



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

May news & updates

Upcoming Events

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

Finance Report:

Date: 4/30

Total contributions: \$382,656

Total expenses: \$368,259

Difference: \$14,397

Joys and Concerns

We rejoice with:

Anne Dahle, who celebrated her 90th birthday on April 2.

Ian McPherson who joined the Pullen staff as our Interim Minister of Missions and Young Adults on April 4.

Natalie and Kyle Hampton on the birth of their first grandchild, Cecelia Elise, born to Allison and Sten on April 10.

We hold in prayer:

Kristen, David, Samuel and Eliana Anderson in the loss of Kristen's grandmother, Mayna Anderson Diggs, who died on March 31. A graveside service was held on



How would you like for someone else to cook breakfast for you every Sunday morning followed by engaging conversation with like-minded friends? Join us for our 2022 Summer Sunday series beginning June 5 at 9:00 am in Finaltor Hall. We have an exciting line-up of cooks and great speakers for our Summer Sunday Series.

Breakfast will begin at 9:00 am followed by a presentation and conversation on topics ranging from queer theology to book banning. With our stomachs and minds full, we will then join together for our 11:00 am worship experience as we open our hearts to God's spirit stirring within us and around us.

June 5th: Queer Theology 101 – Pastor Ian McPherson, our Interim Minister of Missions and Young Adults, will offer a presentation on queer identity and reflect on what it means to do "God-talk" from a queer perspective. Breakfast will be Pancakes, sausage, and fruit. There will be something for all. Cooked and served by the building and grounds committee.

June 12: Economic Justice – This session will explore innovative, faith-rooted responses to economic injustice. Alternative economic models are emerging among churches seeking to provide debt relief, counter predatory lending practices, and address issues of housing and food insecurity. Join us for this exciting discussion as we discern how Pullen's

April 3.

Tom Hawkins in the death of his partner, Jay, who died on April 4.

Dick Volk in the death of his wife Barbara Volk who died on April 9. Throughout her years at Pullen, Barbara was involved in every aspect of the church. In her early years of leadership, Barbara worked with college students who found their way to Pullen. A date for her memorial service has not yet been determined.

Oppie Jordan in the death of her beloved brother Wyman Andrew Nichols, Dr. who died on April 11.

And also Bob Savage in the death of his beloved Nancy Savage who died on April 13. Nancy was a lover of poetry and often shared her poems and stories as she taught both Pullen children and adults. A beautiful service was held for Nancy on April 16.

Sharon Walker who died on Tuesday, April 19, from organ failure. Sharon started attending Pullen in 1987 when she was a student at Southeastern Seminary. A graveside service is planned for late June in her hometown of Roanoke.

ministries might be part of this crucial justice movement. Breakfast will be a grits bar, muffins, and fruit served by the Pullen Staff.

June 19: The Original Juneteenth: Celebration of Life-

An exploration of the moments following immediate freedom, in America, for African Americans and its relevance to the season following the protest for racial justice in 2020 and the future of freedom for all people. Breakfast will be served by a local black-owned business, Virginia and Co.

June 26: The Lasting Legacy of Pauli Murray- Rev. Hershey Mallette-Stephens, dean of the Chapel and spiritual life at St. Augustine's University, will talk about the lasting legacy of Pauli Murray as their "feast day" approaches. Pauli Murray was a civil rights activist, lawyer, poet, and priest raised in Durham, NC. Breakfast will be served by the Education Council.

July 3 – Not meeting

July 10: Womanist Theology – Womanist Wisdom: The Rev. Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, Ph.D.—Consultant, Scholar, Preacher, Author, and Performer—Founder and CEO for Dr. Cheryl Enterprises, LLC will lead a session that provides a thumbnail sketch of womanist theology and praxis, grounded in the thought of Alice Walker. Birthed in the 1980s as a discipline, the thought and activism of Africana women are long-standing and diverse, reflected in Walker's novel, *The Color Purple*. Using selected scripture as case studies in conversation with Walker's novel, our session includes applying the intersectional, interdisciplinary, intergenerational lens of womanist thought that engages the realities of gender, race, class, sexual orientation, age, and ability, all of which affect the experience of relationality. Breakfast will be bagels and fruit served by the young adults.

July 17: Pushing Back on Book Banning – Extremist politicians and outside groups with anti-CRT and anti-LGBTQ agenda are attacking our kids' education. An organized group of suburban women aren't having it. They believe that every child should be equipped for the 21st century, and that means learning real history (not fairy tales) and respecting people across our differences. It means ensuring every kid feels safe to learn and thrive at school.

