



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

June news & updates



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

Finance Report:

Date: 4.19.23

Income: \$347,010.94

Expenses: \$312,954.87

Difference: \$34,056.07

Addressing Racism Through Storytelling

*June 16 Dinner at 6:00 pm Program at 6:45 pm in
Finlator Hall*

You are invited to an evening of story-telling with the Rev. James A. Forbes, Jr and his siblings. Rev. Forbes and his four siblings grew up in Raleigh during segregation. At one point, the Forbes Family was voted Raleigh's Family of the Year. Their stories give insight into what Raleigh was like then for African-American families and their experiences in public schools, their neighborhoods, and the larger Raleigh community. Hearing their stories will allow us to reflect on the progress we have made when fighting racism as a city and the work that is still before us.

[Register](#)

Community Prayer

Celebrating Joys

Jim Jarrard was recognized with the Cathy Tamsberg Service award at The Hope Center's Raising Hope 2023 gala in recognition of his past six years serving on HCP Board of Directors, several of them as chair.

Molly Watts, daughter of Howard Romaine and sister of Rita Rakestraw, who lives in Baton Rouge, recently received a kidney transplant.

Patrick Michael recently accepted a position at Duke as Financial Care Counselor at the Cancer center in Raleigh after what was thankfully a brief job search.

Roussell Valle received his green card and can now begin a new chapter of his life in the US.

Caroline Hampton, daughter of Natalie and Kyle Hampton, was married to Freddie Bell on May 20 in Chapel Hill.

Cameron Longmire, son of Reggie and Gail Longmire, graduated from Virginia Tech with his degree in Bioengineering.

Rita Rakestraw graduated from East Carolina University with a Master's in Social Work.

Paul Rakestraw and Stella Larson are recognized as Pullen's graduating High School Seniors.

Praying in Loss

We pray for Carol Majors in the loss of her brother, Parks, who died on April 21 after having been diagnosed with a brain tumor.

We pray for Steve Arbogast, friend of Jack Barnwell, and his family. Steve's mother Sue Ann Arbogast died recently after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

We hold in our prayers the family of Meta Monteleon. Meta died on May 3 in Macon, Georgia where she was living near her daughter. Meta was Pullen's oldest non-resident member and sister of Virginia Phillips. She was 108 years old. A private service will be held for her in the Siler Garden in the fall.

Praying for our Community

We pray for Anne Dahle who continues to recover from a broken hip at the health center at The Cardinal;

for Tom Henderson was hospitalized twice last month with an infection;

for Ben Tapp, a recent Pullen member and Round Table volunteer, who has been dealing with some complications after a liver transplant;

for Mahan Siler, who had surgery on both knees for torn tendons, and has several weeks of recovery at The Laurels in Black Mountain;

for Jason Martinucci, who is recovering from spine surgery;

for Chris Schwertman who is recovering at home after shoulder surgery;

for Jean Carr, who is also recovering at home after shoulder surgery;

for Meg Shouse, who is recovering from foot surgery;

for baby Henry Zeillmann, son of Maggie and Kevin Zeillmann who is recovering after a successful surgery this week to drain a cyst in his brain;

and for all who are dealing with health issues, who are lonely, and those who are struggling with mental health.

Praying for our World

We pray for our world—those who are hungry and homeless, those who live in war zones or under the threat of violence, those who are victims of abuse, those who are oppressed, and all those who are not well in body and/or spirit.

Church wide

Pullen Events



Summer Sunday Series: Why Church? Why Pullen? Why Now? Starts this Sunday!

Sundays at 9:30 am in Finlator Hall June: 4, 11, 18 & 25, July 9, 16, 23 & 30, August 6 & 13

Our community has taken a new shape in recent years, yet pandemic precautions left us with fewer opportunities to connect and reflect. As we discern together where the Spirit is leading our congregation in this next chapter of its history, we must take stock of who we have been, who we are now, and whom we are becoming together.

This summer, our Summer Sunday program (9:30-10:30 am) will be an exciting series that pairs new and long-time members to share what brought them to Pullen and why they have stayed active in the church for many years. In some cases, we will hear stories of people leaving Pullen to return years later. Sharing our stories is one way that we build community and unite in the mission of doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly. I once had a mentor that would say to me, “Nancy, it’s all about relationship.” If he was right, and I have a hunch he was, strengthening our relationships with one another (really getting to know one another) will make us a stronger community in whatever ways we labor to build God’s kin-dom here on this earth.

