



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

JANUARY 25, 2026

WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

We are so glad that you are here to share in worship of the Living God and 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

Rector's Forum – Fr. Andrew continues a series this morning, entitled, “Why We Do What We Do”, an introduction to some of the unique language and practices of the Anglican tradition. Join us each Sunday morning at 9:00AM in the Barrett Room (second floor, above the Parish Hall). All are welcome!

Coffee Minute Hosts – Please join us in the Parish Hall following our 10:10AM Holy Eucharist or in the Foyer following the 8:00AM Holy Eucharist. You can host too! Partner with a friend to host and help cultivate a space of hospitality and welcome for all. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall for the early months of 2026.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Each year, between the feasts of the Confession of St. Peter and the Conversion of St. Paul, the Church engages in a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. During these days, we commit to praying for one another, across our denominational divides, and to working together for greater unity in our fractured world. Resources to aid your prayers are available via the World Council of Churches website - <https://www.oikoumene.org/>.

Tell Out My Soul – Annual Giving 2026 – It's a new year! Have you submitted a pledge card with your intention for giving in the year ahead? Pledge cards for 2026 are available in the Foyer and in the Parish Hall, as well as on our parish website. Submitting a pledge allows our Vestry and Staff to better plan and make decisions about our common mission and ministry.

Episcopal Church Women - February is “heart” month featuring Valentine’s Day which focuses on “love”- the work of the heart. St. Mary’s ECW is offering an evening of heart-warming fellowship to celebrate. We’ll engage in some conversation led by Vestry Member Lynn Searfoss and Rev. Torrence Harman on the theme “The Heart of St. Mary’s” – what it looks like and what contributes to its health, strength, and well-being. Also, we will offer a preview of St. Mary’s new Stephen Ministry and its emphasis Christian Caregiving. Please bring your favorite dish for this special evening. RSVP to Sue Wilders suejackpaintfly@aol.com.

Worship During the Week –

- Morning Prayer is offered each weekday morning at 8:30AM. Evening Prayer is offered on Wednesdays at 4:00PM. 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 is offered on the third Wednesday of each month.

Upcoming Feast Days –

- The Conversion of St. Paul (Transferred) – Monday, January 26, Holy Eucharist at 9:00AM
- The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ – Monday, February 2 – Holy Eucharist with the Blessing of Candles at 9:00AM

The Listening Post at App State - The Listening Post, a campus ministry sponsored by Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry, is seeking volunteers for the Spring Semester. Listeners are adults who will enjoy listening more than talking with college students (as well as others). Volunteers ask leading questions and then listen with an open mind and heart without trying to “fix it.” Listeners to serve 1.5-to-2-hour shifts on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Contact Fr. Andrew to learn more or to connect with the Listening Post Coordinator to volunteer.

Stephen Ministry – Do you care about suffering folks in the parish? Stephen Ministers are trained to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care for people in our congregation who are experiencing life challenges such as illness, grief, job-related stress, or other common situations. If you are interested in serving members of our parish through this ministry, contact Lynn Searfoss or Torrence Harman.

Stephen Ministry Book Study – Lynn Searfoss and Torrence Harman will lead a study of the book *Christian Caregiving: A Way of Life* by Dr. Kenneth Haugk. This 4-week study group will meet via Zoom on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. January 22 through February 12. Books will be available in the library (suggested donation \$15.00). All are invited to attend. Please email Lynn (searfosslynn@gmail.com) if you are interested so that she can provide you with the Zoom link.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the Church: Sean our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, Andrew, Sam and Gary our clergy, for our Vestry and staff, and for all the people of this parish.

In our Parish Prayer Cycle, we remember this week:

1/25 Jim Bumgardner & Shane Burton
1/26 Orian & Cat Carter
1/27 Don & Julie Cashman
1/28 Marion Church
1/29 Dillon & Tama Coleman
1/30 Jon & Bryan Commander
1/31 Louise Cone

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Peter by the Lake, Denver

For our nation and those in positions of public trust: Donald, our President, Josh, our Governor, all those who hold elected office.

For all who suffer from war throughout the world and especially for the people of Ukraine and Russia, the Korean peninsula, Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Myanmar, Venezuela, Israel and Gaza.

For those affected by natural disaster and especially for the people of Cuba & Jamaica in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

For healing: Bob Amos; Torre; Susie; Katherine; Valerie P.; Pete P.; Olivia; Luba; Lynn S.; Mike & Sarah; David; Dale; Bill & Jorgann; Jeff Hedden; Ann Greene; Bob; Clare; Evie; John H. Pat B.; Lucy A.; Myra; Chris M.; Mary M.; Larry, Joan Anderson, Tony; Margaret; Denny; Lambert; Cullie; Patti; Cammie; Mary Pearce; Jennifer; David; Susan B., Maureen, Jonathan; Kari; Leigh; John; Louis F.; Lauren F.; Jamie S.; Eddie; Lew; Mike W.; Mark; Violet Horton; Joshua; Tamara, Jamie S.; Siri S.; Matt H.; Robert; Anne; Jane; Eddie

****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 those with other concerns: The Matthews Family; Josh; Corinne; Joe Dulaney; Sylvia; Zane; Jonathan; William; Hudson

For those who travel: Booker Purcell; The Matthews Family; Amanda

For safe pregnancy and delivery: Sydney, Caitlyn, Katherine, Anna, Hanna, Jennifer, Corinne, Dani, Jessica; Eryn; Giuliana

For those celebrating a birthday :

1/27 Larry Jones
1/28 Donna Lemnouri
1/29 Ben Milner
1/30 Scott Turnbow
1/31 James Galke

For those who have died: David; Mike; Sarah; Peggy Kaufmann