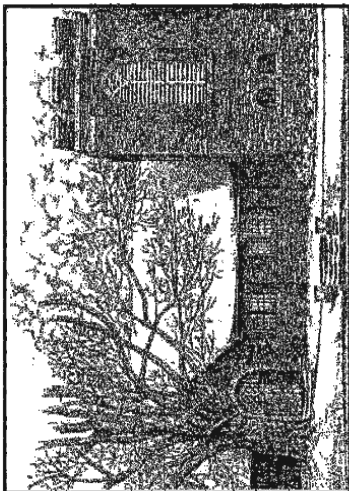


NewsLetter

SAINT MARY OF THE HILLS • BLOWING ROCK • NORTH CAROLINA



DECEMBER 2011

Dear Friends,

The new year.
The Advent of the Lord.
Blue purple vestments, pottery and candles.
Darkness and mystery.

So we begin our sacred journey again.
Who will be here to light the First Sunday of Advent Candle?
Who will brave the words of the prophets and the Lord Jesus?
Who will gather in judgment and salvation?

WE WILL!

COME AND WORSHIP BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST.
OUR ADVENT HAS BEGUN!

Advent Calendar

*He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.*

*He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.*

*He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-marks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.*

*He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.*

By Rowan Williams

Peace,
Rick

Note:

Thanks to the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, and Bill Stroh who have prepared the Church for Advent.

FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Lots coming up in the next month for the choir--so I'll refrain from my usual ramblings and get right to the heart of the matter! Working chronologically:

Madrigal Feast Returns to Blowing Rock

The Choir of St. Mary of the Hills in Blowing Rock requests the pleasure of your company at the legendary musical and gastronomic treat, "The Revels of Winter." Magnificent medieval four-course dinner provided by Gideon Ridge Inn, madrigals and carols sung by the costumed choir as they serve spirits and comestibles, and original (occasionally bawdy) entertainment written and performed by the Jester and Wench will be offered on Friday and Saturday nights, December 2 and 3, at 7:00 PM each evening (doors open at 6:15 PM for social hour). Tickets are \$60 per person (\$65 if paying by credit card). For reservations, please call Greta [828-295-7323](tel:828-295-7323).



Sam Tallman's ordination to the diaconate

The choir of St Mary of the Hills is honored to function as the celebrating choir for the diocesan service of diaconal ordination at the Cathedral of All Souls in Asheville on Saturday morning December 17, at 11:00 AM. Our own Sam Tallman is among the ordinands, and I'm sure he would be delighted to look out at a sea of St. Mary's parishioners as he completes this major step of his journey.

Lessons and Carols

Our annual service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday afternoon December 18, at 3:00 PM in the nave. Please join us for this beautiful traditional celebration of the season.

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

The choir will be joined by the ASU faculty string quartet on Christmas Eve at 10:30 PM to sing selections from G. F. Handel's oratorio, "Messiah." The mass continues with the choir singing beautiful unaccompanied music by a variety of composers including Eric Whitaker and Healey Willan, as well as with congregational Christmas carols.

Pray with us, pray for us, and keep singing!
Jim

FROM OUR DEACON

We are at the beginning of the new church year, and I am pleased to share with you that Bishop Taylor has assigned me to stay with you throughout this church year.

In the coming weeks, I will prayerfully continue listening to and observing God's calling for our work together.

The role of the deacon is to bring the hurts of the world to the doors of the church and to engage the members of the church in ministry to meet those needs. As we

recently heard in the Gospel from Matthew: "Truly I tell you just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Stay tuned as my covenant with St. Mary's for the coming year will be developed and we, as members of the body of Christ, will serve together to fulfill our baptismal promise.

Susan Whittington

FROM OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL DIR.

The Wednesday School kids finished the David stories. We pondered some hard questions about David. No, we did not learn about David and Bathsheba. I'll leave that one for the parents!

We learned about some of the more well-known saints, and the children who were present picked a saint to make. We spent the next Wednesday learning a little bit about Heifer, and just like that, Christ the King Sunday and the Heifer Fair were upon us.

