

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

Why Church?

In her new book *Why Religion?* Elaine Pagels explores the question: *Why does religion still exist in the twenty-first century?* Reflecting on her own personal losses – the death of her son and shortly thereafter the death of her husband – Pagels reflects on the persistence and nature of belief and why religion matters. She shines a light on questions about religion that we ourselves have all thought about, if not asked out loud. Questions like: “What purpose does [religion] serve in our lives?” “Why do so many people – even, and especially, those who challenge religion – continue to argue about the questions [religion] raises?” I have just started the book so I don’t know how she answers these questions but she has definitely sparked my interest in them.

Her question, *Why Religion?* also sparked a related question in my mind. *Why Church? Why does the church still exist in the twenty-first century?* There is much evidence that the church in America is in a deep decline. Consider this from the Pew Research Center on Religion:

There is something within me that says our communities still need faith communities showing up and making a difference in the world.

The Christian share of the U.S. population is declining, while the number of U.S. adults who do not identify with any organized religion is growing, according to an extensive new survey by the Pew Research Center. Moreover, these changes are taking place across the religious landscape, affecting all regions of the country and many demographic groups. While the drop in Christian affiliation is particularly pronounced among young adults, it is occurring among Americans of all ages.

Of the major subgroups within American Christianity, mainline Protestantism – a tradition that includes the United Methodist Church, the American Baptist Churches USA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Episcopal Church, among others – appears to have experienced the greatest drop in absolute numbers. In 2007, there were an estimated 41 million mainline Protestant adults in the United States. As of 2014, there are roughly 36 million, a decline of 5 million – although, taking into

account the surveys’ combined margins of error, the number of mainline Protestants may have fallen by as few as 3 million or as many as 7.3 million between 2007 and 2014.¹

If you go to the Pew Research article you can learn more about the religious landscape in America and how people view participation in church life. To my question, “*Why does the church still exist in the twenty-first century?*” there is evidence that Americans are less convinced these days that the church needs to exist. Fewer Americans are committed to the local church and its role and importance in the life of our communities. I have my own hunches as to why this is true. Who wants to be part of anything that week after week beats you down and tells you how sinful you are because you are divorced, or you love someone of your same gender, or tells you you are going to hell for making your own choices about your body, or that you are not good enough to serve the church if you are of a certain gender? Who wants to be a part of an institution that doesn’t address the real issues of the current century with honesty and integrity? Who wants to spend their time, week after week, going to church hoping for a safe space to ask their real questions of faith and share their real struggles of the soul and not finding any compassion or understanding for the journey? Who wants to be a part of faith community in which the leaders don’t lead with honesty and integrity? Yes, there are many reasons why people no longer see the church as a place to invest their time and resources. I get it.

But like Pagels, there is something within me that keeps drawing me into the life of the church. There is something within me that says our communities still need faith communities showing up and making a difference in the world. Honestly, I don’t know how I would have made it through life without the church, especially Pullen Church. In my early years, the church was a place of belonging. It was that place in my life where people knew me and loved me and welcomed me. It was the place in our small community where I was encouraged to ask my questions about God and faith. (I know now that this is not typical for many who grew up in the south in a Southern Baptist church. I was one of the lucky ones.)

As I moved into adulthood, the church was the place where I discovered who God created me to be and how I could best use my gifts in the world. Beyond those years, it has been the church that has sustained me through the struggles

(Continued on p. 3)

Opportunities to Connect, Serve, Learn and Grow at Pullen

Time for a New Pullen Directory!

Ready, set, smile! Plans are under way for the publication of our new 2019 pictorial directory. **Everyone who attends Pullen is invited to have your picture taken for our directory.** You can even bring along your pets! Please take this opportunity to be part of our fellowship and make plans to sign up to have your photo taken between March 18–30.

WHEN: Portraits will be made on the following dates and times on the 3rd floor. Please arrive 10 minutes early, and allow 30-45 minutes for photography, proofing pictures and placing orders.

