



# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA DECEMBER 1, 2024 ADVENT I

## 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](http://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

**Advent Resources** – Advent resources are available for pickup in the Parish Hall. Please feel free to take whatever you'd like to help you better observe the season. Reach out with questions requests.

**Christian Formation** – Join us at 9 am on the second floor Sunday for Rector's Forum. All are welcome.

- In the Barrett Room today, we'll begin a new Adult Forum on "Angels: Bridging Heaven and Earth." On Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22, from 9:10 am to 10 am, 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. Hope you will join us for as many of them as your schedule permits.
- There is no Children's Formation today.

**Family & Children's Formation on Dec. 8** – Camp Henry Interim Director Sadie McNair will join us for coffee and conversation at 9 am on Dec. 8 in the Parish Hall. Her discussion will center around Camp Henry and the role attending summer camp plays in the lifelong Formation of our youth. Families, parents and youth are encouraged to attend. Afterward, we'll be offering Children's Formation at 9:50 am in the St. Luke Room for elementary-age children, which occur during the first portion of the 10:10 am service. They'll process into the Church and join their families during the Peace.

**ECW December Gathering Tuesday** – 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](mailto:suejackpaintfly@aol.com).

### 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](mailto:sweetingsue75@yahoo.com) for more details.
- **Christmas Eve Pageant:** As we prepare for this year's Christmas pageant, we'll be upgrading and adding new items to the costume collection for the children. We'll need items like robes, sashes, halos, head coverings and white clothing (T-shirts, turtlenecks, etc.) in a few different sizes. For more details, reach out to Lindsey Herring at [Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org).

**Men's Advent Bible Study Begins Thursday** – Father Andrew will lead a Men's Bible Study on Thursday mornings at 9 am., focusing on the Sunday Gospel Lessons for Advent.

**Sign up for Advent Women's Bible Study** – This is a three-week study led by parishioner Patricia Murphy focusing on the foreshadowing of Jesus in the Old Testament. It occurs at 10:30 am on Fridays this month, Dec. 6, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20, at the Church. Come for fellowship, learning and to celebrate the season. RSVP to Formation Director Lindsey Herring at [Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org).

# 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:**

12/01: Michael & Amanda Silverman

12/02: Peter Sitz

12/03: Luba Skibo, Angela

12/04: Paul & Karen Smiley

12/05: Gina & Kempton Smith

12/06: Jim & Kay Snow

12/07: E. B. Springs

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** The Anglican Communion

**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 Dixon, Taylor Van Dyke, John Rundell, Gaither, Duane, Lauren, Brad, Cooper, Andrew C.

*\*\*\*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, Michael

For Thanksgiving: Marriage of Jonathan & Ava on Oct. 24

**For those traveling this week:** Jim C.; Troskey Family, Bent Family, Johnny, Ava & Johnathan

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

**For those celebrating a birthday:**

12/05: Marty Moore

12/06: Barbara Yale-Read, Bill Tessien, Patty Patella, Sue Wilders

**For those celebrating an anniversary:**

12/02: Jim & Joyce Gibson

12/03: John & Ann Bagg