During Advent, Vickie Duckworth will lead us in Advent Wreath making; Nioucha will start getting us ready for the Christmas Pageant, and on the 14th, we will deliver the Christmas decorations Teena Davant and crew created at the ECW craft night to the Extended Care Facility.

We've had wonderful participation topping out at 21 plus four adults on November 16.

Thanks to all of you who made treats for the Heifer Fair and always for your continued support of our Christian Education program at St. Mary's.

Remember, we do offer something on Sunday. The only request I have of you is to let me know if your child will be attending on Sunday.

Thank you,
Lynn Coulthard

AROUND THE PARISH

REGULAR SERVICES

Morning Prayer: 7:20 AM Sunday,
8:30 AM Monday-Thursday
Evening Prayer: 5:00 PM Sunday-Wednesday
4:45 PM Thursday

Holy Eucharist: 12:00 PM Wednesday

Sunday Holy Eucharists: 8:00 AM and 10:10 AM

Adult and Children Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Wednesday Church School: Every Wednesday after school

(There are no daily offices on Friday or Saturday.)

SPECIAL SERVICES

Fr. Dennis Fotimos will preach while Fr. Rick is on retreat - Sunday, December 4.

Sam Tallman's Ordination at All Souls' Cathedral, Asheville, Saturday, December 17, at 11:00 AM

Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 18, at 3:00 PM

Children's Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist - Saturday, December 24, at 5:00 PM

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass - Saturday, December 24:
Choral offering at 10:30 PM
Midnight Mass at 11:00 PM...Reception to follow
No 8:00 AM Service - but Regular 10:10 AM Mass -
 Sunday, December 25

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Fr. Rick on Retreat - Sunday, November 27 - Sunday, December 4
Advent Wreath Making at Wednesday School - Wednesday, November 30
Madrigal Feast - December 2 and 3, at 6:15 PM for Social Hour; 7:00 PM for Feast
Greta on Vacation - Sunday, December 4 to Monday, December 12
Senior EYC at Hospitality House - Sunday, December 11
Executive Committee Meeting - Tuesday, December 13 at 12:00 Noon
Christmas Decorations Delivered by Wednesday School Participants - Wednesday, December 14
Vestry Meeting - Tuesday, December 20, at 5:30 PM
Greening of the Church - Friday, December 23, at 10:00 AM

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday Study Group - a study of a book on the virtues of the Christian life
Sunday Adult Discussion - Bishop Gary will lead a series of discussions on the creation.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

(Note: These appear after the minutes are approved. Complete minutes are posted on the parish website, stmaryofthehills.org.)

Vestry Meeting - October 18, 2011

Treasurer's Report: Pledges off 3%. Insurance Workers' Compensation will be paid later this year, causing expenses to be less, and also utilities.

Rector's report: Tour of Homes Income and Expense issues. Lisa will be at the November ECW meeting to report on the TOH funding cut and why it was made. Rick will be present also. Rick discussed Lynn Coulthard's idea of how to report expenses. The point was made that this is not all outreach, but covers all funds given, with exception to Diocesan pledge. Page Parsons spoke to the issue that support for the Tour of Homes may be losing ground and that the financial reporting of the TOH is very complicated every year. It was suggested that a representative from ECW should attend the executive meeting in September...and perhaps a member from the Outreach Committee also. Rick requested that Vestry and Lisa focus on how to present financials that are clearer to the congregation for the November 13 meeting. All agreed. Michelle spoke on Pledge Outreach and TOH Outreach. The topics of where the congregation's interests may be...whether the congregation feels that donations to Outreach need to come from pledges and that TOH is another stream of giving. Also discussed was the interest gained from the Charitable Trust Fund as a source of donation giving; i.e. \$2,500 went for Stop Hunger Now.

Sr. Warden's report: Vestry would appreciate 100% pledges from members. On another subject, there is a grant available for Deacon Susan that Marjory will pursue.

