



# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 7, 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](http://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 Song of the Redeemed from Revelation 15. 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.

**Episcopal Church Women** - On Tuesday, December 9th 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](mailto:suejackpaintfly@aol.com).

**'Buy Boone Lunch' – December 10** – On Wednesday, December 10, St. Mary's is sponsoring another 'Buy Boone Lunch' event at F.A.R.M. Café. Sign-up is still available online for set-up, serving, and clean-up, throughout the day.

**Lessons and Carols – Sunday, December 14, 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 on Sunday, December 14, at 3:00PM for this service, an annual Advent tradition of prayer, proclamation, music, and anticipation.

**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](mailto: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.

### 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.

**Bread of Life at Hospitality House** – Bread of Life teams have been preparing meals for friends at Hospitality House for more than 25 years. There are 5 teams providing meals just one day per month. We would love it if you would help us serve as well. Please contact Sue Wilders ([suejackpaintfly@aol.com](mailto:suejackpaintfly@aol.com)) or Mike Austell ([austellmike37@gmail.com](mailto:austellmike37@gmail.com)) to learn more or to join one of our teams.

## 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:**

12/7 Paul & Karen Smiley  
12/8 Jim & Kaye Snow  
12/9 E.B. Springs  
12/10 Jerry & Genie Starnes  
12/11 Jill Storelli  
12/12 Katy Strand  
12/13 Bill Stroh

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Church of the Incarnation, Highlands

**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:** Rachel; 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;

*\*\*\*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, Season, Sherrill

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

**For those celebrating a birthday:**

12/7 Sam Milner  
12/8 Dick Kitchell  
12/9 Andrew Capen, Rachel Blackburn

**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