



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

December news & updates

Upcoming Events

See what's happening this [month](#).

Finance Report:

October Giving:

(includes a 2020 carryover of \$7,818.20)
\$ 52,739.35

As of October 30, 2021

Total Contributions:

\$ 810,592.57

Total Expenses:

- \$ 860,618.91

Difference:

- \$ 50,026.34

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate the following joys...

A daughter named Dahlia was born to Ariana Ellis and Alan Shearin, Jr. on Monday, November 1st. Ariana is daughter to Rochelle and John Ellis and granddaughter to Laura Crumpler.

Gov. Cooper recently announced that Oppie Jordan has been appointed to the N.C. Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities & Substance Abuse Services.

Advent Schedule

There are many opportunities to engage in the spirit of the Advent season! We have even gotten creative to safely get back to some of our old traditions. We look forward sharing lots of hope, peace, love and joy with you this season!

December 5 - Second Sunday of Advent

11:00 am in the Sanctuary

We will light the Peace candle.

December 8 - Advent Candlelight Service

6:30 pm in the Chapel or streamed via Facebook live

Enter a slower pace in the midst of the hectic holiday season. Register to worship in the round in the Chapel, or view the service on the church's [Facebook page](#). Register via [Realm](#) or by calling the church office.

December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 am in the Sanctuary

We light the Joy candle.

December 15 - Lovefeast

6:30 pm In the Sanctuary and on the Terrace

A simple service of carols, prayer and scripture reading will be followed by a simple meal of sweet rolls and hot chocolate on the Terrace. The Pullen Orchestra and Chancel Choir will offer seasonal music on the Terrace and lead in more carol-singing.

December 19 - Christmas Breakfast

9:30 am in the Sanctuary and on the Terrace

The children's Christmas play will be held in the sanctuary. Following the play, we will enjoy breakfast biscuits on the Terrace and enjoy the sounds of the Pullen Orchestra and Chancel Choir. Join us in worship for the Fourth Sunday in Advent as we light the Love candle.

**December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
5:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

Jim and Susan Pike are celebrating the 34th anniversary of their son, Andrew Pike's heart transplant. Andrew is one of the top five longest living heart recipients in the country.

Laura Robinson received a kidney transplant last month and is recovering at home.

We hold in prayer:

Jeff Cherry and his family in the death of Jeff's beloved uncle who died on October 29 after suffering a massive stroke.

Elena Ceberio and Tony Quartararo in the death of their beloved friend, Monsignor Jerry Sherba.

Sylvanda Judd in the loss of his uncle, Johnnie Lee Judd, who died in a house fire in Angier on November 3. We also pray for Sylvanda and his daughter, Taylor, in the death of Taylor's grandfather.

Bo Reece in the loss of his 42 year old cousin Stephen Reece who died of bone marrow leukemia on November 7.

The family of Mary Kilburn. Mary died Monday, November 15 at her home surrounded by her daughters, Katherine and Amanda, and their families. Mary joined Pullen in 1992 and was a faithful member. A celebration of her life will be held here at Pullen on January 29th, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Remember the Christmas story through scripture reading and traditional Christmas carols in the Sanctuary. We will light the Christ candle and our individual candles as a reminder to carry God's light into the world.

All adults are invited to join the Chancel Choir for a full-group rehearsal on Wednesday, December 8, from 7:15-8:15PM, in the Sanctuary. New participants are welcomed and will be provided with singing masks for this rehearsal that prepares the choir to participate in December events.

Ensembles from the Chancel Choir and Pullen Orchestra offer music for worship during Advent and Christmas, and the full Chancel Choir and Pullen Orchestra will present seasonal music from the Chapel Terrace for the Dec. 15 Christmas Lovefeast and Dec. 19 Christmas Breakfast. Join us!

-Larry Schultz, Minister of Music

Theologian-in-Residence Program:

Together with Nancy, the Deacons have been developing a 'Theologian-in-Residence' program, inviting a visiting clergy for a limited term (~6-months) in 2022 to help us focus on the goals of radical inclusion and social justice. The TIR, along with staff and laity, would begin to develop a theological and spiritual framework our journey of becoming an antiracist church.