Jr. Warden's report: 4 proposals for air conditioning/heat units. Ad Hoc committee has investigated. According to resource person Mark McQuire, the problems perceived where not as bad as thought. Partially fixing 2 main systems will do the job for approximately \$800.00 to \$900.00, and all systems will operate, vs. much higher estimated cost! All were happy.

The Vestry expressed appreciation to Frank Thomas for cleaning out the attic.

Respectfully submitted,
 Barbara Ballesty

BISHOP'S VISIT AND CONFIRMATION

We welcomed back Bishop Bob Johnson at the Sunday, November 6 service, during which Gillian and Kate Cone, Chloe Shaut, Julianna Silver, Erin Tobin, and Russell Johnson were confirmed and Karen and Bob Couch and Betty Jo Kinzler were received. Lynn Coulthard also renewed her baptismal covenant.

A reception for the bishop and newly confirmed and received followed the service.



HEIFER FAIR

Our annual Heifer Fair was held on Sunday, November 20, after the 10:10 service.

Wednesday School children and their parents provided snacks at each table. There was goat cheese at the Buy-a-Goat table, pigs-in-a-blanket at the Pig table and even edible "worms" at the Worm Farm table!

It was one of the best Coffee Minutes ever, and we raised over \$2,000! Thanks to all who participated.

If you still haven't shopped and want to, you can!



Did anyone buy this bunny?



(More photos on page 7.)

PARISH PEOPLE

CONGRATULATIONS BISHOP GARY!

The following resolution was passed at the recent diocesan convention:

Whereas The Rt. Rev. Gary Gloster has made his home in Blowing Rock, North Carolina since his retirement as Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina;

And whereas he generously offered his gifts of ministry during the sabbatical of the Rector of St. Mary's Church, in Blowing Rock;

And whereas Bishop Gloster has been tireless in his personal witness to Christian Social Justice as evidenced in his support of our Diocese's Day of Repentance;

And whereas his relentless good humor and his clownish ways have reminded us not to take ourselves too seriously, the better to proclaim the Gospel;

Therefore, be it resolved that this the Ninetieth Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina extends to Bishop Gary Gloster our warmest greetings and welcome, with our prayers and best wishes for a continued active retirement among us.

(AMEN!...and we are OFTEN reminded how very lucky we are to have both Gary and Judy at St. Mary's!)



LOUISE AND RICK MOORE

If you attend the 8:00 AM service each Sunday, you probably know Louise and Rick Moore. They have been parishioners at St. Mary's since 2004. In fact, they were married here in October of 2004.

Louise is a "cradle" Episcopalian and grew up in Mobile, Alabama, where she was active in the choir and EYC. Rick grew up in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and was a Methodist. Both attended confirmation classes with Fr. Rick, and Rick joined the Episcopal Church prior to their wedding.

Louise says, "When we got engaged, I knew I wanted to marry in the Episcopal Church. Thankfully, Rick was all for it. St. Mary's was the perfect answer--and after joining St. Mary's and getting involved, we were even more thrilled with our decision."



Rick and Louise

Louise worked in marketing communications for over 25 years and most recently in residential real estate. Rick's career has been in sales and consulting, specializing in ERP (accounting) and CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system design and implementation for mid-range companies. A little over a year ago, Rick became the IT Director for Hatch, Inc. in Winston-Salem. They decided that the timing was right to begin their shift to the High Country, which they both love. So they moved here, and Rick works in Winston during the week, then heads home on weekends.

Louise will be ECW President in the next year. She says she has always enjoyed being active in volunteer groups...being more than a member. "I felt that working more actively with ECW would be a wonderful opportunity to get to know more members, while collaborating with a wonderful and dedicated group of dynamic women."

As far as pastimes go, they love the outdoors--hiking, running, cycling and backpacking--accompanied by Scout and Bama, their two Labrador Retrievers. (This is one of the reasons they go to early church...so they can have most of the day for outdoor activities.) Rick enjoys home projects, and Louise says he can fix most anything. She enjoys the arts and hopes to get more involved in some of the local arts groups.

Thanks Rick and Louise for blessing this parish with your enthusiasm and involvement!

