



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 14, 2025

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 – Canticles of Advent – Advent is filled with some of the Church's most beautiful music repertoire; sometimes overlooked are its beautiful canticles, hymns of praise taken directly from the biblical text. Join Fr. Andrew this morning at 9:00AM to explore one of these Advent canticles – The First Song of Isaiah. All are welcome!

Tell Out My Soul – Annual Giving 2026 – Many in our community have responded so generously to our 2026 campaign already; however, there are still many from whom we've not yet heard this year. Our parish relies on your generous financial support and our Finance Committee and Vestry are now planning our priorities and budget for the coming year. Pledge cards for 2026 are available in the Foyer and Parish Hall, as well as on our website.

Lessons and Carols – This Afternoon at 3:00PM – Each year in Advent, we gather to hear again the ancient prophecies from sacred scripture as we await the coming of the infant Christ. Join us this afternoon, at 3:00PM for this service, an annual Advent tradition of prayer, proclamation, music, and anticipation.

Advent Party for Children and Families - Today at 4:30PM – We gather in the Parish Hall today at 4:30PM for an Advent/Christmas Party for our Children and Families. All are invited to bring a side dish as well as a package of refrigerated cookie dough that will be donated to Blowing Rock Cares. Join us!

Reading Between the Lines – Join Owene Courtney in the Parish Library on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-10:00AM to read, mark and inwardly digest the gospel stories for Advent. Using a process and path for reading scripture called Reading Between the Lines, we invite you to journey alongside the characters of Christmas, listening to their stories and your own, imagining where they intersect.

Christmas Flower/Music Offerings – As we begin Advent and look toward Christmas, you may wish to honor or remember a loved one with a gift toward Christmas flowers and greenery or music. Forms are available in the Foyer or you may contact Michael Marshall (michael@stmaryofthehills.org) in the Parish Office. Please be sure to note 'Christmas flowers' or 'Christmas music' with your gift. A full listing will be included in the Christmas bulletin, noting those in whose memory/honor a gift has been made.

Vestry Meeting – The Parish Vestry meets on Tuesday, December 16, at 5:45PM in the Barrett Room for their monthly meeting. Any parishioner is welcome to attend meetings of the Vestry.

Episcopal Church Women – Weather Rescheduled - On Tuesday, December 16th at 5:30PM the ECW will celebrate the holidays with a cookie exchange, Pot Luck dinner and Dirty Santa gift exchange. Bring your favorite cookies to share, a inexpensive gift for the exchange, and a side for the dinner. ECW will provide the main course. Please RSVP to Sue Wilders suejackpaintfly@aol.com.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Worship Schedule –

- December 24, 5:00PM – Holy Eucharist w/ Children's Pageant & Carols of the Season
- December 24, 10:00PM – Sung Holy Eucharist w/ Choir & Incense; prelude begins at 9:45PM
- December 25, 11:00AM – Holy Eucharist w/ Carols of the Season

Worship During the Week –

- Morning Prayer is offered each weekday morning at 8:30AM; this service lasts approximately 15-20 minutes and includes readings from scripture along with prayers of intercession for our full parish prayer list.
- Holy Eucharist is also offered each Wednesday at 12:00PM and on major feast days, as announced. (Unction, prayers for healing and anointing with holy oil, is offered on the third Wednesday of each month).

Supporting Heifer during Advent – The Outreach Committee is offering a table in support of Heifer International on each of the Sundays in the season of Advent. Stop by to learn more and to shop for an alternative gift to share with someone this season.

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:

12/14 Elizabeth Sudderth
12/15 Megan Sweeting, Dex
12/16 Sue Sweeting
12/17 Miles & Clare Tager
12/18 Fr. Sam Tallman & Mike Zuravel
12/19 Leslie Temple, Jo & Andrew
12/20 Bill & Cynthia Tessien, Genya, Tommy, & Billy

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Thomas, Burnsville

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, Ethiopia, the Sudan, 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: Valerie P.; Pete P.; Olivia; Luba; Lynn S.; Mike & Sarah; David; Dale; Bill & Jorgann; Jeff Hedden; Christine; Ann Greene; Susie; Bob; Clare; Evie; Leigh K; John H. Pat B.; Lucy A.; Myra; Chris M.; Mary M.; Larry, Joan Anderson, Tony; Margaret; Patsy; Jim; Denny; Lambert; Daniel R; Marie; Pam; Bill; Jonathan; Robert; Anthony; Melanie, Leigh; Sarah Johnson; Susan; Todd, Steve B.; Josh; Kerry R.; Mary; Allie; Cullie; Patti; Cammie

****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; The Reece Family; Ruby & Family; Sylvia

For those who travel: Booker Purcell, James Hunter Troskey, The Hayes Family

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

Thanksgiving for the birth of Harrison Fanklin Shelton to Amy and James Shelton on December 7, 2025

For those celebrating a birthday:

12/15 Bill Furr
12/19 Booker Purcell
12/21 Joellyn Gibbons

For those who have died: The Rev'd Doug Bailey, The Rev'd Michael 'Corky' Carlisle, Stephanie Leonard, Posie Duphiné; Lisle; Scott; David; Louis Hughes