

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



Join Us on July 10 To Help Fight Hunger

For our Wednesday Night program on July 10, we will hold an inter-generational event that focuses on fighting hunger in several ways, with both local and international impacts.

From an international perspective, we will gather together to pack 10,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger - an initiative that was successfully funded through the Christmas Offering and the Mission & Outreach Council budget. The meals will be distributed through Rise's global partners to school feeding programs, orphanages, health clinics, vocational training organizations, and crisis response teams, with a growing focus on the education and empowerment of women. Rise will bring their mobile unit with all of the supplies we need and we'll provide the people power to pack the meals. We need 70 volunteers of all ages to finish the job in a timely manner, so please go to the website below and sign up today!

We will also use the Rise Against Hunger event to make an impact locally. We are asking our Rise Against Hunger volunteers to bring items for the Urban Ministries cart, to help fill the gap for kids who struggle with food insecurity, which is an especially acute struggle while school is out. Peanut butter, jelly and any canned food item will be particularly helpful.

**Sign up here to help fight hunger,
and meet us in Finlator Hall on July 10!**
[http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/
PullenMemorial](http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/PullenMemorial)

Pullen as Immigrant Host

The Church World Service (CWS) is working hard to find hosts for asylum-seekers on both sides of the southern border. Back in April, the CWS helped match our church with "Marla"; a 19 year old woman from Honduras and her toddler son. They were living in a shelter in Mexico. According to our sources at the border, she had an excellent chance to enter the US after her initial court hearing. Plans were in the making for her to come to Raleigh. Serena Buckner, Nancy Petty and Jim McMahan talked with her by video chat. She was very appreciative of our efforts to host. Then, a few days later, we learned that her former boyfriend (and father of her son) had located her, persuaded her to leave with him and drop her asylum plea.

For all that we read, hear and assume about the lives of immigrants at the border, we cannot imagine the realities they face, the conditions they live in, and the circumstances under which they arrive at the border seeking asylum. Some have traveled many weeks, even months to get to shelter at a border point. And when they arrive, they are under great stress; faced with dire life circumstances and little hope. On our end, we are finding that more we interact with the issues, processes and politics affecting asylum seekers, the more we understand just how unpredictable border life is.

After learning of Marla's disappearance, the Resettlement and Sanctuary Mission Group met in May to discuss next steps and we have returned to Church World Service for placement guidance.

In the meantime, via a contact with a local branch of the NAACP, we have offered shelter to a young woman and her child from El Salvador. Maricella, and her 15-month-old daughter, Nicole, are staying in the church temporarily while she decides whether or not to return to El Salvador.

-Resettlement and Sanctuary Mission Group



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We Grieve With:

- ☞ The family of Jean Battaglia who died on June 26 from pulmonary embolism. Jean had requested that no service be held upon her death.
- ☞ Porter Bell in the death of her brother, George, following a long illness.
- ☞ Chris Kelly in the death of his mother, Elizabeth Kelly, on June 2. A memorial service was held in Bolton, NC on June 9.
- ☞ Jeannette Maxie in the death of her husband, Daryl, on June 13. A memorial service was held in Williamston, NC on June 22.
- ☞ Nell Summerlin in the death of her mother, Estelle, on June 10. A memorial service was held in Dublin, NC on June 13.

We celebrate with:

- ☞ Lizzie Cato and Owen Carroll who were married at the entrance to Yellowstone National Park on June 22. Lizzie is the daughter of Bob and Emily Cato.

Thank You

Sarah Almlad wishes to acknowledge the loving support of her Pullen family at the departure of Carl from his earthly home. She finds it comforting to know that there are so many of you who loved and appreciated him. Thank you.

Summer Worship Choir Resumes in August

After a July sabbatical, the Summer Worship Choir will resume on August Sundays at 10:30am in the Rehearsal Hall. All ages and families are invited to join us as we prepare simple service music each week!

-Larry Schultz

Church Pictorial Directories Directory Are Here!!



If you had your picture made for the directory, you may pick up your copy of the new directory in room 203 after worship on Sundays, July 7, 14, and 21.

