



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

NOVEMBER 30, 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 – Join Lynn Searfoss and the Rev'd Torrence Harmon at 9:00AM in the Barrett Room for a conversation about Stephen Ministry. For many years, Stephen Ministry has been empowering congregations, around the country and across the spectrum of denominations, train and equip lay leaders for lasting relationships of care and support. Lynn and Torrence recently completed Leader Training and will be forming our first cohort of ministers in early 2026.

Tell Out My Soul – Annual Giving 2026 – Many in our community have responded so generously to our 2026 campaign already; however, there are still many from whom we've not yet heard this year. 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.

Reading Between the Lines – Join Owene Courtney in the Parish Library on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-10:00AM to read, mark and inwardly digest the gospel stories for Advent. Using a process and path for reading scripture called Reading Between the Lines, we invite you to journey alongside the characters of Christmas, listening to their stories and your own, imagining where they intersect.

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, a inexpensive gift for the exchange, and a side for the dinner. ECW will provide the main course. Please RSVP to Sue Wilders suejackpaintfly@aol.com.

Worship During the Week –

- The Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle, will be observed on Monday, December 1st. Holy Eucharist will be offered at 9:00AM, following Morning Prayer. Join us. All are welcome!
- 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.

'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 is now available online for set-up, serving, and clean-up, throughout the day.

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. Last call! Diapers will delivered this week.

WYN Christmas Angels – In partnership with Western Youth Network (WYN), we are seeking sponsors to provide a child or youth in need with a special Christmas package, which includes a gift, an outfit, a coat, and a pair of shoes. All gifts need to be to the church by December 15th. Families and friends are welcome to team up to sponsor and shop for a child together. To be matched with an angel or if you have any questions, please email Michelle Curry at verger@stmaryofthehills.org.

Christmas Flower/Music Offerings – As we begin Advent and look toward Christmas, you may wish to honor or remember a loved one with a gift toward Christmas flowers and greenery or music. Forms are available in the Foyer or you may contact Michael Marshall (michael@stmaryofthehills.org) in the Parish Office. Please be sure to note 'Christmas flowers' or 'Christmas music' with your gift. A full listing will be included in the Christmas bulletin, noting those in whose memory/honor a gift has been made.

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:

11/30 Bill & Jorgann Rogers
12/1 Bryan & Maria Saterbo
12/2 Otis & Jean Sawyer
12/3 Terry & Susan Schilson
12/4 Andy Sicard & Will Merrill
12/5 Tim & Cathia Silver, Julianna
12/6 Luba Skibo

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Andrew's, Bessemer City; St. Andrew's, Canton

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; Susie; Bob; Clare; Evie; Susan; Leigh K; 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.; Josh; Kerry R.; Mary; Allie

****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; Hampton Van Dyke

For those who travel: Booker Purcell

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

For those celebrating a birthday:

12/5 Marty Moore
12/6 Barbara Yale-Read, Bill Tessien,
Patty Patella, Sue Wilders

For those celebrating an anniversary

12/2 Jim & Joyce Gibson
12/3 John & Ann Bagg

For those who have died: Posie Duphiné; Lisle; Scott; David; Louis Hughes