Monday-Friday, March 18–22

1:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Saturday, March 23

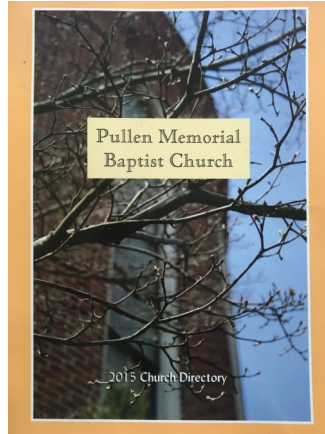
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Monday-Friday, March 25–29

1:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Saturday, March 30

10:00 am to 5:00 pm



HOW TO SIGN UP: Online sign up begins Feb. 10. At that time, go to www.pullen.org and click the church directory link. If you prefer to sign up in person, you may do so in Finlator Hall on Sundays **February 24 and March 3**, 9:30 – 11:00 am and after worship.

WHAT YOU GET:

- A complimentary 8 x 10 portrait & pictorial directory (*Note: You do not have to purchase pictures to receive your complimentary portrait.*)
- 20% discount for seniors 60 and over
- Digital proofs available immediately after photography and orders placed at that time
- Additional poses may be taken with other family members or friends

QUESTIONS? Contact Pat Hielscher with questions about scheduling or if you need help making an appointment or changing an appointment. Call 919-418-0924 or email pathielscher@gmail.com.

—Chalice Overly

Learn How to Leave Your Mark on the Future

We are one of the most unique, progressive and liberal Baptist churches in the nation. Our legacy—that of “being a people dedicated to making a difference in the world”—is one worthy of preservation.

If you want to learn more about how to preserve our legacy, please join us for a free lunch at Meredith College’s Oak Room on Sunday, March 24 from 12:30–2:00 pm. The luncheon is sponsored by the Pullen Development Team and the church. The purpose is to share information about estate planning and planned giving

and discuss how individuals and families can become part of Pullen’s Legacy Program by including the church in their wills and estate plans. This is an information session only and no one will be asked to make a commitment at the meeting.

To register contact the Pullen office at 919-828-0897 or sign up online by clicking [here](#). Registration deadline is March 15.

Call Steve Edwards at 919-782-1174 if you have questions or need more information.



Meditation Group

To help you find time in your busy life for some restorative silence, Pullen continues its meditation in the chapel on the first and third Sundays of each month. Join us from 2:00–3:00 pm on these dates:

- ♥ February 3
- ♥ February 17
- ♥ March 3
- ♥ March 17
- ♥ April 7

We hope to see you there. Blessings.

—Karla Oakley and Ann Eller

Congregational Meeting Set for Feb. 10

Pullen Church will hold its first constitutionally required congregational meeting of 2019 on Sunday, Feb. 10 at 2:00 pm in the Poteat Chapel. The sole agenda item is a proposal by the Finance Committee on the allocation of the 2018 budget surplus. (Nancy Petty is starting a rumor about cake!)

—John Barnwell & Canaan Huie

2019 Budget Pledging

2019 Budget: \$ 1,117,901
Pledged to Date: \$ 1,057,277
Percent Pledged: 95%

282 Pledges Made

We are excited to report that we have pledged our budget for 2019! Thank you for your generosity in supporting our ministries.

Pullen People

From the Pastor

We Grieve With:

- ☞ John Price in the death of his father, Gene Price.
- ☞ Stephen Toth in the death of his grandmother, Doreen Bromeling.
- ☞ Jim Zupancic in the death of his grandmother, Edy Keller.
- ☞ David Anderson in the death of his aunt, Lottie Bellamy.
- ☞ Juanita Clemmons in the death of her father, Robert Clemmons.
- ☞ The family of Karen Hall, who died on January 9. A memorial service celebrating her life was held on January 19 at Pullen.
- ☞ Loretta Allen-Adams in the death of her husband, John Adams, who died on January 10. A memorial service celebrating his life was held on January 20 at Pullen.
- ☞ Karen Lauer in the sudden death of her brother, Mark Rosengarten.
- ☞ Idalmis Hernandez Lara from the Kairos Center in Cuba. Her son, Marcos, who was 36 years old, was killed by someone trying to steal his motorcycle.

