



# Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

## February news & updates

### Upcoming Events

See what's happening this month.

### Finance Report:

**Date:** 12/31

**Contributions:** \$1,168,181.32

**Expenses:** \$1,201,625.27

**Difference:** -\$33,443.95

These are the tentative numbers which we hope to have finalized by February 15th, thank you for your patience as we dot all the "i's" and cross all the "t's".

### Joys and Concerns

#### We celebrate with the following members of our community:

Nadine Martin and her life partner, Jo, who are proud grandmas of Cade Alexander Gordon, born December 31 to their daughter Tess and her partner, Christopher Gordon.

Chalice Overy in her engagement to Dominique Flemming on January 1.

Felicia Roper and Cathy Tamsberg in the birth of their first grandchild. Felicia's son Ethan and daughter-in-law Lauren are the proud parents of Charles Hayden Launt, who was born on January 11.

Kathleen Baryenbruch and Joe Perry who were married at Pullen



## The Table this February

Join us at The Table this month! 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 February at The Table!

**February 1 - Intergenerational Game Night**  
This is a fun night to connect across generations. We'll play some games that require you to get up and move a bit, and some that will make you think, some large group games, and some in teams with a little friendly competition. We've included a mixture of games that our children, youth and adults have come to enjoy.

**February 8 - Called to Reconciliation**  
Dr. Jonathan Augustine will lead a discussion on his book *Called to Reconciliation: How the Church Can Model Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion*. Dr. Augustine's background is as a civil rights litigator and law professor. He is currently a missional strategist with the Center for Reconciliation and

on January 28.

**We hold the following in prayer as they experience loss:**

Randall Brady in the loss of his father, William Brady, who passed away on December 18. His service was held in Lillington on December 23.

The family of Marilyn Brandt, who died on December 22. Marilyn was a devoted Pullenite, who for many years served as Pullen's librarian. Marylin's service was held at Pullen on January 10.

The family of Carolyn Billings, who died on December 23. Her memorial service will be held at Pullen on February 5 at 2:00 p.m.

Ron Poythress in the death of his father, Braxton Poythress.

Becky Overstreet in the loss of her brother, Charles Overstreet.

Ann Eller in the loss of her aunt, Patsy.

Brooke Grayson in the loss of her beloved dog, Cooper.

senior pastor of Durham's historic St. Joseph AME Church.

**February 15 - Worship Lab in the Black Church Tradition**

The idea of the worship lab is to give us an opportunity to participate in different styles of worship while helping us understand the theology that undergirds the liturgy. Since February is Black History Month, this worship lab will feature the musicality and embodied worship of the Black Church tradition explore themes of resistance and hope.

**February 22 – Ash Wednesday Service**

Join us in the chapel at 6:30 pm for our Ash Wednesday service, marking the beginning of the season of Lent. This service invites us to self-reflection as individuals and as a faith community that we might use the Lenten season to align ourselves with the wisdom of God.



**Sunday Groups**

*Sundays at 9:30 am*

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,

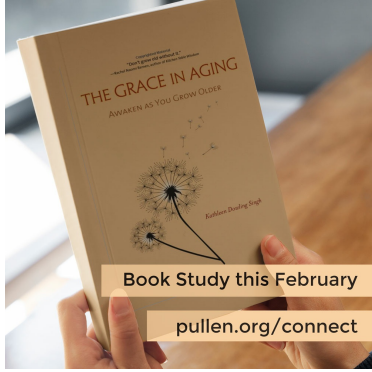
forgiveness, the afterlife and anti-racism with members of Pullen's ministerial staff, including our Theologian-in-Residence, Dr. James Forbes. Take a look at a more detailed description of the all the offerings below, including the addition of a 4th Sunday breakfast! Let's come together for fellowship and formation!

