

‘How Firm a Foundation’
A Reflection on Stewardship from Roy McCraw

Dear Friends,

As a Vestry member and a member of the Stewardship Committee, it is my pleasure to provide these words about our beloved St. Mary of the Hills, hoping that my thoughts will ring true with you and bring forth similarly warm feelings about our parish. St. Mary’s is an important part of our spiritual lives, and it does indeed provide a ‘firm foundation’ for Nedra and me every day. In return, we support St. Mary of the Hills with our annual pledge that, combined with yours, provides our parish a ‘firm foundation’ financially for its Godly work.

Every time I pass by our church on Main Street, Blowing Rock I feel blessed to be a part of its congregation. Every encounter I have with a fellow parishioner gives me a sense of connection and fellowship in knowing we are both spiritually supported by the same guiding force. Every conversation I have with Fr. Andrew or Fr. Sam or Bishop Gary fills me with gratitude that they are among my mentors for living a good, loving, caring, giving life. We all need abundant spiritual guidance, certainly I do, making St. Mary of the Hills an indispensable resource.

In fact, St. Mary’s fills my senses. I love the way it smells; I love hearing the choir, organ, and liturgy; I love seeing the beautiful windows, the stations of the cross, the flowers, and the members. I love tasting the Sacrament and absorbing the body and blood of Jesus, and I love touching the solid back of our pews when I kneel to pray during the service. My guess is that you share those emotions in different yet similar ways. We are truly blessed.

So, please pledge generously in support of next year’s financial needs. If our balance sheet reflected the spiritual value of our parish, we would be a wealthy church indeed; however, our balance sheet reflects our financial resources, and that needs our support every year. Please give as you always do, plus some if you can. Our foundation is firm and will remain that way with your continued generosity.

Thank you!