

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

A Pastor's Summer Reading List

Summer is a time for extra reading. While I miss our Wednesday night time together in June and July, the break allows me some additional down time in the evenings for reading those books that have been collecting on my desk. Given that the ideas and insights gained from this reading will likely shape and inform sermons you will hear from me over the next weeks and months, I thought it only fair to share with you my reading list.

In the first book, *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, author Debby Irving writes honestly and confessionally of the racial tensions she has experienced in her life in both personal and professional settings. She takes her readers on a journey through her childhood and youth sharing stories that nurtured a white bias within her and how she, in her adult life, has grappled with her white privilege. The author describes “one ‘aha’ moment that launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan.” This book is giving me a framework to think about the worldview I grew up with—the stories that nurtured my own racial biases—and to explore the changes I need to make personally and professionally.

My second read is a bit different in style and content. It is titled, *A Prayer Journal*. “I would like to write a prayer,” says the young Flannery O’Connor in this deeply spiritual journal, recently discovered among her papers in Georgia. The small book is a collection of her prayers, which includes a copy of each prayer in her own handwriting. Each week, I read one of her prayers and then try to hold it in my heart and mind for the week. I have found it surprising how many times I make a connection to some aspect of the prayer that I have read for that week. I share this excerpt from this week’s prayer:

If I knew all of myself dear God, if I could discover everything in me pedantic egocentric, in any way insincere, what would I be then? But what would I do about those feelings that are now fear, now joy, that lie too deep to be touched by my understanding. I am afraid of insidious hands Oh Lord which grope into the darkness of my soul. Please be my guard against them. Please be the Cover at the top of the passage. Am I keeping my faith by laziness, dear God? But that is an idea that would appeal to someone who could only think.

The prayer, “Am I keeping my faith by laziness, dear God?” has stayed with me all week.

The third book I am reading, a book that already feels life-changing, was recommended by my colleague and friend Imam Antepi. The title of the book, which I am not comfortable printing in its fullness in our newsletter, begins, *The Subtle Art of Not Giving... The sub-title is, A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life*. It is written by Mark Manson. With raw language and hard truths, the book explores the importance of prioritizing what you really want to care about in this life. It is honest about the pain and suffering and disappointments in life—the negative experiences that are normal for living. And it

guides the reader on how to understand those negative experiences as the path to meaning, while letting go of the hype around positive thinking that keeps us stuck in what we don’t have. The young adult group is reading this book together.

The fourth book I will be reading this summer, *I (Still) Believe*, is a collection of essays written by leading Bible scholars who share their stories of faith and scholarship. It caught my attention because two of my favorite theologians have essays in the book, Phyllis Trible and Walter Brueggemann. The title has already inspired a series that I am planning for our Wednesday night programs in September. I have invited three theologians, John Pavlovitz (a local pastor and author known for his writings from a liberal Christian perspective), Imam Abdullah Antepli, and Rabbi Lucy Dinner to speak to us on why they (still) believe. I hope you will mark your calendars now and reserve Wednesday nights in September for this exciting series.

In closing, I want to shift gears for a moment. On behalf of all of us, I want to express gratitude to Bryan Lee and Tommy Cook. Both of these staff members are doing incredible ministry with our youth and children. Bryan has already accompanied some of our youth to Hazard, Kentucky to engage in helping others in one of the poorest counties in our nation. On Sunday, he will take our youth to Baptist Youth Camp and spend a week with them learning, growing, and exploring their faith. And then before the summer is over he will journey with some of our older youth to Cuba and share the In Our Own Backyard experience with our younger youth.

As you read this article, Tommy will have just completed a week of full-day Vacation Bible School with 13 of our children. I am writing to you in the midst of VBS happening. I can tell you that it is an absolute delight to hear the laughter ringing through the hallways of the church as the kids enjoy time with Mr. Tommy and all the fun activities he has planned for them. And the best part: the many hugs I am receiving daily as I come and go from the church. Our children are amazingly kind and caring.