We Celebrate With:

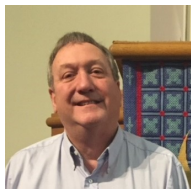
- ☞ Tara Workman-Holmes, who was ordained in a beautiful ordination service in Poteat Chapel on January 26.

We Welcome New Members

Sandra Brown has lived in Raleigh most of her life, and has two children and three young grandchildren in the area. “I enjoy reading, spending time with family and friends, and attending grandchildren’s many activities. For years, I heard about and read about Pullen’s commitment to social justice. As the church to which I belonged began expressing more conservative beliefs, I visited Pullen and confirmed Pullen’s reputation is well deserved. I look forward to being a part of this ministry.”



Clint Mitchell was born and raised in Goldsboro and has lived in Raleigh most of his adult life. “I am self-employed as an appliance repairman. I come to Pullen from Longview United Methodist Church, which closed due to declining attendance. I am very happy to be a part of this exciting church community.”



Why Church? *(continued from front cover)*

and disappointments and joys in my life. It was the community of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church that held me and prayed for me and sustained me through an adoption that was one of the hardest experiences of my life. It was the community of Pullen Church that didn’t judge me or turn its back on me when I went through a divorce. It was the community of Pullen Church that quietly supported me through a very dark time in my life. It was the community of Pullen Church that celebrated with me when I got married. It is the community of Pullen Church that allows me to struggle with what it means to be a follower of Jesus living in the twenty-first century, and doing so with honesty and integrity. It is the community of Pullen Church that allows me to be fully human while searching for the divine presence. I don’t know how people get through life without a church family. Over and again, it is the church that has given my life the support it needed in times of struggle, the joy I sought in times of celebration, and the space needed to wrestle with God and myself. I bother with the church, because no matter how frustrated I can become with the church, it is the place in my life where I find meaning in community with others and with God.

*But the truth is,
there are not enough
churches preaching
the radical and
inclusive love of
God.*

I get that Pullen Memorial Baptist Church is a unique church. I know that there are not very many Pullens out there, especially in the deep South. That’s not to say there are not other really good churches in the South and beyond. There are – many of them doing amazing things. But the truth is, there are not enough churches preaching the radical and inclusive love of God. There are not enough churches welcoming the stranger and feeding the hungry. There are not enough churches making space for people of faith to struggle with their doubts and questions of faith. There are not enough churches out there offering sanctuary to the most vulnerable in our country. There are not enough churches in America proclaiming a social gospel that is relevant to the needs of the 21st century. Thus, the reason more and more Americans are not bothering with church.

All of this is to say: it is so important that churches like Pullen Memorial Baptist Church exist in America in 2019. I am still convinced that the church has a vital role to play in our society. If we stay strong and steady through these times in which we are now living, our witness to a God of radical and inclusive love will remain for generations to come. And when the history of our faith is told years from now, Pullen will be a part of that history. And you will have been a part of it. Thanks be to God!

—Nancy Petty

¹Pew Research Center, Religion and Public Life, *America’s Changing Religious Landscape*.

Wednesday Nights at Pullen

We'll begin February by cycling back to our fall series "Why I Still Believe" with Rabbi Lucy Dinner before we shift our focus to the environment. In the face of widespread fear and apathy about the future of our planet, Gail Powell and Lynn Lyle will walk us through a set of realistic and bold solutions to climate change put forth in the book *Drawdown*, edited by Paul Hawken. Dinner is served from 5:15 to 6:00 pm. The cost is \$7 for youth and adults, \$4 for children kindergarten through 5th grade, family maximum \$24. We also have programming for children and youth each night.

Adults' Wednesday Night Series

February 6 – Why I Still Believe



Rabbi Lucy Dinner of Temple Beth Or will narrate her spiritual evolution and share why she remains among "the faithful". Rabbi Lucy Dinner has served Temple Beth Or as Senior Rabbi since 1993. Her commitment to social justice infuses her involvement in local, national and international initiatives. She has been recognized

time and time again for her leadership in the faith community and beyond.

