

Pullen News

DECEMBER 2020

What does God require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

-Micah 6:8

In two or three sentences, what is your Christmas message to our congregation? This was the question I asked the staff. What follows is a Christmas poem (loosely defined) that I created from their words to you, our beloved congregation. In a year that has offered us many challenges and opportunities, we have been reminded again and again of how blessed we are to be your staff and to serve the mission of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church. You are a beautiful people and your witness, individually and communally, gives truth to the message of this season: God is with us in this world in the flesh.

-Nancy

Jesus Was Born

In a chaotic Ancient Near East that was being ravaged by an oppressive militaristic superpower and a power hungry religious system, Jesus was born. In our chaotic world, we can only imagine what we will give birth to...

stillness--not looking for more to do,
allowing ourselves time to simply be,
a greater awareness of the ways that God is with us.

Many of the things we believe we need to do in order to make the season bright also leave us stressed and exhausted. Whether it's having the perfect decor for the party we're hosting or traveling with toddlers to visit family, these tasks can leave us with little time left to experience the hope, peace, joy and love that this season seeks to bring.

As this Christmas may be like no other, may you find comfort in our sacred story detailing the birth of Jesus...
in the sounds of music bringing comfort and joy;
in the soaring melodies lifting your spirits;
in the lush harmonies filling you with hope;
and in the reassuring rhythms peacefully beating in your hearts.

Our Hope:

that each of us can be present wherever we are;
that in our physical distancing we will come together in spirit as one family;
and that we will seek the calm and peace of Christmas.

Our Blessing:

May your holiday light shine bright, may heat warm your homes and may all projects be completed.

May you find peace and joy with friends and family near or far.

May you have the warmth and glow of light on the coldest of your nights; May the creatures of the earth comfort you when you least expect it; May wisdom come to you from the most unexpected visitors; and, may you never overlook the miracles found in the most necessary and mundane tasks of life.

May you feel the warmth of those who surround you and know the love of those who have missed being around you.

And may you be blessed with peace, joy and all the best this wonderful season has to offer. May this incredible time of giving and spending time with family bring you the joy that lasts throughout the year.

*Warren Chesson, Tommy Cook, Brian Crisp, Dana Deaton, Janice Hocutt,
Sylvanda Judd, Lucy Kuemier, Bryan Lee, Chalice Overy, Nancy Petty,
Kiara Ruth and Larry Schultz*

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Music Ministry Notes

Pullen's Weekend Connections, emailed on Fridays, includes the new Music Ministry video series: May A Song Remain Within You. This series provides inspiration and encouragement through a variety of music and items of interest related to Pullen's Music Ministry. Archived episodes can be found on the Music Ministry page of the church website: pullen.org/music.

The Pullen Chancel Choir (adults) and Orchestra (youth/adults) meet online every other week for connection, music-making and to prepare recordings for worship. The Chancel Choir meets the first and Third Wednesdays from 7:30-8:15PM and the Pullen Orchestra

on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 4:00-4:45PM. All are invited to participate with these groups as they meet via Zoom. Interested persons should contact Larry Schultz for link information. *-Larry Schultz*



Hope Center Angel Tree

The Hope Center at Pullen has approximately 20 Angel Tree Families who need to be adopted for the holidays. Due to Covid restrictions, Angel Tree is using Sign Up

Genius. The link is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0849aeaf2da7f85-hope>

There is a description of desired holiday gifts, current sizes, and a brief portrait of the recipients.

Angel Tree Gifts should be brought to the Hope Center at Pullen by **Wednesday, December 9** to prepare for the holidays.

For more information contact bcrisp@pullen.org or Jadie at jbaldwin-hamm@hopecenteratpullen.org.

House All Update

Since the fall, First Baptist Church on Salisbury Street and Pullen have partnered to provide emergency assistance for rental and utility payments to people in need. This partnership has allowed us to help more people than we would if

our work was not unified. On average we are receiving 13 calls a day, and this number exceeds the capacity at which we can help. We are able to refer people to Wake County's Prevention and Housing Program. Each week, we can help a handful of people with rent and utilities. 60% of our assistance is with rent, 10% is with water, 25% is with power and electricity, and the remaining 5% is with gas.

