



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 15, 2023

WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS!

We are so glad that you are here. If you are a guest among us, we invite you to complete a 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 information about our congregation's life and ministry.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 16th, in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. We will reopen at 9:00AM on Monday, January 17th.

SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN FORMATION OFFERINGS

- **Rector's Forum** - Join us this morning for a conversation about our appointed scripture passages and their intersection with our lives. We gather at 9:00AM in the Barrett Room (second floor, above the Parish Hall). All are welcome!
- **Godly Play** - This morning in the St. Luke Room, Godly Play will be offered for our children of all ages. The topic is the circle of the sacred year.

WORSHIP DURING THE WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

- **Morning Prayer** – Join us for Morning Prayer, a short (15-20 minute) service, offered Monday-Friday at 8:30AM in the Church.
- **Holy Eucharist on Wednesdays at 12:00PM** – Holy Eucharist is offered each Wednesday at 12:00PM in the Church.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed each year in January between the Feasts of the Confession of St. Peter (January 18) and the Conversion St. Paul (January 25). Both of these feast days will be observed as a part of our regular Wednesday Eucharists. You are invited to join in this season of prayer for the whole Church. A prayer 'For the Unity of the Church' on page 255 of the Book of Common Prayer is particularly appropriate in these days.

MORE THAN ENOUGH – Many thanks for your abundant generosity toward St. Mary of the Hills! Our annual giving campaign has received pledges in the amount of \$466,959. The annual operating cost of the parish totals more than \$500,000. It's not too late to submit a pledge for 2023 as we journey together into God's good future.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE - The church's Grounds Committee has several small projects that needs doing to beautify the church. We could use some extra hands to make the work quick and easy. The projects are normally 2-3 hours and involve some gardening, minor carpentry work, and other light manual work. If you are interested in helping, please contact Bob Finney, Junior Warden, at finneyb1@mac.com. Our next project is January 18 at 1:00PM

CONNECTING WITH THE DIOCESE OF WNC – Stay up to date with the latest news and offerings from the Diocese of Western North Carolina, as well as messages from Bishop McLoughlin, by subscribing to the weekly e-newsletter. Subscribe online via the diocesan website – www.diocesewnc.org

FLOWER OFFERING

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the Church: Michael our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, Andrew, Sam and Gary our clergy, for our Vestry and staff, and for all the people of this parish. We pray particularly in these days for the unity of the Church throughout the world.

In our Parish Prayer Cycle, we remember this week:

1/15 Norman and Janet Hillis
1/16 Torre Hinnant and David Brendle
1/16 Matthew and Sara Hitechew
1/17 Marjory Holder and Larry Turnbow
1/18 Alice Holt
1/19 Richard and Betty Howe
1/20 Sterling Hutcheson

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer: Episcopal Church Women, Daughters of the King

For our nation and those in positions of public trust: Joseph, our President, Roy, 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 people of the Korean peninsula, the people of Yemen, and the people of Ethiopia.

For all medical personnel and all ministering to the needs of those affected by COVID-19.

For healing: Roy McCraw, Cliff Minor, Lois, Jill Gloster, Lauren, Denise A., Lucy A., Joel Keys, Jayden, Paula, Mel, Greg, Louann Kitchell, Elizabeth, Cat Carter, Joe Dyer, Christi and Charlie, Carl and his family, Elizabeth Young, Chris, 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 with other concerns: Matthew, Julia

For those who have died: Marshall Pitts, Faye Church, Buzzy Miller, Bill Epps, Wil, Steve Frank

For those traveling this week: Luba, Marjory and Larry, Mary Ellen and Joe

For safe pregnancy and delivery for: Amy Shelton, Darrow, Rebecca Purcell, Caitlyn

For those celebrating a birthday this week:

1/16 Charles "Bunky" Davant, III, Mike Tinka
1/18 Michelle Curry
1/19 Amanda White