



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

November news & updates

Upcoming Events

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

Finance Report: October Giving:

(includes a 2020 carryover of \$7,818.20)
\$ 52,739.35

As of October 30, 2021

Total Contributions:
\$ 810,592.57

Total Expenses:
- \$ 860,618.91

Difference:
- \$ 50,026.34

Joys and Concerns

We celebrate the following joys...

Roger Crook, our own church historian, turned 100 on October 5.

Elliot Fox Marnell was born to Laurel Harris Marnell and Rob Marnell on October 8. Elliot is the grandson of Bob and Holly Harris.

We hold in prayer...

Mariee Flanagan, whose mother, Ruth Rutherford, passed away on September 9 in Morganton, NC.

November Business Meeting

November 1, 2021

Dear Pullen Members:

Pullen's November business meeting will be held in person following the worship service on November 14, 2021. The agenda will include proposals concerning three timely matters: the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees for 2022 leadership positions, a constitutional amendment to provide for circumstances when the congregation cannot meet in person for its constitutionally-required business meetings; and a bylaws amendment to replace the Ushering and Security coordinator with two separate ushering and security coordinators. The Coordinating Council recognizes that attendance at the November business meeting will not be ideal, but the timeliness of both amendments makes it important to proceed.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment: When the Congregation Cannot Gather for a Business Meeting

The constitutional amendment is presented by the Coordinating Council. The proposed amendment is as follows (to be inserted in Article IX as a third paragraph under the heading "Regularly Scheduled Business Meetings" – after line 162):

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution and Bylaws, if the pastor and chairs of the Coordinating and Deacon Councils, or a majority of them, determine in consultation that it is not safe or appropriate for the congregation to meet in person for a regularly scheduled business meeting, the Coordinating Council shall enact emergency procedures for adoption of a proposed budget (October), confirmation of the Nominating Committee's nominees for the upcoming year (November), and/or adoption of a final budget (February). Under such circumstances, the emergency procedures enacted by the Coordinating Council may include cancellation, postponement, or other change of the date of a regularly

Carolyn Sexton in the loss of her father, Walter Miller, who died on September 30 at the age of 98. We pray for Carolyn and her mother Dorothy, who is also under hospice care.

John Hilpert in the death of his beloved wife Margaret Hilpert. Margaret died on October 7 after suffering a massive brain hemorrhage.

Jim Pike in the death of his cousin, Phil Myers. Phil, who was like a brother to Jim, died peacefully on October 6 after a long struggle with ALS.

scheduled business meeting, authorization of remote or virtual meetings, and/or delegation of authority to make decisions concerning the adoption of a budget and the confirmation of nominees to any one or more councils, committees, officers, and/or staff members.

Rationale: Our constitution is silent on the question of how church business should be conducted when the congregation is not able to gather for its constitutionally-required business meetings, and the proposed amendment will fill that void. The COVID pandemic confronts us with the reality that there can be times when it is not feasible to meet in person for regularly scheduled business meetings, and our constitution should address proper conduct of church business in such an event. Having the pastor and the chairs of the Coordinating and Deacon councils determine whether the congregation can meet provides appropriate safeguards, and reliance on the Coordinating Council to adopt procedures ensures that representatives from all councils and many committees will have a voice in decision-making.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment: Ushering and Security Coordinators

The bylaws amendment is presented by the Nominating Committee and is endorsed by the Coordinating Council. The proposal is that the Ushering and Security coordinator position be separated into two different coordinator positions, an Ushering coordinator and a separate Security coordinator.

The Bylaws should be amended as follows:

1. Delete current line 785 in Bylaws Article III (“Ushering and Security: 2 church members”), and add two lines following line 784:

- Security: 2 church members
- Ushering: 2 church members

2. Delete current lines 968-977 in Bylaws Article III (“Ushering and Security Coordinators and Team”), and add the following line 967:

Security Coordinators and Team:

Organization:

- These coordinators shall be accountable to the Worship Council.