February 13 – An Introduction to the Drawdown Project

The Drawdown Project is an exciting and hopeful approach for individuals like you and me and for organizations like our church to address climate change. The project is a collaborative effort of 200 climate scientists and experts around the world who studied and modeled the 100 most substantive climate solutions. This session will introduce the book *Drawdown – The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, edited by Paul Hawken.

February 20 – Drawdown: Reversing Climate Change Through Food Choices, Food Waste Management and Composting

We will share and discuss ideas about how you can become part of the climate solution by reducing food waste, adjusting your food choices and composting. You might be surprised to learn that these food solutions will draw down almost twice as much carbon as solar technology, and this means you can have a much bigger influence on climate change than you imagined.

February 27 – Drawdown: Reversing Climate Change by Reducing Our Dependence on Fossil Fuels

We will focus on energy conservation, a rapid transition to clean energy, and the role of carbon fees and dividends like the program recently adopted by Canada.

My rage is quieted
By meditation and prayer.
Kindness and love heal old wounds.
I pray for the warmth and love of humanity
And peace of Christ.

—Chip Jeter at a recent Wednesday Night Dinner

Wednesday Nights for Children

Childcare is always available for our youngest children. School-age children (grades K-5) are invited to develop their musical skills through Music Discovery or the Children's Choir. This time is followed by Micah Kids, where children learn to live out the message of Micah 6:8. Activities are designed to help each child deepen their relationship with God and understand how they can make a difference in their family, community, and world—right now.

♥ Childcare (preschool) 6:00 – 7:30 pm

♥ Music 5:45 – 6:15 pm

♥ Micah Kids 6:15 – 7:30 pm

Programs for Youth (Grades 6-12)

Wednesday Night Live 6:00 – 7:30 pm

This is a space for teens to be in community with one another, have fun together, and engage topics about everyday life.

Music Ministry at Pullen

*We Sing Because We're Happy
...and when you sing for this reason the sound is
oh so much sweeter!*

Pullen's Chancel Choir (plus friends and family) traveled to Charleston, S.C., January 25–28 for the 15th anniversary of the adult *Festival by the Sea*. Though we were missing 10 of our voices to illness, we were still the largest choir represented out of the 260 participants.

To commemorate the anniversary, our own Larry Schultz was asked to compose an anthem specifically for this event. The anthem became the theme of the service throughout, and allowed each of us singing it to take to heart the words of "May A Song Remain." This song, as well as the other five pieces, will be part of Sunday worship at Pullen over the coming weeks.

The words I heard most often were "great" and "best" in describing this year's experience. It could have been the clinician, Phillip Schoultz, who taught and led with a calm resolve of teaching the message within each song. It could have been the familiarity of the weekend where we greeted new participants and shared our joy of being there. It might have been the transformation into a rich, solid voice by the men, who provided a strong foundation for the women's voices to join in. Whatever it was, all we had to do was listen, sing, open our hearts to the message within each song and leave Charleston with a desire to share that experience in song at Pullen.

It is our hope that you, too, will be blessed in some way by the message we bring back to you.

—Sharron Underwood, Chancel Choir Member

Children & Youth at Pullen

Please Share Your Talent: We Need Leaders for Children's Sunday Groups

We are looking for adults to share their talents by leading workshops for children in Kindergarten–5th grades during the Sunday Group hour. Even helping out for just one or two weeks would be a big help to us! Workshops focus on crafts, cooking, video, science, drama, games, story telling and music, so pick one that appeals to you! There also are adult shepherds who are familiar with the children and will assist you. I will work with you on the curriculum provided and assist in getting your supplies together if needed. Please let me know if you can serve!