-Pat Hielscher

Summer Sunday Groups: Being Community

This year's Summer Sunday Group Series was planned intentionally to strengthen and expand the work of education and faith formation at Pullen. This year's topic is "Being Community".

The series continues on July 14 and concludes on August 4. The series features new practices, outside speakers, and members of our community as we cover the following topics:

- **July 14** Movement, Music, and Art in Community: SURPRISE GUESTS!
- **July 21** The Power of Vulnerability and Connection featuring the work of Brené Brown and Susan Pinker
- **July 28** Community in Difficult Times featuring Cathy Tyner, Jeff Cherry, and Brian Crisp
- **August 4** Community Celebration and Brunch

This summer should be a meaningful experience in faith formation! We hope you will join us in Finlator Hall from 9:30 - 10:30 on Sunday mornings.

-Adult Education Committee

Pullen Women's Group

The next get-together for the Pullen Women's Group is Monday, July 8, 2019, at 6:30 pm at Bellini's Italian (107 Edinburgh S. Dr #119).

All women are invited. We get to know each other and enjoy casual conversations. TEXT Rita at 919-360-0975 so we will know how big of a table to reserve.

Hope to see you there!

-Rita Rakestraw



Summer Book Club

Pullen will feature two summer book clubs in July and August. This is a fantastic chance to read recent publications about faith

formation and discuss them with your community. These offerings are meant to encompass a wider scope of education as Pullen strives to support people in a full-body experience. Discussions will take place in the chapel beginning at 7:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

- July 18: Brené Brown's *Braving the Wilderness*
- August 13: Katey Zeh's *Women Rise Up*

Invite your friends to join us and come out and read!

Contact Brian Crisp for more info. *-Adult Education Committee*

Wednesday Nights at Pullen

Summer Wednesday Series

During the summer we gather on the 2nd Wednesday evening of each month for dinner and programming. Dinner begins at 5:15 and the adult program begins at 6:30 pm. Check out our summer schedule and topics!

♦ July 10 - Rise Against Hunger

We still need quite a few volunteers to help pack food with Rise Against Hunger on July 10! Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization located in Raleigh that coordinates the distribution of food and other life-saving aid around the world. Its Operation Sharehouse program is a volunteer-based effort through which participants package high protein, dehydrated meals for use in crisis situations worldwide. On this Wednesday evening, the Operation Sharehouse Mobile Unit will come to Pullen so that our children, youth, and adults can pack meals in Finlator Hall. All ages can participate! [Register today!](#)

♦ August 14 - Reimagining Iran

Earlier this year, James Crook spent 10 days in Iran, a trip that he is now told would be impossible given the state of relations between the Iranian and U.S. governments. In all his travels, he never encountered people more welcoming, accommodating, and joyful for his presence than the Iranians he met. From poor shepherds to shop keepers, from young people to the very old, from businessmen to a Grand Ayatollah, there was not one unsmiling face. The hospitality of that ancient culture still has him stunned. James will share pictures and stories from his trip.

Summer Wednesdays for Children

Childcare (preschool) 6:00–7:30PM

Micah Kids (K-5) 6:00- 7:30PM

- July 10 - Rise Against Hunger
- August 14 - Crazy Craft Night



Join the Pullen Orchestra this Fall!

The Pullen Orchestra will begin its 17th year this coming September, and instrumentalists who play wind, string or percussion instruments are warmly invited to join us! Our church orchestra involves both youth and adults (6th grade and above) who have played for at least one year. We enjoy playing for worship and in our local community, for Sunday in the Park and other services as well as fellowship events together. If interested, contact Minister of Music, Larry Schultz (lshultz@pullen.org).

-Larry Schultz

Welcome New Members

The Rhudy Family

The Rhudys have been Pullen attendees for many years, 27 to be exact! On April 7, 2019, the stars aligned and the four of us gathered to become official members. This was a wonderful and meaningful day for all of us and we are so grateful to the Pullen Community for sharing this celebration!



