



# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA  
SEPTEMBER 10, 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

**HOLY CROSS DAY** - There will be Holy Eucharist on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM in celebration of Holy Cross Day.

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

- Godly Play for children ages 3 to 10 gathers at 9:00AM in the St. Luke Room.
- Rector's Forum - **Lost Books of the Lectionary** - Beginning today at 9:00AM, Fr. Andrew is 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!

**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 at 1:00PM today. Contact Fr. Andrew ([rector@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto:rector@stmaryofthehills.org)) or Lindsey Herring ([formation@stmaryofthehills.org](mailto: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](mailto:sam@stmaryofthehills.org) and to receive reading assignments and Zoom links. Books are available from online booksellers.

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**PARISH WORKDAY** - The weather is getting cooler, the days are getting shorter. Do you know what that means? PARISH WORKDAY is back! A time for fellowship, a sense of accomplishment, and a chance to make the church look better. This year we have 4 projects: One in the basement, one is the Bell Tower, one in the Close, and one in the Mary Garden. We need 25-30 people plus clippers, trimmers, wheelbarrows, shop vacs, and an eagerness to get things done. Come out and join us from 9:00AM until 12:00PM on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The rain date will be November 18<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there.

**ROOTED IN ABUNDANCE** - "God, the source of abundance, makes it available to us because of His infinite love for us, his children....To be rooted in abundance suggests that gratitude and generosity are a natural consequence of a loving environment, a space where possibility, generosity, and abundance thrive. Without love for God, self and others, you risk being trapped in an environment of scarcity." - Dora Currea, Washington National Cathedral

### UPCOMING IN OUR PARISH LIFE

- Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> - Mission and Ministry Fair in the Parish Hall following both services
- Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> - Stewardship Ingathering Sunday
- Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> - Bishop McLoughlin's Visitation at both services and Blessing of the Animals at 2:00PM
- Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 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 and in thanksgiving for the marriage of Sarah Schiener and Joshua Redenz.

## 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:**

9/10 Chip Monroe, Emma Kate, Lee, and Arden  
9/11 Pat and Marty Moore  
9/12 Burt Mulford and Dean Hamric  
9/13 Chip and Garland Myers  
9/14 Robert Felix and Jennifer Nelson, Robert Henry  
9/15 Amy Nimens  
9/16 Linda Norman

**In our Diocesan cycle of prayer:** Parish of the Holy Communion, Glendale Springs

**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, DJ, Dale, Ashlyn, Susan B., Peggy, Connor, 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, 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:** Monnie Cadenhead, Helen Fabry, Kent, Nancy, Mike, Clay, Libby, Bill, Jack, Anna

**For those with other concerns:** Blair, Kathy, George, 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:**

9/10 Hudson Van Dyke  
9/13 Donna Kerns, Diana White  
9/14 Wayne Vason  
9/15 Catherine Carter, Amanda Silverman

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

9/10 Joe and Patty Dyer  
9/12 John and Christine Thacker