



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

AUGUST 16, 2026

WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

We are glad that you are here to share in worship of the Living God and be 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.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Solemn Evensong Today-- The choir will lead us in Choral Evensong today, beginning at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome

August Backpack Drive--The Outreach Committee is conducting their annual backpack drive to serve local kids in need. Please bring new backpacks along with school supplies to the foyer throughout the month of August.

Vestry Meeting--The Vestry will meet on Tuesday, August 18, at 5:45 in the Barrett Room.

Worship During the Week –

- Morning Prayer is offered M-F at 8:30 AM. Each service lasts 15-20 minutes and includes readings from scripture, silence, and intercessions.
- Holy Eucharist is offered each Wednesday at 12:00PM in the Church. Prayers for Healing, along with Laying on of Hands and Anointing, are offered on the third Wednesday of each month.

Save the Date for Stephen Ministers' Orientation--Join leaders Lynn Searfoss and Torrence Harman for a lunch meet-and-greet where we will discuss class scheduling and more on Sunday, August 30, at noon in the Barrett Room. Please RSVP to lynn@stmaryofthehills.org or Torrence at (804) 436-7591. Thank you!

Annual Parish Meeting--The annual meeting of the parish will be held on Sunday, August 30, at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. In anticipation of the annual meeting, nominations for Vestry service (2027-2029) are open. Nomination forms are available in the Foyer and the Parish Hall as well as online.

Rector's Forum--The Rector's Forum will resume on September 7. All are welcome!

Help Guide the Bishop Search--The search for the Eight Bishop of Western North Carolina has commenced. Our voices are needed to help guide the process. Please help the search committee by participating in a brief survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EDWNC2026>. To learn more about the process, please visit the Bishop Transition Webpage at <https://www.diocesewnc.org/bishop-transition>. Thank you!

Honor Bishop José with a contribution--It's not too late to make a contribution to Bishop José McLoughlin's Valle Crucis Hermitage Challenge. Your donations can help to make two new Hermitages a reality. To make a gift in honor of Bishop José, go to <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/bishops-hermitage-challenge>.

Grayson Milhholin Concert and Tour--Our bass Choral Scholar Grayson Milhholin will present a free recital on Sunday, September 13, at 3 pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Boone. The concert will feature a series of English art songs composed by Gerald Finzi and Ralph Vaughan Williams, accompanied by pianist Bair Shagdarov. This concert is part of Grayson's preparation for a 2027 North American and European audition tour. Although the concert is free, donations are gratefully accepted and will be used to fund the considerable expenses of this international tour. If you choose to write a check to help with Grayson's expenses, please make it out to St. Mary of the Hills and write "Friends of Music" or "FOM" - "Grayson" on the memo line.

Coffee Minute Volunteers Needed--Don't forget to sign up in the Parish Hall to help out with Coffee Minute. To those who have already hosted or have volunteered to host, thank you!

ALTAR FLOWERS

This Sunday's Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Cinda Courtney Brown, sister of Bill Courtney, and Gwen Adams Courtney, mother of Bill Courtney, by Owene and Bill Courtney.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the Church: Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andrew, Rick, Sam, and Torrence, our clergy; for our Vestry and staff; and for all the people of this parish.

In our Parish Prayer Cycle, we remember this week: Our diocese and the bishop search committee.

8/16 Kathy Dacchille
8/17 Bunky and Teena Davant
8/18 Michael DeCorte and Dale Marie Sandusky
8/19 Paul and Jackie Delmonico, Willow
8/20 Bill and Donna Devereux
8/21 Gina Duckworth

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: All students, faculty & staff returning to school; College and Campus Ministries at Appalachian State University; Western Carolina University; University of North Carolina, Asheville.

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

For all who suffer from war and violence throughout the world, especially for the Middle East, for Iran and the U.S., Israel, Lebanon, and Gaza, for Ukraine and Russia. For the peace of the world. We pray for the cessation of war.

For healing: Angus, Ann, Baby Maddie, Bill, Chris, Chris M, Doug, Emily, Evie, Jim C, Joe D, John H, Kristina, Lucy A, Mary, MaryKate, Mary M, Maxine, Michael, Myra, Neal H, Pat F, Rhonda Ann, Rob S, Roy, Sally P, Sylvia, Toby, Todd, Valerie, Vinny, William.

For those suffering from storms, flooding, wildfires, and all natural disasters.

****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 safe pregnancy and delivery: Camille, Charlotte, Katie, Kelley, Caitlyn, Katherine, Anna, Jennifer, Corinne, Leah, Megan, Nicola, Tamar, Isabelle

For those with other concerns: Cullie and Sylvia, Jennifer, Laura, Sean, Zane

In thanksgiving for: The birth of Elowen Vason DeVaney, August 3, 2026; the birth of Josephine (Sophie) Lawler, August 10, 2026.

For those celebrating a birthday

8/16 Dale Marie Sandusky, Cynthia Tessien
8/19 Richard Carver, JoAnn Hallmark, Ham Wilson, Elizabeth Purcell
8/20 Christine Galke Thacker
8/21 Kate Cone, Claudia Heath

For those celebrating an anniversary

8/18 Roy and Nedra McCraw
8/20 John and Ruth Fitzgibbons

For those who are traveling: Asher, Peter and Valerie Purcell, Vinny

For those who have died: Dylan and Daniel R, Freddie, Gail Albertson, Julia Morton, Laura, Terri, Weatherby, Wee Man