



# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA  
DECEMBER 17, 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](http://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. 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 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 needed for the 10:10AM service Coffee Minute in 2024. A sign-up sheet is available in the Parish Hall.

**GREENING OF THE CHURCH** – Please join in the greening of the church, preparing our worship space and grounds for the joy of Christmas, on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 10:00AM.



## 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

### 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

### ADVENT BOOK COMPANION

Fr. Andrew is wrapping up the book study on *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*. Join us on Wednesday at 4:00PM for conversation or join by Zoom. The Zoom link is on the homepage of our church website ([www.stmaryofthehills.org](http://www.stmaryofthehills.org)) and the Weekly Epistle.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** – If you wish to honor or remember a loved one this Christmas, please consider a gift to the Flower Guild for Christmas greenery and flowers or to the music fund. There will be a list of those who give and in whose honor/memory the gift is made in the Christmas bulletins. The deadline for making your gift is today, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**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** – Centering Prayer is offered in the Church on Wednesdays during Advent from 11:15-11:45AM.

**ROOTED IN ABUNDANCE – ANNUAL GIVING 2024** – Have you submitted your pledge card for 2024? Currently we have received 109 pledges for \$466,668. Our Vestry leaders are planning for the year ahead and every commitment of wealth, works, and wisdom is essential to our common life of mission and ministry.

## 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:**

12/17 Jim Bumgardner and Shane Burton  
12/18 Coleman Burgess and John Jordan  
12/19 Orian and Cat Carter  
12/20 John and Jane Chanon  
12/21 Dale and Lindsey Cook  
12/22 Chris Cooley and Brendan Housler  
12/23 Laura Copeland

**In our Diocesan cycle of prayer:** St. Thomas, Burnsville

**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:** Ken B., Gary, Su, Cullie, Stephanie, Claudia Taylor, 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, Haydee Mojica de Santiago, Jeanie H., Pat, John, Mary Jane, Catherine

*\*\*\*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:** Elsie Wright

**For those with other concerns:** Blair, Conner, Earl, Martina, Diane, Jena and family

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

**For those celebrating a birthday this week:**

12/21 Joellyn Gibbons  
12/22 Robert Kling  
12/23 Maureen Justice, Adeline Sauer

**For those celebrating an anniversary this week:**

12/22 Rick and Beth Lawler