Duties:

- Create and implement policies for the security of the church building and its occupants during church activities;
- Coordinate security details for church activities, as necessary.

Ushering Coordinators and Team:

Organization:

- These coordinators shall be accountable to the Worship Council.

Duties:

- Organize and supervise ushering and greeting functions for church activities.

Rationale: The Constitution states that “There shall be two

coordinators for each position...", Under the current Bylaws, this does not occur with the Ushering & Security Coordinator position. The Usher Coordinator does not participate in the security policies and the Security Coordinator does not participate in the usher policies. Consequently, only one person is coordinating ushering and only one person is coordinating security, and that person has no designated back-up. This amendment would make these coordinating positions fall in line with the other four coordinating positions with two coordinators for Ushering and two coordinators for Security.

It should be noted that the Nominating Committee has approached its task for 2022 on the assumption that the constitutional provision requiring two coordinators ought to be followed and that this bylaws amendment will be adopted.

Participation in the November Business Meeting

COVID protocols for worship will be followed at the business meeting. It is anticipated that the meeting will be livestreamed, but remote viewers will not be able to participate in the meeting. The Coordinating Council hopes that providing the amendments now will give those who cannot attend the meeting time to share any concerns with the Coordinating Council or others who will attend the meeting.

*-Steve Rhudy
Coordinating Council chair*

[Click here to see a list of the Proposed 2022 Councils and Committees](#)

[Proposed 2022 Councils and Committees](#)

Church wide

Remembering the Saints

During Communion on All Saints' Sunday, November 7, we will lift up the names of those now deceased whose lives we wish to remember. You are invited to record the names of two people from your life/experience whom you would like to have remembered as we celebrate Communion. Please use this online form to submit your names along with the proper pronunciation by **November 6**.

[Submit a Name](#)

A Plant Rich Diet:

Good for You, Good for the Animals, Good for the Earth!
11/6 1-2:00 pm on Zoom pullen.org/connect



Join these dynamic presenters Saturday, November 6, 1:00-2:00 pm on Zoom and learn how you can care for the earth, optimize your health, and promote compassion for animals at the very same time! You will be AMAZED. Sponsored by Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle, Pachamama Alliance RTP, and Orange-Chatham Interfaith Care for Creation. There's a wealth of information everywhere about how a plant-rich diet is good for our health. But many people, maybe even you, have no idea that it's one of the most effective solutions for climate change and animal welfare!! PLEASE NOTE: This event is appropriate for meat-eaters, vegetarians, and vegans. Good information and FUN for ALL!

Emily Barrett, (photo on the right below) Natural Resources & Resiliency Program Manager in the Triangle, will share important facts about the effects of a plant-rich diet, and Dilip Barman (photo on the left below), an accomplished chef and Food for Life instructor, will teach us practical, easy ways to introduce more plants into our diets. We'll even learn a few simple recipes! RSVP at the link below.

-Lynn Lyle



RSVP

Pullen Mission Women will meet virtually on Tuesday morning, November 2, at 10:00 am. Pat Long will make a presentation on hunger, outlining the scope of the problem globally, nationally, statewide, and locally. She will describe seven of the many organizations trying to meet the need. Circle sisters will share scripture passages on hunger, and we will hear an original hymn text on hunger. Please email Pat Long at plong8@nc.rr.com for Zoom information. All are welcome. We hope you can join us!

-Pat Long



Pullen Young Adults

4th Sunday Lunch

After church at Player's Retreat



Join us for this casual time to connect at The Player's Retreat (105 Oberlin Rd) after church on November 28. We will gather at the front steps of the church and walk over together. The Players' Retreat does require your COVID-19 vaccination card for some seating areas, so bring yours if you can. Contact Philip Taff for more information: philipctaff@gmail.com.

-Philip Taff

The Work Group to End Homelessness works to educate people around issues of homelessness and to advocate for policy changes that will eradicate homelessness. Work Group to End Homelessness meet 1st Mondays from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. For information email bcrisp@pullen.org.

