



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

January news & updates

Upcoming Events

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

Finance Report:

Date: 11/30

Contributions: \$1,021,904.46

Expenses: \$1,084,523.59

Difference: -\$62,619.13

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate with...

Lisa Grabarek in the birth of grandson William Camp Matthews IV, born to Will and Kristen Matthews on November 27.

Cheryl Stallings who was sworn in as a new Wake County Commissioner.

We are in prayer for...

Steve Braun, Linda Rodriguez, Steve Rhudy, and Sharron Underwood as they undergo treatment for cancer.

The McKinney family in the loss of KaKi McKinney's mother, Patty Riley, who passed away on December 1.

The Crook family in the death of Roger Crook, who died on December 2. Roger was the chronicler of our history, our connection to people of faith around the world and a constant presence for more than 70



Sunday Groups in 2023 January 8 – May 21

We have an exciting line-up of Sunday groups for 2023! If you have wanted to dive into the Bible a bit more, this is your year. We have two groups centered around the Bible that will allow you to learn more about the text itself, as well as how it is being used in conversations about controversial topics. We are blessed to have several Pullen members with backgrounds in Theology and Religion leading those groups. This year also offers opportunities to explore subjects like prayer, forgiveness, the afterlife and anti-racism with members of Pullen's ministerial staff, including our Theologian-in-Residence, Dr. James Forbes. Take a look at a more detailed description of the all the offerings below, including the addition of a 4th Sunday breakfast! Let's come together for fellowship and formation!



Exploring the Bible
Sundays at 9:30 am in Room 307 (Starting Jan 8)

This group is a Bible study class led by a rotating team of teachers, each leading several weeks to focus on various themes or Books of the Bible. The format involves

years. Roger's service was held at Pullen on December 18.

The Brooks family in our hearts with the passing of Byron Godfrey. Byron is the father of former youth minister, Brooks Godfrey; the brother-in-law of Bill Brooks; and the uncle of Helen Tenney; and the great uncle of Cecilia, Hunter, and Flora Tenney.

The McCall and Roenbach in the death of Miranda McCall's grandmother.

lectures and lots of open discussion with classes taught by those with a background in Religion or Theology. There are no prerequisites to this class; no Bible study experience is necessary.



Pullen 101

Sundays at 9:30 am in Room 309 (Starting Jan 15)

This class designed to introduce newcomers to our ministry and mission. Topics include our Pullen identity, history, theology, worship, Baptist identity, missions and education. In each session, a church member shares why he or she is at Pullen. The class provides an opportunity to get to know Pullen people and staff.



Wrestling with the Bible in Contemporary Debates

Sundays at 9:30 am beginning January 15 in Room 310

This Sunday group will explore how the Bible is used or abused in contemporary debates on controversial topics. Discussion will be led by Rev. Nick Carter, Pullen member and President emeritus of Andover Newton Theological School.

January 15: War, revolution, armed resistance & political assassination

January 22: Capital punishment & torture

January 29: Suicide & euthanasia

February 5: Abortion

February 12: Racial prejudice, slavery & reparations

February 19: Issues of gender (women, LGBTQI, etc.)

February 26: Creation and science, including the Big Bang theory

March 5: The environment and global warming



Conversations with Pullen Ministers

Sundays at 9:30 am in Room 308

Our *Conversations* series offers Pullenites the opportunity to discuss spiritual and ethical issues that define contemporary society. Drawing from the diversity of our ministerial staff, these discussions will feature brief lectures from Revs. Nancy, Chalice, and Ian, while providing the wider Pullen community opportunity to weigh in.

January – Sexual Ethics

Jan. 8 – Nancy

Jan. 15 – Ian

Jan. 29 – Chalice

February – Prayer

Feb. 5 – Ian

Feb. 12 – Chalice

April – Forgiveness

April 2 – Chalice

April 16 – Ian

May – God and Mammon – What do we do with our money?

May 7 – Nancy

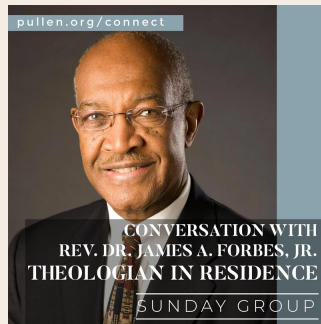
May 14 – Chalice

March – Afterlife

March 5 – Ian

March 12 – Chalice

March 19 – Nancy

**Conversation with Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., Theologian -in-Residence***February 5 & 12 at 9:30 am in Room 312*

Participants will have an opportunity to engage in conversation with our Theologian-in-Residence, Rev. Dr. James Forbes on issues of racial justice and Pullen's work in becoming an antiracist church.

