



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

December news & updates

Upcoming Events

See what's happening this month.

Finance Report:

Date: 10/31

Contributions: \$942,260

Expenses: \$957,365

Difference: -\$15,104

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate these milestones and new beginnings in the lives of our Pullen family members...

Barbara Ann Hughes received the Rankin Legacy Award from the North Carolina Public Health Association in September. This award is given to the NCPHA member in recognition of the outstanding contributions to public health in North Carolina over the member's lifetime.

Additionally, Barbara Ann received recognition from the American Public Health Association at their conference in November.

Rowan James Matthews-Haynes was born on October 16. Rowan is the son of Sam Matthews and Jordan Haynes, grandson of Santi and Matt Matthews, and great grandson of Carolyn Billings.

Evan Michael Reed, was born on November 23 weighing in at 8



A Recipe for a Delightful Christmas Breakfast

Christmas Breakfast is back like it never left on Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 am, and it is sure to be one of the jolliest things you do this season! This gathering is really just a time for fun and fellowship as a community. It's like a very wholesome Christmas party.

Now, it's been a while since we've whipped up our traditional Christmas Breakfast, so let me take a moment to remind you of the key ingredients.

Ingredients:

- **Breakfast** - We're asking you to bring a breakfast dish to share with 8-10 people, which will give us plenty to go around. Make a dish you love or one that's just easy to throw together. No need to make a big fuss. All dishes prepared (or purchased) with love and clean hands are welcome!
- **Christmas** - This key ingredient of the Christmas Breakfast comes in several varieties.
 - Christmas Spirit - If you were looking for an opportunity to wear that Christmas sweater, those ornament earrings or any other Christmas paraphernalia, this festive occasion is your chance!
 - Christmas Music - This would not be

pounds, 9 ounces. Evan is the grandson of Susan and George Reed.

We hold these in prayer in their grief:

The family and friends of Sue Creech, who died on November 2 in Southern Pines. Sue was a dedicated member of Pullen for many years, and had moved to Southern Pines several years ago to be close to her daughter. Sue's service will be at Pullen on Saturday, December 10 at 1:00 pm.

Tarsha Sharpe and Toni Whitaker, in the loss of Tarsha's mother, who died on November 5 after suffering a stroke the day before.

Jeanie Tyson, whose aunt, Betty Jones died unexpectedly. Jeanie and her aunt were very close; she often referred to her Aunt Betty as her second mother.

The family of Marcia Phillips, a Pullen member who died on November 3. Marcia had been unable to attend Pullen for some years due to her health.

Steven Crook and the Crook family in the loss of Steven's wife, Cathy, who died unexpectedly on November 12. Steven is the son of Roger Crook and brother of James Crook.

The family and friends of Hailey Brooks, the 11 year-old killed in the Raleigh Christmas Parade on November 19. Hailey was the niece and cousin of Bill Brooks and Sharon Ambrose and the Tenney family.

Nancy Petty in the loss of her father, John Donald Petty, who died on November 19. Nancy led a beautiful service for him on November 23 at Sandy Plains Baptist Church in Shelby, NC.

Christmas Breakfast if it didn't include our world famous rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas". We will have a section designated for each of the 12 days of Christmas, which we act out as we sing. Some acts are carefully planned and pre-rehearsed, others are created on the spot. Either way, it's a lot of fun to participate in, and hilarious to watch!

- Christmas Play - Pullen's children will present their rendition of the Christmas story. Every year they find a new way to bring this classic narrative to life!
- **Presence** - Yes, I spelled that correctly. YOU are the special ingredient that makes Christmas Breakfast a gift to the Pullen community year after year.

Join us on December 18 at 9:00 am in Finlator Hall for Christmas Breakfast!

Church wide

Upcoming Pullen Events:

Advent at Pullen



Second Sunday of Advent

December 4 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

We light the candle of Peace.

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-20



The Table: The Homegrown Fight for Democracy

December 7 at 5:30 pm in Finlator Hall

On December 7, the US Supreme Court will hear the Moore vs. Harper case, which seeks to give the state legislatures the authority to set voting districts without accountability to courts or even the constitution. On the very same day, Jane Pinsky, Director of the NC Coalition for Lobbying & Government Reform with Common Cause will join us to give some background on this case and its profound potential impact on democracy, and issue a call of action to communities of faith.



Third Sunday of Advent

December 11 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

We light the candle of Joy.

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45



Lovefeast

December 14 at 5:30 pm in Finlator

The entire Pullen family will join in our annual Pullen version of the historic Moravian Lovefeast. This tradition reminds us that it's often the simple things that make the season bright and meaningful--singing carols, sharing a simple "meal", and acknowledging God's presence with us. Dinner will be served in Finlator at the regular time, and we'll transition to the sanctuary at 6:30 for the Lovefeast featuring sweet rolls and chocolate milk!



