



# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 28, 2025

## WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

We are so glad that you are here to share in worship of the Living God and in this community with one another.

Restrooms are in the hallway beyond the Foyer. A nursery is available for children and is located in the hallway beyond the Parish Hall.

Coffee and Refreshments are served following each service, in Foyer following 8:00AM and in the Parish Hall following 10:10AM.

More information about our parish is available online at [www.stmaryofthehills.org](http://www.stmaryofthehills.org).

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Coffee Minute Hosts** – Please join us in the Parish Hall following our 10:10AM Holy Eucharist or in the Foyer following the 8:00AM Holy Eucharist. You can host too! Partner with a friend to host and help cultivate a space of hospitality and welcome for all. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall for the early months of 2026.

**Rector's Forum** – The Rector's Forum takes a break this morning and will return on Sunday, January 11.

**Tell Out My Soul – Annual Giving 2026** – Many in our community have responded so generously to our 2026 campaign; however, there are still many from whom we've not yet heard. Each and every commitment is significant and directly supports our common life as a parish community. Pledge cards for 2026 are available in the Foyer and in the Parish Hall, as well as on our parish website.

**Parish Office Hours & End of Year Giving** – The Parish Office will have irregular hours through this week, as staff observe the holiday season, closing December 31 and on January 1. Fr. Andrew will be travelling this week; however, he continues to be available for pastoral emergencies. Contact him directly at 336.848.4052. If you have questions about end of year giving, please e-mail or call Michael Marshall (828.295.7323 / [michael@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:michael@stmaryofthehills.org)). All gifts must be received or postmarked by December 31 to be included in 2025 giving statements.

### Worship During the Week –

- Morning Prayer will not be offered this week and will return on Monday, January 5, at 8:30AM
- Holy Eucharist is offered each Wednesday at 12:00PM in the Church. Prayers for Healing, along with Laying on of Hands and Anointing is offered on the third Wednesday of each month.

**The Epiphany of our Lord** – The Feast of the Epiphany will be observed on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:00PM with Holy Eucharist, including a Blessing of Chalk for use in marking the threshold of homes.

**Lessons and Carols – RESCHEDULED – January 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM** – Join us on Sunday afternoon, January 11, for Lessons and Carols for Christmas and Epiphany. We'll read the ancient scriptures that tell the story of our anticipation and waiting all the way through to the birth of our Lord and the wise sages journey to offer their gifts.

**THANK YOU** – Many, many thanks to all members of our Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Choir, Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Pageant Coordinators, and all those who joined in greening and preparing the Church for Christmas! The joy of the season is made so much richer by the ways in which everyone offers their gifts in this community of faith. Thank you!

**Vestry Highlights** – The Parish Vestry met on Tuesday, December 16. In addition to a time of prayer and regular monthly reports, the Vestry's also took the following actions –

- Approved the 2026 Operating Budget
- Elected Officers – Peter Purcell, Senior Warden; Mike Matthews, Junior Warden; Amanda White, Treasurer; Lynn Searfoss, Clerk
- Approved Outreach Allocations supporting local hunger relief, as well as international disaster relief

# PARISH PRAYER LIST

**For the Church:** Sean 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:**

12/28 Steve & Amanda White  
12/29 Diana White  
12/30 Sue Wilders  
12/31 Rick Williams & Barbara Yale-Read  
1/1 Jim Willis  
1/2 Greta Wilson  
1/3 Beau Wilson

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** St. John's, Cartoogechaye, Franklin; St. John's, Asheville; St. John's, Marion;  
& St. John's, Sylva

**For our nation and those in positions of public trust:** Donald, our President, Josh, 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 Gaza.

**For those affected by natural disaster** and especially for the people of Cuba & Jamaica in the aftermath  
of Hurricane Melissa.

**For healing:** Katherine; Valerie P.; Pete P.; Olivia; Luba; Lynn S.; Mike & Sarah; David; Dale; Bill & Jorgann; Jeff Hedden;  
Christine; Ann Greene; Susie; Bob; Clare; Evie; John H. Pat B.; Lucy A.; Myra; Chris M.; Mary M.; Larry, Joan Anderson, Tony;  
Margaret; Patsy; Jim; Denny; Lambert; Daniel R; Marie; Pam; Bill; Robert; Anthony; Melanie, Leigh K.; Sarah Johnson; Susan;  
Todd, Steve B.; Josh; Kerry R.; Allie; Cullie; Patti; Cammie; Mary Pearce; Jennifer; David; Susan B., Maureen, Jonathan

*\*\*\*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:** The Matthews Family; Josh; Corinne; Joe Dulaney; The Reece Family; Ruby & Family; Sylvia

**For those who travel:** Booker Purcell, David & Aarti Matthews; Yue Zhang; Blair & Oliver

**For safe pregnancy and delivery:** Sydney, Caitlyn, Katherine, Anna, Hanna, Jennifer, Corinne, Dani, Jessica

**Thanksgiving for the birth** of Harrison Fanklin Shelton to Amy and James Shelton on December 7, 2025

**For those celebrating a birthday :**

12/29 Ray Cameron  
12/31 Sue Wilders  
1/1 Ann Bagg, Mark Martin, Shawn Poole  
1/3 Molly Rogers

**For those celebrating an anniversary :**

12/28 Bill & Owene Courtney  
12/29 Andrew & Amanda Hege

**For those who have died:** David; Posie Duphiné; Lisle; Scott; David; Louis Hughes