



# Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

## February news & updates

### Upcoming Events

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

### Finance Report:

**Date:** 1/31/22

**Total Contributions:** \$97,364

**Total Expenses:** \$65,639

**Difference:** \$31,725

### Joys and Concerns

#### We share in the joy of:

Ted Buckner, who traveled to Johns Hopkins this week to join a clinical trial for a hopeful new drug developed to treat the neurological disorder AMN.

#### We hold in our prayers:

Ouida Watson in the loss of her dear friend Adelaide.

Lu McCraw in the loss of her cousin Reba Conway.

#### We hold in our memory:

Dean Kirkpatrick, a member of Pullen for nearly 40 years, who passed away on January 13.

*"How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?"*

-Dr. Seuss

Does January always go by so quickly? Time, I find, is a mysterious thing. Some weeks go by so fast that it seems I hardly finish writing one sermon before it is time to deliver the next one. Other weeks, like last week, I wake up and say to Karla: "Is it only Tuesday?" Just yesterday it seemed like I had weeks upon weeks to make preparations for February. But on this morning of February 2, as I write this article, I find myself quoting Dr. Seuss: *"How did it get so late so soon?"*

There is a lot going on in the life of our Pullen community in February. For this article, I want to hit the highlights of what will be happening at Pullen this month. But know that behind the curtain there are many councils and committees meeting and doing the "work" of the church every single day. We often don't see the labor of love that makes families and communities function day-in-and-day-out, but trust me, that labor of love is happening every day at Pullen.

#### February 6: Feed the Pack and Urban Ministries Offering:

I'll start with this Sunday, **February 6**. This Sunday, we are collecting food for both *Feed the Pack* food pantry and for *Urban Ministries*. Some of you might remember the Sunday we collected food for *Feed the Pack* pantry back before the pandemic. Our goal had been to fill the chancel steps with food. If you have any memory of that Sunday, you will remember that our entire chancel area was filled with food. Your generosity overflowed that Sunday morning. It is a picture that will forever be imprinted in my mind's eye and on my heart. Now it's time for us to once again help restock the *Feed the Pack* food pantry and *Urban Ministries* food pantry.

In 2020, 14% of Wake County's population qualified as food insecure. 18% of Wake County children lived in food-insecure homes. Only 14% of eligible children

Dean will be remembered as a spirited and compassionate soul who lived out her faith believing in and working for justice for all people.

Anne Petters, who died on January 15 at her home. Anne joined Pullen in September 1976 with her four sons, and quickly became a member of the Pullen choir where she offered her musical gifts. Her service was held at Pullen on January 29.

Don Duel, who died on Monday, January 17. Don joined Pullen in April 2007. He was deeply committed to our partnerships in Cuba and Nicaragua, and will be remembered for his generosity, his curiosity about life and faith, and his gentle and welcoming spirit.

received free summer meals. The numbers are not out for 2021 but food insecurity was expected to increase by 38% in 2021 due to the pandemic. If I had to guess, all of these numbers are lower today.

As you enter the sanctuary for worship this Sunday place your food offerings on the chancel steps. If you are not planning to attend in-person worship this Sunday, you are invited to bring your food to the church anytime this week between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Also, on **Saturday (Feb. 5) between 10:00 a.m. and noon** someone will be at the front door of the church to let you in and/or help you with your offering.

#### **February 20 Congregational Meeting:**

On Sunday, February 20, we will gather immediately after worship in the sanctuary for our constitutionally required congregational meeting to finalize our 2022 budget. If you have not made a pledge to the budget, there is still time. We are hoping to reach our goal of 275 pledging units before February 20. To pledge, [click here](#).

#### **February 27: Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of becoming a Welcoming and Affirming Congregation and Blessing Same-Gender Unions – Mahan Siler guest preacher**

February 1992 was a defining month and year for our church. It was February 1992 that the congregation of Pullen voted to become a “welcoming and affirming” church of LGBT persons and to bless same-gender unions. Mahan Siler, who was the pastor during this historic decision, will offer his reflections on that time in our history on Sunday, February 27. Other events are being planned for that weekend and will be announced soon.

Time, I find, is a mysterious thing. But no matter how fast or slow the days of February go, it is my intention to enjoy each day with gratitude and hope.

*-Nancy*

## Church wide

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### Upcoming Pullen Events:

#### **February at The Table**

*Wednesdays at 6:00 pm on Zoom*

We look forward to you joining us at The Table in February! We've got a virtual photography exhibit, we'll explore some intersections of environmental and racial justice, and take a look at some of the challenges around affordable housing here in Raleigh. Be sure to register to attend any of our offerings in February.