Now, a little bit about us:

Steve has lived in Raleigh since 1979, and in the same home since 1981. He met Jane at a Contra Dance in Chapel Hill when she was beginning her Physical Therapy studies at UNC. In 1990 they wed at St Johns Baptist Church in Charlotte, where Nancy Petty performed the ceremony.

Since shortly after Emerson was born, Steve has practiced law with the Walker Lambe firm in Durham, primarily in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate and Trust Administration, and Tax Law. Jane worked as a physical therapist, off and on, but primarily was a stay at home mom and homemaker, a career she vastly enjoyed. She retired a few years ago from PT work, as the physical workload became too demanding. Now she cares for her home and for Steve's 98 year old mother, who is at Morningside Assisted Living. She also enjoys painting, sewing, and spending time with her family. One of the highlights of her life these days is singing in the Pullen choir, where she has found a talented and supportive community.

Emerson and Kate have, over the years, been involved in the youth programs at Pullen. Both girls played in the Pullen Orchestra and Kate continues to share her musical gifts, singing occasionally in worship.

Currently, Emerson is taking pre-requisite courses in preparation to applying to Nursing School. She will start applications in the fall and hopes to enter school in Spring of 2020. She works part-time at The School of Science and Math as an assistant resident advisor. She also works full-time for Research Square, where she is involved with Academic Editing. She lives in Durham and enjoys biking, rock climbing, and hiking.

Kate is a singer/songwriter living in Raleigh. She has released one album, "Rock and Roll Ain't For Me," and is working on new music. Lately, she has been touring quite a bit, opening for Chatham County Line, Willie Watson, and others. When she is not gigging or playing music with her friends, she works as a server at Brewery Bhavana in downtown Raleigh.

Children and Youth Opportunities



Summer Sunday Group for Children and Families

This Summer during the Summer Sunday Group hour (9:30-10:30am), families of all ages will come together for a come-as-you-are experience of creativity, celebration and hospitality called "Messy Church". The theme is: God's Family, Our Family. Families will enjoy being together, making things together and celebrating God together through activities and stories from the Bible. This is NOT just a children's activity, because it's an event planned for children AND parents and caregivers. It's more than just a play time because the creative activities will lead all into a time of celebration. Come join us in Room 128 on the below dates:

- July 21 - Joshua
- July 28 - Queen Esther

(Recommended age is 4 yr. old to 5th Grade)



Summer Youth Calendar

- ★ July 21-24: Raleigh Urban Mission
- ★ July 10: Rise Against Hunger meal packing
- ★ July 13: Pool Party
- ★ August 14: SkyZone

Free Food Friday!- July 26

The last Friday of each month, our youth meet at Benny Capitale's Pizza at 121 Fayetteville St. The food is free and we always have a good time. We begin gathering at 6:00 PM and wrap up at 7:30.

-Bryan Lee

Book Drive goal surpassed! Donate now through August

Pullen Mission Women are sponsoring a book drive to benefit the students of Southeast Elementary, a new neighborhood school opening this fall. The students, ranging in age from 3 to 9, are mostly Hispanic and African-American. Many come from homes where there are few, if any, books. The books we collect will be given to the students to keep as their very own.

We received an astonishing 136 books on June 30 and 7 more this past week, bringing our total to 396 books, with money enough to buy 9 more, for a grand total of 405 books! A big thank you and congratulations to everyone who has participated thus far! Given that there will be more than twice that many students at Southeast Elementary, additional contributions will be gratefully received and put to good use. The drive continues until the end of August.

New or like-new children's books that feature Hispanic, African-American or multiracial characters would be especially prized. Children's books in Spanish, or in Spanish and English, are also desired. So far, Quail Ridge Books has proved a good source. The book drive will run from May through August. It is cosponsored by Church Women United, of which we are a member congregation.

Put your books in the box beside the back door. You can also write a check payable to Pullen and put "PMW Book Drive" in the memo line, and we'll purchase the books. Thank you!

