and Quito*

### PARISH PRAYER LIST

**For the Church:** Michael our Presiding Bishop; Sean, our Presiding Bishop-elect; 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:**

09/01: Helene Harper & Mike Tinka  
09/02: Kevin & Christina Hayes  
09/03: Andy & Claudia Heath  
09/04: Andrew & Amanda Hege, Eleanor and David  
09/05: Bo Henderson  
09/06: Juliana Henderson  
09/07: Lindsey Herring & Dallas Swoveland

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** All Saints, Linville; Church of the Resurrection, Little Switzerland

**For our nation and those in positions of public trust:** Joseph, our President; Roy, our Governor; all those who hold elected office; and for those offering themselves for election this year

**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:** Adam, Dale, Jorgann Rogers, Jeff Hedden, Gary, Kay McCloskey, Christine, John, Ann Greene, Bob Barham, Clare, Bill Tessien, Mary, Chris M., Logan, Chris Johnson, Evie, Pat B., Linda P., Don, Charlie, Harry, The Rogers Family, Betty H., Tony, Ben C., Lucy, James Pettitt, Emily R., Joe

*\*\*\*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:** Peggy, Ed, Deke Tate, Von Poston, Glenn

**For those with other concerns:** Diane, Jena and Family; John Shuler; Connor; Kevin, Jeannie & Erin

**For those traveling this week:** William, Tim Silver

**For safe pregnancy and delivery:** Caitlyn, Mary Ella, Blair Sudderth, Sarah

**For those celebrating a birthday:**

09/01: Lee Rocamora  
09/02: Diana Doswell  
09/04: Tina Barrett  
09/05: Toby Cone  
09/07: Butch Kerns

**For those celebrating an anniversary:**

09/02: Doug & Mary Galke, Pete & Sally Page  
09/06: Paul & Loy McGill, Joe & Diana Doswell  
09/07: Bob & Alva Browning