[View our Sunday Groups](#)

**Church wide**

**Upcoming Pullen Events:**

**The Grace in Aging:** *Sundays in February at 3:00 pm in the Parlor*



The Grace in Aging: A book study group with Suzanne Hayes and Ned Yellig Aging can be a time when we find ourselves orienting to the diminishment of many facets of our lives, but can also be a time of spiritual transformation where our attachments to our personas fade and we increasingly orient to the sacred. Using Kathleen Singh's book, *The Grace in Aging* to focus us, we will gather to meditate, share our souls' longings, and delve into the mysteries of the passage. Limited to 6 persons; Commitment to all 4 sessions requested. Please let us know of your interest by emailing Suzanne Hayes @ [aphayes@earthlink.net](mailto:aphayes@earthlink.net) or Ned Yellig @ [ebyellig@gmail.com](mailto:ebyellig@gmail.com).



**Pullen Women's Group:** February 20 at 6:00 pm at 3905 Western Blvd

Please join us for the next Pullen Women's Group. We get together to visit with each other and catch up, no special agenda. Newcomers are welcome. Our next get together will be at Amedeo Italian Restaurant on Monday, February 20 at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP by calling or texting me at 919-360-0975. Happy February!

—[Rita Rakestraw](#)

## Pullen News

### Cox Ave Update

Hello,

We currently have multiple rooms in our Cox building that are available for rent.

Included in the rent are weekly janitorial services: trash collection, bathroom cleaning, and vacuuming of hallways, additional services: keypad entrance, pest control, and utilities: water, sewer, electricity, gas, and heating/cooling.

Room Number	Square Footage
206	140
203	223
209	360
Conference Room B	965
211	1,238

If you know of anyone looking for space to rent, please let me know. I can be reached at [churchadmin@pullen.org](mailto:churchadmin@pullen.org) or at 919-828-0897, ext. 5. Please note that this is a commercial property, not a residential one.

Thank you,  
-Vicky Bass, Church Administrator



### Music Ministry Group News

Music Discovery (K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) and Children's Choir (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades) have made a move to Sunday mornings as these two music groups for children integrate with Pullen Kids Sunday Groups! Beginning on Sunday, February 5, at 9:30AM, in Room 122, Sunday Groups for children will start with making music together as a multisensory way of learning and experiencing Sunday Group themes. Dividing into separate groups for age-focused activities, Music Discovery will continue to provide younger children a comfortable space for music-making and Children's Choir will continue to provide older children with musical growth and the opportunity to sing as a choir in worship.

Youth Choir (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders) has resumed on Wednesday nights in the Rehearsal Hall from 6:00-6:30PM. Youth Group immediately follows in the Youth Space at 6:30PM. This choir offers music for

worship at Pullen and will participate in the Youth Choir *Festival by the Sea*, March 3-5, in Myrtle Beach.

The Chancel Choir (Adults) continues rehearsals on Wednesday nights from 6:45-8:15PM in the Rehearsal Hall, and the Pullen Orchestra (Youth & Adults) rehearses on periodic Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00AM. Both groups offer worship leadership, and all are welcomed!

*-Larry Schultz*



## **Soup for Round Table**

Now that winter is here, Round Table volunteers are serving soup to our guests every Tuesday and Thursday. During the month of February, we are seeking donations of two kinds of soup - chicken noodle and vegetable beef for Round Table. Any brand is ok.

There will be a box in the hallway outside of Finlator to collect soup donations. Thanks so much for helping provide hot soup to our Round Table guests this winter.

*-Ginny Going, Round Table volunteer*



## **Meet Alicia!**

Hello everyone!

My name is Alicia Marrero and I am the new social work intern for the semester. I am a senior at NC State (go pack!) and I will graduate on May 6<sup>th</sup>. My goal after graduation is to go to grad school to continue my education in social work. Eventually I would like to work with high schoolers or with women who have experienced trauma. I am looking forward to having my own apartment with friends and a cat or two.

Currently, I live at home in Raleigh with my dad, uncle and a three-legged dog named Henry. My family has been my biggest support and I am forever grateful to having had individuals like them helping me.