*-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor*



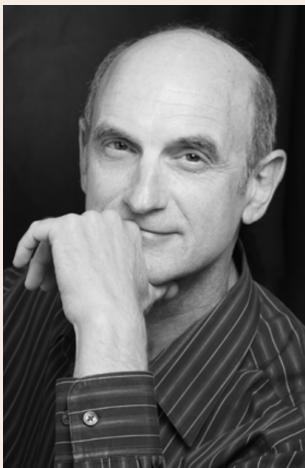
RSVP



### **Feb. 2 - Human Health & Environmental Justice**

The NCSU Center for Human Health and the Environment is asking congregations like ours to contribute their time to improve our understanding of the effects of environmental contaminants such as metals and Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) on our health. These contaminants are found in greater concentrations in ethnic minorities and data generated will inform policy and help us design early detection tests to prevent severe disease for all ethnic groups. Dr. Hoyo will explore participation in this study, and the information that the study is anticipated to contribute to address the issue of environmental injustice.

Dr. Hoyo is a Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences and the Director of the Epidemiology and Environmental Epigenetics Laboratory at NC State University. She leads the Southern Liver Health Study (STRIVE), a collaborative effort among NC State, Duke, UNC Chapel Hill and Emory in Georgia.



### **Feb. 9 - Perceived Realities, Virtual Exhibit, and Conversation**

Photographer John Kolkin will walk us through his series aimed at giving voice to the rise of intolerance. He looks at billboards on thoroughfares across the country, and the ways they sometimes propagate divisive rhetoric intended to delegitimize and demonize those with alternative theological perspectives,

Jon Kolkin is an internationally recognized artist whose projects tend to incorporate underlying themes related to personal growth and often serve as a springboard for conversation.



### **Feb. 16 - Earth Care as Self Care**

Often when we look at the intersection of creation care and racial justice, we talk about how contaminants and environmental devastation disproportionately impact communities of color. Tonight we'll look at the ways in which connection to the land brings much-needed healing through the eyes of Amber Burgin-Brothers and Monique Williams, two Black women cultivating the land to help build up their community.

Amber Burgin-Brothers is a native of the Triangle area. She is a proud graduate of North Carolina Central University, receiving her B.A and M.A., in Psychology. She is also a recent graduate of Duke Divinity School. Amber is the founder of Elijah's Farm, located in Rougemont NC—an ADA-friendly farm, specializing in mushrooms, small-scale produce, and cut flowers. Additionally, Amber serves as a Minister at Union Baptist Church in Durham North Carolina, and as a Student Support and Resource Manager at The Emily K Center.

Rev. Dr. Monique Williams is a native Houstonian and lover of God, family, and nature. She earned her degrees in Business, Theology, and Community Resiliency from Howard University, Duke University, and Creighton University, respectively. In Spring 2021, Dr. Williams began The Heir+Loom Foundation, an organization that promotes care of self and the love of God through nature. Apart from fostering a community of like-minded young black nature lovers, Dr. Williams seeks to resource her 100-year-old family land in Somerville, TX for the purpose of enriching communities of color through access to agricultural experiences for emotional, mental and spiritual healing and community impact.



## Feb. 23 - A Look at the Housing Crisis in Raleigh

In a recent release from Zillow, Raleigh was ranked the 3rd “Hottest Housing Market” in the country. No doubt this will send more people flocking to the area, but what does it mean for moderate and low-income residents who have called Raleigh home for years? Median rents in Raleigh have increased by 21.1% since the start of the pandemic alone. We’ll hear from advocate and impacted resident, Wanda Hunter, of the Wake County Housing Justice Coalition, and ONE Wake organizer Stephon Whitley.



## Pullen Mission Women Meeting

February 1 at 10:00 am on Zoom

On Tuesday, February 1st, at 10:00 am, Pullen Mission Women will meet on Zoom, led by two long-time Pullen members who now live in Franklinville, NC. Mother Alice Loyd and daughter Laurie Cone will talk about their intergenerational household, the intent of their intentional community, their gardening, and their attempts to save the planet. All are welcome. Email Pat Long at [plong8@nc.rr.com](mailto:plong8@nc.rr.com) for Zoom information.

-Pat Long



## Pre-Pre Super Bowl Game Show “Zoom Got Talent”

Sunday, February 13 at 4:00 pm on Zoom

Join a live ZOOM meeting to cheer on the talents of Pullen’s children and youth! This event just MAY be more exciting than the Super Bowl itself! We hope you will join us!