**Breakfast and Community Service***4th Sundays at 9:30 am in Finlator Hall*

On the fourth Sunday's all Sunday group participants are invited to a simple breakfast in Finlator Hall from 9:00-9:30 am. These fourth Sunday breakfast gatherings will offer a time of fellowship for people to get to know other Pullenites who are in other Sunday groups. Those attending the Sunday group *Conversations with Pullen Ministers* will remain in Finlator Hall to participate in a community service project. Some of the service projects (designed to be intergenerational) include:

- Making Bean Soup packets
- Care kits for people experiencing homelessness
- Prison Ministry – Project for Prisoners (Care packets for incarcerated woman to give to their children)
- Craft kits for children in the hospital
- Decorate placemats for Meals on Wheels
- Church World Services Emergency Clean-Up Buckets/Menstrual Hygiene Kits/School Kits

Church wide

Upcoming Pullen Events:**The Table:***Wednesdays at 5:30 pm at Pullen in Finlator Hall*

This year at The Table we look forward to having meaningful conversations as a community, hearing from some engaging speakers, and engaging in some intergenerational activities. Our Wednesday evening begins with dinner from 5:30-6:15 pm, and continues with community celebrations, announcements and prayer before we move into our programming for the evening at 6:30 pm. We also offer activities for children and youth. Dinner is \$4 for children (grades K-5), and \$7 for youth (grades 6-12) and adults, with a \$24 cap per family. Check out what's going on in January

and join us at The Table.

January 11 - Community Conversation on Loss

We've all had to deal with some sort of loss through the death of loved ones, sickness, life transition or facing the reality of our own mortality. How do we hold life's losses as individuals and as a community? We'll frame the conversation and discuss the topic in small and large groups.

January 18 - Sermon Talkback with Dr. James A. Forbes

Dr. Forbes will lead a talkback where the Pullen community can engage with him around his sermon from the previous Sunday.

January 25 - Helping Kids Through Grief

We will continue our conversation on loss with the help of Rev. Kennetra Brackett, Bereavement Team Lead at Transitions Kids. Kennetra will share from her experience in helping children, in particular, navigate loss, and share some of the resources available in our community.

-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor



Pullen Men's Group:

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

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



Pullen's 2022 LGBTQIA Christmas Potluck Dinner: POSTPONED

POSTPONED

The LGBTQ After Christmas Party has been postponed. The January 8th party at Pat and Brook's home will be rescheduled at a later date.

-Randall Brady



The Goose Is Loose!

Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Pullen's Theologian in Residence and Senior Minister Emeritus of the Riverside Church in NYC, will inspire us to open ourselves to the spirit as we imagine new ways of winning hearts, minds, and hands for Creation.

People who want to learn more about ICCT and help shape the future of our network are welcome. Meet ICCT Liaisons from different congregations, members of our Board, Steering Committee and Action Teams, and allies from other Creation care organizations.

The ICCT Imagination Convention: Winning Hearts, Minds and Hands for Creation

Saturday, January 28, 2023, 1:30-4:30 PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh, 3313 Wade Avenue

In early 2019 Pullen's Earth Ministry founded Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle, a Pullen Mission that now includes 81 faith communities in its network. You're invited to join ICCT as we celebrate our first four years and imagine our future. Come and feel the joy of seeing each other in person again.

Our watchword is "*the goose is loose*" from the legend of early Celts seeing the wild goose as the Holy Spirit.

[Learn More and RSVP](#)

Habitat Advocacy Ambassador Training: Use Your Voice-Become an Advocacy Ambassador for Affordable Housing



January 30 at 7:00 pm in Finlator Hall

1 in 4 families in Wake County lacks access to affordable housing. In addition to direct service, Habitat for Humanity of Wake County promotes issue based, nonpartisan advocacy to increase access to affordable housing in Wake County and beyond. Join our session to learn about the affordable housing challenges facing our community and learn specific ways that you can take action for those marginalized in our society, as encouraged in the prophetic tradition of our faith, and build the Beloved Community of justice, equal

opportunity and love for all.

[Learn More and RSVP](#)

Pullen News

Celebrating New Members



What is your name? Lu McCraw

What are your pronouns? She/Her/Hers

Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences. I was born and raised in Shawnee, OK & attended Oklahoma Baptist University but graduated from the University of Oklahoma (BOOMER SOONER!) with a BA in Journalism & an MPH in Health Promotion Science. Worked for Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, OK for 17 years as a Public Health Educator. I am a Native American and my tribe is called Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians. I moved to NC in 2013 to Halifax then in 2018 moved to Raleigh & I work for NC DHHS

Division of Public Health, Tobacco Prevention & Control Branch as the American Indian Tribal Consultant. I share a home with Norma Merriman and our little dog Stevie which she was named after Stevie Nick's. We are huge Fleetwood Mac fans. I love to read, hike, travel. So much to see over on this side of the country.