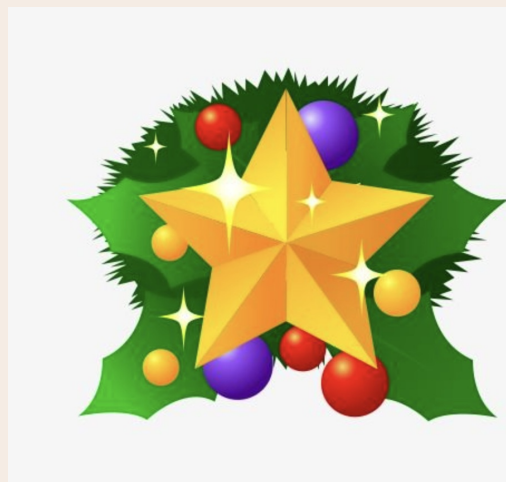
Pullen has held a critical post in Raleigh since its inception – a social justice congregation willing and eager to seek justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. For over 130 years, our church has been called to protest, to dissent and to stand and to march with the poor and the oppressed. In order for Pullen to live fully into our legacy in Raleigh and in the world, the Deacons have reflected that we need to partner with other voices to help us see ourselves, our strengths, and our need for growth.

The TIR will bring expertise in mobilizing churches to create change in themselves and in the world, helping us carry out our work of justice love, and set a vision for how other churches can do the same. This framework would explore questions like: What does it mean to be an antiracist church? What are the theological, biblical, and spiritual anchors for being an antiracist church? Is there a common set of terms (language) that we need to be committed to as a congregation? What rituals/traditions do we need to add to live out being an antiracist church?

Working directly with the TIR will be a tremendous opportunity for our congregation and community – an engaging and challenging experience including sermons, educational programs, and the development of new curriculum and resources. The selected TIR will be able to speak to these issues through leadership experience and from an impacted perspective.

We look forward to sharing more information as the Theologian-in-Residence continues to develop.

-Julia Janaro



Want to Learn More About Pullen?

Are you thinking about joining Pullen, or just want to learn more? Pullen 101 is a unique opportunity to hear from Pullen staff and members about our history, values and the ways we put our faith into action. The intimate 7-week class gives you an opportunity to ask questions and get to know other people at the church. Pullen 101 is for those who are new to the community, thinking about joining or just want to get a better sense of who we are. Pullen 101 will be held on Zoom on Sundays from 9:30-10:30 am, January 16 - February 27. Please register by January 9. You may register on **Realm** if you have an account, or simply email me at covery@pullen.org.



Pullen Women's Group

Please join us for the next Pullen Women's Group. We get together to visit with each other and catch up, no special agenda. Newcomers are welcome. Our next get together will be a Soup Potluck at Deborah Brogden's house (5604 Partridge La., Raleigh) on Saturday, Jan 1 from Noon -2:00 pm. Please RSVP by calling or texting Deborah at 919-389-8995. Happy New Year!

-Rita Rakestraw

Come join our children as we phase back into the tradition of our Children's Christmas Play! This year, we will meet in the sanctuary. Some of our children will be providing music as you arrive.

Parents, please contact Tommy if you have any questions about your children's participation. Look for more information about practice in the "Pullen Kid's" weekly email!

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and their Families



The Work Group to End Homelessness works to educate people around issues of homelessness and to advocate for policy changes that will eradicate homelessness. Work Group to End Homelessness meets on the 1st Monday of each month from 6:30 -7:30 pm. For information email bcrisp@pullen.org.

-Brian Crisp



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EVERY NOTE *counts*



During the Oct. 24 worship service, long-time Pullenite Rob Schofield offered a focus about why he continues to support Pullen. This is an excerpt from his remarks.

Living in community – still, by far, our best hope

"...one of the great existential debates that confronts our species today is this: How will we live – as consumers or citizens?
For many on the modern political and religious right, decades of destructive propaganda have convinced them that the answer is the former.

"Freedom" – which they frequently confuse with "license" – is about treating society and government and the other common good public structures that comprise it like a box store: the goal is for each person to try and get the best possible goods and services for the cheapest possible price. In other words, the guiding motivation is "what's in it for me?"

We see this most acutely and visibly right now in the debate that's gripped our society over vaccination and mask-wearing during the pandemic, but that's far from the only example.

This attitude is also at-work in the debates over public education, gun violence and immigration, the absurd and manufactured controversy over critical race theory and, perhaps most frighteningly, in our response to the climate emergency – where many on the right still seek to prevent American action to reduce CO2 emissions lest it somehow place us at quote "a competitive disadvantage."

I hope it's obvious by this point where Pullen fits into all this for me.
As I've come to know and love, Pullen is the quintessential "citizenship church. "

Unlike so many religious congregations, it's not a place where one comes merely to consume products and services, make social and business connections or somehow punch one's personal ticket to a blissful hereafter in some kind of weird *quid pro quo* transaction with the Almighty.