Register in advance for this event at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUodOusrj0pG9APXrMev-f8txevNoesrr6R>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

-Tommy Cook

## Hold the Date, Feb. 27

Sunday, February 27 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

Can you believe it’s been nearly 30 years since Pullen Church voted to offer holy unions to same-gender couples? On Feb. 27, we will celebrate this church milestone in worship, along with a panel discussion before and a special celebration following. Some of these events will be live-streamed for all to experience. Mark your calendars now for this special event, and make plans to attend in person or virtually. Watch for details in upcoming Pullen communications. Want to learn more about this historic decision? There are books available in the Pullen Library.

-Natalie Hampton

## Pullen Outdoor Weekend



5/27-30 2022 Memorial Day Weekend at Hanging Rock State Park  
Pullen folk have gathered in the Great Outdoors on Memorial Day weekend for over 40 years! Join us camping for the annual Pullen Outdoor Weekend Event at Hanging Rock State Park. We will have some loosely organized activities, like tubing and hiking, and group dinners on Saturday and Sunday.

Please contact Kevin Neiley at [kneiley1@gmail.com](mailto:kneiley1@gmail.com), 919-622-4315 to sign up. Sites are already reserved so PLEASE let me know asap if you are interested! More information is coming soon.

-Kevin Neiley

## Pullen News:

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### Celebrating New Members

#### Ron Poythress

**Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences:** I am a retired (burned out!) pastor now actively and joyously pursuing what has been a lifelong avocation as a singer/songwriter. I released an album of 14 original songs in July 2021 (<https://ronpoythress.com>). I am the proud father and grandfather of an amazing and beautiful family (3 adult children and 3 grandchildren) located in California and Hawaii.



**Why did you choose Pullen?** Pullen's long and faithful commitment to social justice resonates with my understanding of a God who sides with the marginalized and oppressed. Worship at Pullen--its liturgy, music, preaching, cohesiveness, beauty--nourishes my spirit and inspires me to embody God's radical acceptance of others. Pullen embraces the highest values of my Baptist heritage--champions of religious freedom, the embodiment of God's welcoming and inclusive embrace of all persons, a biblical faith grounded in intellectual integrity, advocates for the care of all God's creation, the beauty of diversity, and openness to and respect for truth in all its forms. I found my people!

**How do you imagine yourself growing with this community?** I consider it an honor to share a spiritual journey with a faith community committed to what Martin Luther King called the Beloved Community. I hope to find new friends and build relationships with others who want to be challenged with an ever-widening vision of God in the world and inspired to live a kind and courageous life. I imagine myself listening for places and ways my gifts may intersect with Pullen's mission of doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. I do hope that there will be opportunities to share my musical gifts with this amazing congregation.

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### Congratulations to Warren Chesson on His 5th Anniversary at Pullen!

On Sunday, January 9, we celebrated Warren Chesson, who has been employed at Pullen since January 3, 2017, as our Facilities Manager. In that position, Warren is in charge of the many and varied operating and mechanical systems of the church buildings, Cox Avenue building, and the grounds. The job requires supervisory skills, hands-on repairs, preventative maintenance, and risk management abilities. The church building itself was constructed in three different decades, which just adds to the complexity of the equipment to be maintained and kept operational. Warren has been a member of Pullen since 1986, so he is very aware of the building's history. Warren, we appreciate you deeply and the way



you care for our building and grounds. We know you feel your job is really your mission and spiritual calling, and that is something we could never pay for. Per the personnel policies and procedures, Warren was awarded a monetary gift in honor of his five-year tenure.

*-Personnel Committee*

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## Pullen Music Ministry

Responding to the ongoing and ever-changing pandemic, Sunday morning worship leadership through music is currently being provided by small ensembles and individuals from the adult Chancel Choir and the youth/adult Pullen Orchestra. Fully-vaccinated (booster included) individuals are welcomed to sing or play in these groups that are striving to safely offer music for worship during this time. The ensembles typically rehearse on Wednesday nights at 6:30PM. For further information contact Minister of Music, Larry E. Schultz ([lschultz@pullen.org](mailto:lschultz@pullen.org)).

*-Larry Schultz, Minister of Music*

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## Ushers Needed

What better way to get to know fellow Pullenities than to Usher?

It is exciting to look around each Sunday and see new faces whether it be a regular member that you don't know or someone visiting for the first time. We are currently in need of ushers, greeters, and a Head usher for 2022. I understand With Covid/Omicron, not everyone has returned to attending services at Pullen and feel more comfortable attending via streaming. However, I am asking for your help in staffing volunteers for the 2022 schedule. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer, or just have questions regarding ushering before you make a decision. I look forward to hearing from you.

