



# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA DEC. 15, 2024 ADVENT III

## 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

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC DONATIONS** – If you wish to honor or remember a loved one this holiday season, consider a gift toward Christmas flowers and greenery or music. Gifts may be made via our website, through your Realm profile, by noting it on an offering envelope or by including a memo ("Christmas flowers" or "Christmas music") on your check. A listing will be included in the Christmas bulletin, noting in whose memory/honor a gift has been made. Deadline for listing inclusion in the Christmas bulletin is Dec. 19.

**ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS TODAY** – The choir presents a calm center for your holiday preparations with a service of Advent Lessons and Carols this afternoon at 3 pm. Based on the medieval vigil service in preparation for the holiest night of the Christian year, Lessons and Carols follows the story of the fall of Adam, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus, as told in short Bible readings interspersed with carols and hymns. Sung in Anglican churches all over the world since the 1880s, the service is a lovely part of the Advent season. Please join us! All are welcome.

**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. Resources are also available online at [www.stmaryofthehills.org/advent](http://www.stmaryofthehills.org/advent).

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION TODAY** – All are welcome. Formation for children and adults begins at 9 am upstairs.

- **Adults:** In the Barrett Room today from 9:10 to 10 am, we will continue our four-week Adult Forum on "Angels: Bridging Heaven and Earth" led by the Rev. Torrence Harman. Today, we focus on "Angels in the Life of Jesus in the Gospels." Handouts from the previous sessions will be available. The final session scheduled for December 22 focused on "Contemporary Images and Life Stories of Angels Among Us."
- **Children:** In the St. Luke room, elementary-age children will continue to explore the mystery of Christmas as they engage with the Prophets, Holy Family and Shepherds in the Advent story series.

**IN-PERSON REALM TRAINING TODAY** – Parish Administrator Michael Marshall will be available in the Barrett room today from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm to assist those who'd like to learn more about our parish database, Realm. Michael can also help you enroll in it 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!

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S PAGEANT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – We are in need of two to three more adults to help the children prior to the pageant on Dec. 24. They'll help children get ready in the hour preceding the service. To volunteer, reach out to Lindsey Herring at [Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:Lindsey@stmaryofthehills.org).

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE** – More details available at <https://www.stmaryofthehills.org/christmas>.

- **Christmas Eve:** At 5 pm, the service includes Holy Eucharist as well as a children's pageant. At 10 pm, we have Holy Eucharist, a sung service, with incense. Musical prelude begins at 9:45 pm.
- **Christmas Day:** At 11 am, we have Holy Eucharist with Carols of the Season.

# 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:**

12/15: Megan Sweeting, Dex

12/16: Sue Sweeting

12/17: Dallas Swoveland & Lindsey Herring

12/18: Miles & Clare Tager

12/19: Sam Tallman & Mike Zuravel

12/20: Bill & Cynthia Tessien & Family

12/21: John & Christine Thacker, Evan

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Diocese of North Carolina

**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., 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, Conrad Jones, Bill Tubly, John, Belinda, Helen Wells, Taylor Wells, Corinne Allen, Lena, Jennifer, Tony, Ben

*\*\*\*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:** Cindy, Bill, Ann

**For those with other concerns:** The Ward Family, Cody, Blair, Josh & Barb, Michael

**For those traveling this week:** Season, Avery

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

**For those celebrating a birthday:**

12/15: Bill Furr

12/21: Joellyn Gibbons, Kevin Hayes