Pullen Women's Christmas Potluck

December 12 at 6:00 pm at Deb Norton's Home

Mark your calendar! Next Pullen Women's Group will be Mon, Dec 12 at 6:00 pm at Deb Norton's Home. Bring a dish to share. Please RSVP at [pullen.org/connect!](https://pullen.org/connect)

-Rita Rakestraw



Christmas Breakfast/Kids Christmas Play

December 18 in Finlator Hall

Breakfast at 9:00 am

12 Days of Christmas at 9:45 am

Children's Christmas Play at 10:00 am

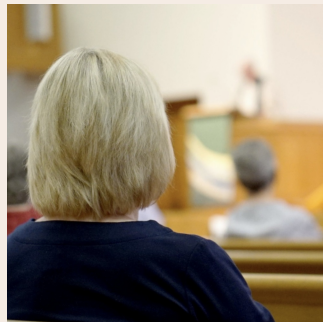
Following a beloved Pullen Tradition, The Christmas Breakfast will be held in Finlator. Following the breakfast, we will enjoy the Pullen Kid's Christmas Play. Then join us in worship for the Fourth Sunday in Advent as we light the Love candle.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Join us in remembering 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.



Christmas Worship Service

December 25 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

Join us for a Christmas Day service of scripture and carols. Pullen's worship seeks to balance our Baptist heritage of worship in the free-church tradition while engaging in meaningful liturgy that is relevant to the concerns of our world. Join us in the Sanctuary or watch online at pullen.org/livestream.

Advent 2022

Daily Creation Care Reflection Guides and Resources



An Ethiopian boy lights a candle in the grotto of the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem, West Bank. The church is built on the site believed to be where Jesus was born.

Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for Christmas. "All Creation waits with eager longing" (Romans 8:19) for the deep connection with God that the birth of Jesus brings. Advent 2022 begins Sunday, November 27 and ends Saturday, December 24.

For Advent 2022 Pullen is offering you a beautiful Advent Daily Reflection Guide based on *Laudato*

Si': on Care for our Common Home by Pope Francis. The meditations were originally published in 2015.

Each week of Advent we'll be sending you the Daily Meditations for that week. In the meantime you can see all of them here.

- [The first week of Advent: Daily meditations with *Laudato Si'* \(Pope Francis, 2015\)](#)
- [Week 2 of Advent meditations with *Laudato Si'*: Shift to a deeper vision](#)
- [Week 3 of Advent meditations with *Laudato Si'*: Putting ourselves out there](#)
- [Week 4 of Advent meditations with *Laudato Si'*: Can I be all embracing?](#)

Before Advent begins you may want to watch [The Letter: A Message for our Earth](#), a 2022 feature-length documentary film telling the story of *Laudato Si'*. [Here's the trailer](#). Its premiere was in October and within two weeks it had over 7 million views.

The film features environmental champions from around the world, from different faiths and worldviews. Each represents an unheard voice in conversations on the planetary crisis. These are the voices of the Indigenous, the young, the poor, and wildlife. Through the film, we follow their journeys from the Amazon, India, Senegal, and Hawai'i to the Vatican. They meet Pope Francis, who shares his vision in beautifully human interactions. They find new hope for our planet in each other.

Wishing you an Advent season full of deep meaning, contemplation and joy!

-Lynn Lyle

Pullen News:



Hope Center Christmas Angel Tree: Pullen Supporting 30 Foster youth/families

Now- December 9

Notebook in Church Library

We still have 10 foster youth that need donors! The information is in the notebook in the church library. Please consider providing gifts for one of these clients. The young people have identified 5 possible items on their wish list which range in price. Instructions are on the sheet. **Do not wrap the gifts.**

You may drop off your gifts along with your donor sheet at The Hope Center during the week, Monday through Friday from 9:00-4:00 pm. (112 Cox Avenue, next door to church). The front door will be locked but Melissa works at the front desk (cell 919-636-3641). Call her if you do not see her at her desk when you arrive. If you need to make other drop off arrangements, please call Pat Hielscher (919-418-0924). **Thank you for supporting The Hope Center.**

-Pat Hielscher



Winter Essentials Drive

Now- December 25 collected outside the Sanctuary

During advent this year we are being called to hospitality. The youth are organizing a drive to support our neighbors. Bring your hats, socks and gloves to donate to someone who need them! Items will be collected now through the end of Advent; there will be collection boxes outside the Sanctuary. Stay warm!

