



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 18, 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, 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

Rector's Forum--Join us in the Barrett Room Sunday, Oct. 11, at 9 a.m. for the third installment in our *special forum series on health and wellness*. All are welcome!

Youth Sunday School--Calling all students grades K-12! Join your friends in the St. John Room on Sundays from 9-10 a.m. for *Little Lambs Sunday School*, a fun time of play, fellowship, wonder, and reflection. As always, the nursery remains open to children ages up to 5 from 8:30-11:30am, and youngsters of all ages are invited to Children's Worship during the 10:10 service.

October Diaper Drive--The Outreach Committee requests diapers throughout the month of October. Please leave any size package of diapers in the foyer. Large diapers are especially needed. They will be delivered to the Children's Council at the end of the month.

The Blessing of Hands-- At 10:10 This Sunday, October 10, we celebrate St. Luke the Physician. All those officially involved in the healing of mind, body, or spirit are invited to come forward to receive this Blessing of Hands.

Vestry Meeting--The vestry will meet at 5:45, Tuesday, Oct. 20, in the Barrett Room.

Mother Torrence Office Hours--Want to meet with Mother Torrence? Stop by the office any time between 9:30 and 4:00 on Wednesdays, or make an appointment by emailing mailto:torrence.harman@aol.com or calling/texting (804) 436-7591.

Book Study with Fr. Sam Tallman-- Join Fr. Sam Tallman for a study of *Have Mercy: Following Jesus in Politically Perilous Times*. The second session is on Tuesday, October 20 from 4-5:15 p.m. and will cover the essays in Section 2: "What Is Mercy for Followers of Jesus?" **Registration is required** at <https://forms.gle/dTBXRtKLYxfyWw49>.

Altar Flower Donations--Please help to make our altar beautiful while honoring or remembering a loved one! The sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall. Choose the date and add your name plus the name of the person you want to remember or recognize, and the Flower Guild will do the rest. Suggested donation of \$80-\$100.

GAPS Dinner--All women are invited to the Giving at Potlucks (GAPS) *fundraiser dinner Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 5:30 p.m. at The Meeting Space at Rumble Presbyterian to benefit the Blowing Rock Cares Food Pantry*. Please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. Chili will be provided. Come learn about GAPS and Blowing Rock Cares.

Annual Chili Cook-Off--Have a frighteningly good time beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 25, at our spooky chili supper. Sign up to bring your scariest side dish or dessert in the foyer, or cook up a cauldron of your best bubbling brew (chili, that is!).

Bible Study at the South End of Main Street --The study meets Friday mornings from 9:00-10:30 alternating between St. Mary's and Rumble Presbyterian. For more information, please contact owene_courtney@yahoo.com. You may join via Zoom.

ECW Request--All women should have recently received a brief survey from chairs Sue Sweeting and Linda Elksnin. If you haven't already done so, please complete it soon to help guide plans for 2027. If you need another survey sent to you, please email Linda at elksninl@yahoo.com.

Regular Worship During the Week –

- Morning Prayer is offered M-F at 8:30 AM. Lasting 15-20 minutes, the service includes 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.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the Church: Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for our diocese and the bishop search committee; for Andrew, 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:

10/18 Sam and Rhonda Ann McDonald
10/19 Paul and Loy McGill
10/20 Deborah McKenzie
10/21 Tina McKnight
10/22 Chris and Katherine Metzger
10/23 Bob and Sabine Miller
10/24 Mike and Gay Miller

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Luke's, Asheville; St. Luke's, Boone; St. Luke's, Lincolnton.

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 offer themselves for public election and service.

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: Amy, Angela, Angus M, Ann, Anna C, Baby Jensen, Bill R, Candy, Chris B, Chris C, Chris M, Darlene, Earle, Evie, Jon, Joshua, Leo, Leslie, Lucy, Mary M, Mike, Myra, Neal H, Nick, Pat, Siri, Valerie, Vincent, Vinny.

For those suffering from storms, flooding, wildfires, glacial collapse, 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 needs to remain on the list longer.*

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Camille, Emily, Kelley, Caitlyn, Katherine, Jennifer, Corinne, Megan, Nicola, Isabelle.

For those with other concerns: Anders, Corinne, Darlene, Jennifer, Lamar.

For those celebrating a birthday

10/18 Valerie Purcell
10/20 Allison Postlethwait
10/21 Peter Purcell
10/24 Mary Lois Shelton

For those celebrating an anniversary

10/23 Sam and Rhonda Ann McDonald

For those who are traveling: Darlene

For those who have died: Al H, Annie D, Beth, Clark, Fred, Hobie D, Janet, Joe Dulaney, Joyti, LaBibi Ghosn, Mark, Thomas Buxton