When I am not at school or at Pullen, there are several activities that I love. You will often see me reading a good book. I generally read YA fantasy novels, but at the moment, I am reading "I'm Glad my Mom Died" by Jennette McCurdy. She discusses the mental abuse she experienced as a child star from her controlling mother. The title is a bit jarring, but the story is enthralling.

Sometimes, I stay up late playing video games, which is a new hobby as I was not interested in them when I was a kid. My two favorite games are "Pokémon" and "Mario". I also enjoy wandering around thrift stores. On an average thrifting day, I search for certain clothing brands or look for old dolls to fix up and sell on Etsy! Also, whenever I buy something at a thrift store, I believe it is appropriate to give back to the community by donating old clothes, books and games.

I am so excited to be working at Pullen! What drew me to social work is the whole idea of helping others, understanding individuals, and trying to work with people as they try to improve their situations and those of their families. It is very eye opening to hear all the diverse stories people have to tell about their lives. It really makes you view the world in a different way. I believe it is important for everyone to expand their understandings of the complex, and for many, difficult world we live in. We all need to be aware that some people have struggles in their lives and those of us who are in a position to help should do what we can. I am so impressed with all the great work Pullen has done for the community. I decided to intern here because of how open Pullen is to people from different walks of life such as race, sexuality, backgrounds, status and beliefs. Whatever your needs, social, emotional, physical, or spiritual, Pullen has been there to help. This is unlike many other helping organizations that are more narrowly focused. I am very proud to be part of the Pullen community and I hope to be an asset to this amazing institution.

*-Alicia Marrero, Social Work Intern*

## Celebrating New Members



**What is your name?** Wolfgang Jacob Fredrich "Wolf"

**What are your pronouns?** he/him

**Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences.** With family immigrated from Germany and settled in NE Ohio. Spent four years in Naval Submarine Force. Moved to North Carolina for Graduate school and spent 30 years as a social worker. Married to Peg and have stepson and adopted son. Have been retired for 10 years. Enjoy outdoors and reading.

**Why did you choose Pullen?** Grew up Lutheran but have attended Unitarian, Presbyterian churches. Pullen has been a wonderful meld of all three denominations. Social justice focus is important to me.

**How do you imagine yourself growing with this community?** Meeting kindred spirits has always been important to me. The amount of both academic and spiritual growth in this church can be very satisfying and only limited by what I want to be involved in.

**What is your name?** Margaret Friedrich (Peg)

**What are your pronouns?** she/her

**Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences.** I have lived in Raleigh for 30 years. Most of my career I have worked as a social worker. I enjoy the outdoors and walking with my husband. I am originally from the foothills of NC.

**Why did you choose Pullen?** Inclusiveness and social justice



**What is your name(s)?** Jimalion & Kayana McCalla-Perry

**What are your pronouns?** Jimalion (She/They) Kayana (She/Her)

**Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences.** Jimalion- I was born and raised in Pittsboro, NC. So, I am southern through and through. I am a dreamer; I've been that way since I was a child. By day I work in Clinical Research and by night I read and review books for publishers and authors. My passion lies in writing, reading, and highlighting books that showcase diverse characters. It is my dream is to one day create a safe space for those who are interested in literature and giving a home to stories written by people of color, whose characters mirror those of us who have been marginalized.

Kayana- I was born and raised in Hartford, CT. By day I am an Instructional Designer for a leading biotechnology company. By night, I blog about fashion & beauty. I have a huge passion for Politics and true crime. In my spare time I enjoy traveling, shopping, attending symphonies and concerts, and baking.

**Why did you choose Pullen?** We chose Pullen because we were interested in starting our faith journey and it was important for us to attend a church that was inclusive and centered the topics that that are important to us including social justice and equality.

**How do you imagine yourself growing with this community?** To be surrounded by a welcoming community, we hope to feel secure and safe in our exploration of our faith. We look forward to integrating the church and the community into our lives, growing stronger as individuals, as a unit, and to provide solid faith foundations for our future children.