-Kevin Neiley

Pullen Men's Group:

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at Pullen in room behind sanctuary

Pullen Men's Group

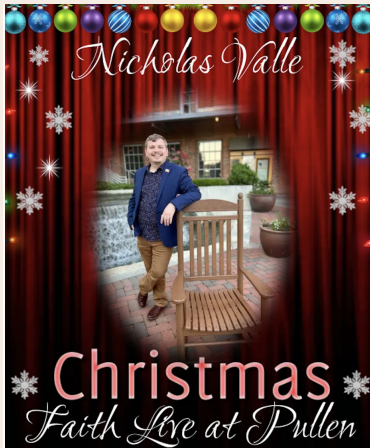


Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
pullen.org/connect

If you are masculine-identified, you are invited to join us for the Pullen Men's Group! We have wrapped up *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr and are moving on to *Of Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male is Struggling, Why it Matters and What to do about it* By Richard Reeves. We will be starting the book January

In the short term we are reading a few articles. If you are interested in reading send Kevin an email. Or just show up. No reading necessary!!

-Kevin Neiley



Christmas Faith LIVE at Pullen

December 16 at 7:00 pm

Pullen Family,

I want to take a moment to invite you all in person or online to my Christmas Faith Concert taking place at our church in the sanctuary on Friday, December 16th, 2022 at 7:00 pm! The concert is a musical journey of hymns and songs of joy and hope as we celebrate the birth of Christ, while recognizing the message of hope for all people during this season! I would love to see all of you at the concert in person, but online streaming will be available on my website www.nicholasvallemusic.com or [facebook.com/naylorvallemusic](https://www.facebook.com/naylorvallemusic). All are welcome, and I truly hope to see many if not all of you as we celebrate the meaning and magic of this season!

- Nicholas Valle

Gratitude for Usher Coordinator, Randall Brady

It's important to celebrate people when we have a chance. While so many of you do such meaningful work in our church and beyond, we wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge Usher Coordinator, Randall Brady, for his faithful service. Randall has served as Usher Coordinator for the past 4 years, which is 2 years longer than his original commitment. He helped provide stability during the pandemic, when volunteers were hard to come by and ushering included making sure we were masked and properly distanced. His dedication to making sure that visitors and members felt welcome and safe during this time was outstanding!

For his steady commitment to the Pullen community we offer our sincere appreciation.

-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor

Advent International Partner Donations

In the spirit of Mary Ruth Crook, who for years offered "premiums" for those who donated to the Heifer Project during Advent, we will have a few small tokens of appreciation that will be given to the lucky Advent offering donors whose names are drawn at the end of Advent. The items will be displayed outside the Sanctuary entrance during Advent. Thank you for your generous support of our International Partners.

-Vickie Leigh

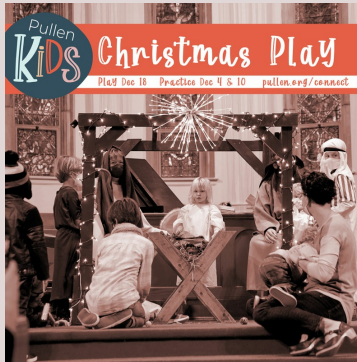
Kid's Ministry

Parent's Day Out



December 3 from 1-5:00 pm at Pullen

Parents, you can check in children at the church, go shopping, eat out, take a nap... while children enjoy games, crafts, and seasonal fun. Sign up by November 30! Dress the kids for outdoor play! Signup at <https://forms.gle/kS6KyRkddcCApD6W6>.



Kid's Christmas Play Practice:

December 4 & December 11 at 9:30 am

Dress Rehearsal/Cookie Decorating:

December 17 at 10:30 am

Christmas Breakfast/Kids Christmas Play

December 18 at 9:00 am

Casting call for all Pullen Kids! All children are welcome to have a role in the Kid's Christmas play. Although most parts are mostly non speaking, we need lots of angels, shepherds and sheep to fill the stage! Join us for play practice on December 4 and 11 at 9:30 am.

On Saturday, December 17 at 10:30 am, we will have our Dress Rehearsal followed by Christmas cookie decorating (parents assistance needed for younger children). Then all are welcome to join us for the play during the Pullen Christmas Breakfast on Sunday morning, December 18 at 9:30 am!

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and Their Families

Youth Ministry

Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Nights at 6:00 pm at Pullen

- Wednesday, December 7th - Art Project
- Wednesday, December 14th - Lovefeast (church-wide event)

Sunday Morning Groups

Sundays at 9:30 am at Pullen

- Sunday, December 4th - WINTER RETREAT - NO Sunday Group for youth
- Sunday, December 11th - "We can choose a better way"

Christmas Caroling

December 17 (meet at Pullen) from 5:30-9:00 pm

Join in for dinner and carpooling to senior adults' homes. We are in need drivers- contact **Bryan Lee** for more information!



Advent for PYM

The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone.

Our Advent theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Considering the many ways we embody, remember, and tell the story of Christ's birth, which rituals hold the most meaning for you? What

about this season will you pass on to the next generation?

