

What does God require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. — Micah 6:8

“Grace grabbed me, threw me in the back seat, told me, ‘Just come for the ride.’”

—The Ambassador

Forgive me for not quoting scripture or some notable historical figure, but this lyric from Christian hip-hop artist The Ambassador, is such a fitting description of my ministry journey. When I accepted a call to ministry at 17, I could not have imagined all the places it would take me, but I’m so glad I said “yes” to the ride. And I’m amazed that, after all these years, God is still taking me places!

Since my arrival, the question I’ve heard over and over is, “What brought you to Pullen?” I’ll admit that I could not have envisioned myself at a church like Pullen from the place where I started. The first half of my ministry life was marked by a lot of legalism and very little grace. For me, keeping the rules kept me and others in God’s good graces; breaking the rules invited God’s punishment. The message of my ministry was clear: resist worldly influences and keep “God’s” rules. However, a few years out of seminary, I noticed that my belief system didn’t always hold up against the complexities of the human experience. Actually, it’s not so much that I had not noticed this before, but it was the first time I gave myself space to really consider it. Instead of employing my usual apologetic gymnastics, I began to allow myself to explore and give voice to what I truly believed. Over time, I embraced a much more robust economy of grace, and as I engaged God out of love rather than fear, the relationship that emerged was authentic and deep. This was the kind of relationship I wanted others to experience! This was the kind of relationship that had the power to transform individuals and communities!

This revelation changed my priorities, my preaching, pastoral care, and the entire trajectory of my ministry. I knew that I wanted to inhabit faith communities of radical welcome where people were encouraged to be honest about who they were and what they believed. I wasn’t even sure this kind of community existed, so imagine how elated I

was to find Pullen right in my backyard!

I’m grateful for the warm welcome I have received from this community in the form of hugs, notes, and those who have stopped by the office to introduce themselves. I’ve spent my first few weeks getting to know the staff, connecting with some of our young adults through Theology on Tap and preparing for our Wednesday Night programs in the fall. I look forward to continued engagement with Pullen’s elders, helping to foster intergenerational interaction within the congregation, and walking alongside those who are new to the Pullen community.

While that might cover my job description, I hope that God’s plan for me as a Pullenite extends far beyond what is written. I think that’s what the scripture means when it says that, through us, God “is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20).” Pullen, thank you for inviting me to ride with you! May the journey take us far beyond anything we could have anticipated!

—Chalice Overy,
Associate Pastor

Summer Sunday Group Two Sessions Remaining

There are two weeks left in our Summer Sunday Group series. Whether you’ve been attending the whole summer or haven’t made it to a session yet, plan to attend as we wrap up this exciting program. This year’s topic is *Becoming Jesus: Living a Wholehearted Life*. Remaining topics include:

- ♥ **August 5: Nurturing Forgiveness**
- ♥ **August 12: Embracing the Prophetic Voice**

To enhance this series, we are offering Tuesday Night Yoga. The cost per class is \$10 and will be taught by Julie Gilbert from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Julie is crafting each class to supplement our series. Equipment is provided, but reservations will need to be made by each Tuesday at noon by emailing bcrisp@pullen.org.

—Adult Education Committee

Opportunities to Connect, Serve, Learn and Grow at Pullen

PMBC Scholarship Recipients

The GEMS committee is happy to announce that \$750 scholarships have been awarded to: Virginia Keister, Holly Lewis, Samuel Matthews, Caleigh Norris-Bradshaw, Sergio Osnaya-Prieto, and Ryan Schultz.

Best wishes to all of you as you continue your educations.

—Emily Cato and Nancy Jones,
co-chairs of GEMS committee

Share Your Summer Produce

Summer produce provides people with housing instability and food insecurity access to fresh foods not often available to them. If you are gardening this summer and want to donate any fresh produce to Round Table, then we would be glad to accept your offerings.

—Brian Crisp

Thank You for the Groceries!

Thank you so much for your generous donations of non-perishable food for the Urban Ministries Food

Pantry. Our last two deliveries (one month's worth of food collections) totaled 343 pounds! Your gifts make a tremendous difference in the lives of our hungry neighbors, especially in the summer. Keep up the good work!

