



# Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

## July news & updates



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

### **Finance Report:**

**Date:** 5.31.23

**Income:** \$480,118.33

**Expenses:** \$510,413.04

**Difference:** -\$30,294.71

## **Pullen at Out! Raleigh Pride Festival**

This weekend Pullen Church tabled at Out Raleigh! Pride alongside Housing Options for Students Today (HOST) and Brave Space, our joint ministry with the Episcopal Church to LGBTQIA+ students at NC State. We made bracelets and blew bubbles and shared in this community of joyful celebration. In

wonder of the scandalous wideness of God's love,  
we say today and always, "Happy Pride!"

## Pullen Members and Regular Attenders Survey

(please help us out by completing this survey!)

[pullen.org/connect](http://pullen.org/connect)

## Who do we Have Here?

One of the many wonderful things about being a pastor to Pullen people is getting to know your stories. I feel like I discover something new with each visit or interaction. Just the other day a member with whom I have had many conversations said to me, "Did I ever tell you I was a pilot?" I thought I knew him pretty well, but I had missed this tidbit.

Pullen is blessed with so many unique individuals possessing a wide range of skills and interests. We're also a community of people who have varied needs and encounter various challenges along the journey. The better we understand each of you, and the

gifts you bring, the better equipped we are to serve and support one another and the larger community.

We're asking you to do your part to help us all get to know each other better! We have put together a survey that covers things from basic demographic information to your skills, and ways you would like to be involved or more involved in the community. The survey takes about 5 minutes to complete.

I imagine someone asking "Are you really going to use this information?" Absolutely! Our database has the capacity to store many data points that we can easily query when we are looking for something in particular. Unfortunately, these queries don't always produce much because, too often, the data just isn't there. When the information is there and up to date, we can use it to do things like recruit volunteers for a new or existing project and connect you to formation opportunities around your areas of interest. Not to mention, having your most up-to-date contact information helps keep the whole congregation better connected.

Please take a moment to complete the survey by clicking the link below. If technology is a challenge for you, don't worry! We will give everyone a couple of weeks to complete the survey online. Then, we will deploy a group of volunteers to follow up with those who have not completed the survey to help them complete it over the phone.

*-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor*

[Complete Survey](#)

## Community Prayer

### Celebrating Joys

We celebrate with Kyle and Natalie Hampton who marked their 40th wedding anniversary on June 4;

with Greg and Judy Bruhn, who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on June 26;

and with Maggie, Kevin and baby Henry. Henry was released from the hospital and continues to do well.

### Praying in Loss

We pray for David Walley in the sudden loss of his friend Jacob Miller;

for the family of Rodney Brown, former Hope Center board member, who passed away last month;

and for Kathleen Seifert in the loss of her mother, Susan Dunmire Hadley, who passed away on

June 18.

### **Praying with our Community**

We pray for Stephanie Gomez, who is suffering from a flare-up of interstitial lung disease;

for Chris Tew as she recovers from spine surgery;

for Jack Barnwell's brother-in-law, Tom Christmann, who is receiving treatment for lymphoma;

for Mary Lou Eycke who is recovering from pneumonia;

for Tom Henderson who has been hospitalized several times over the last few weeks;

for Jean Davis, wife of Derrick Davis, who is receiving Hospice Care;

for our former pastor, Mahan Siler, who is recovering from a recent heart attack;

for Betty Hood, mother of our former social work intern Noah Hood, who has been diagnosed with cancer;

and for Dave Parnell, who is recovering after being sick for several weeks.

### **Praying with our World**

We pray for our siblings in Cuba: for Leticia who continues to have health issues; for Viala, whose caretaker, Peter, died, and for those stepping in as her caretakers now.

## **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.

*-Nancy Petty, Pastor*



**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.

**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*



**Get Smart about Scams: July 25 at 11:00 am in the Chapel**

Unfortunately, scams have become so common lately that many of us hesitate to pick up the phone when we don't recognize the number. People of all ages have fallen victim, and too often, but the time a person realizes that it's a scam, it is too late to recoup the money. We want to help you recognize what kinds of scams are out there and how you can guard yourself and your loved ones against them. Please join us in the Chapel on July 25 at 11:00 am for a presentation by representatives from the State Employees' Credit Union. A light lunch will be served following the presentation so please be sure to let us know you are coming. You can register on

Realm or send me an email at [covery@pullen.org](mailto:covery@pullen.org).