*-Randall Brady, [rlb9944@gmail.com](mailto:rlb9944@gmail.com) or 919-475-5793*

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## Getting to Know Our Afghan Guests and Finding Ways to Help

In mid-January, we at Pullen were blessed with the arrival of three recent refugees from Afghanistan—a married man and woman and their baby boy. The family is now staying in Pullen's guest space while they seek employment and more permanent housing. Pullen's Resettlement Mission Group is organizing volunteers as we offer support to this family now and in the year ahead.

In the short time, we've had with the family, we have come to respect their strength and courage, and it has been a delight getting to know them. (To protect their privacy and safety, here we will refer to the man as "D." and the woman as "A.") In Afghanistan, before the crisis last summer, D. and A. were leading a full life. D. is a 31-year-old lawyer who lectured at a university, and A., 29, taught physics at a high school. When they suddenly were forced to flee their home country under extremely dangerous circumstances, they were expecting their first child. The baby, now four months old, was born when they were in a camp in Virginia.

The family came to us through our partner, Lutheran Services Carolinas: Triangle Refugee Action Council. That group is providing some limited ongoing services for the family, and they will pay for the first six months of rent when the family finds an affordable place to live—a significant challenge in our area. We would appreciate any leads on an affordable house or apartment.

How else can you help? We have lots of opportunities:

Volunteer to help provide transportation for the family or conduct an evening security check in the church. (A check must be completed every evening to ensure the family's safety—we can walk you through the process.)

Donate baby supplies for a four-month-old. One immediate need is a bouncy seat suitable for an infant.

Donate gift cards for Harris Teeter, Walgreens or Target—all are within walking distance for the family.

Donate your time by showing our guests around town or schedule a visit for tea and conversation.

They came to us with fairly strong English skills, and welcome opportunities to practice.

To volunteer or find out more, contact Serena Buckner at [beanbuckner@gmail.com](mailto:beanbuckner@gmail.com).


*-The Pullen Resettlement & Sanctuary Mission Group*

RSVP



**Pullen**  
Memorial Baptist Church

# EVERY NOTE counts



## Please Make YOUR Note Count in Pledging Our Budget

Please help us push to our goal of 275 pledges for the 2022 budget by the end of the month! It is so important that everyone participates in supporting Pullen's mission of social justice in our community and around the world. No matter what amount you are able to pledge, we appreciate every penny and every dollar -- it all makes a difference! Please pledge today using Realm, or send an email to bookkeeper Laura Harper at [finance@pullen.org](mailto:finance@pullen.org) or call the church office at 919.828.0897 for assistance. Thank you!

**Number of Pledges: 230**  
**Total Pledged: \$982,866.09**  
**Budget Goal: \$1,225,402**

-Kim Gazella

[Pledge Now](#)

## Youth Ministry

### Wednesday Night Live

2022 brings one more change to the Wednesday night schedule. We will now have programming from 6-8 pm in the youth space so that we have more time to do all the things we want to do. Masks are still required except when eating. Bring your dinner or eat what we have. Please [RSVP on Realm](#) each week so we can accurately plan food and programming.

### February

- 2 - Canceled due to covid
- 9 - Women of the Bible: Sarah and Jersey Mikes
- 16 - Love? and pasta
- 23 - No Youth Group

### BYC is Back! Hopefully...

After two years of not gathering at Laurel Ridge for summer camp, the planning team is diligently working to make BYC 2022 happen in person at Laurel Ridge. We fully understand that there are a number of things that could prevent us from gathering BUT we are believing that we can. So mark your calendars for July 3-8, 2022, and start practicing for the variety show!



## Hikes Resuming in February

Dust off those hiking shoes because our monthly hikes at local parks will resume in February with a longer hike in the Uwharrie Mountains this spring.

## Camping Trip

Pullen Outdoor Weekend is an annual camping event over Memorial Day Weekend that's planned by some wonderful Pullen families. While it is a church-wide event, it's a great weekend for youth to hang out together. For more information, contact Kevin Neiley at [kneiley1@gmail.com](mailto:kneiley1@gmail.com).

-Bryan Lee, Minister with Youth and Their Families

## Around the Community



### ART by Yasmina Reza

January 27 – February 13, 2022

Performed in-person and via Livestream

French playwright Yasmina Reza's comic masterpiece about three middle-aged men, long-time friends, whose seemingly inseparable bond is torn when one of them decides suddenly to purchase an abstract painting, a completely white canvas. Since it premiered in France in 1994, *Art* has been translated into numerous languages and has won many awards for best comedy, including the Olivier Award for its premiere production in London (starring Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay, and Ken Stott) and the Tony Award for its Broadway premiere (starring Alan Alda, Alfred Molina, and Victor Garber).