-Brian Crisp

Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle Prayer Chain Update

Over 200 people of faith and people of conscience formed a Human Prayer Chain for Climate Justice on October 18. Watch this uplifting video of the prayer chain and hear clergy speaking at the vigil created by Ouida Watson. Sponsored by Pullen's Earth Ministry and Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle, it stretched down Wade Avenue from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh to the Community United Church of Christ and beyond! [Watch this 27-second WRAL news report here](#). See more information on the faith communities in the chain and the clergy leaders at the vigil [here](#). *

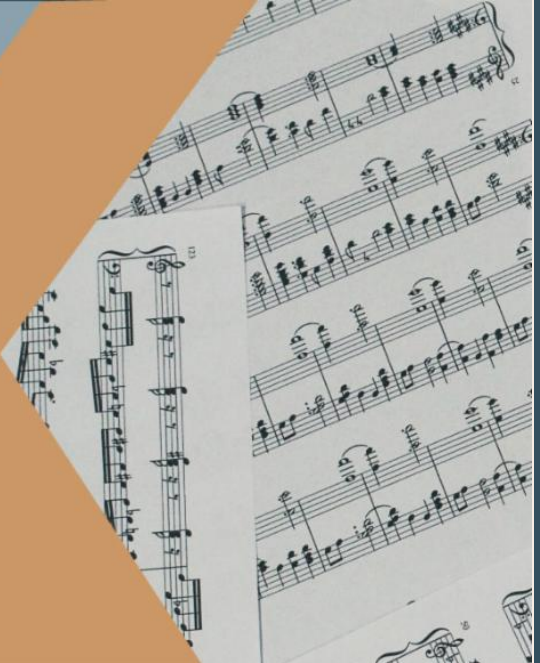



Video created by Ouida Watson.



Pullen
Memorial Baptist Church

EVERY NOTE counts



Every Note Counts!!

Pullen has long spread its song of hope and peace throughout the world, and with your help, we will continue to do just that. The Finance Committee and Coordinating Council are recommending a budget of \$1,225,402 for 2022. This is a 4.1-percent increase (about \$48,000) over the current year, largely due to personnel-related costs.

We are so fortunate to have as our very first honorary stewardship chair Roger Crook, a Pullenite since 1949! As he noted in his letter to the congregation, supporting the budget with your pledge will enable Pullen Church to "continue being a caring community on a social justice mission not only right here at home but around the world."

Every person counts, every pledge counts, and every penny counts. Make YOUR note count and make your voice heard with a pledge today. Please fill out a pledge card at church or pledge online using Realm. Call the church office at 919.828.0897 if you need assistance. Thank you for helping Pullen to proclaim the message of God's love by being a beacon of love, hope, and justice here at home and around the world.

-- Kim Gazella, Finance Committee



Parking Lot Update

Some of you may have noticed the marked-off spots in the Cox Avenue parking lot. This is due to an underground sinkhole. Don't worry, there is no immediate threat, but the City of Raleigh has told us it will be Spring before it is fixed. For your own safety, please do not go past the marked-off area.

-Building and Grounds Committee

New Process for Communications Requests

Do you have something you'd like to advertise with the rest of the Pullenites? If you would like to submit an article or event that you would like promoted, there is a new process for submitting those requests. To submit it, please do the following:

1. Visit pullen.org/eventrequests
2. Click on the Communications Request Button
3. Fill out the form. You can submit event requests, or newsletter or blog posts here.

Our hope is to streamline the process and make it as quick and easy as possible! If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to reach out to kamesbury@pullen.org.

-Kate Amesbury, Communications Director

Introducing Pullen's Interim Bookkeeper

The Personnel Committee has hired Laura Harper as Pullen's Interim Bookkeeper. Laura has over 33 years of bookkeeping and accounting experience. She, and her staff of three, have worked with a host of businesses including a variety of non-profits, manufacturing, software consultants, law firms, cleaning companies, CFO consultants, retail and advertising firms to name a few. One of her current clients, Theatre in the Park, is our neighbor. Our friends there highly recommend Laura. Many of Laura's clients have been with her for over 10 years and all of her clients have been referrals. We are very excited to welcome Laura as our interim bookkeeper.