Summer is a beautiful time; and it is a beautiful time at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church. Our Sunday worship experiences in June have been meaningful and enriching, especially this past Sunday as we blessed another Pullen baby—little Emery. I will be out of town Sunday, July 8 on retreat with Pullen young adults in the North Carolina mountains. Brian Crisp will be preaching for me. On Sunday, July 15 Bernie Cochran will be preaching as I will be spending the weekend celebrating Karla’s 49th birthday. And on Monday July 16, our new associate pastor, Chalice Overy will begin her ministry at Pullen. Exciting and beautiful things are happening in our church community. As often as you can, join your fellow Pullenites at 1801 Hillsborough Street. We miss you when you are not with us!

Nancy

Opportunities to Connect, Serve, Learn and Grow at Pullen

Pullen Scholarship Deadline 7/8

The Pullen Memorial Baptist Church Scholarship(s) will be offered again this year. This scholarship is need-based and is for seniors in high school who have been accepted to a college and current college or graduate students. The amount of each scholarship will be up to \$750, depending on availability of funds. Applications are due by July 8, and can be accessed at www.pullen.org/scholarship. All application information will remain confidential.

The Pullen Scholarship Endowment Fund was established in honor of Geraldine Cates and in memory of Ethel Lewis. Both women invested their time and money in assisting students with college educations. Others have contributed to this fund over the years. Additional contributions are always welcome. The earnings of the Scholarship Endowment are used for the scholarships.

—Emily Cato,
Chair of GEMS Committee

Sing with the Summer Chancel Choir

All Youth and Adults are invited to sing with the Summer Chancel Choir that leads worship on Sundays in August. Simply join us for a short rehearsal and time of preparation on any August Sunday in the Music Ministry Rehearsal Hall (128-B) at 10:30 a.m. This is a great way to make new friends, try out a choir experience, and enjoy worship from a different perspective. We'd love to have you, and all are welcome!

—Larry E. Schultz

Add Pullen to Your Summer 'To Do' List

While you're on vacation, Pullen's great community-building work will still be going strong. Great things happen at church 365 days a year, and you can be involved—even if you're chilling at the beach! Setting up an automatic monthly bank draft is an easy way to fulfill your annual pledge or make steady, sustaining gifts. Your faithful financial support will help keep the lights on and the A/C blowing, whether it's at Vacation Bible School, the Round Table Fellowship, or Sunday worship. If you'd like to put your money to work while you're relaxing, email Brooks Wicker at bwicker@pullen.org to find out how.

—Amber Keister, Stewardship Committee

Guided Meditation in the Chapel Each Thursday in July

Join us as Ven. Tenzin Legtsok, a Tibetan Buddhist monk visiting from Sera Je Monastery in South India, will lead meditation from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. each Thursday during July in Poteat Chapel.

We will offer this practice to the greater Raleigh community and invite you to join us.

—Brian Crisp

LGBTQ Lunch Sunday, July 8

Friends, beat the heat and join us for the LGBTQ Second Sunday Lunch on Sunday, July 8 after worship. We will be gathering at Brixx, 402 Oberlin Road, Suite 120. There is a parking garage or you can choose to walk from church. Hope to see you there!

—Jimmy Smith and Laura Robinson
LGBTQ Committee

Summer Mid-Day Prayers Continue Tuesday, July 3

This summer we are offering Mid-Day Prayers in Poteat Chapel on the first Tuesday of each month. This brief service will be held from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m., so our guests at Round Table Fellowship can easily attend if they are interested. We hope you'll consider joining us too! All are welcome! Scheduled dates include July 3 and August 7.

—Ginny Going



Donate Items for Cuba

Ten Pullenites will be traveling to Cuba in July and ask for your help in collecting the following items to be taken to our sister congregation, La Primera Iglesia Bautista of Matanzas, Cuba. Both generic brands and name brand items are welcome. Please bring the items, clearly marked "for Cuba," to the bin outside of Brian Crisp's office.

Items requested include:

- Migraine medicine
- Polysporin
- Travel-size shampoo & soap
- Ibuprofen & Acetaminophen
- Decongestants (adult & children)
- Cold & flu medicine (adult & children)
- Flonase
- Pre-natal vitamins
- Multi-vitamins (children & adult)
- Allergy medicine (adult & children)

—Brian Crisp

Share Your Summer Produce

Summer produce provides people with housing instability and food insecurity access to fresh foods not often available to them. If you are gardening this summer and want to donate any fresh produce to Round Table, then we would be glad to accept your offerings.

