



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

AUGUST 23, 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

Celebrate the Feast of St. Bartholomew--Holy Eucharist is offered this Monday, August 24, at 9 a.m. All are welcome to attend!

Annual Parish Meeting Next Sunday--Mark your calendar and set the alarm! Our annual parish meeting is next 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.

August Backpack Drive--The Outreach Committee continues to collect new backpacks and school supplies for our 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.

Help Needed with Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry Dinner--The PECM welcome-back dinner is this coming Tuesday, 8/25, and St Mary's is to supply dinner for approximately 36 hungry kids. Lasagna, salad, bread, dessert, and drinks are needed. Please contact Sue Wilders at suejackpaintfly@aol.com to help. The food must arrive at St. Mary's no later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

August Men's Breakfast This Week--All men are invited to Men's Breakfast this Thursday, August 27. Holy Eucharist begins at 7:30 a.m., followed by a hearty breakfast. Please RSVP in Realm under "Events" or to mailto:bill@stmaryofthehills.org.

Stephen Ministers' Orientation Next Sunday--Join leaders Lynn Searfoss and Torrence Harman for a lunch meet-and-greet where we will discuss class scheduling and more next Sunday, August 30, at noon in the Barrett Room. If you haven't yet done so, please RSVP to lynn@stmaryofthehills.org or Torrence at (804) 436-7591. Thank you!

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

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.

Help Guide the Bishop Search--Remember to complete the search committee survey before the end of August! Access the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EDWNC2026>. It's quick and easy, and our voices matter. Thank you!

Bible Study at the South End of Main Street--If you're interested in reading scripture in a new, inquisitive way, then please join us on Friday mornings from 9:00-10:30, beginning September 11. The first meeting will be held in St. Mary's Barrett Room, and will subsequently alternate between St. Mary's and Rumble Presbyterian. For more information, please contact Owene Courtney at owene_courtney@yahoo.com. You may join via Zoom.

New! Children's Sunday School Begins Sunday, 9/13-- All children grades K-5 are invited to join us from 9-10:30 in the St. John Room for *Little Lambs*, a time of wonder and play. Children grades 6-12 are invited to *Young Shepherds*, a time of study and fellowship, in the St. John Room from 9-10:30. As always, the nursery remains open to children ages up to 5 from 8:30-11:30am, and Children of all ages are invited to Children's worship during the 10:10 service.

Save the Date--Hear bass Choral Scholar Grayson Milholin in concert Sunday, September 13, at 3 pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Boone. Sponsored by The Friends of Music.

ALTAR FLOWERS

This Sunday's Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

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.

8/23 Joe and Virginia Dulaney
8/24 Charles and Laura Dunn
8/25 G. Loy and Melissa Ehlers
8/26 Nick and Linda Elksnin
8/27 Douglas and Terri Fabel
8/28 Frank and Meg Fary
8/29 Bob Finney and Bonnie Holder

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Christ Church, Sparta; Church of the Savior, Newland.

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: Al, Ann, Baby Maddie, Bill, Chris M, Doug, Earline N, Emily, Evie, Jeff M, Jim C, Joe D, John H, Kristina, Lucy A, Mary M, Michael, Myra, Pat F, Rhonda Ann, Roy, Tamara, Toby, Todd, Valerie, Vinny.

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, Emily, Kelley, Caitlyn, Katherine, Anna, Jennifer, Corinne, Leah, Megan, Nicola, Tamar, Isabelle

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

8/23 Susan Schilson
8/24 Tom Veale, Kay Donahue
8/25 Patty Dyer
8/28 Lennon Redford
8/29 Ben Galke, Alex Blackburn

For those celebrating an anniversary

For those who are traveling: Tim, Chris M

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