*-Nancy F. Jones and Bob Harris
Personnel Committee Chair and Co-Chair*

Kid's Ministry



Join us on the YMCA playground (@ YMCA Afterschool Playground off of Cox Ave. near Pullen) between 12:15 & 1:00 pm on Sunday 11/14! Bring a lunch if you wish, or join us later at the playground as kids and parents interact. There we will enjoy a parent gathering as we discuss the possibilities of slowly moving forward into in-person church life. The "parent's meet" time will begin at 1:00 pm, but families can stay and play as long you like! If you would like to join us at worship Sunday morning on November 14 we will have Preschool Care available upon request, and Children's Worship will be available for Kindergarten-2nd Grades (please check in children in the lobby in front of the parlor prior to



Join us on Sunday 11/21 at 9:45 am in Finlator Hall and on Zoom as we prepare for Advent (beginning November 28). Together, we will craft an advent wreath AND discuss ways to use the wreath to help make the advent season more meaningful. Sign up by November 14 at the link below.

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and Their Families

RSVP

going into the sanctuary). Older children attending worship will receive an activity bag as they enter the sanctuary. Whether you come to worship live, on line, or not at all... we hope that you'll make plans to join this Pullen Kid's Family Gathering!

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and Their Families

Youth Ministry



Youth are invited to join us for Wednesday Night Live every Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 pm with the exception of November 24.

-Bryan Lee, Minister with Youth and their Families

Earth Ministry

Meanwhile, Take Time Out for a Hearty Laugh

Question: Have we been paying attention to the state of God's creation, the Earth, for the last 50 years since, under President Kennedy, the Congress passed the Clean Air Act of 1963 and Al Gore wrote *Live in the Balance* and for the last 30 years since the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its first report? The IPCC has just issued its sixth report this August in preparation for the November meeting in Glasgow, Scotland of the 26th annual Conference of Parties (COP26) to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the treaty launched at the 1995 Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro.

Answer: If we have been paying attention, then even the shadow of a doubt cannot remain that we, humanity, must recalibrate our relationship with nature.

The "fierce urgency of now" demands that today, starting with each one of us, we must change our actions and demand that the leaders of our political and economic institutions radically, quickly, and continuously abandon the fossil fuel "business as usual." Where can we personally and institutionally find the requisite imagination and courage required to do this? I suggest five sources to avoid discouragement and surrender: 1) recognition of the powers of adjustment of the non-human natural world itself, 2) continuously demanding ongoing actions by legislative, executive, and judicial branches of governments at all levels, 3) hope, 4) solidarity, and 5) humor.

Concerning hope and solidarity, I paraphrase Reinhold Niebuhr:

Our truest aspirations cannot be achieved in our lifetimes. Therefore, we cling to **hope**. What we can achieve, we cannot complete alone. Therefore, we embrace **solidarity**. Meanwhile, we can head off burnout by laughing at our disappointments and setbacks.

The background for the humorous poem quoted below occurred in 1972 after the U.S. Forest Service had leased a **plot of land** in California's Mineral King Valley to Walt Disney Enterprises to construct a resort designed to accommodate 1,400 visitors. In response, the Sierra Club entered the Federal District Court – representing **the mountainside itself** – not representing the Sierra Club or its human

members such as hikers and campers. This court of original jurisdiction ordered the U.S. Forest Service to deny use of the land by Walt Disney Enterprises.