Why did you choose Pullen? Back in 2015 or so there was a protest and I saw on TV with Rev. Barber and some other religious people. I heard Nancy speak and I liked what she had to say and wanted to hear more but I heard she was the pastor at a baptist church so I was reluctant. I had had enough of baptists at OBU. But I visited and realized it was a different kind of "Baptist" church than most in Oklahoma. I was amazed, comfortable and at home with Nancy and the staff I meet and the diversity of the congregation.

How do you imagine yourself growing with this community? Not sure how to answer this question. Sometimes I think I'm too old or stubborn in my ways to grow or learn new things but I feel if there's any place in this world to learn and try, it's Pullen. I don't want to be on the periphery of things but be in the middle of the action.

What is your name? Alison Bailey

What are your pronouns? She / Her

Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences. I grew up in Clayton - Scott and I have been married 19 years this spring and have 1 son, Allen. I work in licensed professional regulatory compliance.

Why did you choose Pullen? I like the structure of the traditional Sunday worship service coupled with theology focused on serving and accepting others. I wanted our son to grow up in a congregation where no question or idea is off limits and where everyone is accepted for who they are.

How do you imagine yourself growing with this community? I'm not sure!



Thank you from Tommy

Dearest Church,

The end of last year marked my 5th Year as your Minister with Children and their Families. What a joy it has been to be connected with each child and parent, as well as the whole pullen community and excellent church staff. Thank you for your many affirmations and supportive love over the last 5 years! Here's looking forward to another!

Peace, love and googley eyes,

-Tommy Cook

Kid's Ministry



Pullen Kids Sunday Groups

Sundays from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Starting January 8)

Infants- Crawlers: Childcare in Room 118

Toddlers-Twos: Childcare in Room 117

Two through Five-year-olds: Preschool Sunday Group - Age appropriate activities (stories, music, art and games) in Room 120

Kindergarten through Fifth Grade: Children's Sunday Group - Stories from the Bible explored through workshops (art, science experiments, cooking and more). All children gather in Room 122 at 9:30 am then Kindergarten, First and Second Graders move to Room 123; Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders move to Room 124



Pullen Kids Quest

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm (Starting January 11) in Room 120

Who's ready to start a new adventure? Kids from Preschool-Fifth Grade are invited to join us for Pullen Kids' Quest! After Community Dinner in Finlator Hall, Preschoolers will have childcare and K-5 will have a rotation of Music Discovery, Children's Choir, Active Play, and a planned "Quest" involving Story Time, Craft Time, Game Time, and fun Experiments. See you there!

Youth Ministry

Sunday Morning Groups



Sundays at 9:30 am at Pullen

Join us Sunday Mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 am to talk about faith and spiritual practices. We ease into our time together with games and hanging out before engaging in conversations and activities.



Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Nights at 6:00 pm at Pullen

On Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm, students are invited to gather to explore our faith in the context of our everyday lives and what's happening in the world around us. Check calendar for dates.

Around the Pullen Community



January 2023 Hope Center Updates

Happy New Year and THANK YOU!!

We had two beautiful and joyful holiday celebrations, one for our teens and one for our former foster youth. The Pullen congregation played a huge role in ensuring that our young adults and their children went home with gifts to open! Thank you for filling their wish lists and bringing joy this holiday season.

Annual Campaign Update

We're breaking the news here! Thanks to your generosity, we beat our Annual Campaign goal for the third year in a row! This year, we raised over \$120,000! These funds are already at work preparing for our summer internship program and connecting teens to academic support. Our new housing partnerships are helping us build capacity to house more youth and provide the support needed to achieve safe and stable adulthoods.

Thank you! Please make plans to come by and say hi in the new year.



Feast of Epiphany

January 6 at 2723 Clark Ave at 6:00 pm

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany with a special service for more than 40 years. Our service this year will be on Friday, January 6 at 7 PM and we wanted to extend a special invitation to all the members of your congregation to join us. It is a beautiful, light-filled, song-filled service in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the carrying of the light of Christ to all the nations. Our preacher this year is the Rev Katherine Rick-Miller who serves as minister at West Raleigh Presbyterian Church.

Please join us at 2723 Clark Ave or if you can't join in person, we invite you to join us on YouTube where it will be broadcast live. You can get more information at htelc.org. Thanks. We look forward to seeing you! Our current COVID guidelines do not require masks but you are always welcome to wear one.



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