## Kid's Ministry

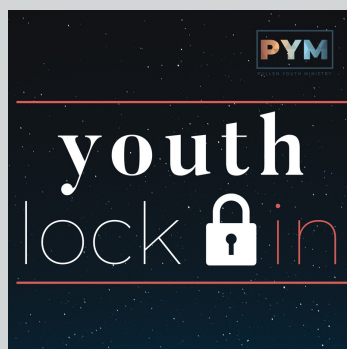
**Pullen Kids: Parents Night Out:** February 10 at 5:30 pm in the Chapel (Preschoolers in Room 120)



Parents, you can check in children at the church and have a night out. Children enjoy a movie and fun with their friends. Sign up by February 5 at [pullen.org/connect/](https://pullen.org/connect/)

**Pizza will be provided, but you can pack a snack if you have a picky eater.**

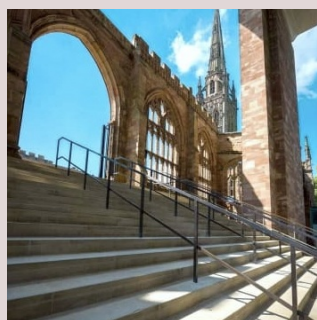
## Youth Ministry



**Youth Lock-in: February 10-11 at Pullen**

Join us for a youth lock-in Friday, February 10th from 5:30 pm until 9 am on Saturday, February 11th! Youth can be dropped off at Pullen at around 5 pm that Friday evening and plan to be picked up at 9/10 am Saturday morning. Dinner, snacks, and breakfast will be provided. If you have any questions, contact [allie.mckinney16@gmail.com](mailto:allie.mckinney16@gmail.com).

## Around the Pullen Community



### **Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN): Invitation to international gathering**

Registration opened in January 2023 for **CCN's next major international gathering in Coventry, England, May 24–28, 2023**. It is titled "Making all things new: Reconciliation and the next 60 years." Several Pullenites attended similar events in Coventry in 2012 and 2018, as well as an all-virtual Zoom gathering in 2020. It is a time of powerful sharing of peace and reconciliation efforts from representatives of partners across the 45 CCN countries.

From Coventry Cathedral's website:

- Join presentations and discussion sessions (also available via Zoom) on the environmental crisis; reconciliation and the impacts of war; land and belonging; chaplaincy and retreat; arts and reconciliation; training and learning in reconciliation; networks within the CCN; and our role in 2023 and beyond.
- Meet, connect around the table, and get to know a cross-section of CCN partners from around the world, physically and virtually.
- Reflect and renew in the Cathedral's pattern of daily worship and prayer, as well as Bible study specific to the gathering.
- Visit the city itself, newly energized from its year as 2022 UK City of Arts and Culture.

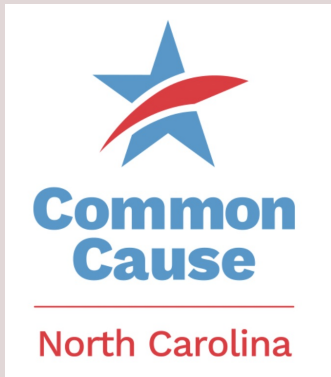
Basic information on logistics and costs for the in-person event is here:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/community-of-the-cross-of-nails/gatherings>

Draft program (in progress): <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/uploads/media/CCN-International-Gathering-2023-draft-programme.pdf>

Pullen has been a CCN partner since 1977, and it would be wonderful to have a representative at this event. Information about virtual participation will be forthcoming soon for anyone who is interested but unable to travel.

More information about CCN or previous gatherings: Erin Newton, [eonevton1979@gmail.com](mailto:eonevton1979@gmail.com); 919-460-9707



## Common Cause North Carolina Serving Opportunity

Hello Pullenites,

As some of you know, I am a long-time board member of **Common Cause North Carolina**. This year is the 50th anniversary of the organization and we are planning a series of events to celebrate. In preparation for the year's events, we are going thru 50 years of our archives — and we could use some help!

Would you be available to help?

Organize our archives

Help organize 4-5 boxes in storage that contains many years of Common Cause newsletters, photographs, meeting minutes, etc.

Put items in chronological order, label the contents as needed, and prepare to store in new boxes.