MARLA MACKENZIE REPORTS AT MEETING

Fr. Rick asked Marla to provide an explanation at the Parish Meeting on Sunday, November 13, as to why and how the St. Mary of the Hills ECW changed its financial relationship with the church in 2005.

Marla not only provided that particular information, but also gave us a detailed history of the Tour of Homes at St. Mary's, which merits being added to our church history file.

Marla's account was both interesting and sometimes amusing. If you missed the meeting, you will want to read it! Copies are available on the table outside the church office.

BO HENDERSON TO CHAIR TOUR OF HOMES

The 2011 Tour of Homes Steering Committee is pleased to announce the Chair of the 2012 Tour of Homes. The Steering Committee has gratefully accepted the offer of Bo Henderson to lead this important fundraiser for Outreach for St. Mary of the Hills.

Bo is no stranger to the Tour. He has years of experience in almost every area of the Tour and knows it well. We are happy to have his leadership and expertise for the 2012 Tour.

Please thank Bo for his willingness to become more involved than ever with the Tour, and be ready to help him when he calls...and he will be calling!

THE MINISTRIES

Outreach

SECOND HARVEST

During the month of October, volunteers from St. Mary's delivered **2,935** pounds of salvage food from the Blowing Rock Food Lion and **50** pounds of salvage food from Woodlands Barbeque to Hospitality House.

Episcopal Church Women

CREATIONS TO CREATE

ECW enjoyed a great evening of Creations to Create as its 2011 swansong gathering in mid-November. The crowd gathered in the parish hall which took on the personality of Santa's workshop! Craft tables flanked the walls where gingerbread houses, felted soaps, bright paper Christmas trees, apple-cinnamon ornaments and custom-made gift tags were created by our "ECW Elves." A cozy supper of soups and salads was also savored by the group which has enjoyed a great year together. 2012 promises to be an even better year under the leadership of Louise Moore, president; Barbara Ballesty, vice-president; Beth Lawler, secretary and Lynn Hubbard, treasurer. ECW sends warm wishes to all members for a blessed Holiday season and invites all to participate next year!

From Page Parsons

THANK YOU!

It's time for a year-end thank-you to the 2011 ECW officers and members who have worked extremely hard to provide wonderful receptions, dinners, programs...as well as our traditional feasts and Easter Breakfast during the year. Many thanks to all!

Stewardship

We have hit the 97% of goal mark in our 2012 stewardship campaign. This is very encouraging, but we still have almost \$11,000 to go.

For this current year we received 139 pledges, and 121 parish families have already pledged for 2012. Of these, 69 are either new or increased from 2011. Thirty-eight 2012 pledges are for the same as this year, and only 14 are for less.

Pledging is a wonderful way to express your love for the church and its work. It also helps the Vestry make plans for church programs with more assurance that funds will be available. Please consider joining the body of pledgers at St. Mary's.

We are very anxious to complete the campaign before the Vestry meets on December 20 to finalize St. Mary's 2012 budget. It will only take a few more pledges to reach the target. Will your pledge be the one to take us over the top?

The Stewardship Committee

Environmental Concerns

Remember the Green Revolution with its promise of super-crops that would provide huge volumes of disease-resistant grains to feed a hungry world? The reality, after about 20 years, has been a variety of serious and difficult environmental problems.

A recent meeting of Indian, south-east Asian, African and Latin American food and conservation groups (Global Citizens' Report on the State of GMOs) reports that genetic engineering has not increased the yield of food crops and, to make matters worse, has led to an expanding number of "superweeds" and insect pests that previously had caused little trouble. In order to fight the pests, more chemical herbicides and pesticides are being used. These poisons are damaging the natural environment and may be a key factor in colony collapse disorder in honey bee populations. (Remember those are the little guys that make it possible for us to eat vegetables and fruits.)

The problems associated with using genetically modified seeds are going to be difficult to undo because of the damage already done and the big businesses involved, specifically Monsanto, Dupont, and Syngenta who control nearly 70% of global seed sales. What can we do? We can begin by telling our representatives in Congress that we are concerned about this situation, we want the big seed companies to be held accountable and to fund restoration of farm lands and a return to safer farming practices, AND that we want more support for smaller organic farms.

