



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 3, 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.

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

UNCTION - Prayers for healing are offered on the first Sunday of each month at the foot of the Chancel steps.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION - Godly Play for children ages 3 to 10 gathers at 9:00AM in the St. Luke Room

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING - The St Mary Order of the Daughters of the King meets this Sunday and on the first Sunday of each month at 9:00AM. Please join us and learn more about our mission of prayer, service, and evangelism.

CONFIRMATION/RECEPTION - Anyone interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church during Bishop McLoughlin's visitation on October 1, plan to join us for a series of six conversations beginning September 10. Contact Fr. Andrew (rector@stmaryofthehills.org) or Lindsey Herring (formation@stmaryofthehills.org) for more information or to register your interest.

DIAPER DRIVE FOR THE WATAUGA COUNTY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL - The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a diaper drive for the Watauga County Children's Council. Please support the drive by bringing diapers to the foyer.

A SPIRITUALITY SAMPLER FROM THOMAS MERTON: Selected Readings from *New Seeds of Contemplation*: Beginning September 11 at 3:45PM and continuing for four weeks, Fr. Sam will offer reflection and conversation around selected portions of *New Seeds of Contemplation* by Thomas Merton. Bishop Porter Taylor, who ordained Fr. Sam, gave all his ordinands a copy of *New Seeds* and recommended it be read on every annual retreat. It is a spirituality for everyone. **Registration is only by email to Fr. Sam sam@stmaryofthehills.org and to receive reading assignments and Zoom links.** Books are available from online booksellers.

COFFEE MINUTE HOSTS - Volunteers are needed to host Sunday morning Coffee Minute, following the 10:10AM Eucharist. A sign-up sheet is available in the Parish Hall and please contact Bill Devereux at: bill@stmaryofthehills.org.

RECTOR'S FORUM RETURNS - Lost Books of the Lectionary - Sunday, September 10 at 9:00AM - Beginning next Sunday, September 10, Fr. Andrew will be offering a series entitled, 'Lost Books of the Lectionary' in the Rector's Forum. While the scripture passages appointed for Sunday worship cover much of the Bible over the course of three years, there are entire books omitted from our rhythm of reading. Join us as we look more closely at each of these books and how they continue to inform and inspire our faith journey. All are welcome!

ROOTED IN ABUNDANCE - "...We can learn to recognize abundance and practice generosity even when we don't see or feel it. Trees have an extraordinary resiliency for bearing fruit in good times and in hard times. We're in what we call stewardship season in most of our churches.... Like the roots of trees, our promises to our each other, within diverse communities, allow us to share abundance with each other." - The Very Reverend Julia McCray-Goldsmith, Dean, Trinity Cathedral, San Jose, CA.

UPCOMING IN OUR PARISH LIFE

- Sunday, September 17th - Mission and Ministry Fair in the Parish Hall following both services
- Sunday, September 24th - Stewardship Ingathering Sunday
- Sunday, October 1st - Bishop McLoughlin's Visitation at both services
- Sunday, October 1st - Blessing of the Animals at 2:00PM
- Tuesday, October 3rd - Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will gather at 5:30PM. A social time and dinner will follow.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

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:

9/03 Joseph and Susan Miller
9/04 Matthew Miller and Ashley McCurry, Skylar
9/05 Mike and Gay Miller
9/06 Suzanne Miller
9/07 Cobb and Cindy Milner
9/08 Jane Milner
9/09 Paulette Mitchell

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer: St. Giles Chapel and residents and staff of Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, Asheville

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

For those affected by natural disaster, most especially the people of Maui, and all those impacted by tornadoes, earthquakes, fires, floods and heat.

For all who suffer from war throughout the world and especially for the people of Ukraine and Russia, the Korean peninsula, Yemen, Ethiopia, and the Sudan.

For healing: Sheila, Mike, Adam, Luella, Sue, Jeanelle, Clare, Emma, Marty, Kerry, Todd, Chris, Mary, Vincent, Lois, Heidi, Mark, Jorgann, Ronnie, Michael Curry, Ana, Leandra, Nancy, Ann Greene, Greg, Bob Barham, Elizabeth, Kent, Kathy, Belinda, Andrew, Pamela, Amy

****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: Nancy, Cam, Mike, Clay, Libby, Bill, Jack, Anna

For those with other concerns: Kathy, George, Louann Kitchell, Greg, Chris M.

For those travelling: Sherrill, Leslie and Mitch

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Ashley Sawyer, Caroline, Barbre Hoar, Molly, Caitlyn, Lauren, Paige

For those celebrating a birthday this week:

9/04 Tina Barrett
9/07 Butch Kerns
9/09 EB Springs

For those celebrating an anniversary this week:

9/06 Joe and Diana Doswell, Paul and Loy McGill
9/07 Bob and Alva Browning