



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 10, 2023

WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS!

We are so glad that you are here. If you are a guest among us, we invite you to complete a 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 information about our congregation's life and ministry.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTIAN FORMATION TODAY

- **Godly Play** for children ages 3 to 10 occurs at 9:00AM in the St. Luke Room every Sunday. We continue learning about the season of Advent, leading up to Christmas.
- **Rector's Forum** – Throughout the Sundays of Advent, Fr. Andrew will weave together reflections from the appointed scripture passages, poetry, music, and art. Grab a cup of coffee and join us on the remaining Sundays in Advent, December 10 and 17 – at 9:00AM in the Barrett Room (second floor, above the Parish Hall) for conversation.

COFFEE MINUTE – Join us in the Foyer (following the 8:00AM service) or in the Parish Hall (following the 10:10AM service) for coffee, refreshments and time for conversation. Hosts are still needed for the 10:10AM service Coffee Minute. A sign-up sheet is available in the Parish Hall.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – If you wish to honor or remember a loved one this Christmas, please consider donating to the flower guild for Christmas greenery and flowers or to the music fund which supports our Summer Concert Series. There will be a list of those who give and in whose honor/memory the gift is made in the Christmas bulletins.

HEIFER DURING ADVENT – We are having a Heifer table at Coffee Minute every Sunday during Advent where you can make your donation via check, cash or credit card, and pick up your gift cards for those folks who look forward to getting a goat, sheep, chicken and more for Christmas. There will also be a table in the Foyer for our 8:00AM friends.

CENTERING PRAYER DURING ADVENT – We are offering Centering Prayer in the Church on Wednesdays during Advent from 11:15-11:45AM.

ADVENT BOOK COMPANION – This Advent, Fr. Andrew invites the parish to join in reading *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*, a newly released book penned by retired United Methodist Bishop and Duke Divinity School Professor Will Willimon. Join us on Wednesdays at 4:00PM for conversation or join by Zoom. The Zoom link is on the homepage of our church website (www.stmaryofthehills.org) and the Weekly Epistle.

ROOTED IN ABUNDANCE – ANNUAL GIVING 2024 – Have you submitted your pledge card for 2024? Currently we have received 105 pledges for \$458,688. We want to hear from you! Our Vestry leaders are making plans for the year ahead and every commitment of wealth, works, and wisdom is essential to our common life of mission and ministry.

SAVE THE DATE:

- December 20 – A Service of Hope and Light at 5:30PM at Rumble Presbyterian Church
- December 21 – The Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle.
Holy Eucharist at 9:00AM



Christmas

at

St. Mary of the Hills

Christmas Eve

- 5:00PM Holy Eucharist
with Children's Pageant
- 10:00PM Holy Eucharist
Sung Service with Incense
Prelude begins at 9:45PM

Christmas Day

- 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist
with Carols of the Season

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the Church: Michael 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:

12/10 Natalie Bovino and Ken Johnson, Lula

12/11 William and Woodson Bradley

12/12 Nioucha Branstrom

12/13 Jim Brooks

12/14 Pal and Nakita Brooks

12/15 Bob and Alva Browning

12/16 Jim and Gale Buchanan

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer: Church of the Incarnation, Highlands

For our nation and those in positions of public trust: Joseph, our President, Roy, 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 Palestine and especially for Alon Shamriz, taken hostage in the present conflict between Israel and Palestine.

For healing: Gary, Mary Ellen, Joe, Su, Cullie, Stephanie, Dick R., Larry, Kent Wells, Timothy, Dale, Mary M., Mary, Belinda, Betty, Randolph, Alyce, Vincent, Daphne, Matt, Carol, Chris, Rick, Hayes R., Lindsey, Pat, M J, Baxter, Meg Henry, Jan, Lois, Evie, Christine, Kay McCloskey, Roseann, Lynne, Carolyn, Lora, Jo-Anne Findt, Sheila, Mike, Adam, Luella, Clare, Michael Curry, Ann Greene, Greg, Bob Barham

****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: Marla MacKenzie, Tom Mallard, Piney, Van, Franklin "Sandy" Sanders, Butch, Sallie, for all victims of gun violence

For those with other concerns: Blair, Earl, Martina

For those travelling: Rick and Barbara

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Crawford, Selby, Hanna, Caitlyn, Emily

For those celebrating a birthday this week:

12/15 Bill Furr

In thanksgiving for the births of: Stevie Elise McBride, born November 11th to Paige and Jeff McBride and Caroline Phillips Courtney, born November 26th to Nick and Lauren Courtney. Grandparents are Bill and Owene Courtney