—Pullen Mission Women



Sing with the Choir in August

All youth and adults are invited to sing with the Summer Chancel Choir that leads worship on Sundays in August. Simply join us for a short rehearsal and time of preparation on any August Sunday in the Music Ministry Rehearsal Hall (128-B) at 10:30 a.m. This is a great way to make new friends, try out a choir experience, and enjoy worship from a different perspective. We'd love to have you, and all are welcome!

—Larry E. Schultz

Summer Mid-Day Prayers

Conclude Tuesday, August 7

This summer we are offering Mid-Day Prayers in Poteat Chapel on the first Tuesday of each month. This brief service will be held from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m., so our guests at Round Table Fellowship can easily attend if they are interested. We hope you'll consider joining us too! All are welcome! The final scheduled date is August 7.

—Ginny Going

LGBTQ Lunch August 12

Friends, beat the heat and join us for the LGBTQ Second Sunday Lunch on Sunday, August 12 after worship. We will be gathering at Brix, 402 Oberlin Road, Suite 120. There is a parking garage below the building, or you can walk. We will not be having our luncheon in September due to the scheduling conflict with our traditional Sunday in the Park worship and church-wide picnic lunch.

—Jimmy Smith and Laura Robinson,
LGBTQ Committee

Save the Date September 23

Dr. Laura Parajon, medical director of AMOS Health & Hope, will be visiting Pullen to share information about the work of AMOS and the current situation in Nicaragua. Hear her in worship and plan to join her for lunch afterwards.

Help Doctoral Student with Study on Stress Among Church-Goers

Dear Pullen Church, My name is Jenny Lee, and I am a doctoral candidate at East Tennessee State University. I am working on a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership. In order to finish my studies, I need to complete a research project. The name of my research study is *Worry in the Pews: Exploring Levels and Causes of Worry Among Church-goers*.

The purpose of this study is to examine the causes and levels of worry among church-going populations. I would like to give a brief survey to you using Survey Monkey. It should only take about five minutes to finish. You will be asked questions about your demographic categories and how or if you worry. Survey replies will be confidential. Individual replies will not be identified.

To learn more about this survey and participate in the study, please visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PMBC_Raleigh.

—Sincerely, Jenny Lee

Lunch Items Needed for Round Table Lunch Bags

We continue to have a large number of people coming to Round Table Ministry each Tuesday and Thursday. We are packing 1,000+ lunches about every four or five weeks and we will need to pack again very soon. We do not need any crackers at this time as we have been able to get a large number from the Food Bank. However, we do need cans of Vienna sausages, individual serving-sized juice pouches or boxes, and granola or cereal bars. If you can help with this ministry, please place items in the blue wagon outside the church office or drop off with the Back Door volunteers on Sunday mornings. Your donations free up money that can be used to help with emergency needs such as medical, housing, transportation, etc. Thank you!

—Nancy Bradley

Church Financials

Gifts to Date: \$583,240.36
Expenses to Date: \$609,698.19
Difference: (\$ 26,457.83)
As of 7/31/2018

Pullen People

We Grieve With:

- ☞ Rollin Kibbe in the death of his father, Rollin Paul Kibbe, who died on July 11. A memorial service was held July 28 in Florida.
- ☞ The family of Gayland Hokanson, who died last month in Oregon. Gayland and his wife, Cecilia were former Pullen choir members.

Sunday in the Park is September 9

Sunday in the Park is September 9 at 11 a.m. Pullen people who have attended this worship and fellowship event will tell you that it is one of the best things we do all year. This year we'll gather right next door on the front lawn of 1903 Hillsborough Street. This is the former residence of the NCSU chancellor and now the new Gregg Art Museum. After worship, we enjoy a potluck meal.



What to bring:

- A prepared main dish that serves 6-8, stored in a cooler if refrigeration is needed. Label container and lid with your name. Please do not bring serving utensils. Dishes can be dropped off at the back door of Finlator Hall.
- Lawn chairs or blankets.
- Whatever you typically need to be comfortable outdoors: bug spray, sunscreen, etc. Wear casual, comfortable clothes.

While you experience a wonderful outdoor worship service, members of the Education Council and their friends will get the food ready for a delicious meal when the service is over.