We will provide supplies.

Compile a list of names from the archives.

We want to capture the names of people who have been active, with a few notes on each.

Over the course of 2023, we'll hold a series of celebratory events to honor/remember these supporters.

In 2023, we'll also be filming 50 interviews with Common Cause supporters – “50 Stories for 50 Years” - so looking for potential interviewees.

This would be a fun job for a history buff or anyone who enjoys organizing. I think it's about 5-10 total hours of work. The volunteer could work whenever and wherever they want, and our staff would help them of course.

If you are interested and available, please email me at [larrydeanking@lcloud.com](mailto:larrydeanking@lcloud.com)

Thanks,

-Larry King, Treasurer, CCNC



### Statewide all-day shape-note singing convention in Pullen's chapel: Saturday March 4, 2023

After a long pandemic pause since March 2020, the annual all-day North Carolina Shape-Note Singing Convention will return to Pullen's chapel on Saturday, March 4, 2023. Singers who meet monthly to sing in Raleigh, Durham, or Chapel Hill will host the event. In past years, 80–100 singers have attended from across NC as well as from several other states, and they love the acoustics of our chapel. This event is free of charge.

The convention will begin about 9 am, pause for a potluck lunch in Finlator Hall, and then continue until about 4:00 pm or until voices give out, whichever happens first!

Extra copies of the tune book, *The Sacred Harp*—meaning the human voice—will be available to borrow or purchase. Anyone is welcome to sing or to listen, and to stay for a little while or all day. You may be familiar with this old American *a capella* tradition from hearing the *Sacred Harp* tune “*Idumea*” (YouTube audio, 3:19) sung in the film *Cold Mountain*. More resources are available at <https://fasola.org>, and several recordings of other tunes can be found at <https://www.npr.org/2003/12/05/1534280/preserving-the-sacred-harp-singing-tradition>.

Shape-note music is participatory, not a performance, and formal music training is not required. Singers sit in a hollow square, one voice part per side (treble, alto, tenor/lead, bass), and anyone can sing any part. Many people take turns requesting tunes and leading them. The term “shape note” derives from the shaped note heads in the music: rather than all round notes, there are triangles, circles, squares, and diamonds. To help singers learn or remember the tune, the participants “sing the shapes” (fa, sol, la, mi) the first time through before moving on to the text. We hope you can join us for any part of the day!

—Erin Newton, 919-460-9797, [eonewton1979@gmail.com](mailto:eonewton1979@gmail.com)

## February 2023 Hope Center Updates

### Raising Hope 2023

Raising Hope 2023, our signature fundraiser, is set for April 20, 2023 at One-Eleven Place in Cary. We are so grateful to the Regional REALTOR Association of Raleigh for joining us as the exclusive Raising Hope Venue Sponsor. Kristin Cooper, First Lady of North Carolina, plans to be with us in person and WRAL's Elizabeth Gardner will be back for the fifth year to serve as emcee. In 2022, this community helped us raise over \$100,000 to support Wake County's foster teens and former foster youth. Thank you to everyone who supported Raising Hope in 2022.

This year, our goal is to raise over \$105,000 to sustain the growth needed to meet the needs of our teens and emerging adults. Many of you have already joined us as sponsors for 2023. Thank you. Because capacity in the room is limited to 200, we anticipate that the evening will sell out in sponsorships. We hope to see all of you there! For more information on how to become a sponsor, [please click here](#) or email Melissa Gregory at [mgregory@hopecenteratpullen.org](mailto:mgregory@hopecenteratpullen.org).

### New Housing Partnerships

In the last quarter of 2022, two new housing partnerships emerged. We are working with Passage Home to use one of its unused homes to house our youth. We also are working with SaNora Cares, a private landlord who bought and renovated a centrally located townhouse, for the purpose of housing transition age foster youth. We are continuing to pursue partnerships with agencies and private landlords who have existing housing stock that can be used to ensure our youth don't fall into homelessness while they work toward long-term stability.

*-Erin Witcher*



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