—Tommy Cook



“iGo Green”

June 24–28, 9 am–5 pm
Rising 1st through 6th graders.
\$70 cost covers lunch, snacks,
craft supplies and T-shirt.
Scholarships & sibling discounts
available — see Tommy!
Sign up: pullen.org/vbs2018



YOUTH CORNER: Lock-in Feb. 8, Trey Pearson Concert Mar. 2

Lock-in February 8

Party all night! March in the morning!! The Christmas lock-in was booted by the snow, so it's now rescheduled for Feb. 8–9, which coincides with the 2019 HKonJ March downtown. Gather on Feb. 8 at 7 pm for an evening of jump time and games at SkyZone's brand new eSports Gaming Lounge. Night owls can watch a movie at 12:30 am while others go to sleep, and bedtime for all is 2:30 am.

In the morning, go home at 8 am or join fellow marchers for HKonJ. (If you attend the march, you must find a ride home.) Please bring \$10 if you are able. [Register online.](#)

Trey Pearson in Concert

Trey Pearson, former front man for the Christian rock band Everyday Sunday, will be in Pullen's Potat Chapel on Mar. 2 at 7 pm with his Safe Space tour. After coming out, Trey was ousted from the Christian music scene and now works to provide safer spaces for LGBTQA teens and young adults to be in community. Tripp Fuller (The Road to Edmond) will join him as interviewer.



Good Things Coming Up!

**#NOONEGOESHUNGRY
CANNED FOOD DRIVE**
In honor of
Deah, Yusor, Razan

February 2nd
to
March 2nd, 2019
Final Drop-Off Day:
Saturday, March 2nd
10AM - 2PM
at
Islamic Center of Raleigh
808 Atwater St, Raleigh, NC

All donations go to:
FOOD BANK
OF CENTRAL
& EASTERN
NORTH
CAROLINA

Sponsored by: Pullen

Alliance Gathering Set for April in D.C.

Plan to attend the Annual Gathering of the Alliance of Baptists in Washington, D.C., on April 26–28. Calvary Baptist Church will host these days packed with fellowship, workshops, meals and worship. The theme this year is *What is Liberty without Liberation?* Registration information coming soon! Visit allianceofbaptists.org/about/gatherings to learn more.



—Brooks Wicker

LGBTQ Lunch Next Sunday

Join us for lunch after worship on Sunday, Feb. 10, at Brixx Pizza in Cameron Village (402 Oberlin Road). Parking is available under the Brixx building.

—Randall Brady

Pullen Women's Group

The Pullen Women's Group meets Monday, Feb. 4, at Skye Tower Restaurant, 320 Hillsborough Street (20th floor of the Holiday Inn). All women are invited to get to know each other with casual conversation and good food. RSVP to 919-360-0975 or Rita.blue@hotmail.com.

—Rita Rakestraw

PMW Valentine's Brunch

Join Pullen Mission Women for a Valentine's Day brunch on Thursday, Feb. 14, at 10 am. The new Executive Director of the Women's Center of Wake County, Brace Boone III, will share hopes and ideas for the future of this very important mission. All Pullen women are invited to share this meal in Finlator Hall. Please call the church office at 919-828-0897 by Monday, Feb. 11 to let us know you're coming.

—Sharron Underwood

Care of Creation Monthly Challenge: Changing the World Through Beans, Not Beef

With the effects of climate change becoming more obvious and government solutions stalled, what can people of faith do that will make a difference?

Eating less beef and more beans is one way to go. In fact, moving to a plant-rich diet is one of the most powerful ways to reduce your carbon footprint—even more than downsizing your car.

“Making the transition to a plant-based diet may well be the most effective way an individual can stop climate change,” Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh said.

Paul Hawken’s 2017 book, *Drawdown - The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, evaluates 100 top solutions for their potential to reverse global warming. Eating a plant-rich diet is the fourth most powerful solution on this list.

Plant-rich diets based on whole foods may reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity and much more. Eating more plants also slows global warming, protects water and soil, and reduces deforestation as well as fossil

fuel and fertilizer use. World population size will reach 9.7 billion people by 2050. To meet needs, food production must increase



It's astonishing to think that just one food, beef, could have such a tremendous impact on global warming. Substituting beans can reduce carbon emissions, free up farmland and improve health.

dramatically. By 2050, 80 percent more animal-based foods and 95 percent more beef will have to be produced to sustain our current eating habits.