BUY ORGANIC AND LOCAL AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!

(The Guardian Weekly 10/28/11)

From Marg McKinney

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

REPORT FROM CONVENTION

St. Mary's was well-represented at the Diocesan Convention November 10-12 this year at Kanuga: Fr. Rick and Dn. Susan (clergy), Marjory Holder and Chip Myers (laity /vestry), Leslie Barnes (alternate), Lynn Coulthard (visitor), and Sam Tallman (seminarian). It was a lively meeting and prayer filled two days. [We wish you all could have heard the reaction to Rick's Meditation at Saturday Morning Prayer!]

The focus of Convention this year was on Evangelism, "Walk in the Way, Widen the Walls, Wake Up the World." That is--be more Christ-like in our lives; reach out to those not in the pews; and effect widespread change to bring the Kingdom of Christ closer to reality. That means getting outside our comfort zone as proper Episcopalians and actually talking about Faith to our young people, and to strangers and friends, by listening to their stories and connecting on a personal level.

There were also several legislative issues--support for better information about Israeli/U.S. relations and the plight of Palestinian Christians, and rejection of a proposal to reduce the voice and autonomy of parishes who are

unable to tithe to support the work of the Diocese.

Perhaps more importantly, Episcopalians are beginning to consider how we must transform to meet the future--streamlining the structure of the church at the national and diocesan level, and challenging the top-down edicts of the world-wide Anglican Church (in order to maintain our more democratic identity as Episcopalians) while *continuing in dialogue* with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

If you want to know more, talk to any of us who were there--we'd love to share!

From Marjory Holder, Sr. Warden

PALESTINE/ISRAEL

In September, I went to the Palestinian Occupied Territories with Sabeel, an international organization committed to peaceful resistance of the Israeli Occupation of the West Bank.

I walked in the shoes of the Palestinians for nine days as our group visited a refugee camp in Hebron, met with Israeli women from the Machsom group who monitor the checkpoints making sure Palestinians are able to get through the checkpoints without trouble, Women in Black, Israeli and Palestinian women who stand in solidarity against the Occupation every Friday in Jerusalem and other parts of the West Bank, ICHAD, an Israeli group against Palestinian home demolitions, the UN, the Tent of Nations, and many Palestinians trying to survive in this environment.

Are you surprised at the number of Israelis against the Occupation? Many Israelis are working to end this unjust and illegal occupation, and as Christians, we are called to join them in their efforts.

To help you understand the conflict better and be better informed, I had a table set up at the coffee minute on November 6. I think some of you might have been offended if you are "pro Israel," and some might have thought this situation is a political issue and has no place in the church. As Episcopalians we are called to work for justice and peace. Take a look at the prophets and Paul and of course, Jesus, if you are not sure about this. It's really not a matter of being "pro Israel" or "pro Palestine." It is a matter of what is **just**.

On November 28, the JPCCC will be viewing *Occupation 101* in response to the resolution that was passed at the Convention which said that we would become informed about this issue and investigate ways we could become part of the solution. I would like to invite you to this viewing. We will be meeting on November 28 at 5:30 PM in the Barrett Room. You will learn things that will surprise you.

From Lynn Coulthard

(The November 28 viewing of "Occupation 101" had to be postponed to a later date which has not yet been set. You will be informed about the new date and time.)

NO NEWSLETTER IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY

Your editor will be keeping warm somewhere else.
There will be a March Newsletter

PHOTO GALLERY

(Halloween was too late for the November Newsletter!
And these photos are too good to miss!)



