



**ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**DECEMBER 5, 2021**

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Advent Lessons and Carols** – A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols will be offered Sunday afternoon at 3:00PM in the Church. Join us for this annual celebration of the season of Advent in scripture and song.

**Advent Rector's Forum – The Canticles of Advent - Sunday Mornings, December 5, 12, & 19, 9:00-10:00 in the Parish Hall** – Beginning next Sunday and continuing throughout, the season of Advent, we hear a series of canticles (scriptural songs) that replace the Psalms in our Sunday worship. Join Fr. Andrew in the Parish Hall, beginning Sunday December 5 at 9:00AM, for conversation about three of these canticles we hear in the season of Advent. All are welcome.

**Advent Study with Fr. Andrew - Friday Mornings, December 3, 10, & 17, 9:00-10:00AM in the Barrett Room & via Zoom** - On three Friday mornings in Advent, Fr. Andrew will be leading conversation on three Advent reflections – ‘Waiting for God’ by Henri Nouwen, ‘A Sky Full of Children’ by Madeleine L’Engle, and ‘The Grand Miracle’ by C.S. Lewis. Biblical texts, familiar Advent hymnody, and poetry will be woven throughout our conversations. Come for one or join for all three!



**A Season of Faithful Giving** - Thank you for your faithful generosity in response to our annual giving campaign for 2022. So far, we have received 97 pledges for \$391,250. If you haven't made a pledge, it's not too late to make your financial commitment to the mission and ministry of St. Mary of the Hills in the year ahead.

Pledge cards are available in the pew racks as well as online at [www.stmaryofthehills.org/stewardship](http://www.stmaryofthehills.org/stewardship).

**A Service of Hope and Light – December 20 at 6:00PM** - This annual service is designed with special intention for anyone who finds this time of year difficult, to be reminded of the comfort and presence of God and the light of Christ that shines brighter than any darkness we may feel. Hosted in partnership with our friends from Ruple Memorial Presbyterian Church and Faithbridge United Methodist Church.

**Christmas Eve & Day Service Schedule** – While Advent is just beginning, Christmas is around the corner. Holy Eucharists will be offered on December 24, Christmas Eve, at 5:00PM and 10:00PM. Holy Eucharist will also be offered on Christmas Day at 11:00AM.

**Christmas Flowers** – If you wish to honor or remember a loved one this Christmas, please consider donating to the flower guild for Christmas flowers. There will be a list of those who give, and in whose memory/honor they make their gift, in the Christmas bulletins. All gifts are welcomed; a suggested donation is \$50.

**Supporting Friends at Hospitality House** - As cold weather approaches, please help our friends at Hospitality House with new or gently used coats, blankets, pillows towels and toiletries of any size. You can drop off items in the Foyer at St. Mary of the Hills or at the Hospitality House Housing Center at 160 Den Mac Drive, Boone (use the door marked ‘Housing Center’). Other much needed items can be found on the Amazon wish list at <https://hosphouse.org/covid19>.

**Another way to support Hospitality House AND do your Christmas cards! “A New Way” 2021 Honor Card** – Send a \$5 Honor Card to a friend or family member this season, honoring them with a gift to Hospitality House. 100% of contributions support housing, hunger relief and homeless prevention in seven Northwest N.C. counties. Check out the display in the Foyer or order online at: <https://hosphouse.org/honorcard>.

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

### THE GREENERY ON THE ALTAR

The greenery on the altar is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dean Searfoss, Frances Searfoss and Karen Searfoss by the Searfoss family and in thanksgiving for the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday of Vincent Billingsley and for my grandchildren Griffen and Kaylee by Leslie Billingsley.

**For the Church:** Michael our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, Andrew, Sam and Gary our clergy, for our Vestry and staff.

**For our nation and those in positions of public trust:** Joseph, our President, Roy, our Governor, and all those who hold elected office.

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

**For healing:** Joyce and Ricky, Lindsay Hanson, Mary Ellen Raulerson, Kitty Norris, Kit R., Len B., Libby B., Michael Rhoads, Richard G., Carole G., Gail, Jeffrey, Jessica, Jennifer, Niel B., Jorgann Rogers, Mary Pearce, Sandy Hicks, Pi, Andrew, Chris, Bruce, Phyllis, Ralph, Terry, Alton, Cathy, Charlie, Mary M., Bo, Laura, Jeff Hedden, Jane Hedden, Sandie Holder, John Horne, Lucy, Jim Shine, John Rundell, Susie

*\*\*\*(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:** Ann, Walt and Becky, Lauren, Laura

**For those who have died:** Morgan Megna, Don

**For safe pregnancy and delivery for:** Marlee, Jen

**For those traveling this week:** Leslie and Mitch

### For those celebrating birthdays this week:

12/06 Barbara Yale-Read, Bill Tessien, Patty Patella, Sue Wilders

12/07 Sam Milner

12/08 Dick Kitchell

12/09 Andrew Capen, Rachel Capen Blackburn

12/11 Sharon Battaglia, Laura Coston

### Parish Prayer Cycle:

12/05 Doug and Mary Galke

12/06 Bill and Joellyn Gibbons

12/07 Jim and Joyce Gibson

12/08 Nathan and Suzzannah Gittner

12/09 Gary and Judy Gloster

12/10 Richard Goewey

12/11 John and Cecilia Grasinger

### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. Andrew's, Bessemer City; St. Andrew's, Canton