Rather, Pullen is a place where people join together in the collective pursuit of truth and love and to play a part in the construction of the Beloved Community – here and now and for future generations. It is, as our fall pledge drive theme implies, like a symphony or choir (or, at least, a really good rock, R&B or bluegrass band) – a genuine collective and democratic enterprise in which we all play a role and in which every note matters.

And in this sense, Pullen is – at least for me – a truly special place that models the kind of broader society we simply must construct and nurture if we humans have any realistic hope that our descendants will be able to continue this collective search for truth and love in the universe. Of course the responsibility that comes with such an ambitious and important enterprise is not insignificant.

As with the public institutions we are all duty-bound to support as citizens, it's essential that we all pledge and tithe to keep this collective healthy and thriving – especially right now at this critical moment in history in which so many have retreated from the public sphere (and common good institutions) and in which we confront a raft of important societal crossroads.

The bottom line: it's clear to me that living in community is still, by far, our best hope as a species and that Pullen is both a wonderful model for that and a powerful instrument for making such a vision a reality."

Every note counts. Make YOUR note count! We need everyone's support to continue Pullen's mission of justice love in the world. Here's a snapshot of where we are:

Number of Pledges: 126
Total Pledged: \$623,174.00
Budget Goal: \$1,225,402

- *Kim Gazella, Finance Committee*

[Pledge Now](#)

Pullen Kids:

Children in Worship at Pullen!

If you would like to join us at worship Sunday mornings in December, we would ask that ALL families sign in either at the main entrance (by Finlator) or in the sanctuary foyer in front of the parlor. View the self-check-in questions that you will be asked to respond to when you check-in.

Preschool Care is available upon request (email Tommy by Wednesday of that week). This Sunday, Dec 5, Children's Worship will be available for Kindergarten-5th Grades. All those who wish to attend Children's Worship will sit with families in the sanctuary and exit with an adult guide as the congregation sings (look for the que in the worship guide). Children can be picked up in room 122.

-*Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and Their Families*

[Pullen Memorial Preschool and Children's Ministry Self-Screening](#)

Pullen Kid's Meet-Up

Sunday, December 5 from 9:30 -10:45 am in Pullen Room 122

Children will meet for Sunday Group, Christmas Play Practice, and free play. The Sunday Group will be a hybrid of in-person and children joining in on ZOOM.

Parent's Day Out @ Pullen

Saturday, December 11 from 10 am - 3:00 pm

Parents, you can check in children at the church, go shopping, eat lunch, take a nap... while children enjoy games, crafts, and seasonal fun. Sing up by December 5!

Pullen Kid's Meet-Up

Sunday, December 12 from 9:30 -10:45 am in Pullen Room 122

Children will meet for Sunday Group, Christmas Play Practice, and free play. The Sunday Group will be a hybrid of in-person and children joining in on ZOOM.

Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, December 18 10:00 am in the Pullen Sanctuary

Children's Christmas Play

Sunday, December 19 9:30 am LIVE in the Pullen Sanctuary

Youth Ministry

December 1- Wednesday Night Live *in the Youth Room at 6:30 pm*

We have a therapist who specializes in eating disorders as well as a certified nutritionist joining us to talk a bit about eating disorders, how to get help, how to navigate those conversations with friends, etc. Bring all your questions.

December 8- Wednesday Night Live: Nerf Wars *in the Youth Room at 6:30 pm*

Bryan just bought over 20 nerf guns and 200 darts. Prepare for a good time.

December 15: LoveFeast

December 22 - Wednesday Night Live Christmas...the good, the bad, the ugly *in the Youth Room at 6:30 pm*

December 29 - No Youth Group

January 5 - Wednesday Night Live: Intention Setting *in the Youth Room at 6:30 pm*



Around the Community



The Hope Center at Pullen would like to request gift cards for the **Christmas Angel Tree** this year for the young people who we work with who are currently in the latter stages of foster care or aging out of foster care. The gift cards could be to Target, Walmart, Amazon, or Visa Cards. Please leave the gift cards in the Hope Center mailbox in the church office by Sunday Dec 19.

Thank you so much for supporting the Hope Center at Pullen!