Do not ask if he is Sampras!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Preston Snow
John Williams
- 5 Jean Fort
Marty Moore
- 6 Barbara Yale-Read
Bill Tessien
- 7 Sam Milner
- 8 Dick Kitchell
- 9 Andrew Capen
Rachel Capen
Patrick Coston
- 11 Sharon Battaglia
Laura Coston
Maggie Hansen
- 15 Bill Furr
- 16 Valerie Cornella
Becky Johnson
Alecia Jackson
Lois Lesslie
- 18 Weston Miller
Luke Winkelmann
- 19 Pinkney Rankin
- 21 Joellyn Gibbons
Kevin Hayes
- 22 Carol Perry
Robert Kling
- 24 David Larry
Leanne Lemyre
- 25 Megan Lawler
Barry Setzer
- 26 Marjory Holder
- 28 Bill Anderson
Fuller Grissom
Ed McCauley
- 29 Emily Butner
Ray Cameron
- 30 Jillian Barnes

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Bob and Bonnie Henley
Jim and Joyce Gibson
- 5 Richard and Kathy Wiggins
- 9 Charles and Mary Ruth Sizer
- 10 Bo Henderson and Ed Springs
- 20 Jennie Robinson and Steve Smith
- 21 Van and Margaret Joffrion
Kristian and Alecia Jackson
- 22 Rick and Beth Lawler
Bob and Laura McCants
- 23 Pinkney and Jo Rankin
- 29 Mike and Gay Miller
- 30 Brian and Tricia Perry
- 31 Larry and Marie Cook
Martha Marking and Michael Slaughter

MORE PHOTOS

THE BISHOP'S RECEPTION



HEIFER FAIR



Gotcha!

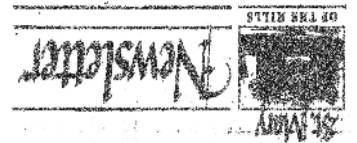


AND EVEN MORE HALLOWEEN...



Address Correction Requested

Post Office Box 14
Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605



The mission of the people of St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church is to grow Spiritually in Christ through Worship, Stewardship, Study, Service and Fellowship.

Staff

The Rev. Richard C. Lawler, Rector
Dr. James Bumgardner, Director of Music
Susan Whittington, Deacon
Lynn Coulthard, Church School Director
Greta Wilson, Parish Administrator
Joe Raulerson, Financial Secretary
Bill Stroh, Sexton
Nursery Attendants: Kathy Holman, Natalie Bovino
The Rt. Rev. Gary Gloster, Assisting
The Rev. Robert J. McCloskey, Assisting
The Rev. Richard DeMott, Assisting

The Vestry

Marjory Holder, Senior Warden
Chip Myers, Junior Warden
Lisa Rees, Treasurer
Greta Wilson, Clerk
Jim Ayoub, Barbara Ballesty, Leslie Barnes,
Michele Capen, Mike Coston, Alex Hallmark,
Natalie Bovino, Dick Kitchell, Cobb Milner,
III, Frank Thomas

Department Chairs

Altar Guild - Luella Rundell
Stewardship Committee - Frank Fary
Flower Guild - Bo Henderson
Nursery Director - Natalie Bovino
Environmental Concerns -

ECW Co-Presidents - Page Parsons, Susie Morgan
Prayer Chain - Olivia Knight
Landscape Committee - Meg Fary
Missions Committee -
Ushers - Leslie Barnes
Foyer Groups - Beth Lawler
Church School Director - Lynn Coulthard
Chalice Ministers - Greta Wilson
Lectors - Kathy Dacchille
Greeters - Sabine Miller
Friends of St. Mary - Olivia Knight
Newcomer Committee - Iris Caldwell
Acolytes - Catherine Carter
Publicity -
Parish Wellness Committee - Iris Caldwell
Outreach Committee - Michelle Capen
ERD - Ginny Robards
Hospitality House - Susie Greene
Coffee Minute - ECW
Web Master - Perry Mixer:
mixerhp@mac.com

Newsletter:

Deadline 22nd of Month

Meg Fary - Editor

ffary@alumni.duke.edu

Distribution - Buddy and Iris Caldwell

St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Parish

Office Phone: 828-295-7323

Fax: 828-295-5086

E-Mail:

rick@stmaryofthehills.org
office@stmaryofthehills.org
financial@stmaryofthehill.org
Website: stmaryofthehills.org

Church Office Hours

Sunday, 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

(Closed Fridays and Saturdays)