



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 11, 2022

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

MORE THAN ENOUGH - Have you made your pledge for 2023? As of this week, we've received 85 pledges totaling \$345,109. Join in making a commitment to our common life and mission in the year ahead today – pledge cards are available in the pew racks and online www.stmaryofthehills.org.

SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN FORMATION OFFERINGS

- **Rector's Forum** – During the season of Advent, the Rector's Forum will be grounded in reflections from the monks of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. We gather at 9:00AM in the Barrett Room.
- **Godly Play** - This morning in the St. Luke Room, Godly Play will be offered for our children of all ages.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY AND CONVERSATION CIRCLE – On Thursdays in Advent, (December 1 - December 22), from 12:00PM-1:00PM either online or in person, we will discuss the powerful book, *Names for the Messiah*, from noted Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann. Books will be available in the church office or online. It is not too late to join!

MORNING PRAYER – Join us for Morning Prayer, offered Monday-Friday at 8:30AM in the Church.

A SERVICE OF HOPE AND LIGHT – In this Longest Night service of Hope and Light, we acknowledge that there are many for whom the holiday season is not a joyful time. During this service of worship, we are invited to be our true selves and to allow our true feelings to be expressed, trusting in the light and hope revealed in Christ. This service will be held Wednesday, December 21st at **5:30PM** at Faithbridge United Methodist Church (194 Aho Road). Annually, this service is offered in partnership with friends from Faithbridge United Methodist Church and Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church.

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. There will be a list of those who give and in whose memory/honor the gift is made in the Christmas bulletins. All gifts are welcome. A suggested donation is \$50.

SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY –

- **2022 HONOR CARD** – Support the Hospitality House where 100% of the contributions support housing, hunger relief and homelessness prevention in seven Northwest NC counties by buying a \$5 Honor Card to send to friends and family for this Christmas season. Honor Cards are available in the foyer or you may order them online at: <https://hosphouse.org/honorc card>.
- **Gloves for Hospitality House** – We are collecting waterproof gloves (60 pairs for men, 60 pairs for women) to share with our friends at Hospitality House to fulfill their Christmas wish list. Please bring the items to the church; a basket labeled “Hospitality House Gloves” is in the Foyer to receive these items. Contact Amanda White at 336-509-8095 or amanda.white0119@yahoo.com with any questions.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL - You can still support Heifer International on Sundays at Coffee Minute. The credit card machine will be set up in the Parish Hall. Thank you.

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:

12/11 Joe and Virginia Dulaney
12/12 Dave and Julie Dutra
12/13 Joe and Patty Dyer
12/14 Linda Elksnin
12/15 Doug and Terri Fabel
12/16 Frank and Meg Fary
12/17 Bob Finney and Bonnie Holder

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, especially remembering those newly elected and all those who offered themselves for election to public office.

For all who suffer from war throughout the world and especially for the people of Ukraine and Russia, the people of the Korean peninsula, the people of Yemen, and the people of Ethiopia.

For all medical personnel and all ministering to the needs of those affected by COVID-19.

For healing: Jill Gloster, Greg, Lillian White, Danny Whittington, Evonne Folk, Barry Horton, Watson family, Joey Eller, Ed, Meredith, Louann Kitchell, Elizabeth Miller Lovejoy, Cat Carter, Joe Dyer, Jennifer, Lauren, Meredith, Bonnie and Bob, Kathy D., Elizabeth Young, Bruce B., Jane F., Chris, Mary M., Keith, Kathy, Donna, Sandie Holder, Bill, Nancy

****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: George D., Matthew, Julia

For those traveling this week: Booker

For those who have died: The Rev. Robert J. McCloskey, Jr., Bill, Jane, Derusha

For safe pregnancy and delivery for: Darrow, Rebecca Purcell, Caitlyn, Charlene G.

For those celebrating a birthday this week:

12/15 Bill Furr