-Pat Long



Pullen Elders Fall Outing—October 3:



Fall Outing to Scotland Neck Bird Sanctuary

A fall outing for Pullen elders to Sylvan Heights Bird Park (<https://shwpark.com/>) in Scotland Neck is planned for Thursday Oct. 3. We will leave at 8:30 am and return to Pullen by 4:30 pm. The following information is provided by the Park. “While your park admission ticket gives you access to all exhibits at Sylvan Heights Bird Park, we know some visitors want a more in-depth experience. We offer the option of guided tours for guests who would like additional information about the park’s birds, exhibits and history. Addi-

tionally, we offer guided golf cart tours for guests who would prefer to ride in comfort through the park’s aviaires.” Advance reservations required.

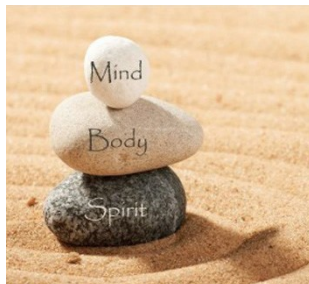
Transportation to the Park from Pullen will be provided. The trip will include a meal at On the Square in Tarboro. The cost of the trip will be \$20. We will cover the cost of the golf cart tour for those with accessibility challenges. The cost of lunch is not included. Complete this [form](#) or call the office to **register by August 26**. If you have questions or need assistance covering the cost of the trip, please contact me at covery@pullen.org.

-Chalice Overy

Meditation

As we get into the heat of the summer and busy summer vacations, don’t forget to take care of yourselves with meditation in the chapel on select Sunday afternoons! On each of the following dates, the group will meet in the Pullen Chapel at 2:00 pm.

- July 21
- August 4
- August 18
- September 15
- October 6
- November 3
- November 17
- December 1
- December 15



We look forward to meeting you in contemplative space during these Sundays!

—Karla Oakley and Ann Eller

For anyone who is interested in caring for creation as well as it’s interconnectedness to our own creativity, this is a wonderful new daily meditation website from Creation Centered Spirituality theologian Matthew Fox: <http://dailymeditationswithmatthewfox.org>

—Grace Evans

July 9 ICCT Meeting:

Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle (ICCT) will hold a Network meeting at Pullen on July 9, 2019 in Finlator Hall from 7 to 9 pm. All are welcome.

Guest speakers Linda Bourne and Karin Mills from Binkley Baptist Church will talk about their award winning waste reduction and composting efforts at Binkley. They will answer questions and offer advice on how to succeed at implementing waste reduction and composting at your faith community. Following their presentation, we will break into Action Teams and begin to develop plans for each team.

-Gail Powell



**INTERFAITH
CREATION CARE**
OF THE TRIANGLE

Letter from Pullen to ABC

The following letter was sent by the Deacon Council to the American Baptist Churches, USA after our congregational vote on 5/19/19 to sever our relationship with the denomination.

Dear Josué Gómez-Menéndez, Board of General Ministries President:

We write to inform you that our church voted on May 19 to disassociate with the American Baptist Churches USA.

The decision to do so followed years of discussion, recent months of interviewing church members, and two well-attended listening sessions where members voiced their questions and opinions. We researched ABC history and sought information from a number of ABC fellow churches. Ultimately, Pullen's Deacons Council recommended the congregation sever its ties with the ABC and the membership voted to do so in a church-wide business meeting. The decision has been extraordinarily difficult for us. We have enjoyed fellowship with ABC churches over the past 52 years, working together toward common goals, encouraging and strengthening each other in difficult situations, and sharing joyful Christian fellowship. Our individual ties with fellow members have been deep and meaningful.

It was shocking and painful to us, however, when the ABC General Board in 2005 re-affirmed a 1992 resolution claiming that the practice of homosexuality was against Christian teachings. As you know, we believe that God's church welcomes and affirms all humankind, without regard to sexuality. This belief is a tenet of our faith and an integral part of our identity. The explicit denigration of homosexuals in text and the subsequent lack of welcome experienced by our gay clergy and lay representatives bewildered and dismayed us.

