



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

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 community with one another.

Restrooms are in the hallway beyond the Foyer. A nursery is available for children up to age five and is in the hallway beyond the Parish Hall. 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.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rector's Forum – This morning Fr. Andrew will continue a series re-introducing the Gospel of Matthew, from which we will read primarily in worship beginning in the season of Advent and throughout 2026. We gather in the Barrett Room at 9:00AM. All are welcome!

Tell Out My Soul – Annual Giving 2026 – With gratitude for the ways that St. Mary's parishioners have supported the mission and ministry of our parish this year, we are looking to the year ahead and making plans for our common life. Our parish relies on your generous financial support and our Finance Committee and Vestry are now planning our priorities and budget for the coming year. Pledge cards for 2026 are available in the Foyer and Parish Hall, as well as on our website.

Parent's Night Out – TONIGHT - In continuation of our children and families' offerings, St. Mary of the Hills will offer a parents night out this evening from 4:30-7:30PM. We will provide childcare, activities, dinner and a movie. Contact Cayla Honeycutt (cnoble@alumni.ncsu.edu) for more information or to RSVP. Save the date also for an Advent/Christmas Gathering on Sunday, December 14.

Worship During the Week –

- Morning Prayer is offered each weekday morning at 8:30AM; this service lasts approximately 15-20 minutes and includes readings from scripture along with prayers of intercession for our full parish prayer list.
- Holy Eucharist is also offered each Wednesday at 12:00PM and on major feast days, as announced.

Bread of Life at Hospitality House – Bread of Life teams have been preparing meals for friends at Hospitality House for more than 25 years. There are 5 teams providing meals just one day per month. We would love it if you would help us serve as well. Please contact Sue Wilders (suejackpaintfly@aol.com) or Mike Austell (austellmike37@gmail.com) to learn more or to join one of our teams.

November Diaper Drive – Throughout the month of November, the Outreach Committee invites the parish to participate in a drive to support the Diaper Bank at the Children's Council of Watauga County. Diapers will be collected in the Foyer and all sizes are currently needed by the Children's Council.

A Quiet Pre-Advent Retreat at Valle Crucis Conference Center - Advent fills us with the thrill of anticipation for the joy that is to come. We will experience this together with those who were present and waiting more than 2000 years ago. Whom were they expecting? What was it they were seeing? How did they greet the mind-opening promises given to them? This annual retreat will take place on Saturday, November 22, in Johnson Hall, from 10:00 to 2:00PM. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Save the Dates –

- **Episcopal Church Women** - On December 3rd at 5:30PM the ECW will celebrate the holidays with a cookie exchange, Pot Luck dinner and Dirty Santa gift exchange. Bring your favorite cookies to share, an inexpensive gift for the exchange, and a side for the dinner. Please RSVP to Sue Wilders suejackpaintfly@aol.com.
- **'Buy Boone Lunch' – December 10** – On Wednesday, December 10, St. Mary's is sponsoring another 'Buy Boone Lunch' event at F.A.R.M. Café. Sign-up will be available soon for set-up, serving, and clean-up, throughout the day.

Coffee Minute Hosts – Please join us in the Parish Hall following our 10:10 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.

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:

11/16 Pete & Sally Page

11/17 Page Parsons

11/18 Carmen & Patty Patella

11/19 Nick & Sara Placentra

11/20 Shawn & Gigi Poole

11/21 Ryan & Lindsey Pstlethwait, Will

11/22 Peter & Valerie Purcell

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Spanish Speaking Congregations at Trinity, Spruce Pine; St. Mary's, Morganton; Grace, Waynesville; and Church of our Savior, Newland; and for Diocesan Spanish Speaking Missioners

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: Rachel; Pete P.; Olivia; Luba; Lynn S.; Mike & Sarah; David; Dale; Bill & Jorgann; Jeff Hedden; Christine; Ann Greene; Bob; Clare; Evie; Susan; Leigh; John H. Pat B.; Lucy A.; Myra; Chris M.; Mary M.; Larry, Joan Anderson, Tony; Margaret; Patsy; Susie; Jim; Denny; Lambert; Daniel R; Marie; Pam; Bill; Pat; Jonathan; Robert; Anthony D.; Hudson Van Dyke, Melanie, Leigh; Sarah Johnson; Bob; Susan; Todd, Steve B.

****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; The Reece Family; Ruby & Family

For those who travel: Tom & Tina; Barbara & Rick; Booker Purcell; Luba; William Sudderth

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

For those celebrating a birthday:

11/17 John Bagg, Jerry Starnes

11/18 Bob Barham, Caroline Howe Clapp

For those who have died: Lisle; Scott; Andrey Skibo