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go.

-Bryan Lee, Minister with Youth and Their Families

Around the Pullen Community

Responding to the “Rallying Cry” to Support Elementary School Student Needs

Do you have an hour a week to make a positive impact in supporting a child's learning? An earlier Pullen newsletter article this fall described the critical need to help young students as they recover from the learning losses they experienced during the pandemic. The N&O and NYT have recently reported the “**devastating effects**” on schoolchildren and a **call to action**. Prior to the pandemic, the Pullen-Wiley Partnership provided Wednesday after-school tutoring at Pullen on Wednesdays. This academic school year, we are shifting gears so that we can broaden opportunities to respond to the current needs facing students.

Our own Kathy Foglia, Wiley Elementary School literacy specialist, is providing a research-based (also simple-to-use!) reading fluency model called HELPS for Pullen volunteers to use at Wiley during the school day (morning or afternoon times available). To sign up, contact Judy Williams at judywilliams7@gmail.com.

In addition, Pullen is providing space for an YMCA after-school program that meets Monday - Thursday for selected Fred Olds Elementary students. Tutor/mentors are needed between 4:30 - 5:45 to help students with homework as well as HELPS-aligned reading practice. For more information, contact Venita Brown, Director of the YMCA Community HOPE Program, at Venita.Brown@ymcatriangle.org.

Nancy Jones (nfjones@gmail.com) and Ian McPherson (imcpherson@pullen.org), along with Judy Williams, are available to provide more details if you are interested in helping.

-Judy Williams

Food for Urban Ministries

Today I saw an unusually lonesome looking, nearly empty food basket hanging out by the main entrance doors next to Finlator. It still held the same items placed there over a week ago, before Thanksgiving.

Please remember to bring canned food, boxed cereals, peanut butter, nonperishable items, dry beans throughout the giving and sharing month of December. Bringing in a couple of items each Wednesday or Sunday adds up & is so appreciated by the people served by Urban Ministries. Each time you fill the basket Pullen's Mission Women deliver the “goods” to Urban Ministries.

-Sharron Underwood, Pullen Mission Women

Housing All Update

What beautiful colors still remain all around us, leading some to think that we are still in mid-Autumn and not at the beginning of the season of Advent. The glory of the bright reds, oranges, yellows, and burnt orange leaves as they continue falling seem to offer a challenge to the coming Douglas, Noble, Fraser Fir's and pines as they start appearing with their bright lights and ornaments. Then I wonder if the many callers leaving



messages for assistance from Housing All with rent or utilities even have the luxury of noticing the beauty of one, or the coming of the other as they work to keep a roof overhead or warmth as the temperatures drop. There are so many neighbors all around Pullen working and scraping together what they can for themselves and their family, but who continue to come up short.

We know there are many needs tugging on our hearts, especially at this time of year, but I especially like the words in the song titled “Whoever Welcomes You, Welcomes Me”, taken from the books of both Matthew and Luke. Even though we are limited and can’t help every person who calls for help, the reward each volunteer receives is a gracious thank you, and often an expressed blessing upon us.

If you are looking for a way to “plug in” and have questions please don’t hesitate to contact Housing All volunteers Robin Morris, Emily Cato, or Sharron Underwood, or our staff leader Ian McPherson. Blessings to you this season of Advent.

- Sharron Underwood

Hope Center Update

This year’s Transition Program Friendsgiving was filled with double the joy. Not only did we get to enjoy the best Thanksgiving spread together, but we also had the honor of celebrating 3 young adults who are graduating from our program. We are so proud of the hard work they put in to reach this huge milestone.

Thank you for partnering with us to empower Wake County’s former foster youth as they transition to safe and stable adulthoods. This beautiful thing you started over 10 years ago is still changing lives!



For a closer look at how your support is impacting former foster youth, [click here](#) to check out our 2021-22 Impact Report.

Annual Campaign Update

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to our Annual Campaign. We are just about 20% of the way to our \$110,000 goal. We need your help to continue to meet the needs of every former foster youth who walks through our door. Donations of all sizes matter. Please visit this link to donate today: [Donate Now | 2022 Hope Center Annual Campaign by The Hope Center at Pullen, Inc. \(givelively.org\)](#)

Support HCP with a Christmas Lights Tour

The developer of the Built Story app has put together 2 tours of some of the most out-of-this-world light displays in Raleigh. He will donate a portion of the proceeds from these tours to HCP.

Tour 1: [Raleigh Area's Best Christmas Lights! \(Part 1\) - South & West | Built Story](#)
Tour 2: [Raleigh Area's Best Christmas Lights \(Part 2\)- North and East Wake County | Built Story](#)



Pullen Memorial Baptist Church | 1801 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27605

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