Bring the family and friends for this great event! In the event of rain, worship will be in the Pullen sanctuary at 11 a.m. and the picnic will likely be cancelled.

—Education and Worship Councils

Youth from Raleigh and Matanzas celebrate together during the Pullen Youth's recent visit to our partner church in Cuba.



In Our Community

Hope Center 10th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, August 19



Do you remember the early days of The Hope Center when the Wiley Tutoring program and the Back Door Ministry were part of its ministry? Do you know the story of how young people aging out of the foster care system became the focus of The Hope Center?

Whether you know these stories or not, join other Pullenites and THC volunteers, along with former executive directors Porter Bell and Stacy Bluth, as we celebrate the creation of THC in 2008. Former ED Diane Daily and current Director Jennifer Weiss will also participate by video as we gather for lunch in Finlator Hall following worship on Sunday, August 19. Lunch is free, but you need to make a reservation at www.pullen.org/hopecenter10 or by calling the church office at 919-828-0897 by August 13. Childcare will be provided if it is reserved by contacting Tommy Cook at tcCook@pullen.org or noting it on your online reservation.

Whether you participated in the vote to create The Hope Center at Pullen in 2008 or not, we hope you will join us for our celebration of this leap of faith by the Pullen community ten years ago.

—Pat Hielscher

Sunday Group Kick-Off on August 26

Fall Sunday Group Kick-Off will be on Sunday, August 26, at 9:30 a.m. in Finlator Hall. This event will feature representatives from each of our groups talking about the content, style, and form of their particular classes. This event will highlight the unique offerings of our diverse Adult Sunday Group classes at Pullen Church. After the kick-off event, Sunday Groups will begin on September 16. This will also be a social event for all Sunday Group participants and children will have scheduled activities.

—Brian Crisp

August Wednesday Night Program Will Be Led by the Youth Ministry

Friends, join us Wednesday, August 8 as the youth share about their experiences over the summer. It was a busy summer with trips to Hazard, KY; Baptist Youth Camp; In Our Own Backyard; and Cuba. Fun was in abundance and lives were transformed so come hear about all of it from 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Dinner is served from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. Children will meet separately for *Crazy Craft Night*. Please join us for this important time together to support our young people.

—Bryan Lee

Children's Ministry at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

Elementary Age Children Invited to Camp Willow Run September 14-16



All children entering 3rd-5th grades this fall are invited to attend a retreat September 14-16 at Camp Willow Run on Lake Gaston in Littleton, NC.

While there, we'll enjoy swimming, canoeing, crafts, games, and the low ropes course as well as small group Bible studies and worship.

"Camper's Choice" is a favorite among our campers. Every camper participates in two activities of her or his choice.

There are several options listed on the registration form. Each of these choices has a limited number of openings, so we ask campers to identify their top three choices.

This is going to be a fantastic weekend. We hope you will join us!

FRIENDS ARE GOOD

"Dear friends, let us love one another." With this verse from 1 John 4:7a as our focus, we'll look at Hebrew scriptures, Christian writings, and Gospel stories of how scripture teaches us to Be A Friend, Help a Friend, and Accept a Friend. We'll take a look at Eli and Samuel, Mary and Martha, Jesus and the woman at the well, and the birth of the Christian church (Pentecost) as we meet for Bible study, prayer stations, and worship. And our entire weekend together will give us lots of opportunity to practice what we're learning with old and new friends alike!

How Do I Register?

Complete registration and medical release forms should be returned to the church by August 12. Be sure to include all information including your camper's 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice for Camper's Choice and a check for \$125 written to the church. (Please memo "FRIENDS Retreat"). We will also need a copy of the front and back of the child's insurance card.

Needed by August 12

- Registration form
- Campers Choice form
- Medical release form
- Copy of insurance card
- Payment

Scholarships are available as need upon request. If you need to make adjustments to the payment schedule, just let me know. For more information, or to pickup a registration packet, email me at tcCook@pullen.org or call 919-828-0897.