Your generous donations are keeping many of our neighbors in their homes during the pandemic and the eviction crisis.

-Brian Crisp



Christmas Breakfast: The Tradition Continues

I'm looking forward to our virtual Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, December 20 at 9:45am! It will be so good to see and interact with everyone in this festive atmosphere. This year's breakfast will feature many of the traditions we look forward to like our 12 Days of Christmas interactive song and the Children's Christmas Play. Please [register](#) for the Christmas Breakfast by December 19!

Do you want to be featured in the "12 Days of Christmas" song? This time you won't have to jockey for positions at the table for your preferred day. We'll be putting together a video compilation that will allow all of our silly and creative community members to participate.

To get in on the fun, please follow these directions carefully:

1. Sign up for one of the 12 days [online](#). Please try to make sure that every day has at least one sign up before signing up for additional slots on the same day. You'll see what I mean when you open the sign-up list.
2. Create your interpretation of the day you signed up for, and record or photograph it.
3. Submit your video or photograph to blee@pullen.org by Dec. 15.

-Chalice Overy



We grieve with:

- ☞ We hold in our prayers John Doss in the loss of his father, Morris Garolyn Doss, who died on November 5 at the age of 94.
- ☞ Grace Evans' mother Carolyn Evans died on November 3. We hold Grace and her family in our prayers.
- ☞ Former and beloved member Steve Holland died on November 11. Steve was one of the teachers for the Poteat Sunday School class.
- ☞ We hold in our prayers Oliver and Julia Williams in the death of Oliver's brother, Donald Lane Williams who died November 23.

We celebrate with:

- ☞ The Pike's celebrate the 33rd anniversary of Andrew's heart transplant.

2021 Church Leadership Positions

Normally, the congregation would confirm nominees for upcoming leadership positions at its November business meeting, but an alternative plan was put in place this year because of pandemic restrictions. In accordance with that plan, the Coordinating Council, acting on behalf of the congregation, confirmed the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees at the council's meeting on November 1, 2020. We are grateful to the committee for its work and to the nominees for their willingness to serve.

-Lisa Grabarek, Coordinating Council chair

[Click here for the 2021 Councils and Committees Roster](#)

Calling to Keep Connected

With the pandemic worsening we want to bolster our efforts to keep in contact with all of our Pullen family. The goal is to reach out periodically by phone as a reminder that we're here for each other and to find out if our community members need additional support in dealing with sickness, loss, hardship, etc. Are you interested in assisting us in this effort? We're looking for people who are willing to contact roughly a dozen people every 2 months, and are willing to use Realm to keep track of those contacts.

If you are interested, please contact Chalice Overy or join our [Zoom training](#) on December 13 at 3:30 pm.

-Congregational Care Council



Round Table
Ministry

Help Round Table Serve Hot Food this Fall and Winter

We will continue through the winter months serving the guests who come to our door on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This summer we have been serving sandwiches, fruit, snack bags and bottled drinks. When cold weather comes, we would like to serve our guests some hot food. For the next several months, we are asking for donations of these canned items:

- Beef Stew
- Chili with beans
- Vegetable soup
- Progresso beef pot roast with country vegetables
- Progresso potato with bacon & cheese

You can drop off these items off on Tuesday or Thursday between 1:00 and 3:00pm. You can also contact Brian to make alternate arrangements.

-Brian Crisp

Welcome New Members!

Mya, Tya, Jim and Trish Ajamie joined Pullen on October 14. Pictured here is the family with son Jack, his dog Henry, and Jack's husband Cody. Jack and Cody live in Highpoint.

Beside Cody is Tya holding Winnie, Mya, Jim and Trish. Mya and Tya are twins and will celebrate their 18th birthday in January! We welcome the Ajamie family to Pullen.



Church Financials as of December 2, 2020

Gifts to Date:	\$ 1,057,118.74
Expenses to Date:	\$ 1,021,647.30
Difference:	\$ 35,471.44

Pullen Children's Activities for December



Only 2 more Children's Sunday Group ZOOM meetings this year!
K-2—9:30 AM / 3-5—10:15 AM

DECEMBER 6 Peace / DECEMBER 13 JOY

Over the next two weeks during ADVENT, we will explore HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE.... and how we can give these four words to those around us. Please contact tcook@pullen.org for the Zoom meeting link.