Recommended for ages 12+. Contains strong language. **Indoor events** will require proof of vaccination OR proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 diagnostic test, plus a face mask. See details by [clicking here](#).

-Nathalie Ray, Development Director, Burning Coal Theatre Company

Tickets and More Info

The Raleigh (NC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated  
presents:

### "A Virtual Health Experience"

Saturday February 5, 2022 11:00 am EST

Cardiovascular diseases kill nearly 50,000 African American women annually. Cultural factors influence mental health in women of color. Join us for an expert presentation on heart disease and mental health awareness in women of color.

Chelsea Ngongang, MD, FACC  
WakeMed Heart and Vascular  
General and Interventional  
Cardiology  
WakeMed Health



Nerissa M. Price, MD  
Medical Director  
WakeMed Physician Practices  
Well-Being Initiatives  
WakeMed Health



Registration is FREE  
Click to REGISTER or use the link below  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_P77g5rw0R\\_y5AhgW4v6YUQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_P77g5rw0R_y5AhgW4v6YUQ)  
Door prizes will be awarded



## The Raleigh Chapter of the Link, Incorporated Presents "A Virtual Health Experience"

February 5 at 11:00 am on Zoom

Please join us for what will be a very informational presentation on cardiovascular and mental health. Please let me know if you have any questions.

-Monica Rose, The Warrick Anesthesia Consulting Group, LLC

Register Now





## Congregations for Social Justice Annual Meeting

February 7 at 6:00 pm on Zoom

CSJ will hold its Annual Meeting next Monday evening, February 7, at 6:00 PM. The speaker is Professor Gene Nichol who teaches at the UNC Law School and is a frequent OpEd writer for the News & Observer. Gene will talk about poverty in North Carolina and the impact of Covid on our most vulnerable neighbors. The CSJ Social Justice Award will be given to the staff at Oak City Cares. All are welcome to zoom in for this event. The event is free. If you'd like to make a small donation to CSJ to cover costs, you can do so by giving through Pullen and noting that the gift is for CSJ. If you have questions, contact Cathy Tamsberg

at [ctamsberg@nc.rr.com](mailto:ctamsberg@nc.rr.com).

-Cathy Tamsberg

[Register Now](#)

Heather Newton (daughter of Suzanne and sister of Erin) will present her new book MCMULLEN CIRCLE March 3 6:30pm at Page 158 Books in Wake Forest, in conversation with Piedmont Laureate Heather Bell Adams. Book description: "In 1969, as Karl Wallenda prepares to walk a tightrope across the gorge in the tiny town of Tonola Falls, Georgia, faculty families at the nearby McMullen Boarding School learn about racism, war, and what makes a hero."

-Erin Newton

## Hope Center Update

### Raising Hope 2022

Save the Date! Raising Hope 2022 is set for Friday, April 8, 2022, at The Woman's Club of Raleigh. NC's First Lady Kristin Cooper will join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> year and WRAL's Elizabeth Gardner is also returning to emcee for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row! Ben Ferrell, our lively auctioneer from last year's event, will also be bringing his energy and wit back to Raising Hope! Vaccinations and/or a negative Covid test within 48 hours of the event will be required.

We're also thrilled to share that Relish Craft Kitchen & Bourbon Bar will be catering the event this year. They'll be serving up Mac & Cheese (with gluten-free options), pimento cheese & crackers, Brussels sprouts with bacon jam, and banana pudding.

We'd love to have you join us! [Sponsorship information can be found here](#). Individual tickets will go on sale at the end of March when we have a better idea of what safe capacity will look like at the event. Please reach out to Erin Witcher at [ewitcher@hopecenteratpullen.org](mailto:ewitcher@hopecenteratpullen.org) or Melissa Gregory at [mgregory@hopecenteratpullen.org](mailto:mgregory@hopecenteratpullen.org) with any questions.

### Annual Appeal Update

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We are thrilled to share that we beat our goal again! We set out to raise \$86,000 and, because of your generosity, we raised over \$100,000. Beating our goal means that we will have more resources on hand to help former foster youth secure affordable housing in the area. We'll also be able to train more tutors to work with our foster teens and recruit more internship sites to ensure that teens learn how capable they are in the workplace. Thank you!!

-Erin Witcher, Director of Development & Communications for The Hope Center