Needs for Children's Ministry

Nursery Caregivers Needed for Sunday Mornings



Looking ahead to the end of summer, we are hopeful that the new year at Pullen will be an eventful one for our children and families. One growing need we now have, especially with new baby's in our church family, is the need for Sunday Morning Caregivers with infants through toddlers. Here's what you need to know:

- ♥ Being a caregiver is a September through May commitment (maximum of six Sundays per year).
- ♥ Volunteers needed for Sunday Group Hour, 9:20-10:40 a.m. and Worship Hour, 10:40 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
- ♥ One volunteer each Sunday works with paid childcare worker.
- ♥ Primary goal is to provide a safe, loving environment for the youngest Pullenites.
- ♥ All who volunteer with children must have a background check.
- ♥ This is a great volunteer job! You get to love and cuddle babies, newborn to toddlers. We will have a full nursery this fall, and we need your help.

Leaders for Children's Sunday Groups Needed

We are looking for adult who would like to share their talents by leading workshops for children during the Sunday Group hour. We need workshop leaders in art, cooking, games, science experiments, computer lab and story telling that will focus on a biblical story or passage. You can commit to as little as two Sundays from September to May, and you will most likely be leading the same workshop for two different groups. Please email me if you would like more info!

—Tommy Cook

Children's Ministry this Summer

- **Wednesday August 8 - Crazy Craft Night.** Childcare and free play for preschoolers. Adult Program is *Pullen Students Report*. Dinner at 5:15, programs at 6:15 p.m.

Community Clothes Closet Needs Men's Items

First Baptist Church on Salisbury Street has announced their clothing closet is in dire need of men's small and medium shirts and pants. You can drop them off at their back door at the covered entrance from the parking lot. The clothing ministry at First Baptist is a significant resource for people in our community facing financial instability.

—Brian Crisp

August 5, 2018

Service at Pullen: Acts of Hospitality, Giving, Worship

Round Table is Growing: Volunteers Needed

If you are not in Finlator Hall on Tuesdays or Thursdays from noon onwards, then you are most likely not aware of Pullen's effort to alleviate the burden faced by many people with housing instability and food insecurity. So far in 2018, we have served over 2,500 meals, provided over 2,000 snack packs, and assisted with \$2,000 towards rents and utilities. Beyond these numerical expressions, volunteers spend their time and energies learning names and listening to stories, hoping they can provide a few moments of friendship and hope to people in distress.

Round Table not only provides hospitality, but also provides services from local providers and organizations specializing in homelessness. Currently, we have social workers from Haven



House, a nonprofit committed to young people experiencing homelessness and crises situations, visiting every Tuesday. WakeMed's PATH program sends social workers specialized in assisting chronically homeless people with severe mental illness. In addition, social workers drop by from South Light, the Wilmington Street Center, Catholic Parish Outreach, and Church in the Woods.

Also as the numbers indicate, Round Table is growing, and to meet the continued needs in our community, we have partnered with several new food donors. Round Table receives donations from Starbucks locations in Cameron Park, on Peace Street, and at Lake Boone Trail. Chick-fil-A in Cameron Village offers donations twice every week. St. Mary's School provides fresh produce from the garden, volunteers shop at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, and countless people in the church and community regularly drop off donations for lunch and snack packs.

Our newest partner is Interfaith Food Shuttle. After a multi-month process of inspections and reorganizing (thank you Warren Chesson and the Handy Corps!), Round Table is an official partner receiving accolades for organization, cleanliness, and mission. We will receive protein and produce, two of our most sought after items.

With all of this growth, we need volunteers. The Pullen Round table Fellowship is an excellent opportunity to provide our radical hospitality to people experiencing housing instability and food insecurity. Round Table occurs twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday. Volunteers help prepare and serve meals and, in the process, form appropriate relationships with the people in our community. We have volunteers from Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Hayes Barton United Methodist Church, North Carolina State University, and St. Francis Parish. Come join us in a fun, enriching experience! If you are interested in volunteering on Tuesdays or Thursday, then please contact me at bcrisp@pullen.org.

—Brian Crisp

Participate with Music Ministry this Fall

Pullen's ministry through congregational, choral and instrumental music expresses our church's heritage of progressive thought, expansive theology, inclusive welcome, ecumenical commitment, interfaith dialogue, justice work, global awareness and creation care, as it offers multifaceted expressions in worship and service.