Children's Worship Videos Online – <https://pullen.org/children/>
Vanessa Jeter, Karen Sazani and Libby Stephens have posted videos leading GODLY PLAY lessons for our children. Children can go online, see a story and wonder about it, Great for children aged 4-7, but all can enjoy!



December 16: Drive-Through Love Feast
Bring an ornament for the tree!

We would love for each person or family unit to make an **ornament** that will be added to the Pullen Family Christmas Tree. Ornaments will be put on the tree during a DRIVE THRU LOVE FEAST on WEDNESDAY, December 16. Elaborate is fine, but a simple ornament is more than acceptable. If you can't be at church, at least you can be represented by an ornament that decorates our Christmas Tree!



December 20 (during virtual Christmas Breakfast)

With parents as directors and camera operators, we will attempt to put together a simple play where we "just add kids." Please contact Tommy to see how your child can be a part. tcook@pullen.org

-Tommy Cook

Earth Ministry Challenge: "The Season of Giving"

The typical 'gift giving season' in western culture places an enormous carbon-toll on our planet. Here are some ways to celebrate the season of hope, peace, love and joy with those you adore and are grateful for – not only human - but all other species on our living planet.

Ways to Engage Children in Gift Giving:

Organizations such as Food for the Poor (www.foodforthe poor.org/gift) and Heifer International (heifer.org/catalog) offer wonderful opportunities for kids to help less fortunate children. They can choose gifts of grains/beans, clean water, farm animals, cook stoves, solar powered light kits, garden tools, mosquito netting, school supplies, medical care and much more. Children get very excited about selecting their gifts and helping other kids every Christmas.

Or this year especially when so many people are out of work, think locally and shop as a family for food, then deliver it to a local food bank, church, or soup kitchen. You can also include your children in deciding which local non-profit organization to financially or physically support during this season or into next year!

Another idea to consider is planting trees to slow climate change and protect all of God's creatures for future generations. You can do this in honor of or in memory of a friend or as a joint family effort. **At One Tree planted**, it's easy to create your own tree planting fundraiser, then challenge family and friends to contribute instead of exchanging gifts. Every dollar donated will plant a tree! Other reputable tree planting organizations include: **The Nature Conservancy** and **Eden Reforestation Projects**.

-Gail Powell

This article is continued on our web page! Please visit for more ideas and links about Earth friendly giving during this season of giving.

Visit : <http://pullen.org/earthministry/>

The Table

Join us at The Table, Wednesdays at 6pm on Zoom, as we dive into Advent through art, action and ritual. Contact covery@pullen.org to sign up.



- ◆ **December 2 – Advent Art with Carole Baker**
Theologian and artist Carole Baker discussed Advent, iconography and her upcoming exhibit, “Mary: The Paper Doll Project”.
- ◆ **December 9—Floodwaters of Oppression**
The Rev. Jemonde Taylor of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church will speak on the intersectionality of race and the environment from his experience in leading his congregation in Rochester Heights, a historically African-American community on Walnut Creek with a history of flooding.
- ◆ **December 16—Drive-Through Lovefeast**
Between 6:30-7:30 pm, drive through the parking lot lit with candles to receive your lovefeast bun and chocolate milk (buns packaged individually and individual cartons of chocolate milk). As you receive your Lovefeast, you may hand us an ornament to add to our Pullen Christmas tree which will be in the parking lot, then moved to our sanctuary.
- ◆ **December 23--No program**
- ◆ **December 30--No program**



Hope Center Updates

We hope all of you experienced hope, joy and love over Thanksgiving. We want to express our gratitude for the support you give to our youth. You volunteer, give gift cards, donate items, and contribute financially to our work. We are so grateful for the support you’ve shown over the last 11 years and, in particular, sticking by us in this unexpectedly challenging year.