Janice Robinson is a part of this Group. She is the North Carolina program director for Red, Wine & Blue, an Ohio-based group that helps to steer suburban mothers toward progressive political candidates, is helping parents fight book bans. Join her as she shares about the push for banning books in NC and the nation and lead us in taking actions to push back. Janice Robinson, NC Program Director on Red, Wine and Blue.

July 24: Surprise! Breakfast will be a yogurt bar

served by the Youth.

During the Summer Sunday Series, children are welcome to join us for a Messy Church experience. There will be a variety of activities, crafts, and games that connect with Worship. Childcare will be available for preschoolers at 9:30 am.

Church wide

Upcoming Pullen Events:

May at The Table

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm on Zoom

It's been great to be back together sharing a meal, conversation, and good discussion! If you're joining us for dinner please help us plan by **signing up on Realm** by the Sunday before the program you plan to attend. This will help us know how much food to prepare as we get back into a rhythm of regular, in-person meetings. Signing up on Realm offers the added option of paying for your meal online. This is just optional. You may still sign up online and select the "pay in person" option and complete your registration. If you do not have a Realm account please contact Kate Amesbury, kamesbury@pullen.org, to set one up.



Adults \$7.00

Youth \$7.00 (6th grade and up)

Child \$4.00 (K – 5th grade)

Pre K \$0.00

Maximum cost per family \$24.00

This month at The Table, we continue to build a Theology of Disability. Conveners Jill Hinton and Jim Jarrard have pulled on their years of expertise in improving services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and mental health needs to bring together a phenomenal series. See the program description below. Additional programming is available for youth and children.

If connecting in person is not feasible for you right now, please join via the Zoom link and passcode below. Please be patient with us as we will be using this to experiment with a hybrid offering.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83488068846?pwd=ZnlySW1JOTg2NTVGaXJuMFdJSFBKUT09>

Passcode: table

How to RSVP with Realm

May 4 - The Delivery System: How do services and Supports get to People who Need them? *Guest Resources: Kate Peterson, Healthcare Network Project Manager, Alliance Health; Dave Peterson, Central Regional Director, Trillium Health Resources.*

Menu: Vegetable Pot Pie, Salad, Biscuits, Dessert

RSVP

May 11 - Disability and the Church. Welcoming and Affirming persons with Issues of Mind, Body, and Spirit. *Guest Resource: Erika Hagensen, Disability Policy and Advocacy Consultant for The Arc of NC and NC Council on Developmental Disabilities.*

Menu: Veggie Pizza and Cheese Pizza, Salad, Fruit, Dessert

RSVP

May 18 - Toward a Theology of Disability. National trends and How Pullen may be a church and harbor for persons with disabilities. *Guest Resource: Bill Gaventa, Consultant, trainer, writer, and Director Emeritus of the Summer Institute on Theology and Disability.*

Menu: Black Bean Tortilla Casserole, Orange Slices, Salad, Dessert

RSVP

May 25 - End of "Year" Party. This marks the end of our programming year. Let's party with some outdoor games (weather permitting) and line dancing!

Menu: TBD

RSVP

-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor



Pullen Women's Group

5/15 at 5:00 pm at Barbara Smalley-McMahan's

Mark your calendar! On Sunday, May 15, we will have a potluck at Barbara Smalley-McMahan's. Barbara will make the main course and you can bring an appetizer, side, or dessert. Barbara's address is 602 N Bloodworth St Raleigh Let us know if you can make it! ☐ For more info, call Rita 919-360-0975 or Barbara 919-559-5549

-Rita Rakestraw



Round Table Needs

The number of people coming to Round Table Ministry on Tuesdays and Thursdays is increasing. As a result, we will need to pack more lunches more frequently. Items needed for our next packing are cans of Vienna sausages, cereal/granola bars, and 6-pack crackers. If you can help, please place your donations in the blue wagon outside the Church office. Thank you!!

~Nancy Bradley

Pullen News:

Missions and Outreach Allocates GEMS Grants

Pullen stewards an endowment fund to support building improvements and mission work. Positive trends in the stock market led to a significant growth in the past few years, allowing the Missions and Outreach Council to enhance our financial giving with the assistance of the Gifts, Endowments, and Memorials (GEMS) Committee. On April 10th, the Council voted to award grants totalling \$10,000 to six local and international causes. We took care fielding researched proposals and discussing where these funds will have the greatest impact in Pullen's expansive community - reflecting our pursuit of justice and love. The Missions and Outreach Council thanks the congregation for their continued support. The funds will be allocated in this way:

Housing All - \$3000; Housing All is a joint venture between Pullen and First Baptist Church Raleigh begun in 2020 to provide emergency housing and utilities assistance to area families.