*-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor*



**Pullen Women's Group: July 31 at 6:00 pm at Dos Taquitos (6101 Glenwood)**

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.

***-Rita Rakestraw***

**Pullen News**

**Camp Pullen Update**

Last week, 13 children (plus 5 adults and 4 youth) joined together for Camp Pullen. This week was heavy on the BEEs (Bee Loved, Bee Kind, and Bee Yourself). The theme was compassion for others, ourselves, and the world. Our children participated in songs, stories, creation and play,



movement, and compassion in action projects in the mornings. In the afternoons, there were also some crafts, free play, and other activities like a trip to Pullen Park and a visit from a Bee Keeper. A special thanks to all those who helped make this a fun week for our Pullen Kids and guest!



### **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!

### **A Message from the Nominating Committee**

Pullen Church has an incredible staff that supports our programs and missions. And the staff depends on many congregational volunteers to help carry out the work of the church, from hosting funerals to serving dinner on Wednesday nights and teaching Sunday groups for adults and children.

Another important way that the congregation can support the work of the church and extend its mission to the community is by volunteering to serve on our numerous councils and committees. Some of these volunteer positions require church membership, but many positions are open to anyone. Joining one of these groups is also a great way to get to know others in the congregation and to experience first-hand how the church conducts business.

Many church groups have been meeting virtually since COVID began, and most meet once a month or less. Some only meet to plan specific events or when they have business to conduct. You can find out more about the church's councils and committees and the work they do by reading [Section III of the Bylaws](#). You can also contact [council or committee members](#) to learn more about the work they do.

This summer, the Nominating Committee will begin the process of identifying individuals to serve on councils and committees beginning next year. We will start by consulting with church staff and committee chairs to identify individuals who could serve on these groups. Sometimes we need to fill vacant positions during the year when someone is unable to complete their term, so we are always looking for people who want to serve.

The process isn't perfect, and we know we miss out on individuals whose gifts and enthusiasm would be a real asset to Pullen. We encourage everyone to consider how your individual gifts, knowledge and talents can further the church's mission through councils and committees – whether supporting children's and youth programs or working to meet community needs through Missions and Outreach Council.

It "takes a village" to support the work that Pullen does to meet the needs of our church, our community and indeed our world.

Feel free to reach out to members of the Nominating Committee to let us know how you would like

to serve: [Natalie Hampton](#), [Vickie Leigh](#), [Jonathan Sledge](#), [David Anderson](#), [Martha Ellington](#) and [Kevin Neiley](#).



## 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

## Kid's Ministry



### Pullen Kids Back Yard Pool Party

July 23 at 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm, Location: TBA

Families, come join us as we connect in the summertime! Bring a towel, we'll provide the pool, lifeguard, food, and gathering. Sign-up begins in July or email [Tommy](#) for more information.



**Messy Church:** Sundays at 9:30 am in Room 122 on 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. K-5 will have a rotation of Active Play, a planned "Quest" involving Story Time, Craft Time, Game Time, and fun Experiments. See you there!

-Tommy Cook

## Youth Ministry

## Wednesday Nights - Summer Schedule

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

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



### Youth Leaders Initiative: July 23 at 3:00 pm at Pullen

Join our listening session for youth to discuss their interest in becoming involved in Creation Care. All interested high school youth and youth leaders are invited!

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

### Race and Housing Dialogue: September 19 at 7:00 pm at Cary First Christian Church

On Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 7– 8:30 pm, Cary First Christian Church, Crosspointe Church, and Transformation Fellowship Christian Church are hosting a Race & Housing Dialogue at Cary First Christian (1109 Evans Rd, Cary). We will watch *Segregated By Design*, a 17-minute documentary based on the book ***The Color of Law***. This documentary (click [here](#) to watch the trailer) examines the often-forgotten history of how our federal, state, and local governments unconstitutionally segregated every metropolitan area in America through law and policy and the lasting impact it has today. We will watch the film together, and then break out in smaller groups to discuss. We will end by talking about how to advocate for changed policies. Please join us for this important conversation. We are intentionally inviting Black and white congregations to participate because our experience has been that this leads to the most compelling dialogue. We are asking everyone to register using this [link](#): Be sure to include your congregation in the Organization box.