You are warmly invited to experience Pullen's uniqueness and connect with other Pullenites by participating in one of our choirs or orchestra as these groups resume. For additional information go to www.pullen.org/music. All are welcome!

Chancel Choir (Adults) – *Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Room 128-B*
Begins Wednesday, September 5, 6:30 p.m.

Children's Choir (Grades 2-5) - *Wednesdays, September-March, 5:45-6:15 p.m., Room 128-B*
Begins Wednesday, September 12.

Music Discovery (4 Yrs. - First Grade) - *Wednesdays, 6-6:30 p.m., Room 122*
Begins Wednesday, September 12.

Pullen Orchestra (Youth & Adults) - *Sundays, 8:45-9:45 a.m., Room 128-B*
Begins Saturday September 8 (rehearsal for *Sunday in the Park*), 10:00 a.m.

Youth Choir (Grades 6-12) - *Sundays, January-May, 1:15-2:00 p.m., Room 128-B*
Begins January 6, 2019.

In August, youth and adults are invited to sing with the Summer Worship Choir that gathers each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Rehearsal Hall (Room 128-B) to sing accessible music for worship. Join us!

—Larry Schultz

Give Umbrellas for Round Table Guests

A few weeks back, Pastor Nancy shared in a sermon that she was moved to give her umbrella to someone leaving the Round Table to shield them from the poring rain. As a new Pullenite, searching for a way to contribute, I was inspired to make umbrellas and ponchos available for rainy Round Table days. If you have too many umbrellas and have a functional umbrella you would like to donate or you would like to provide an inexpensive poncho to keep someone dry from elements for our friends at the Round Table, please bring them to the church office.

—Robin Cook

Opportunities to Connect & Grow at Pullen

Progress Report on Building Repairs

We hope you have noticed the fresh paint, the newly installed windows and the cleaning of the brick on our 1950s-era building (sanctuary). While there are a couple of bricks still needing repair, this phase is 99% complete. It looks really good! We've moved on to Phase 2 (east side of the 1920s building) which is the hardest and longest phase of our exterior repair project. The mortar repointing is in full swing and is very labor intensive. The workers are dodging the summer storms as much as possible. Thank you for enduring the dust!

One advantage of having the scaffolding in place is that we've been able to inspect areas that have been nearly impossible to inspect before, at least not safely. For example, our roofing contractor discovered that the guttering on the east tower is in bad shape. Though this expense was unanticipated, we feel the urgency to repair this section of gutter in order to take advantage of the scaffolding. This repair will add about \$11,000 to our project.

To date, the following PUR (Pullen Urgent Repair) funds have been spent:

- 1) Replacement of sanctuary air conditioner (\$55,000)
- 2) Upgrades to the children's classrooms (\$42,586)
- 3) Continued work on gutter repair (\$20,524)
- 4) Replacement of roof safety anchors (\$30,450)
- 5) Mortar repointing & other exterior repairs (\$154,181)

Total PUR funds spent to date: **\$302,741**

Please let me or Warren Chesson know if you have any questions.

—Brooks Wicker

Pullen 101 Begins September 16

If you are new to Pullen and trying to find your way around, we hope you will join us for our fall series of Pullen 101. It begins on Sunday, September 17, and ends on November 5.

Pullen 101 is an 8-week Sunday class designed for persons who are new to the Pullen community (but veterans are welcome!). This class will offer an introduction to our congregational life and ministry. We will talk about topics like Pullen's identity, theology, worship, Baptist identity, missions, and education. In these sessions, Pullen members will share memorable Pullen stories and explain the "culture" of our community. Information about how our church functions in its various ministry areas will be included and various church members will share "Why I Am at Pullen." A staff member will also be present each week to share in the conversation.

We will meet in Room 203 next to the sanctuary from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. This class is the ideal opportunity to get to know what is important in the life of our faith community. Newcomers and old-timers alike are invited to attend, although we ask that participants make a commitment to as much of the series as they can.

Contact Chalice Overy at 919-828-0897x214 or covery@pullen.org. Pre-registration is not required.

—Chalice Overy

Spiritual Retreat for Social Justice Advocates

Being a social justice advocate is always hard work. But in these times that try our souls on a daily basis, we all need opportunities to deepen our roots so we can continue God's work for justice in the ways we feel called.