We note that the offensive wording disappeared from the ABC website in 2012 and from the Standing Rules in 2017. We would like to believe that the omission of the language regarding homosexuality reflects movement of the ABC toward welcoming all gender and sexual identities. But the issue is such a critical one that we do not think mere silence can suffice; we cannot assume that lack of denigration indicates a full acceptance and welcome.

Pullen wishes only the best for the ABC. We will continue to contribute funds, prayers and moral encouragement to many individual mission projects of the denomination. We fervently hope that the ABC will someday come to affirm God's acceptance and welcome of all. If such a day comes, Pullen would welcome the chance to consider re-affiliating with the ABC.

Shalom,

Boyd Rogers, Deacon Council Chair

CC: Lee B. Spitzer, General Secretary
James Mitchell Harrison, Executive Minister of ABCOTS

New Wednesday Night Chef!



Welcome, Julie!

We are happy to announce that Julie Gilbert has agreed to become our Wednesday night chef, succeeding the newly retired Raymond Hoagland. Julie has spent her life exploring the intersection of health and nutrition. Following her training at La Varenne Culinary School in Paris, Julie opened her own restaurant and catering company. In addition to her work with food, she is a certified yoga teacher with Yoga Alliance. She has advanced training in Yoga and Positive Psychology, Yoga for the Athlete, and Yoga for Stress and Anxiety. Julie teaches at the Alexander YMCA, Indigo Yoga, and Julie Gilbert Yoga Studio. Please help us welcome Julie to her new role at Pullen.

- Brooks Wicker

Campaign Non-Violence Event July 16

“DISMANTLING TODAY’S JIM CROW”

On July 16, Pullen’s Peace and Justice Committee invites you to join us at 6:30 p.m. for a light dinner and a movie at Highland United Methodist Church, 1901 Ridge Rd. This is the first in a series of 2019 Campaign Non-Violence events on “Dismantling Today’s Jim Crow”.

CNV will show Ava Du Vernay’s New York Film Festival award-winning documentary, “13th”. The film takes an unflinching look at the 13th Amendment and its role in the creation of America’s unjust system of incarceration. Surena Johnson, Coalition Coordinator of Raleigh PACT and former Wake County Sheriff’s Department employee, will lead our discussion afterwards. Love offerings will be accepted.



NOTE: Look for additional events on “Dismantling Today’s Jim Crow” being offered in August and the third week of September during Campaign Nonviolence Week 2019.

Please call or text me at 919-559-5549 with questions.

-Barbara Smalley-McMaban

July Update from The Hope Center at Pullen



June flew by in a flash at The Hope Center. We can’t thank you enough for your support at Raising Hope. It was an amazing night and our most successful event yet. Our youth were the stars of the evening and gave us a glimpse of the hard work they have put in to find stability after foster care. By the end of the night, we had raised over \$60,000! We were blown away by your generosity. If you missed the event, you can find photos from the evening here:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/hopecenteratpullen/photos/>

Thank you again to everyone who made the night possible!

Summer Internship

Our Summer Internship program is underway. We have 20 interns working at sites across the Triangle. The program introduces our 16-18 year old Youth Program participants to job expectations, helps them build their resumes, and starts the professional network they will need when they enter the workforce. The interns are paid for their work and The Hope Center funds those stipends. It is an incredibly busy time for our Youth Program staff and such a meaningful experience for each intern. We are so grateful for all of our transportation volunteers who help the youth get to their job sites. We can’t do this work without you!

Academic Mentors

Each fall, we match Academic Mentors with Wake County foster teens who need extra academic support. Academic Mentors meet weekly with the teens, usually meeting in the foster home or a place convenient to the student. These individuals become part of the youth’s broader support network and many continue their relationships after high school graduation. If you are interested in building a relationship with one of our youth while helping them improve their grades, please contact Joseph McNeill at jmcneill@hopecenteratpullen.org.

- Erin Witcher



June Community Events



I Go Green children's camp, June 24-28



Jazz Vespers, June 13



PMW End of Year Dinner, June 5



Pullenites attending a Prayer Vigil in Support of Immigrants Affected by HB370 & HB135, June 26



Baptist Youth Camp, June 30-July 5