—Brian Crisp

Save the Date August 19

Luncheon to Celebrate
The 10th Anniversary of
The Hope Center at Pullen
And Recognize Volunteers

Pullen People

We Grieve With:

- ✧ Randall Brady in the death of his sister-in-law, Martha on June 20.
- ✧ Megan Sazani in the death of her aunt, Nancy Sazani.
- ✧ David Bland, in the death of his son, Steve Bland, on June 17.

We Celebrate With:

- ✧ Allison Hampton and Sten Atkinson, who were married June 9 in Virginia.
- ✧ Maggie Birmingham-Corbett and Kevin Zeillmann, who were married June 9 at the Lesile-Alford-Mims House in Holly Springs.
- ✧ Cathy Tamsberg who received two special awards in June: The Hope Center's Cathy Tamsberg Service Award, which was established in her name, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the NC Justice Center.

Summer Sundays: Wholehearted Living

The Adult Education Committee has developed a Sunday Group Summer Series that will inspire and challenge a wide-range of attendees. This year's topic is *Becoming Jesus: Living a Wholehearted Life*. The series began on June 17 and concludes on August 12. The series features myriad members of our community as they cover the following topics:

- ♥ July 1: Practicing Self Care
- ♥ July 8: No Summer Sunday Groups
- ♥ July 15: Being Prayerful
- ♥ July 22: Embodying Teaching
- ♥ July 29: Welcoming Healing
- ♥ August 5: Nurturing Forgiveness
- ♥ August 12: Embracing the Prophetic Voice

To enhance this series, we will offer Tuesday Night Yoga that supports our Sunday Group theme. The cost per class is \$10 and will be taught by Julie Gilbert from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Julie is a nutritionist and certified yoga instructor. Scholarships are available. Julie is crafting each class to supplement our series. She will provide all equipment but reservations will need to be made by each Tuesday at noon. These can be done by emailing bcrisp@pullen.org.

In addition, we will be offering several educational enrichment opportunities through the summer that support our series. These offerings are meant to encompass a wider scope of education as Pullen strives to support people in a full-body experience. These will include further exploration of topics in nutrition, mental health, and exercise. Please watch for announcements in the newsletter and on social media.

—Adult Education Committee

In Our Community

Celebrate the Ten-Year Anniversary of the Hope Center on August 19



On May 18, 2008, the Pullen congregation voted to create a non-profit organization called "The Hope Center at Pullen." On Sunday, August 19, after worship, Pullen people will gather in Finlator Hall for lunch and a fun celebration of the ministry of the Hope Center through these ten years. Several past Executive Directors will be present along with former board members and volunteers as we tell stories about what we envisioned The Hope Center to be and what it has become. We will also honor some unsung heroes who assisted THC in the early years and kept our vision alive during the past decade.

If you would like to join us for this special event, you can make a reservation on the Pullen website at www.pullen.org/hopcenter10. Lunch is free, but we need to know how many people we will be serving. The deadline for reservations is Monday, August 13. Childcare will be provided if it is reserved by contacting Tommy Cook at tcook@pullen.org or noting it on your reservation.

Creation of The Hope Center was a bold testimony to the Pullen family's commitment to our community ten years ago. We hope you will plan to join us after worship on August 19 as we celebrate and give thanks for the ways we have made difference in the lives of our neighbors through this ministry.

—Pat Hielscher

Summer Food for Urban Ministries

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed non-perishable food for the Urban Ministries Food Pantry! You're the best! Can you possibly bring two or three cans of food a week during the summer? Donations tend to drop off in the summer, just when they are needed most, because traditional calendar students are not getting

meals at school. In the first three weeks of June we received 72 pounds of food, whereas we usually top 100 pounds in a two-week period. Over 30,000 people each year get help from the Food Pantry. Urban Ministries depends on us to provide part of the food they so desperately need. Your contributions really do make a difference. Thanks ever so much!



—Pullen Mission Women

A Sampling of Summer Activities at Pullen

Second Wednesdays This Summer

This summer we will gather once a month for dinner and a program to help us stay connected while our regular Wednesday activities take a break. We'll do dinner together as usual at 5:15 and then the program will begin about 6:15 p.m. (not 6:30!). Our adult program schedule looks like this:

July 11—*Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now)*

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 and which provides a highly nutritious meal to support school feeding programs in schools and orphanages around the world. On this Wednesday evening, the Operation Sharehouse Mobile Unit will come to Pullen so that



AGAINST HUNGER

food • community • sustainability

SM our children, youth, and adults can pack meals in Finlator Hall. All ages can participate!