As these stories weave us together, we will trace our emerging hopes and dreams for the future of Pullen Church. So, mark your calendars now for the following Sundays this summer and let’s show up for one another. There will be fellowship time from 10:30-10:50 am. Youth are invited to join us for Summer Sunday Series, as there will not be Youth Sunday Groups over the summer.

June 4 – Lisa Grabarek, Shelby & Grant Forest
June 11 – Erin Cleghorn & Alyssa Rockenbach
June 18 – Nick Carter, Andrew and Liz Kasper
June 25 – Nancy Jones, Mark Nance and Sarah Bowen



The Table this Summer: Second Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in Finlator Hall

We are now operating on our summer schedule at The Table meeting on the second Wednesday of each month in June, July, and August. If you’re in town, come by for dinner, conversation, and these programs. Dinner is \$4 for children (grades K-5), and \$7 for youth (grades 6-12) and adults, with a \$24 cap per family.

June 14 - Where are They Going?

Stan Dotson will share stories from his most recent book, “Where are they Going?”, which narrates the journeys of 5 Cubans who traveled the world and each made the decision to go back to their Cuban homes. Stan’s presentation will also include music, and a general update on Cuba, and particularly our partners at First Baptist - Matanzas. Stan Dotson has been traveling to Cuba since the 1990s, and he and his wife, Kim, have also hosted around 30 Cubans in their home over the past three decades. Stan and Kim lived and worked in Cuba full-time

in 2014-15 and 2017-20, and now travel back on month-long visits several times a year.

July 12 - A Look at Rising Antisemitism

Antisemitic incidents rose to their highest levels last year since the Anti-Defamation League began keeping data in 1979. Rabbi Matthew Soffer from the Judea Reform community in Durham will join us to talk about this alarming trend and how we should respond to it.

August 9 - To Be Announced

We're still trying to decide between some really good options. We will update you next month.

-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor

New Member Luncheon: June 11 at 12:15 pm in Finlator Hall

The Congregational Care Council will host a New Member Luncheon on Sunday, June 11, for members who have joined Pullen since last summer. It will be held in Finlator Hall following the service. Please RSVP to Frank Farmer at farmerFA@earthlink.net by June 4. Please indicate if you have any dietary requirements. The Council looks forward to enjoying a meal and time together with our newest members!



Pullen Women's Group: June 19 at 6:00 pm at Guasaca, 4025 Lake Boone Trail

Calling all those who identify as female! Please join us for the next Pullen Women's Group. We get together to visit each other and catch up with no special agenda. Newcomers are welcome. This is a way to get to know other Pullenites! Please call/text Rita Rakestraw at 919-360-0975 if you can make it.

Pullen News



Celebrating New Members: Shannon Ball and Michael Watkins

What are your pronouns? she/her; he/him

Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences: Michael is a Raleigh native and Shannon is from Canton, OH. We met in Denver, CO in 2015, moved to Raleigh in 2019, married in 2021, and have been coming to Pullen since 2022. Michael works at the American Heart Association and Shannon at Habitat for Humanity of Wake County.

Why did you choose Pullen? We discovered Pullen while searching for progressive churches that truly welcomed everyone. We watched online for a couple of months during the pandemic, and when we started visiting in person, we knew we found our new church home. We were impressed by Pullen's commitment to equity and inclusivity and its acknowledgment of current events in our world. We are thrilled to be new members!

How do you imagine yourself growing with this community? We are excited to work alongside our Pullen family for social justice in Raleigh & beyond, and to grow in our own faith while doing so.

Summer Worship Choir for All Ages: Sundays at 10:30 am in Room 128-B



In the months of June and August, friends and families of all ages are invited to form the Summer Worship Choir! Meet in the Rehearsal Hall (Room 128-B) at 10:30 am each Sunday to prepare for worship. This choir enlivens congregational singing for worship and offers music accessible to all ages. No previous experience is needed! Gain a new worship perspective by worshipping from the choir this summer. Join us!



