



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA DEC. 8, 2024 ADVENT II

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

Advent Resources – Advent resources are available for pickup in the Parish Hall. Please feel free to take whatever you'd like to enable you and your family to engage with the season. Additional resources are available online at <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/advent>.

Christian Formation – All are welcome.

- In the Barrett Room today from 9:10 am to 10 am, we'll continue our four-week Adult Forum on "Angels: Bridging Heaven and Earth" led by the Rev. Torrence Harman. The second session of this Advent study focuses on specific passages and the work of Angels in the Old and New Testaments. Handouts from the Dec. 1 Forum will also be available for pickup. The remaining sessions occur Dec. 15 and Dec. 22, and we hope you will join us for as many of them as your schedule permits.
- In the Parish Hall today, Interim Director of Camp Henry and the Outdoor School Sadie McNair joins us for a fireside chat at 9 am. Camp Henry is a Western Diocese of NC ministry that offers retreat and camp experiences for all ages, and is focused on spiritual renewal, nature and growing in love and community. Families, parents and children are encouraged to attend, meet Sadie and learn about the role Camp Henry can play in the lifelong Formation of Episcopalians. Children's Formation to follow upstairs.
- Young Children & Worship, a special offering today for elementary-age children, occurs during the first portion of the 10:10 am service in the St. Luke Room. Children should be dropped off upstairs at 9:50 am. They'll process into the Church and join their families during the Peace.

In-Person Realm Training – On Sunday, Dec. 15, Parish Administrator Michael Marshall will be available in the Barrett room from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm to walk through Realm with anyone interested in learning more about it. Michael can also help you enroll if you haven't already. If you have enrolled, he can walk you through the nuances and benefits of this important tool. You may RSVP in Realm, but this is a drop-in event as well, so all you have to do is show up!

Call for Altar Guild Volunteers – The Altar Guild is in need of volunteers to help with Sunday or Wednesday services once a month. This ministry cares for sacred vessels, altar, altar linens, vestments and more. Contact Sue Sweeting at sweetingsue75@yahoo.com for more details.

Men's Advent Bible Study Continues – On Thursday morning at 9 am, Father Andrew will continue leading us through the Sunday Gospel Lessons for Advent during Men's Bible Study. The study meets in the Barrett Room.

Advent Women's Bible Study Continues – Join us for the second session of our Women's Advent Study on the foreshadowing of Jesus in the Old Testament, led by longtime Christian educator and fellow parishioner Patricia Murphy. The study occurs at 10:30 am Dec. 13 and Dec. 20 at the Church.

Daughters of the King Meeting – The Daughters of the King at St. Mary of the Hills will meet Dec. 15 at 9 am.

Longest Night Service – All are invited to join Boone UMC this year for the Longest Night Service on Dec. 19 at 6:30 pm. In their sanctuary. This service is a time to join together during one of the longest nights of the year to create sacred space and bring peace for those who have experienced loss in many forms. The service will also be livestreamed on the Boone UMC YouTube channel.

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:

12/08: Jerry & Genie Starnes

12/09: Audrey Stone, Linda

12/10: Jill Storelli

12/11: Denise Story, Greg Lambeth

12/12: Katherine Strand

12/13: Bill Stroh

12/14: Elizabeth Sudderth

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church

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., Lynn Turnbull, Anne, Tom Dixson, Taylor Van Dyke, John Rundell, Carole, Duane, Lauren, Brad, Cooper, Andrew C., Siri, Hayden, Ron, Lindsey, Sam, Evie, Lucy, Chris M., Mary M., John Bagg, Todd R., Bob Finney, Sandie, Ann

****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: Ted, Cole, Grayson, Bill

For those with other concerns: Corinne, the Ward Family, Cody, Michael, Blair, Josh & Barb

For those traveling this week: The Galke Family

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

For those celebrating a birthday:

12/08: Dick Kitchell

12/09: Andrew Capen, Rachel Capen Blackburn