August 8—*Pullen Students Report*



Come on this evening to hear our youth report on all of their summer activities. Hear what they experienced at Baptist Youth Camp (BYC) and In Our Own Back Yard (IOOBY) as well as what trips to Hazard, Kentucky and Matanzas, Cuba added to their young lives and relationships.

Plan to join us for these informative Wednesday evenings together.

—Wednesday Night Committee

Children's Ministry this Summer

SUMMER SUNDAY GROUPS

Sunday Groups for Preschoolers and Children will take a break next week on July 8, and then continue through August 12. Kindergarten-5th



Grade students assemble in Room 122. During this time, our focus will be on Psalm 23, Communities of Peace, and Stewardship. Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m.

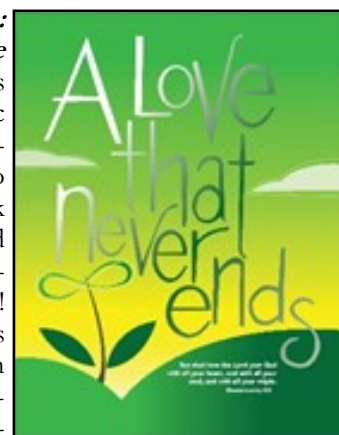
SECOND WEDNESDAYS

- **July 11 - Rise Against Hunger.** Church-wide activity packing meals that will be sent to support disaster relief efforts and school feeding programs in schools and orphanages around the world.
- **August 8 - Crazy Craft Night.** Childcare and free play for preschoolers. Adult Program is *Pullen Students Report*.

Summer Arts Camp for Elementary-Aged Children at West Raleigh Presbyterian

A Love that Never Ends: Using the Arts to Embrace God and Neighbor.

Join us for a week of visual art, music and song, drama and storytelling, as we explore our call to love our neighbor. Our week will include service projects and trips – some optional and others built into the 6-hour camp! We will offer free pre-care, as well as aftercare on days when we have not planned other activities or trips. Our experienced arts leaders are planning



an exciting week that will appeal to all creative abilities. Contact Marietta@wrpc.org with questions or call the WRPC office at 919-828-5468. Register at online at www.wrpc.org.

West Raleigh Presbyterian Church is located at 27 Horne Street, a few blocks west of Pullen. The camp is being held July 30 to August 3, with a daily schedule of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with options for extended days. This camp is for children in grades 1–5. Cost is \$125 per camper for those who are able to pay full tuition or \$80 (discounted rate). Additional scholarships available upon request. Registration deadline is July 13.

—Marietta Wynands,

Director of Faith Formation at WRPC

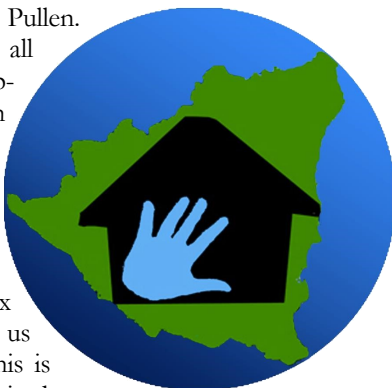
Mission at Pullen: Connect Deeply, Serve Humbly

A Letter from Laura Parajon: Updates and Prayer Requests from Our Nicaragua Partners Experiencing Civil Unrest

Hello to all our friends at Pullen.

We are so so grateful for all your love, prayers, and support that we need so much here in Nicaragua. For all of you who have visited us in Nicaragua in the past, you would be sad to know how much things have changed in just six weeks. It actually makes us sad everyday too—since this is the country where we raised our children and poured our hearts and lives into the dream of AMOS as a ministry to serve the most vulnerable with the mission of “health for all.” Everyday it gets worse here as the conflict and violence continues with over 130 deaths, and over 800 people injured since the civil unrest started on April 19. The roadblocks are affecting the entire country, causing people to be trapped in their communities. Many areas are starting to have gasoline and food shortages. Getting around the city can even be dangerous now since there are an increasing number of roadblocks and more crime due to a lack of police presence. No one actually leaves their home after it gets dark because of the increased crime and fighting that occurs during the night. And while we have been safe here at AMOS so far, fewer and fewer people are able to get to work—yet they are the only providers for their families now, since many restaurants, hotels and businesses have closed because of all the social unrest. Thousands of people have lost their jobs, and millions of dollars have been lost here in Nicaragua—including organizations like AMOS—which is super sad since people need us now more than ever as health services have become limited due to a lack of access from a lack of transportation. The majority of all our missionary colleagues have left or are leaving the country. Some Nicaraguans have also left the country, and the lines for passports at immigration are very long.