We’re thrilled to report that 2 young adults moved into new homes in the last month. We’re working with a number of others who will move into new units at the end of this month and the beginning of 2021.

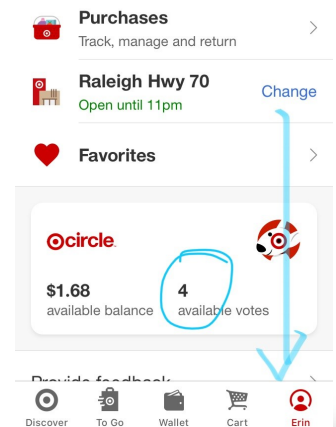
Annual Campaign Update

We are nearly 35% of the way to our goal! Thank you everyone who has already contributed to our Annual Campaign. You are the reason that former foster youth have the support they need for safe, stable futures. If you’d like to donate, you can text Stable Home to 44-321, visit www.hopecenteratpullen.org/donate, or send a check to The Hope Center at Pullen, 1801 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27605

Attention Target Shoppers!

Target selected HCP as one of the charities that it will contribute to this year. Shoppers help determine the amount that each organization will get. Check your Target app for any unused votes you have. You can find votes on your profile tab. Click on them and you’ll be taken to a screen where you can cast your votes. You can vote now and anytime again before December 31. Thank you!!

-Erin Witcher



Rooftop Garden Plans!



On November 19, the Rooftop Garden Committee presented a possible design for Pullen's rooftop garden that has been in development for over a year. This is a summary of part of that presentation for the whole congregation to consider.

The rooftop garden, installed when the Chapel and Finlator Hall were built, was created with great intention but has succumbed over the years to neglect. Other than some hearty chives, most plants originally installed have died, and "weeds" have taken over.

We now have 10-12 years of experience and more information on roof gardens - particularly regarding plant suitability. The original design was intended to be "extensive" with a limited palette of plants with shallow roots; however, selective "intensive" planting using light-weight growing media, younger plants, and careful integration with existing structure offer promising methods to diversify and create spaces that invite and encourage care.

In early 2019, the Earth Ministry Team (then called Care of Creation Advocacy) began discussing the rooftop garden. A first meeting was held that August, and the group began envisioning the space. After several meetings and a visit to the NC Raulston Arboretum rooftop garden, the following vision was created:

The Pullen Memorial Baptist Church Rooftop Garden is envisioned as a place where the Spirit lives and where nature is honored. The garden will connect the church's sacred spaces; sitting as a chalice on top of the communion space below and uniting the sanctuary, chapel and classrooms. The newly envisioned garden space will embrace a diversity of harmonious plants and (perhaps) bees that joyously live interdependently. The adjoining terrace will be a soulful outdoor worship space uniting Spirit with earth, air, water, plants, and people.

NC State professor Anne Spafford and her class were enlisted to explore designs and plantings for the space. With those designs, and further research and leadership from Jeff Evans (landscape architect) and Charles Fulbright Holden (architect-builder), a possible design started taking shape. The Rooftop Garden Committee also began discussing logistics including soil depth and content, condition of the rooftop liner, weight-bearing, watering from the cistern, safety around the perimeter, funding and maintenance, plant choices and other aesthetics.

The drafted design was submitted to Pullen's Buildings and Grounds Committee, and additional professionals were consulted regarding the roof's integrity and suitable plants. Weights for the depths of soil needed for various plants have been calculated, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee is in getting a quote from a structural engineer to certify whether the building will support the envisioned design.

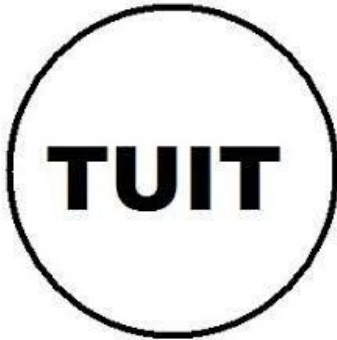
The Rooftop Garden Committee wants for Pullen to develop a garden that it can enjoy and sustain – deliberately and intentionally, and with mindfulness for costs of initial installation and ongoing sustainability. And we need your help to do so! We would love to have your comments and ideas, or for you to join our committee, which is ongoing! Please contact Ann Eller at anneller57@gmail.com, Jeff Evans at egrphr@earthlink.net, or Charles Fulbright Holden at charles@oxidearchitecture.com to leave comments or for more information!