Beef is particularly bad for the environment. The 1.4 billion cows on earth generate 10 percent of all human related greenhouse gas emissions. (If cows were a nation, they would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases, behind China and the U.S.) A quarter of all land is used to grow food for cows; some of this pastureland once was tropical rainforests in Brazil.

The World Resource Institute argues that reducing

meat consumption is critical to meeting global goals related to hunger, healthy lives, water management, terrestrial ecosystem protection and climate change.

By eliminating all meat, a person can reduce carbon emissions by more than 800 kg/year. A U.N. study predicts that if 50 percent of people were to shift to a plant-rich diet of 2,500 calories per day by 2050, carbon emissions from meat production alone will drop by 26.7 gigatons between 2020 and 2050. If we count the effect of avoiding more tropical deforestation for pastureland, global CO2 emissions could drop by an additional 39.3 gigatons.

Helen Harwatt and colleagues at Oregon State University calculated the environmental impact of replacing beef with beans in the American diet. Their

research concludes that if Americans gave up beef for beans, they would free up 42 percent of U.S. farmland, which could then be returned to grassland and forest ecosystems.

For many meat eaters, the thought of going vegan or vegetarian is overwhelming. But simple strategies can help. Consider:

- Meatless Mondays: Meatlessmonday.com
- Vegan before 6 pm: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FN10YsTkIQ>
- Week day vegetarian https://www.ted.com/talks/graham_hill_weekday_vegetarian?language=en
- Eat more chicken in place of beef, and reframe meat as a delicacy rather than a food staple.

For the sake of God’s Creation and future generations choose beans, not beef, and begin the journey toward a plant-rich or meatless diet soon!

—Care of Creation Advocacy Group, Gail Powell

Going Live in 3, 2, 1...

We are setting up equipment to livestream our Sunday morning worship service. Today you will notice that cameras have been mounted. We are now learning how to use the software. During livestreaming, cameras will be trained on the speakers (not the congregation) and on the center station for Communion. In addition to allowing our homebound friends to feel more connected to us, this also will allow parents of young and adventuresome children to stay connected in our newly created "children's room" located on the west balcony foyer. We'll let you know when we go "live" via our website.



Exploring the Bible

For the month of February, Allen Page will lead the Exploring the Bible Class in a four-week series on Second and Third Isaiah, Isaiah 40-66.

—Steve Smith

Pullen Partners in the Community



We hope your new year has started off well! We came into January grateful for the generosity our clients received throughout the holidays and, as February approaches, we continue to be thankful for and encouraged by your longstanding partnership with us.

Annual Appeal Update

Thank you!!! We are THRILLED to report that we are starting 2019 on really strong footing.

Your generosity helped us raise \$86,196.54 through the 2018 Annual Appeal, more than \$11,000 above our \$75,000 goal.

Our Transition Specialists and Program team are already putting these funds to good use as they prepare young people to meet educational, financial and career goals. Thank you again for your steadfast support of our work.



New Year, New Homes

Our work administering the HOME TBRA voucher is helping to pave the way to long-term stable housing for our young people. Currently, just 15 of these vouchers in Wake County are reserved exclusively for people with a history in foster care and all 15 are administered by The Hope Center at Pullen and in use by our young adults. We're excited for two more lease signings scheduled in February!

The stability, support and guidance that young adults have access to through this voucher are helping them achieve their goals. Six Hope Center clients have completed the two-year Home TBRA voucher. Of those six, four have transitioned into section 8, one entered seamlessly into another form of low-income housing, and we anticipate the last client transitioning to another form of stable, low-income housing this month.