Unhappily, the Federal Appeals Court and the Supreme Court overruled the Federal District Court. William O. Douglas (who later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court) wrote a dissenting opinion to the Appeals Court ruling. He asserted that **parts of nature itself** had standing to protect **itself** by entering into courts as the plaintiff (represented of course by human lawyers)

In 1972, the Journal of the American Bar Association published the following comic verse:

*If Justice Douglas has his way –
O come not that dreadful day –
We'll be sued by lakes and hills
Seeking a redress of ills.
Great mountain peaks of name prestigious
Will suddenly become litigious.*

*Our brooks will babble in the courts
Seeking damages for torts.
How can I rest beneath a tree
If it may soon be suing me?
Or enjoy the playful porpoise
While it is seeking habeas corpus?*

*Every beast within its paws
Will clutch an order to show cause.
The courts, besieged on every hand,
Will crowd with suits by chunks of land.
Ah! But vengeance will be sweet
Since this must be a two-way street.
I'll promptly sue my neighbor's tree
For shedding all its leaves on*

P.S. Ann Eller has discovered in Wikipedia, "Rights of Nature," that dozens of U.S. local jurisdictions have ordinances such as that of Pittsburgh: "... Ecosystems ... possess ... inalienable rights (and) residents have legal standing to enforce these rights."

*-Dan Figgins Pullen Memorial Baptist Church Earth Ministry
NC Interfaith Power and Light
September 12, 2021*

Around the Community



Pullen's OneWake Core Team continues to work with OneWake county-wide making steady progress.

On Thursday, October 21, over 600 people representing at least 19 OneWake member neighborhoods and institutions across Raleigh and Wake County, including Pullen, turned out for a hybrid assembly with elected officials. Together we called on them to work with us and our partner Wake County Habitat for Humanity to MAKE WAKE ONE through a substantial new investment to prevent the displacement of long-time, low-income homeowners due to skyrocketing property taxes.

This meeting was the culmination of months of grassroots organizing that included community meetings and knocking on over 600 doors in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods, resulting in a team of 200 homeowners struggling with property tax increases. At the meeting, we sought to ensure that new assistance for homeowners is in place before the start of the

next fiscal year.

We won public commitments of support for our goals from Matt Calabria, Chair of the Wake County Board of Commissioners, and Corey Branch and Stormie Forte, Raleigh City Council Members. We are glad for their support and we look forward to working with them to make this a reality.

Raleigh Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin did not attend in person, and instead sent a public statement that encouraged OneWake to help promote existing tax relief programs designed to help low-income seniors, disabled individuals, and veterans. These existing programs assisted less than 6,000 people last year, and would not help the majority of the homeowners that gathered for the meeting. Going forward we will continue to press our City and County leaders on these issues.

If you are interested in joining in this work please contact Chalice Overy, Pullen's Associate Pastor, or Noel Lichtin, noel.lichtin@gmail.com, Team Leader of Pullen's OneWake Core Team.

- Steve Smith

Help us Resettle Immigrants in Raleigh

Everything we do at Pullen involves collaboration and teamwork, and this is especially true with Pullen's Resettlement group. To help resettle new immigrants into the area, the Resettlement group at Pullen works alongside volunteers from the Raleigh Mennonite Church, in an example of inter-church collaboration. As a group, we work together, laugh together, solve problems together and form meaningful relationships with people from other countries who have come here with great determination after suffering great hardships.

Many of you know about our work with Abbey Thompson, a native of Nigeria. When Abbey came to Pullen in February 2020, the Resettlement group worked hand-in-hand with him for 18 months as he worked to establish himself in Raleigh. He now has a job, his own apartment, a driver's license, and a car. We are happy to say that he is now basically independent.

Our first foray into resettlement was Nathaly and her two children from Mexico in 2018. We worked with her for more than a year to help her find a place to stay, get furniture and clothing, put her kids in school, get legal services, and have social time. She became a beloved part of our community. With the leadership of Serena Buckner, we have also recently helped a mother and five children from Mexico furnish their new apartment with furniture from Green Chair.

When we heard last spring about a family from Burma who had to flee because the husband was a leader in the movement to protest the military's takeover of the country, we aligned with Oak Church in Durham to help support the family when it arrived. The husband took the courageous stand to remain in Burma while his wife and two children and a niece settled in Durham. The Resettlement group raised about \$5,000 to support this family, including \$1,000 from Pullen's GEMS (Gifts, Endowments, Memorials, and Scholarships) Committee.