Rita Rakestraw, Intern at the Hope Center

- Rita Rakeshaw

AMOS Update:

The team at AMOS Health and Hope sends warm greetings to Pullen from Nicaragua. They continue to provide health care in the communities, and the team in Managua continues their health promoter supervision visits. A health promoter training is coming up at the end of November, in which promoters from all the communities gather for training and team building. The two clinics in Managua continue to care for patients, and the community health workers in Nejapa provide support to people in their communities. If you would enjoy regular information on AMOS activities, please visit [amoshealth.org](https://www.amoshealth.org) and complete the section on "Get Updates".

We have an opportunity to participate in a Virtual Mission Trip to Nicaragua! It may be possible to offer this on 5 Wednesday nights as one of the offerings at The Table. AMOS created a series of 5 videos for us to watch together, followed by group discussion. AMOS team members can join us one evening for live discussion as well! Please let me know if you are interested in participating; also let me know if you have another proposal for the best time. (such as: have a video watch party, either in person or via Zoom, on a weekend). You can also watch the videos on your own – visit https://www.amoshealth.org/get-involved/virtual-mission-trip/#gf_11.



More than a year has passed since AMOS transitioned from being a founder-led organization, guided by David and Laura Parajon. AMOS thrives under new leadership with Dr. Gabriella Woo as executive director in Nicaragua, Dr. Roberto Antonio Martinez as Board Chair in the United States, and Octavio Cortes as Board President in Nicaragua. David and Laura are working as academic physicians at the University of New Mexico, and spend much of their time fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those of you who remember Felicia Zamora, an AMOS delegation coordinator who worked with most of our teams, will be delighted to hear she has graduated from Pittsburg Theological Seminary with an MDiv, and is going through the ordination process with ABC (American Baptist Churches) through the North Hills Community Baptist Church.



Christy Lafferty, who has visited Pullen on two occasions, has worked full time at AMOS as part of the leadership team for several years. She recently completed the process to become a missionary with International Ministries, and anticipates ongoing work with AMOS. To read more about Christy's work, visit <https://www.internationalministries.org/author/christine-lafferty/>. You can also offer financial support through the website – she has reached 54% of her support goal. Visit <https://createsend.com/t/d-F6D6137591729A6C2540EF23F30FEDED> to read her most recent newsletter.

We sent three boxes of layettes and cloth masks to Nicaragua as a pilot project last year. We are so happy to report that they finally arrived at AMOS after a sojourn in Nicaraguan customs, and are being distributed to communities! A more complete update on this topic will be coming soon.



AMOS faces considerable challenges, one of which is the pandemic. While COVID -19 has necessitated many changes in procedures, and presents a real risk to those living and working in Nicaragua, AMOS team members have continued their work. The vaccine roll-out has been slow, with 23% of the population having received one dose, and 7% now fully vaccinated. 100% of eligible AMOS staff (everyone age 30 and older) have received their first dose, and should receive a second dose by the end of December.

The political context in Nicaragua has been challenging since 2018, and the local, hemispheric, and global response to the November 7 elections will reverberate for some time. The AMOS leadership works very hard to maintain services in the communities, to build on their relationship with the Ministry of Health. and to take care of AMOS staff and community partners, in spite of these complexities.

Pullen continues to support AMOS through the Missions and Outreach Budget, through Pullen Mission

Women, and through individual donations. Individual donors will want to know that monthly donations which are initiated through December 31, 2021 will be matched for one year. Increased monthly donations will also be matched if you email communications@amoshealth.org to arrange the increase.

I continue to serve on the AMOS Board. We are considering when it will be safe and helpful for a Pullen work team to travel to Nicaragua to accompany and serve a community, and will update the congregation as clarity emerges. Please send me any questions you have about AMOS and our partnership with them.

-Deb Norton



Hope Center Update

Happy Holidays to all of you! December at HCP is a time where our supporters shine so brightly. We're so grateful for all you do to power our work: stocking our clients with gift cards to keep their households running, continuing to open the church space for us to use, and financial contributions that ensure our youth continue to have support on their journeys to adulthood. Thank you. We're so grateful for your partnership in this work.

Friendsgiving 2021

We hosted our annual Friendsgiving for our clients and staff in Finlator the week before Thanksgiving. Graduates and current participants joined us for a feast. We all had so much fun. Many of our youth grew up not knowing where they would spend Thanksgiving or wondering if the same people would be around to celebrate with them the next year. Friendsgiving is their constant and gives them assurance that there are people who look forward to celebrating with them every single year.

Annual Campaign

We are 30% of our way to reaching our Annual Campaign goal! Thank you to everyone who has already donated. If you haven't yet donated, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/powerthefuture> to learn more about how your donation will impact our youth.



