



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

JANUARY 4, 2026

WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

We are so glad that you are here to share in worship of the Living God and in this community with one another.

Restrooms are in the hallway beyond the Foyer. A nursery is available for children and is located in the hallway beyond the Parish Hall.

Coffee and Refreshments are served following each service, in Foyer following 8:00AM and in the Parish Hall following 10:10AM.

More information about our parish is available online at www.stmaryofthehills.org.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Unction – Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Holy Oil for Healing is offered following both the 8:00AM and 10:10AM Holy Eucharist this morning. Any who desire to receive these prayers for healing may gather in the first pew immediately following the service. Holy Unction is also offered on the Third Wednesday of each month at the 12:00PM mid-week Holy Eucharist.

Coffee Minute Hosts –Please join us in the Parish Hall following our 10:10AM Holy Eucharist or in the Foyer following the 8:00AM Holy Eucharist. You can host too! Partner with a friend to host and help cultivate a space of hospitality and welcome for all. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall for the early months of 2026.

Rector's Forum – The Rector's Forum takes a break this morning and will return on Sunday, January 11.

Tell Out My Soul – Annual Giving 2026 – It's a new year! Have you submitted a pledge card with your intention for giving in the year ahead? Pledge cards for 2026 are available in the Foyer and in the Parish Hall, as well as on our parish website. Submitting a pledge allows our Vestry and Staff to better plan and make decisions about our common mission and ministry.

The Epiphany of our Lord – The Feast of the Epiphany will be observed on January 6th at 12:00PM with Holy Eucharist, including a Blessing of Chalk for use in marking the threshold of homes. Join us!

Lessons and Carols – RESCHEDULED – January 11th at 3:00PM – Join us on Sunday afternoon, January 11, for Lessons and Carols for Christmas and Epiphany. We'll read the ancient scriptures that tell the story of our anticipation and waiting all the way through to the birth of our Lord and the wise sages journey to offer their gifts.

Worship During the Week –

- Morning Prayer returns this week on Monday, January 5, and is offered each weekday morning at 8:30AM.
- Holy Eucharist is offered each Wednesday at 12:00PM in the Church. Prayers for Healing, along with Laying on of Hands and Anointing is offered on the third Wednesday of each month.

THANK YOU – Many, many thanks to all members of our Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Choir, Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Pageant Coordinators, and all those who joined in greening and preparing the Church for the Christmas season! The joy of the season is made richer by the ways in which everyone offers their gifts in this community of faith. Thank you!

Vestry Highlights – The Parish Vestry met on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. In addition to a time of prayer and regular monthly reports, the Vestry's also took the following actions –

- Approved the 2026 Operating Budget for the parish.
- Elected Officers – Peter Purcell, Senior Warden; Mike Matthews, Junior Warden; Amanda White, Treasurer; Lynn Searfoss, Clerk
- Approved Outreach Allocations supporting local hunger relief, as well as international disaster relief

The next meeting of the Vestry will be held on Tuesday, January 20th, beginning at 5:45PM.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the Church: Sean 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.

In our Parish Prayer Cycle, we remember this week:

- 1/4 Ham Wilson
- 1/5 Sallie Wintz & Jenny Womack
- 1/6 Albert Yount
- 1/7 Chris Albertson & Joe Coyne
- 1/8 Walt & Martha Ameika
- 1/9 Bob Amos & Sallie Corrigan
- 1/10 Charlie & Amy Anderson

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Church of the Epiphany, Newton

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 Gaza.

For those affected by natural disaster and especially for the people of Cuba & Jamaica in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

For healing: Torre; Susie; Katherine; Valerie P.; Pete P.; Olivia; Luba; Lynn S.; Mike & Sarah; David; Dale; Bill & Jorgann; Jeff Hedden; Ann Greene; Bob; Clare; Evie; John H. Pat B.; Lucy A.; Myra; Chris M.; Mary M.; Larry, Joan Anderson, Tony; Margaret; Denny; Lambert; Cullie; Patti; Cammie; Mary Pearce; Jennifer; David; Susan B., Maureen, Jonathan; Kari

****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: The Matthews Family; Josh; Corinne; Joe Dulaney; Sylvia

For those who travel: Booker Purcell

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Sydney, Caitlyn, Katherine, Anna, Hanna, Jennifer, Corinne, Dani, Jessica

For those celebrating a birthday:

- 1/8 Jim Snow
- 1/10 Jim Brooks, Joe Dyer, Chris Metzger

For those celebrating an anniversary:

- 1/6 Joe & Mary Ellen Raulerson

For those who have died: David; Athelene