But in the midst of all of this, you have given us so much hope by helping to support the peace training with IM Global Consultant Dan Buttry. It was so encouraging and life-giving as well to have Dan here—especially since we knew Dan took time off in the midst of a cancer diagnosis—to come and July 1, 2018



From left: Scotty Parajon, David Parajon, Dan Buttry, Laura Parajon, and Davy Parajon.

work with our whole team, and design a training specifically for the Nicaraguan context. This training helped us to gain the knowledge to understand what is happening here in Nicaragua, as well as what we can do to help transform conflicts by providing us with simple tools to help us on the path to peace! Our team has already been working to replicate the training at scale to help other areas of the country—and we are already using the exercises during our devotionals. Here are two quotes from participants in the training:



The AMOS Zika Project Team

“This training was not just a training. It helped me as a person to have hope and to be inspired to do even more for my community during this time of violent conflict. It renewed by passion to serve my community in the concrete way of peace.”

—Harold Suazo, Zika Project Coordinator

“This training on conflict transformation reminded me of a quote from Cornel West: ‘Justice is what love looks like in public.’ With all that our friend Dan taught us, we now know that we can bring hope to anxious families, justice to victims of violence, and peace to a troubled Nicaragua. I believe that we can be agents of change in our community and work to restore Nicaragua to what it once was—a nation of love and hope.”

—Davey Parajon (our son, who loved this training so much)

Please continue to pray for:

- Peace in Nicaragua.
- The people we serve, especially women and children needing health care, who are suffering so much right now.
- Staff at AMOS who remain here in Nicaragua and continue to serve the most vulnerable people here in Nicaragua.
- The safety of our staff who continue to serve our communities despite the violence and roadblocks.

—Laura and David Parajon

Webinar on Humanitarian Crisis Tuesday Evening

We invite you to join us for a webinar on the current crisis in Nicaragua, where we will share about the impact it's having on the communities we serve, and how AMOS is addressing the emerging needs. The webinar will be held live on July 3 at 8 p.m. Register in advance and even if you aren't able to join us for the live stream, we will send you a recording of the event.

Register at <https://bit.ly/2t1uFBG>

Connections & Service: Local & Global

Community of the Cross of Nails: International Gathering in Coventry, England, September 2018

The Cathedral of St. Michael in Coventry, England, is hosting an international CCN gathering in September, 2018, and Pullenites are invited! “A Pilgrimage of Prayer, Theology, and Practice” will take place in Coventry from lunchtime on Wednesday, September 26, to lunchtime Sunday, September 30. The early publicity for the event says:

“Why? This is a once-every-few-years opportunity to meet, discuss, debate and socialise as the worldwide community that we are. It’s easy sometimes to overlook our uniqueness as an organisation, but we number now, some 70 years on, over 200 churches, charities and schools around the world, bound together and strongly inspired by the Coventry story, to work and pray, in our multiplicity of individual ways, for a more forgiving and reconciling world. There’s no other reconciling network quite like us.”



COMMUNITY OF THE
CROSS OF NAILS

A half-dozen Pullenites attended the last international gathering in 2012, and all were deeply moved at hearing

local stories from our partners in this global network—which as of February, 2018 includes our sister church in Matanzas, Cuba, as well as Peace Cathedral in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.

Several Pullen people already have expressed interest in attending, so we are “taking the pulse” to determine whether we might send a group, and how many. Coventry will be capping total registration at about 100.

Cost per person: £200 for all activities and meals (excludes accommodations and breakfast)

Hotels: Several recommended hotels are within a 10- to 20-minute walk; estimate £200 for a 4-night stay

Transportation: Airfares vary widely at the moment.