-Ann Eller



Time to Pledge

A time when things are different,
a time when they are the same.



Remember this?

I can't recall the first time I saw this little visual gimmick, but whenever it was, I do recall thinking it was a clever, if gentle, reminder that my best intentions are sometimes hindered when I knew there is something I need to do, but I just haven't done it yet. This year's election results, for instance, suggested that more citizens than ever, despite the encumbrance of the Pandemic, recognized that they needed to vote, and got a "Round Tuit" in record numbers!

During this Stewardship Season, if you are a Pullen member, you may be assuring yourself that you will do as you routinely do this time of year and fill out and send in that Pledge card, or connect through Realm as many have already done, and register your commitment to support your church financially in 2021. You just are waiting to get a Round Tuit! Please consider this a nudge. And thank you.

Numbers as of December 2:

Pledges:	102
Total pledged:	433,364.00
Budget for 2021:	1,191,822.00
Still Need:	758,458.00

The Finance Committee will continue to do our part by reminding the congregation that it is through regular gifts and offerings from the church membership that Pullen may continue to turn our minds and hearts toward the best - to wisdom, belief, light, hope - while naming and confronting and contending with the worst - the foolishness, the incredulity, the darkness, the despair.

Please consider prayerfully and thoughtfully your pledge for 2021, and send the yellow pledge card to the church or make your pledge online using Realm at pullen.org. Pullen is now using Realm for all giving. If you currently give through PayPal or use ACH (Vanco) you will need to re-enter your giving and account information in your Realm profile. Together we can continue to be the faithful church we have so long been and will long be. Pullen is now using Realm for all giving. If you currently give through PayPal or use ACH (Vanco) you will need to re-enter your giving and account information in your Realm profile.

Year-End Giving at Pullen

Pullen's fiscal year ends on December 31 so any contributions for 2020 or prepayments for 2021 must be dated on or before 12/31/2020, and be received or post-marked by that day to be credited to the 2020 fiscal year. If you are transferring stocks or sending contributions through brokerage houses make sure they include your name on the gift. In addition, please contact the church office and let Lucy know that these gifts will be coming. Questions about year-end contributions, stock gifts or electronic giving can be directed to Lucy Kucmierz.

- Pullen Finance Committee

*Jim Jarrard, Chair Kim Gazella, Kathie Barnett, Ed Henderson, Henry Bowers, Abby Sandling, Sarah Chew, Linda Silber, Jim Zupacic,
Richard Cook, Church Treasurer*

[Pledge Online](#)



Advent

Hope · Love · Joy · Peace

Join us for times of gathering as a community during the Advent season

We hope you'll join us -virtually- this Advent Season at Pullen Baptist Church. We are inviting and encouraging you to join us for these times of gathering as a community during the Advent season and on Christmas morning.

- **Join our [Livestream worship](#)** at 11:00 a.m. on the Sundays of Advent as we explore the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love.
- **December 16, 6:30-7:30pm:** Drive-through Lovefeast Service: As Christmas music plays, you will drive through the parking lot lit with candles and receive your lovefeast bun and chocolate milk (buns packaged individually and individual cartons of chocolate milk). As you receive your Lovefeast, you will hand us an ornament to add to our Pullen Christmas tree which will be in the parking lot, then moved to our sanctuary.
- **December 20, 9:45-10:45am:** Zoom Christmas Breakfast along with a presentation of the Twelve Days of Christmas and a Children's Christmas Play. Look for a registration link soon.
- **December 24:** Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. on our website and Pullen's Facebook page.
- **December 25:** Christmas morning message from the staff at 10:00 a.m. on our website and Pullen's Facebook page.

- **[Daily Calendar](#)**: the ministerial staff has created an Advent Calendar that offers you daily activities for Advent at home.

For more info and links, including our holiday music playlists, please visit the Advent page on our website:

pullen.org/advent2020

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

1801 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27605

