



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA Nov. 24, 2024

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

THANKSGIVING DAY EUCHARIST & OFFICE CLOSURE – Holy Eucharist will be offered at 11 am on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 28. All are welcome! In observance of Thanksgiving, the church offices will close at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 27, and will be closed all day Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION – Join us at 9 am on the second floor Sunday for Rector's Forum and Godly Play. All are welcome.

- In the Barrett Room, Father Andrew will continue to lead us through the Gospel according to Luke. Join us as we explore ways in which Luke is similar to and distinct from the other Gospel accounts in sacred scripture.
- Across the hall in the St. Luke room, our elementary-aged children will learn about the magic behind parables, their importance in Jesus' teachings and how these stories are passed down from generation to generation.

NOVEMBER VESTRY MEETING RECAP – The St. Mary of the Hills Vestry had their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 19. Vestry meets the third Tuesday of every month at 5:45 pm in the Parish Hall. Parishioners are welcome to attend. Below are some highlights of actions taken this month:

- Heard updates on the Walk in Love Annual Giving Campaign, reviewed a draft budget for 2025 and gave feedback to the Finance Committee.
- Approved the parish's 2025 financial pledge to Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina.
- Approved Outreach Allocations to Valle Crucis Conference Center, The Children's Playhouse, Community Care Clinic, Casting Bread Food Pantry and Compassion International.
- Heard updates related to the 102nd Convention of the Diocese, upcoming Christian Formation offerings and efforts at expanding our ministries of hospitality.

ECW DECEMBER GATHERING – The annual ECW Christmas party occurs on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 5:30 pm. Join the gang for a fireside chat and bring a potluck favorite to share. There will be a cookie and recipe exchange, as well as a "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. And, it wouldn't be an ECW Christmas event without an ugly Christmas sweater contest! Be brave and don your gayest apparel! RSVP to Sue Wilders at suejackpaintfly@aol.com.

'ANGELS: BRIDGING HEAVEN AND EARTH' ADULT FORUM – On Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22 from 9:10 am to 10 am in the Barrett Room, the Rev. Torrence Harman will lead an Advent study of angels. We will locate these special messengers of God in Old and New Testament scripture, look at how we earthly beings have viewed them over the centuries and ponder their presence in contemporary life. Join us for as many of these conversations as your schedule permits.

SIGN UP FOR ADVENT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – A new, lay-led Women's Bible Study will occur at 10:30 am on Dec. 6, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20 at the church. We'll learn about foreshadowing of Jesus in the Old Testament, have a time for fellowship and celebrate the Advent season in community. RSVP to Lindsey Herring at Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS –

- **Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild is in need of volunteers to help with Sunday or Wednesday services once a month. This ministry cares for the sacred vessels, altar, altar linens, vestments and more. Contact Sue Sweeting at sweetingsue75@yahoo.com for more details.
- **Christmas Eve Pageant:** As we prepare for this year's Christmas pageant, we'll be upgrading the costume collection for the children. Items like robes, halos, head coverings, sashes and white clothing (T-shirts, turtlenecks, etc.) are needed in a few different sizes. Contact Lindsey Herring at Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org for details.

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:

11/24: Otis & Jean Sawyer

11/25: Sarah Schiener

11/26: Terry & Susan Schilson

11/27: Jim & Susan Shaut

11/28: John & Caroline Shepard

11/29: Mary Gayle Shorkey

11/30: Tim & Cathia Silver, Julianna

In the Diocesan Cyle of Prayer: Christ Church, Sparta; Church of the Savior, Newland; Chapel of Christ the King, Craggy Correctional Center, Asheville and all other prison ministries

For our nation and those in positions of public trust: Joseph, our President; Donald our President-Elect; Roy, our Governor; Josh, our Governor-Elect; all those who hold elected office; and for those who offered 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, especially those impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton

For healing: Dale, Bill & Jorgann Rogers, Jeff Hedden, Christine, John, Ann Greene, Bob Barham, Clare, Bill Tessien, Emily R., Sam, Evie, Lisa K., Julia, Thad, Roy, Chris, Mary, Lucy, Chris J., Bryan, Lisa, Ben C., Suzie W., Tanya, Alison, Sheila & Ray, John, Christine, Nioucha, Peter, Judy, Lynn Turnbow, Anne, Tom Dixson, Taylor Van Dyke, John Rundell, Gaither

****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: Goetz, Butch, Adam, Nick Lyons, Margaret Robins, Richard, Ted, Cole, Cindy

For those with other concerns: Chris & Angela, Kirra, Sophia, Belle; The Robins Family, Corinne; The Ward Family; Cody

For those traveling this week: Jim C.; Troskey Family, Bent Family

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Caitlyn, Mary Ella, Sarah, Bre Lawler, Emma Unkovic, Elizabeth, Chelsea

For those celebrating a birthday:

11/29: Adam Lemnoui

For those celebrating an anniversary:

11/24: Ray & Heather Cameron