

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on Tuesday, August 20, for their regular monthly meeting. Every Vestry meeting opens with a time of devotion and prayer, includes reports from the Rector and Wardens, along with a report from the Treasurer. Below are some highlights of other actions taken this month –

- Accepted the report of the Endowment and Investment Committee, including the recommended Endowment disbursements for 2025, totaling \$26,000.
- Accepted and approved a Letter of Engagement for an audit of the 2023 Fiscal Year.
- Elected delegates and alternates for the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western North Carolina Annual Convention (November 7-9 in Cherokee). St. Mary of the Hills will be represented by delegates Mike Austell and Sue Sweeting; alternate delegates are Leslie Billingsley and Michelle Curry.
- Accepted and approved financial reports from the 2024 Tour of Homes Blowing Rock, totaling \$93,400 for distribution.
- Approved allocations from the Outreach Committee to World Central Kitchen and
- Engaged in discussion about the Annual Meeting of the Parish, Christian Formation for older children and youth, and discussed the shared work of welcome and hospitality.

The Vestry at St. Mary of the Hills meets on the third Tuesday of every month, beginning at 5:45PM in the Parish Hall. Anyone from the parish is welcome to attend.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Nearly 50 folks from the Parish gathered in the Parish Hall on Sunday, August 25, for our Annual Meeting. This is our yearly opportunity to gather to conduct the business of the parish, to celebrate God's faithfulness to this community of faith in the year that is past, and to look forward to God's good future together.

A few highlights –

- The Treasurer reported a positive financial outlook for the congregation, with revenue exceeding expenses, because of the faithful generosity of each and every member of the parish. Of note, in 2024, pledges exceeded \$500,000 for the first time in the parish's history.
- The Endowment and Investment Committee reported on the growth of the parish's investments – totaling approximately \$1.1 million. In 2025, the budget impact from the growth of these funds will be \$26,000.
- The Tour of Homes Blowing Rock leadership reported almost \$95,000 in net revenue. Co-chairs for 2025 – Billie Rogers and John Jordan – were also announced.
- New Vestry members were elected, with terms beginning January 1, 2025 – Bob Amos, Mike Matthews, Bob Rhoads, Luba Skibo.
- Fr. Andrew's report included four words of vision for the future mission and ministry of the parish – Welcome, Worship, Wonder, Work.