Legal Expenses for Hadi and Maryam's Family - \$2000; The Sanctuary and Resettlement Group continues to support this Afghan family who faces thousands in legal costs while seeking asylum in the United States. Currently in the country on humanitarian parole, asylum is required for them to remain in the USA.

Peace Cathedral Refugee Assistance - \$2000; The need for refugee assistance has skyrocketed in Georgia as Russians flee their home country. This money will help the Peace Cathedral meet the needs of these refugees.

Cuba - \$2000; Cubans continue to face hardships during the pandemic. \$1500 will go to food

assistance to the Kairos Center in Matanzas and \$500 will go to First Baptist Matanzas. **Crossing Lines Africa** - \$1000; Crossing Lines Africa provides LGBTQ Ugandans safety and medical attention in Kenya. They are currently expanding their facilities to accommodate the immense needs of this community. Crossing Lines Africa is an associate of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

-Nicolas Lira, Chair the the Missions and Outreach Council

Welcome, Vicky Bass!

Meet Vicky Bass, Pullen's new Administrator. Vicky will begin her role as Church Administrator on May 6. Vicky has extensive experience in administrative management: Financial oversight, facilities and property management, technology, human resources, and more. Most recently, Vicky has spent 13 years working at the non-profit Club Horizon, providing administrative support and working with clients as needed. A North Carolina native, Vicky traveled the world with the army for several years. She lives in Wendell and has two grown children.

The search committee reviewed a number of applications, interviewed several candidates, and sought input on them from relevant church employees. We believe Pullen is fortunate to find such a capable person to join our staff.



*Laura Ford, Chair
Roger Adkins
Emily Cato
Richard Cook
Laura Crumpler
Jill Hinton
Rollin Kibbe*

[Send Vicky a Welcome Email](#)



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

The Pullen Logo

Have you noticed the new look Pullen has been sporting? Our new logo comes from our rebrand that occurred towards the end of last year. The refreshed logo is meant to be interpreted uniquely- it may look like a stained glass window to some, or it may

look like inter-connected people in a weaving pattern, or it may look like circular "P"s. It is meant to symbolize being united and being different- a reinterpretation of our previous stained glass window logo. The words around the outside are a reinterpretation of Pullen's beloved passage from Micah 6:8.

-Kate Amesbury, Communications Director

Giving Stock to Pullen

Please advise our accountant Laura Harper at finance@pullen.org if you are making a stock transfer to Pullen and let her know how you would like your gift allocated. If you wish for your contribution to remain anonymous, that request will be honored. But, it would be helpful for Laura if she can

anticipate the receipt of stock in advance. Many thanks for all your contributions and gifts.

-Nancy Jones, Volunteer Church Administrator

Celebrating New Members

Brooke Grayson

What are your pronouns? She/her

Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences: I live in Raleigh, but I'm originally from Australia. I work in architecture and live with my two young pit mix dogs.

Why did you choose Pullen? I was seeking a place where I could grow closer to God and still honor my values.



Kid's Ministry

May 1 - 9:30 am - Messy Church for Children in Room 122

Childcare for Preschool

Parent's Coffee in Finlator Hall

May 8 - No 9:30 am groups!

There will be a Parent & Child Dedication at the 11pm Worship Service!!

May 15 - 9:30 am - Messy Church for Children in Room 122

Childcare for Preschool

Parent's Coffee in Finlator Hall

May 22 - No 9:30 am groups!

After worship, we will enjoy another Pullen Kid's Family Gathering after worship!

May 29 - No 9:30 AM groups! (Memorial Day Weekend)

June 5-July 24 Summer Sunday Series: Messy Church

(Kindergarten - 5th Grade)

9:30 am in Room 122

Children are welcome to join us for a Messy Church experience. There will be a variety of activities, crafts, and games that connect with Worship. Childcare will be available for preschoolers at 9:30 am.

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and Their Families

Youth Ministry

Wednesday Night Live

Program Schedule

Wednesday Nights we meet from 6-8 pm for fun and conversations.

- This month we will be planning for the Youth Sunday Service during our Wednesday Night Live.