One Can Every Sunday

When you do your weekly grocery shopping, please buy one extra can of food. Think of it as your expression of gratitude for having enough to eat. Bring one can to church every Sunday and put it in the black cart at the back door or in the information center. Pullen Mission Women will deliver the food to Urban Ministries, where it will provide groceries to families in great need. If enough of us make this a habit, we can have a significant impact in reducing the hunger in our midst. Thank you for your generosity!

-Pullen Mission Women

From the Deacons: Request for Feedback

At the June 4th special business meeting, the Deacon Council requests your feedback on the driving questions that will guide the visioning and strategic planning process that began this spring. The driving questions are meant to identify critical issues the church must address in the next five years and are based on suggestions from the Coordinating Council's councils and committees, the ministers, and the deacons. The Deacon Council welcomes your input in framing the driving questions and looks forward to hearing from you at the June 4 meeting. The Deacon Council also encourages you to share any feedback on the church website. Here are the driving questions as they stand so far:

Membership and Community

How can we best understand the dynamics of Pullen membership so as to ensure excellence in the ways we welcome, engage, and nurture our members in building a caring and loving community?

Stewardship and Finance

How can we ensure the financial future of Pullen through a reasonable stewardship program that both honors our mission and history and yet remains open to new methods and opportunities?

Identity and Values

In an increasingly diverse world, how do we create an environment at Pullen where all feel welcome, we honor our prophetic heritage, and sustain our spiritual grounding?

Governance

How do we build an effective, transparent, and trustworthy governance structure and equip our leaders to work within it?

Human Resources/Leadership

How can we maintain, attract, value, and support a talented and prophetic staff and lay leaders to help lead us into our envisioned future?

Outreach

How can we leverage our unique resources (facilities, financial, people, history) to meet the needs of our community and our world?

You can submit your feedback by filling out a form at the link below:

[Submit Feedback](#)



Messy Church: Sundays at 9:30 am in Room 122 on June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6, 13

In conjunction with the Adult Summer Sunday Series: Why Church? Why Pullen? Why Now? children will enjoy a "come-as-you-are" experience of creativity, celebration, and hospitality. They will enjoy being together, making things together, and celebrating God together through activities and stories from the Bible. Caregivers are invited to enjoy this experience along with with the children! Please note: childcare will be available for preschoolers at 9:30 am.



Pullen Kids Quest: Summer Dates: 2nd Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

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 Active Play, and a planned "Quest" involving Story Time, Craft Time, Game Time, and fun Experiments. See you there!

-Tommy Cook

Youth Ministry



Youth Raleigh Tour with Dr. Forbes - June 10, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Our youth are invited to take a journey with our Theologian in Residence, Dr. James Forbes, to significant sites in Raleigh that were important to him as a young person. Visiting places like where he went to school, his childhood home, and Shaw University gives youth particular insight into Raleigh's history of segregation and its role in the Civil Rights Movement. This is a great opportunity for our youth to engage in a part of the history of their community with which they may not be familiar. The plan is to end the tour with a sweet treat. The tour is open to youth and youth

leaders. Transportation will be provided by Pullen. Please contact Chalice Overy with questions, covey@pullen.org. To RSVP, go to Realm, click the events tab, and select "all events".

Youth OWL retreat at Pullen: June 24 at 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Based on feedback from our spring retreat, it seems like the youth would like more time for check-ins on Wednesday nights and a little more flexibility for some purely fun activities. We also really want to complete our OWL curriculum, so we are proposing an OWL retreat on June 24 from mid-morning to mid-afternoon. This would allow us to complete several OWL sessions and free up some time on Wednesday nights. Please contact Allie Pruden with questions, at allie.mckinney16@gmail.com. Lunch and snacks will be provided

Register

Wednesday Nights - Summer Schedule

This summer we will meet from 6:00-7:30 unless otherwise noted.

6/7: Sardines

6/14: With Adults - Interspersed with music, Stan Dotson will share stories from his most recent book, "Where are they Going?", which narrates the journeys of 5 Cubans who traveled the world and each made the decision to go back to their homeland. (Dinner at 5:30 pm)

6/21: OWL

6/28: Pullen Park

7/5: BYC, no Wednesday night

7/12: With Adults - Antisemitism talk with Rabbi Matthew Soffer (Dinner at 5:30 pm)

7/19: Indoor game night

7/26: Sundaes and Sardines - We will invite the rising 6th graders to join us for sundaes and teach them how to play sardines!