To meet this heart-deep need, an all-day retreat for Pullen's social justice advocates will be offered at Cedar Cross Retreat Center on Saturday,



October 6, from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The day will include reflection on the work in which one is engaged; spiritual practices that sustain during difficult times; learning from each other what is helpful; and being nurtured by the beauty of nature. John and Margaret Hilpert will serve as retreat leaders. John, a former Pullen staff member, is an experienced spiritual guide who offers help with spiritual disciplines and discernment around vocation or ministry. Margaret guides through facilitating creative expression, inviting people to approach their spiritual journeys through simple art exercises.

The cost of the retreat is \$20 per person for the first twelve members of the Pullen family who register. A vegetarian lunch is included. This event is subsidized by the Spiritual Life Group as a gift to the activists among us. You can register for the retreat on the church website at www.pullen.org beginning August 15. More information about Cedar Cross and driving directions can be found at www.cedarcrossretreat.org.

We are grateful for the activism of many members of our Pullen family. If you need to feed your soul in the company of other advocates, we hope you will sign up!

—Spiritual Life Group

Victor Judge as Guest Preacher Sept. 30

Dean Victor Judge, Academic Dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School, will be our special guest lecturer and preacher on Sunday, September 30. During the morning education hour, Dean Judge, drawing on his vast knowledge in the field of literature and religion, will present a comprehensive analysis of Flannery O'Connor's religious views in the short story, "The Displaced Person" (Available in the collection *The Complete Stories, a FSG Classics* and *O'Connor: Collected Works* in the church library), and its relation to the current social-political climate in the United States. Dean Judge will also be our guest proclaimer during the worship hour where he will focus on Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22. These events are open to the greater community, and I encourage you to come hear this amazing speaker.

—Brian Crisp

August 5, 2018

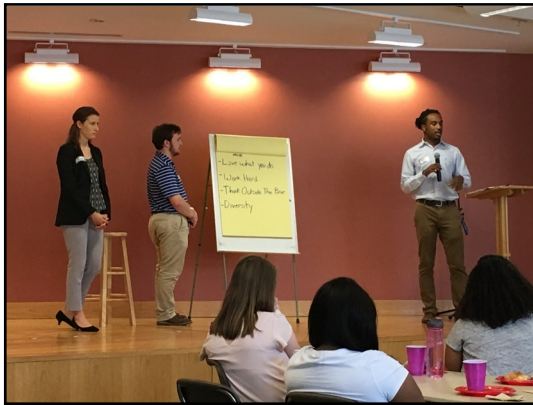
Pullen Partners in the Community



We can't believe it's already August! We are so fortunate to continue to work with our young people and for the support that we are receiving from you and others in the community. Here are a couple highlights from the month of July and some upcoming events to get excited about!

First Citizens Interns Visit The Hope Center

The college and graduate interns at First Citizens Bank came to The Hope Center on July 13 to meet our interns and offer some



advice and support. They provided lunch for the group and put together a special program to help our interns understand the importance of The Three Vs in the workplace: "Voice, Visibility and Value." Our young people learned a lot about how to make a good impression in the workplace. They also learned that there are people who care about them and that college and careers are within their reach. We trust that the First Citizens summer interns learned a lot from their interactions with our young people as well.

Have you considered tutoring a child in foster care?

The Hope Center connects volunteer tutors with young people in foster care ages 13-18. Volunteer tutors meet with a young person weekly to provide extra support in individual subject areas, either at the foster home or another location near the foster home. Tutors have a lasting impact on a young person's life—they are not just a source of academic support, but also become another trusted adult in a young person's life. We need more tutors to fill the needs of the young people we serve. If you think this might be a good fit for you, join us at the next Tutor Training. Email myuckman@hopecenteratpullen.org to let us know you are interested and to get more information.

Raising Hope Auction Item Still Available

It's August, but you can still Raise Hope! A gift certificate for \$151 for Rex Wellness available. Starting bid is \$75. The certificate can be used toward health club enrollment fee or dues. It expires October 11, 2018. Submit a bid by contact-

ing kburris@hopecenteratpullen.org by August 16. Winner will be contacted on August 17.