Upcoming Events

May 28 - Understanding Your Journey at Morrow Mountain State Park - The youth will take a journey through the woods to climb to the top of the mountain where parents will be waiting with a meal to celebrate the finish. Leaving at 8:00 am and returning by 6:00 pm
June 11 - Tree Runner aerial park adventure - Arrive by 10:00 am
July 3 - 8 - BYC Summer Camp - With all hope alive, we should be in-person this year at Laurel Ridge. More details coming soon!
July 30- High Adventure Weekend- The youth will be rafting and rock climbing in Erwin Tennessee via USA Raft on July 30th. We leave July 29 and return 31st. We are working out the details now. RSVP at pullen.org/connect
August 28 - 4-7:00 pm - Back to school party at Kerr Lake for youth and parents



Parental Conversations

Returning in May! - 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm - Parents, join Bryan and other parents at Trophy Brewing on Maywood Avenue. There will be a food truck on-site and there are non-alcoholic options available. Special guest each month! May 12, June 9, August 11. Let Bryan know if you need childcare.

-Bryan Lee, Minister with Youth and Their Families

Around the Community



Volunteer Opportunity at The Hope Center

The Hope Center at Pullen is in need of volunteers to help transport our youth to and from their summer internships! The Hope Center empowers emerging adults who are transitioning out of foster care in Wake County with the support and connections needed for safe and stable adulthood. To learn more about becoming a transportation volunteer, and other Hope Center volunteer opportunities please join us for our summer volunteer orientation on Thursday, May 19th, from 6:00-8:00pm.

-Melissa Gergory, Operations Manager at the Hope Center

[Sign Up Here](#)



The Triangle Interfaith Alliance 2022 Annual Dinner Meeting: Opening Our Hearts To New Refugee families

Thursday, May 19 at 6:00– 8:30 pm at Pullen

Hear inspiring stories from recent refugees and from those who gave them a helping hand. Learn how you can connect and be part of a positive change! Featuring leaders and volunteers from:
Admission and Dinner: Adults \$15; Students \$10 Indian Vegetarian Meal catered from Mirchi's Restaurant, Cary. SEATING IS LIMITED. MUST BUY TICKETS ON-LINE by May 12, 2022

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Hope Center Update

THANK YOU! Raising Hope 2022

Because of you, we raised **OVER \$100,000** through Raising Hope to serve Wake County's foster teens and former foster youth. In a time when housing prices are skyrocketing and inflation is rising, **these funds are more important than ever.**

Your donations are already at work:

- helping emerging adults **secure affordable housing** for themselves and their families,
- supporting young adults in overcoming challenges to **pursuing educational and employment opportunities**,
- connecting teens to **paid internships** that open the door to new career paths, and
- training and matching Academic Mentors who help teens living in foster care **succeed in school.**

We are so grateful for this wonderful community of love and support around our youth. Thank you to everyone who came, donated, sponsored and shared our work with your networks. We are humbled by your support and honored to partner with you in this work.

Power the Future Club

We put together a special video presentation for all of our supporters who couldn't be at the in-person event. You can watch it now by **clicking here.**

Hope Center graduate Naivasha Swain sat down with First Lady of NC Kristin Cooper to talk about their mutual passion for advocating for improving the experience of children and teens living in foster care.

HCP participant Lyrika Evans shared how HCP supported her during her journey through foster care and how that journey compelled her to become an advocate for all youth coming behind her. Before her work, teens had to get a court order to go to a friend's house for a sleepover and couldn't get the insurance needed to start driving at 16. Because of the advocacy of Lyrika and her peers in foster care, youth living in foster care are no longer missing out on experiences we all take for granted.

HCP on WRAL

We'll be talking to WRAL this week about the work we do to help our former foster youth find housing and pursue education/employment goals. Both Naivasha and Lyrika, who appeared at Raising Hope, will be sharing their journeys. Keep an eye on our social media to make sure you don't miss this story!

BECOME A HOPE CENTER AT PULLEN VOLUNTEER!



The Hope Center empowers emerging adults who are transitioning out of foster care in Wake County with the support and connections needed for a safe and stable adulthood.

Scan to Sign-Up



The Hope Center at Pullen is in need of volunteers to help transport our youth to and from their summer internships! To learn more about becoming a transportation volunteer, and other Hope Center volunteer opportunities please join us for our summer volunteer orientation on Thursday, May 19th, from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

[PULLEN.ORG](https://www.pullen.org) | [Connect](#)