8/2: Nerf battle

8/9: Movie night (Dinner at 5:30 pm)

8/16: Off, no Wednesday night

Other Dates to Know-

6/25: BYC Prep Meeting for youth and parents (after church)

7/2-7/7: BYC

Youth are invited to join us for Summer Sunday Series Sundays at 9:30 am in Finlator Hall, as there will not be Youth Sunday Groups over the summer.

Around the Pullen Community



**Habitat
for Humanity**
of Wake County

*Serving Wake and
Johnston Counties*

Advocate for Affordable Housing Near You

Every year local legislators make time to hear from the public about their yearly budget. This gives constituents a chance to voice how their local funds should be used and what programs they think should be prioritized.

Help us advocate for affordable housing by submitting a written comment or joining us in the audience at a hearing!

Sign up using the QR code below, or visit us online at habitatwake.org/advocacyambassadors

1 in 4 families in our community is paying too much for housing at the expense of other necessities.

Raleigh Hearing

June 6
7 pm - 9 pm

Get Involved:



**Wake County
Commons Building**
4011 Cary Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610
United States

**Raleigh Municipal
Building (RMB)**
Council Chamber
222 W. Hargett St.
Raleigh, NC 27601



Celebrate PRIDE MONTH Virtual Series

Wake County Public Libraries: Intersection of Faith, Religion, & LGBTQIA+ Identity: June 22 at 2:30 pm on Zoom

Join us for a virtual panel discussion followed by a Q&A session. Our panelists will be Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland, Executive Director of the Council of Churches in Raleigh, Rev. Ian McPherson from Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, Rev. Kristen Tossell Pitts, Chaplain and DEI Director at Washington Episcopal School in Bethesda, Maryland, and Rev. Vance E Haywood Jr (Pastor Vance), Senior Pastor at St. John's Metropolitan Community Church in Raleigh.

Webinar ID 812 2946 5512

Participant ID 601341

Passcode faith

For best viewing experience, please download the latest version of Zoom to your device or computer before the program from: zoom.us/download.

Program designed for an adult audience.



ONE Wake Internal Assembly: June 8, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Baptist Grove Church, 7109 Leesville Rd

At our Annual Meeting on March 8, ONE Wake members launched a listening campaign with the goal to speak with 2,100 members of our institutions and surrounding communities. You can view your institution's pledge, and progress here.

So far we have spoken with 986 people (close to half our total goal!) and we have meetings scheduled to speak with hundreds more! Our listening sessions are building towards a key internal assembly on Thursday, June 8 where we will review the results of our listening campaign, and then take a public and transparent vote on which concerns ONE Wake should prioritize for research and action.

All who register will receive a report in advance to help

your decision-making.

We strongly recommend in-person participation, however, there will be a virtual option for those who cannot attend in person. We have two registration options this time for in-person and virtual participation so we can better estimate crowd size, etc.

Register for In Person

Register for Online

Habitat for Humanity Pride Build: June 9 at 4419 Old Poole Rd

Our goal is to create safe spaces for families to thrive and we want you to join!



See details and get your volunteer spot!



In partnership with Habitat Wake

PRIDE BUILD

JUNE 9, 2023 | 8 AM TO 5 PM
4419 OLD POOLE RD

Our Pride Build provides an opportunity for Raleigh's LGBTQ+ community and allies to come together in support of a more inclusive Wake County.

Come build with us.



We understand that finding affordable housing in our community is already challenging, but even more so for LGBTQ+ families who face additional barriers like discrimination and bias. By building with us, community members can come together to learn more about the unique housing challenges faced by members of the LGBTQ+ community and how to join Habitat Wake in advocating for better housing solutions for all our neighbors. Our Habitat Pride Build is scheduled for Friday, June 9th, 2023. We welcome all volunteers, regardless of skill level or experience. We provide all the necessary tools, materials, and training to ensure that everyone can contribute to our mission.

Visit our website to learn more and sign up to volunteer. You can also donate to support our work.

[Register](#)



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

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