Mental Health Focus: Coping with Trauma

Our weekly life skills group started the year by focusing on mental health. Thomas Coogan, a Licensed Professional Counselor, Hope Center Transition Specialist and Pullen member, is helping our young people learn CRM, or Community Resiliency Model. The therapy technique teaches biological and physical skills to help cope with trauma, leading to a healthier life with decreased everyday stress and stress responses. Our young people are engaged in this work and we look forward to continuing to walk with them while they learn skills that will help them work toward safe and stable adulthood.

Opportunity to Serve our Young People

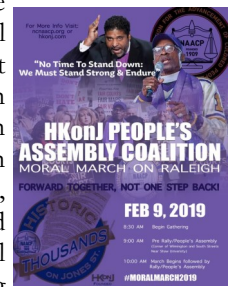
Nutritious Meals for Wednesday Life Skills Group

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.

—The Hope Center Staff

March with HKonJ February 9

Get out your best marching shoes and join fellow Pullenites and social justice seekers from around the state at the 13th annual HKonJ Moral March on Raleigh on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 8:30 am. The Historic Thousands on Jones Street People's Assembly Coalition (HKonJ) is made up of the more than 125 North Carolina NAACP branches, youth councils, college chapters and members of more than 200 other social justice organizations. Pullenites wishing to march together can gather on the southeast corner of Wilmington and South streets, in front of Memorial Auditorium.



—Bryan Lee

Round Table Needs Volunteers

Recently, I was given a copy of Chris Marlow's *Doing Good Is Simple: Making A Difference Right Where You Are*. Marlow, founder of Help One Now, discusses how small, simple acts done with great love can make a difference in our communities. On any given Tuesday and Thursday, Finlator Hall is a prime example of people from various walks of life coming together to do small acts that make a huge impact. When our volunteers gather for a time of prayer and meditation, many faiths and congregations are represented. There are also people at the table whose only faith is being a good human. The boundaries that usually separate people are gone, and in their place, is a wide circle of caring humans. The wide circle is part of Pullen Church's genetic composition as we continually reach out to make our community a more just and peaceful place for all creatures. This week as I was meeting with a friend, a beautiful lyric from Mark Miller was brought to my attention:

*Draw the circle wide,
Draw the circle, Draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, We'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, Draw the circle wide.*

Round Table, like Pullen herself, will always be a welcoming place for anyone seeking to make a positive impact. We are in need of Tuesday and Thursday volunteers to draw the circle wide.

—Brian Crisp (bcrisp@pullen.org)

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

Call for Donations to Take to Cuba in March

We are still in need of many items for our sister congregation in Cuba, so please take this list along on your next shopping trip and drop off donations at Brian Crisp's office by March 17. Pullenites will be traveling to Cuba in March and will be taking donations to our sister congregation, La Primera Iglesia Bautista of Matanzas. Both generic brands and name brand items are welcome.

Items can be found and registered on Sign Up Genius: www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c4fafa9283-requests



- Rechargeable AA batteries with charger
- AAA batteries
- Scotch tape
- Masking tape
- Duct tape
- Elmer's glue
- Stickers
- All kinds of trash bags
- Plastic grocery bags
- Rubber bands
- Staples
- Colored construction paper
- Origami paper
- Projector bulb (Epson model #H331A)
- Tri color ink cartridge: HP 22
- Laser printer toner: Samsung . SCX-4300
- Travel-size toiletries
- Asthma apparatus with Fluticasone
- Anti-allergy: Cetirizine, Benadryl, Loratadine, Phenylephrine
- Antihistamines and decongestants
- Antibiotic drops for eyes
- Eye drops for allergies
- Disposable needles for insulin normal and large 20 ml & 15 ml
- Analgesic
- Aspirin, ibuprofen, acetaminophen, acetaminophen
- with methocarbamol, naproxen sodium
- Glucosamine with chondroitin, excedrin, analgesic cream
- Vitamins: Vitamin C is particularly hard to find now, Multivitamins for kids and adults, vitamin E, Calcium with Vitamin D.
- Digestive meds: Esomeprazol, Meprazol, Ranitidina, Antacids Pepto Bismol, Imodium, Metoclopramida
- Probiotics
- Antibiotic cream (neosporin)

—Cuba Mission Group

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