Here are some thoughts that previous participants have had:

- “All need to know the history of the challenges and discrimination in our history and its continuing impact today.”
- “It was a dynamic discussion with a diverse group of people who expressed different perspectives.”
- “It encouraged interaction which is the first step toward positive change.”
- “I walked away with action steps for advocacy and opportunities for community involvement.”

Register

The Gilbert Scholarship awards 50<sup>th</sup> scholarship for students from foster

## care

The Gilbert Scholarship will be awarding its 50<sup>th</sup> scholarship to a North Carolina Central University student from foster care on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at The Hope Center at Pullen in Raleigh, N.C. The Gilbert Scholarship is a need-based scholarship for youth from foster care and is currently awarded to students entering N.C. technical colleges and 4-year universities, and includes graduate students. The scholarship was named by Darlena Moore, a former foster youth, in honor of Dick and Mary Gilbert, who became her legal guardians after she entered foster care.

“The Gilberts changed my life and the lives of hundreds of foster children, and helped me through the college process,” says Moore, “so I can’t think of a better way to give back than this scholarship. It is crazy to think that I started this in 2016, solely funded by granola that I cooked in my own kitchen, and now we will have awarded 50 scholarships to deserving youth, thanks to donors and those willing to hear our story.”

There are 438,000 youth in foster care in the US and less than 3% of those aging out of foster care will attend college or a university. 23,000 will exit the system without any financial support, 47% will be unemployed and 25% will become involved in the criminal justice system. “We are watching that change with our scholarships,” says Moore. One of our Wake County two-time recipients just graduated and is working at Johns Hopkins University. A Cape Fear Community College recipient is a marine biologist, and another is a social worker. With college assistance, they are set up to be much more successful in life.

Amanda Meares, a graduate from Robeson Community College in Lumberton and a Gilbert Scholarship recipient stated, “Sometimes you never know exactly how you are helping someone, so I want you to know that you have helped my family and you helped me be able to continue in school. Every semester I wondered how I’m going to make it through all of the expenses that come along with college. Thank you for your generosity in acting on that urge to help because it has truly, truly helped.”

Moore originally created a granola company with proceeds going to the scholarship, but running a food business and non-profit proved to be challenging, especially during Covid. Now she depends on individual donors and organizations who sponsor non-profits to keep the scholarship funded.

“I am honored to see these youth on their journey to a better life through education,” says Moore. We worked hard to earn money for every single scholarship we give, and these grateful students are working hard too. With the community on our side, we are a beautiful team.”

For more information about The Gilbert Scholarship or to donate go to [mountaingirlinitiative.com](https://mountaingirlinitiative.com). To follow Gilbert Scholarship on Instagram go to @gilbertscholarshipinc  
Contact: Darlena Moore: 828.776.3198

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## July Hope Center Update

### Transition Program Highlights:

- On June 9, four of our clients graduated from the Transition Program. We held a special ceremony followed by a barbeque party, filled with lots of celebration by friends and Hope Center staff.
- Many of our staff members are trained birth doulas. Being able to offer this to our clients who are expecting means that they will have dedicated support and advocacy during pregnancy and through the birth process. On June 7, one of our clients welcomed a healthy baby with the nurturing support of our Parenting Specialist. Another birth is expected before the month’s end.

### Teen Program Highlights:

- Our 2023 Summer Internship Program is underway! We have 23 foster teens working paid internships at 14 different sites. These internships establish mutually beneficial relationships - providing invaluable experience for our youth and additional workforce personnel at businesses and nonprofits throughout the Triangle area. Each intern prepares a resume, interviews for the opportunity, and works up to 20 hours per week. They also participate in workshops on taxes, money management, and workplace norms. Our business and nonprofit partners provide the job-training and supervision; HCP funds the stipends through donations from our community. By the end of the summer our interns have some work experience under their belts, have made some money, and are better prepared for joining the workforce as adults.
- How You Can Help – Some of our interns will be entering their last year of high school, some will be looking at their first year of college, and some will be joining the workforce. Their internships have prepared them for many options, but they will still need some supplies! If



you'd like to help us prepare them for the next phase of young adulthood by giving them tools like portfolios and planners, please contact Brittney Sherley at [bsherley@hopecenteratpullen.org](mailto:bsherley@hopecenteratpullen.org) to get our Amazon Internship Wishlist. Interns will receive their professional goody bags at our Internship Celebration at the end of the summer. Thank you!

*-Brittney Sherley (she/her), Director of Development and Communications for The Hope Center*

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