Special Delivery: A New Crib

We asked and you answered the call! On Friday, July 20th, Jonathan Sledge loaded up a brand new crib in his truck and brought it to one of our young people and her precious newborn. Many thanks to Jonathan for giving his time and energy to make this delivery and helping our young person know that she and her baby are loved and supported.



2018 Mac & Cheese Throwdown

Preparations are in full swing for the 2018 Mac & Cheese Throwdown & Showdown for Hope, hosted by Relish Craft Kitchen and Bourbon Bar. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 16 at 5:00 p.m. We had so much fun at this event last year, as local chefs faced off to see who could make the best mac and cheese in Raleigh! We hope you'll join us this year. Stay tuned for ticket information.

Nutritious Meals for Wednesday Life Skills Group

Many thanks to the wonderful folks who have signed up to donate nutritious meals! We continue to have a need for donated nutritious meals to serve at our Wednesday Life Skills Group. These meals are a big draw for our young people to come to group and your help would be greatly appreciated! If you are interested in helping in this way, please visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0849aeaf2da7f85-lunch> to sign up.

—Hope Center Staff

Through Our Own Eyes

Oak City Outreach, Love Wins, Homeless Engagement Round Table, and Pullen are seeking recreational photographers to work with people experiencing homelessness on a project to be hosted



at Raleigh's Contemporary Art Museum. The photography coaching would happen during late August and early September. If you are interested please contact Brian Crisp.

—Brian Crisp

Pullen Hosting Two Unique Events Produced by Local Artists

Raleigh Premier of Independent Film, *The Road to Edmond*, Explores Edges of Faith

Join us on Monday August 20 for the Raleigh premier of *The Road to Edmond*, an indie roadtrip film co-starring Raleigh's own Tripp Fuller (Founder of the Homebrewed Christianity Podcast, author, professor, avid home-brewer). The film description states:

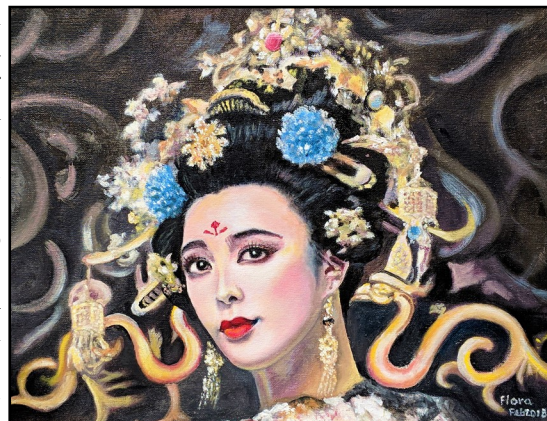
"Cleo loves his life as a youth pastor in suburban Denver, but his genuine support for a teenage girl has put his job in jeopardy. When the church's Elder Board becomes aware of the situation, he's asked to take two weeks off to consider his actions and the impact on his role in ministry. Distracted by the arrival of this news via email, Cleo grabs a backpack and bike to hit the road and figure out what's really true. His journey takes a turn toward Edmond, Oklahoma, when he hitches a ride from a mysterious traveler named Larry and his dead father. Larry's intense skepticism along with a string of peculiar signs causes Cleo to question more than his relationship with the teen...he questions the very existence of Love."

You can watch the trailer and purchase tickets at theroadtoedmond.ticketspice.com/the-road-to-edmond-raleigh-nc-premiere. The event will run from 7-10 p.m., with conversation with the cast and crew before and after the screening. For financial assistance purchasing tickets, please email me at blee@pullen.org.

—Bryan Lee

Invitation to Summer Opera at Pullen

The North Carolina Summer Opera will present its first production, Giacomo Puccini's *Turandot* in semi-staged workshop, sung in Italian with



English subtitles and piano accompaniment. The audience is encouraged to participate in the grand finale.

The founder is Helen Wong, wife of Pullen member Alan Cormack. She sings the role of Liu. The opera will be held in the sanctuary at Pullen on Sunday, August 12, at 3 p.m. Visit www.ncsummeropera.org for more information or to reserve your spot.

—Alan Cormack

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