Some options to explore are RDU→Dublin→Birmingham; RDU→London; or Charlotte→Birmingham. (Birmingham is ~17 miles from Coventry; London is ~90 miles.)

Some financial assistance from Pullen may be available.

Brief summary of the program:

- Workshops, debates, and practical discussions on various topics around the work of reconciliation.
- “CCN in song”: Daily informal a cappella singing at lunchtime (for those interested).
- Presentations and discussions of *The Coventry Way*, a guide for CCN Partners and individuals that has been under development for several years.
- Meals together.
- Morning prayer and Bible study, choral evensong.
- Litany of Reconciliation in the ruins of the old cathedral.
- Cathedral by candlelight.
- Supper and “Ceilidh in the Nave” (Celtic dance, with live band).
- Small-group drop-in sessions with 6–8 selected CCN partners.
- Closing concert with cathedral chorus and orchestra.
- St. Michael’s Patronal Festival Eucharist, 10:30 am Sunday in new cathedral.

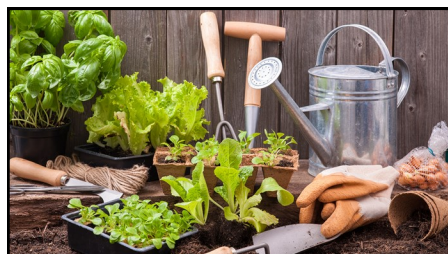
The program and all other information and links to register are here: www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/gatherings2018

If you would like to know more, please contact Erin Newton (RLathan1@nc.rr.com, 919-460-9707) or Brian Crisp (bcrisp@pullen.org; 919-828-0897). If interest is sufficient, we will schedule an information meeting soon.

—Erin Newton and Brian Crisp, for Pullen’s Community of the Cross of Nails Reconciliation Fellowship

Help Care for Pullen-Saint Mary’s School Community Garden this Summer

Pullen is partnering with nearby St. Mary’s School to produce fresh food for people who need it. Already, our Round Table ministry has benefitted from delicious lettuces and other greens.



Now, with the school closed for the summer, Pullen is responsible for the garden. We have tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, eggplants and more in the ground, growing rapidly. Before our produce reaches the Round Table, of course, lots of watering and weeding are needed.

If you can take a turn caring for the garden in the next few months, please contact me. My email is LNFord@aol.com, and my phone number is 919-349-9866.

—Laura Ford

Volunteers Needed to Continue Building Successful Support Circles

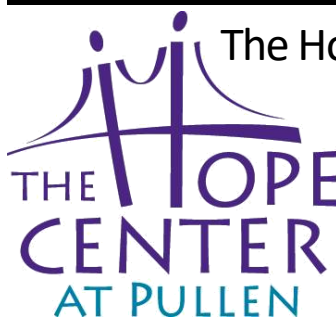
Since my tenure began in 2016, Pullen has sustained several Support Circles for women transitioning from homelessness to housing-stability. This program, fostered by Catholic Charities in Raleigh, is a collaborative effort that engages congregations and communities that partner individuals with a team of six to ten stably-housed people who act as guides in the transition from housing insecurity to stability. Pullen is using an anonymous gift to finance five Circles. This gift has allowed Barbara, Donna, Vickie, Gladys, and Jenell to engage in worlds they once perceived as inaccessible.

At this writing, Support Circles are in need of volunteers. I have reached out to Temple Beth Or and First Presbyterian about a joint circle that would help a formerly incarcerated woman transition into a more stable community. If you are interested in supporting these efforts, then please contact me. This work is essential in creating a community that is healthy and vibrant for all.

—Brian D. Crisp

July 1, 2018

Pullen Partners in the Community & Around the World



The Hope Center at Pullen

July Updates

We are entering July full of gratitude for the immense support we received from the Pullen congregation and other community members at Raising Hope. We were and continue to

be inspired by our young people's strength, both in the ways that they are pressing on in the face of adversity and in their courage in giving voice to their stories in front of such a large audience. They truly amaze us and we are so grateful to be a part of their journey. Thank you for your support that allows us to continue to guide and empower our young people as they transition to adulthood.