Now the Resettlement Group is considering sponsorship of a family of Afghan refugees. There are nearly 50,000 Afghan refugees currently on military bases in the US and more overseas. Sponsorship would mean a commitment to work with the family for at least a year and to raise \$3,000-\$7,000 to cover their costs. We would help them with finding an apartment, immigration legal services, registering children in school, transport to doctor's appointments, and providing social support.

To do all this work, we need more volunteers. We are looking for folks who enjoy collaborating and finding creative solutions to help others in need. Anyone interested in joining the Resettlement group should contact Jim McMahan (jimmcmahan1019@gmail.com) or Serena Buckner (beanbuckner@gmail.com).

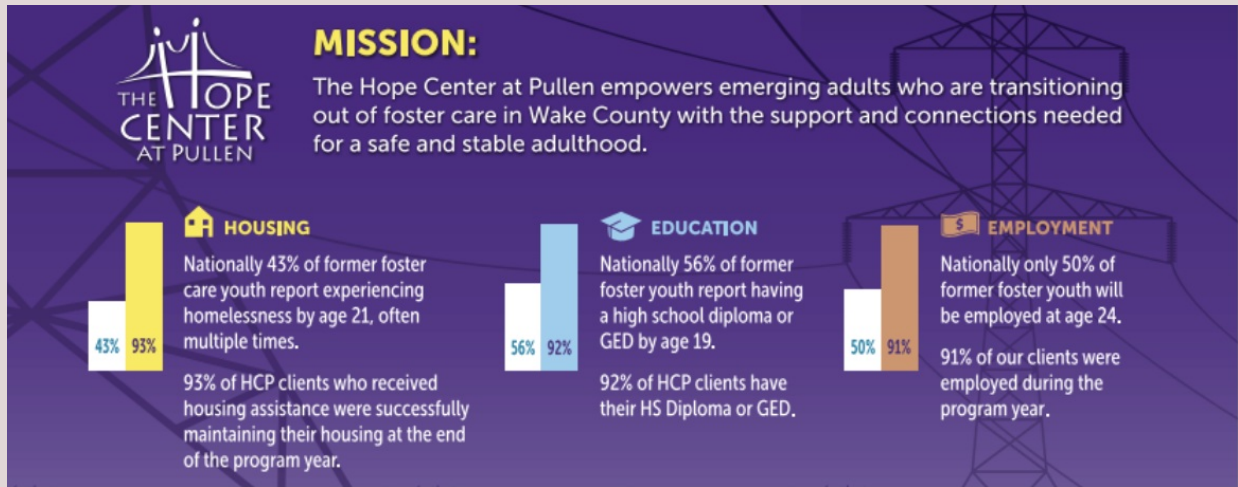
-Resettlement Group

Hope Center Update

We are officially settled into our new offices in the Cox Avenue building. We're working on scheduling a safe, in-person open house. Stay tuned for more details in December.

Our Annual Campaign will kick-off in mid-November! We'll be mailing out our 2020-21 Impact

Report along with a letter from one of our young adults. Here's a sneak peek of what you'll see when you open your mail:



Our Impact Report snapshot reflects the progress our participants made this year. **You'll also see that it contains our newly updated Mission Statement.** We are serving foster teens and former foster youth in all the same ways. The new statement simply reflects changes in how we talk about our work and incorporates our Youth Advisory Board's views. "Emerging adults" better captures how our youth view themselves. "Transitioning out of foster care" more aligns with the process youth experience when leaving foster care. And we transitioned away from aiming for a hard-to-define "successful" transition to adulthood to specifically identifying what we work toward, which are "safe and stable adulthoods" for all youth transitioning out of foster care in Wake County.

We're so grateful for your partnership in this work.

-Erin Witcher, Director of Development & Communications for The Hope Center at Pullen