



# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA DEC. 29, 2024 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

## 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

**THANK YOU** – A heartfelt note of gratitude is extended to all those who helped make Advent and the week of Christmas so warm and welcoming for our parishioners and neighbors. You shared so many of God's gifts and your dedication to this parish through your support of our ongoing seasonal activities and special programming/events, including Lessons & Carols, the greening of the church, the Christmas pageant, Christmas Eve cookie reception and Advent Bible Study, among so many others. Your acts of kindness and generosity of Spirit are truly special and we can't thank you enough.

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION TODAY** – There is no Christian Formation today.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES** – The Parish Office will be closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Please note that staff may be working different hours during these holiday weeks as they mark the holiday season with family and travel. Michael Marshall will be available in the Parish Office tomorrow, Monday, Dec. 30, to answer any questions about end-of-year giving. If you or a loved one are experiencing a pastoral emergency (hospitalization, death, arrest, mental health crisis), please contact Fr. Andrew directly (336.848.4052).

**YEAR-END GIVING 2024** – As a reminder, all financial gifts must be received or post-marked by Dec. 31 to appear on a 2024 Giving Statement. If you have questions, please contact Michael Marshall ([michael@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:michael@stmaryofthehills.org)) in the parish office. Also, it's not too late to submit a pledge for 2025! If you've not yet done so, kindly complete a pledge card online via our website ([www.stmaryofthehills.org](http://www.stmaryofthehills.org)) or take one via the pew racks and return it via the offering plate on Sunday morning.

**THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME** – Wednesday, Jan. 1, is the Feast of the Holy Name, recalling the naming of our Lord as instructed by the angel before his birth. Holy Eucharist will be offered in the Church at noon.

**THE EPIPHANY** – Following the 12 days of Christmas, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, recalling the journey of the Magi to visit the infant Christ and bearing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Holy Eucharist will be offered on Monday, Jan. 6, at noon in observance of this festival day.

**'DRAWN TO THE LIGHT ON AN EPIPHANY EVENING'** – On Jan. 7 from 5 pm to 7 pm, we will gather to reflect on what starlight on a cradle scene offers the landscape of our lives over two thousand years later. Owene Courtney and Torrence Harman will lead a gathering where we reflect on the Epiphany story, ponder what "gifts" we have to bring to the Light and share a simple supper. We'll conclude with Compline. This event is sponsored by the Women of St. Mary of the Hills. Please RSVP to Owene Courtney at [owene\\_courtney@yahoo.com](mailto:owene_courtney@yahoo.com) or 904.553.7338 by Jan. 5. *\*\*Note the date change from the Epistle. Program was previously planned for Jan. 8 but will occur on Jan. 7.\*\**

**NO JANUARY ECW MEETING** – There will not be a January meeting as ECW is taking a winter break. Weather permitting, the ECW will meet in February and celebrate Valentine's Day. We hope to see you at the Epiphany Evening program on Jan. 7 offered by the Women of St. Mary of the Hills.

# 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:**

12/29: Ann Vaughn

12/30: Tom Veale & Robert Kling

12/31: Alma Ward

01/01: Anna Ward

01/02: Jim West

01/03: Diana White

01/04: Steve & Amanda White

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Diocese of Botswana

**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., Evie, Conrad Jones, Bill Tubly, John, Belinda, Helen Wells, Taylor Wells, Corinne Allen, Lena, Jennifer, Tony, Ben, Suzie W., Lynn Turnbow, Grace, Bobbie, Tom, John Horne, Joe Dyer

*\*\*\*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, Ann, John Monguillot

**For those with other concerns:** Pat, Marcy, Cindy

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

**For those celebrating a birthday:**

12/29: Ray Cameron

12/30: Jillian Barnes Kay

12/31: Sue Wilders

**Celebrating an anniversary:**

12/29: Andrew & Amanda Hege

Mike & Gay Miller