2018 Summer Internship Program



The Summer Internships Program is off and running! Twenty-three of our young people have already begun their internships and another two are set to start in the coming weeks. This is always an exciting and busy time at The Hope Center where our young people are introduced to people and job opportunities that spur them on to continue their education in pursuit of newly identified career goals.

"Green is the colour of hope."

—Oscar de la Renta

You may have noticed the new beautiful garden in front of The Women's Center on Cox Avenue! 4-H'ers came from across North Carolina on one of the hottest days in June to plant the pollinator garden that brightens the neighborhood. During their visit, they came in to The Hope Center to learn about our mission and about the mission of The Women's Center and we helped these emerging leaders understand the barriers that our neighbors face and the work we do to help them overcome these obstacles and thrive.



2018 Mac & Cheese Throwdown

Preparations are in full swing for the 2018 Mac & Cheese Throwdown & Showdown for Hope, hosted by Relish Craft Kitchen and Bourbon Bar. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 16 at 5:00 p.m. We had so much fun at this event last year, as local chefs faced off to see who could make the best mac & cheese in Raleigh! We hope you'll join us this year. Stay tuned for ticket information.

Additional Opportunity to Help Our Young People

Nutritious Meals. Many thanks to the wonderful folks who have signed up to donate nutritious meals! We continue to have a need for donated nutritious meals to serve at our Wednesday Life Skills Group. These meals are a big draw for our young people to come to group and your help would be greatly appreciated! If you are interested in helping in this way, please visit www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0849aeaf2da7f85-lunch to sign up.

—Hope Center Staff

PALESTINE:UNLIMITED *Photos from Bethlehem*

West Raleigh Presbyterian Church is pleased to host a unique photography exhibit by young Palestinian artists and media students from Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture, running through August 12.

PALESTINE: UNLIMITED presents award-winning photographs that offer moving and thought-provoking images of life in today's Palestine. These photographs by young Palestinian students reveal their talents and hopes. The photo of a young girl reaching upwards against the background of a wall, beyond the limitations of her situation, illustrates poignantly the hope and dreams of a child's unlimited aspirations. Other photos portray traumas of home demolition and disappearances of loved ones; strong, proud, aspiring youth; weary elders at work



and prayer; perplexed, innocent children robbed of their childhood by ubiquitous military presence. But the subjects' strength of character and humanity permeate all photos.

Dar al-Kalima University offers education for Palestinian Christian and Muslim youth alike. Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb's vision steadfastly builds hope through imaginative, proactive, positive programs to achieve peace, justice and fullness of life for all people in the Holy Land. See www.brightstarsbethlehem.org. Prints sales will support the artists and scholarships at Dar al-Kalima University.

Rev. Dr. Raheb and Bright Stars of Bethlehem are Service Partners of the Alliance of Baptists, Pullen's denominational family. West Raleigh Presbyterian Church is located at 27 Horne Street west of Cameron Village. To schedule a tour email huffstetler.k@gmail.com.

“Soul Food for Activists” Retreat on October 6

Being a social justice advocate is always hard work. But in these times that try our souls on a daily basis, we all need opportunities to deepen our roots so we can continue God’s work for justice in the ways we feel called.

To meet this heart-deep need, an all-day retreat for Pullen’s social justice advocates will be offered at Cedar Cross Retreat Center on Saturday, October 6, from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The day will include reflection on the work in which one is engaged; spiritual practices that sustain during difficult times; learning from each other what is helpful; and being nurtured by the beauty of nature. John and Margaret Hilpert will serve as retreat



leaders. John, a former Pullen staff member, is an experienced spiritual guide who offers help with spiritual disciplines and discernment around vocation or ministry. Margaret guides through facilitating creative expression, inviting people to approach their spiritual journeys through simple art exercises.

The cost of the retreat is \$20 per person for the first twelve members of the Pullen family who register. A vegetarian lunch is included. This event is subsidized by the Spiritual Life Group as a gift to the activists among us. You can register for the retreat on the church website at www.pullen.org beginning August 15. More information about Cedar Cross and driving directions can be found at www.cedarcrossretreat.org.

We are grateful for the activism of many members of our Pullen family. If you need to feed your soul in the company of other advocates, we hope you will sign up!

—Spiritual Life Group



Pullen Memorial Baptist Church
1801 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605
(919)828-0897 • Fax: 919-833-9364
www.pullen.org