



# Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

## November news & updates

### **Notification of Regular Congregational Meeting, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Immediately after worship in the Sanctuary**

Pullen Folks – Per our Constitution and Bylaws, we will have our regular November Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will convene after the morning worship service. There will be two items of business under consideration:

1. The Nominating Committee will present its proposed list of members for the 2024 Church Year: Officers, Councils, Committees, and Coordinators.
2. The Missions and Outreach Committee will offer two motions (attached\*) concerning Pullen's support of the HOST program currently housed in our Mission Space adjacent to Finlator Hall. Missions and Outreach (M & O) took time during the October Congregational Meeting to explain the proposal and to respond to questions and comments and requested the vote on the enabling motions to occur at the November meeting.

Please plan to be present for this important congregational meeting.  
Jim Jarrard, Chair, Pullen Coordinating Council

*-Jim Jarrard, Chair  
Pullen Coordinating Council*

Missions & Outreach Motions



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

As of Date: 09.30.2023  
Income: \$881,435.46  
Expenses: \$890,743.45  
Difference: -\$9,307.99

## Another Stellar Lineup for Sunday Groups Beginning November 5, 2023

### **Traditions in Conflict: Matthew, Mark, and Luke Continues:**

*November 5, 12, 19 at 9:30 am in 310*

The participants in this Sunday group have persuaded leader Nick Carter to continue this Sunday group for several more Sundays. Nick said to me: "These people are so dang smart and have so many questions it's taking longer to get through the material." Good for you Pullen folks. Keep the pressure on Nick with your questions!

This course brings a critical eye to the first three books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Exploring their similarities, problems, and inconsistencies, it will be accessible for the beginner and yet sufficiently challenging for the more serious student of the Bible. Why did they write their gospels in the first place and who was their audience? Who wrote first and did the others copy it? Why isn't the gospel of John being examined? How do their portraits of Jesus differ? These and other issues will be explored. Bring your Bible and your questions!

### **Exploring the Bible**

*November 5, 12, 19, 26, December 3, 10 in 307 and on Zoom at 9:30 am*

Exploring the Bible is a Bible study class led by a rotating team of teachers, each leading several weeks to focus on various themes or Books of the Bible. The format involves some lecture and lots of open discussion. This class is taught by Lisa Grabarek, Jim Jarrard, Katie Founds, and Allen Page. These four offer a rich mix of life experiences in theological study, teaching, parish leadership, counseling, and social justice activism which promises a rewarding and stimulating class experience. There are no prerequisites to this class; no Bible study experience is necessary. All are welcome to join us.

### **How to Talk about Israel Palestine**

*November 5, 12, 19, and 26 in 203 at 9:30 am*

This course, more than a historical or political assessment of the ongoing crisis in Gaza, is a space to cultivate the spiritual practice of deep listening in the midst of challenging ethical questions. How do we—as Christians, justice-seekers, peacemakers, U.S. Americans—talk about Israel Palestine in ways that are both faithful and responsible? This course will be lead by our pastor, Nancy Petty

### **The Catholic Church in the Age of Pope Francis**

*November 26, December 3, and December 10 in 310 at 9:30 am*

The eyes of the world are on Rome as the Synod of Bishops gathers for two sessions over the next year. From questions of LGBTQIA+ inclusion to women's ordination, our Catholic siblings are in the midst of conversations that may radically shift the direction of the Church. The statements Pope Francis makes at the conclusion of these gatherings have the potential to shift the global conversation on these pressing social issues.

Jay Butler, husband to Grace Evans and a frequent participant in Pullen worship, values deeply his Catholic identity and his dedication to his Catholic faith. In the session on November 26, Jay will give his analysis of the issues facing the Catholic Church and his hopes for the current Synod of Bishops. The following Sunday, December 3, Jay will share his story on how the Catholic Church has shaped his faith. And on the final Sunday, December 10, he will talk about his monastic practices that come out of the Catholic tradition.

Jay Butler, partner at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, is Retired of Counsel. As a retired attorney, Jay is pursuing his academic interests. He is currently teaching a class on Western Monasticism in the NCSU OLLI program. Jay received his Bachelor of Arts in History and a French minor from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and his law degree from Harvard Law School. He and Grace have two adult daughters, Kate and Anna.

### **Special Sunday Group**

*November 19 – 9:30-11:00 am in Finlator Hall*

Andrew Kasper, Assistant United States Attorney with the US Department of Justice, along with his colleagues, will host an hour-and-a-half information and outreach session as part of the DOJ's "United Against Hate" community outreach program. This initiative seeks to improve hate crime reporting by teaching community members how to identify, report, and help prevent hate crimes. We have invited our friends from Temple Beth Or and the Muslim community to join us for this program.

### **Pullen's Annual Christmas Breakfast, Children's Christmas Play, and the Ever-Becoming rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas.**

*December 17, 9:00 am in Finlator Hall*

*No Sunday Groups on December 24 and 31.  
Sunday Groups will resume on January 7, 2024*

*-[Nancy Petty](#), Pastor*

# Joys and Concerns

## Celebrating Joys

- We celebrate with Dr. Barbara Ann Hughes, who received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics on October 7 at their annual meeting in Denver. Barbara Ann was honored for more than six decades of teaching, service, advocacy, and policy work that has enhanced the well-being of individuals and communities.
- We are delighted that our intergenerational group of pilgrims was able to install 81 water filters in homes in the community of Sabaleté during their time in Nicaragua, working with our partners AMOS Health & Hope.
- The family that we hosted from Afghanistan received word that they had been granted asylum. We applaud the Pullen team who has journeyed with them throughout this process to this point.
- We celebrate with Bo Reece and Kyle King, who were married at Pullen on October 19 in a beautiful ceremony in the Siler Garden.
- Henry Zeillmann turned one year old on October 26 and discovered that he will be a big brother! We celebrate with Maggie, Kevin, and Henry as their family grows.

## Praying in Loss

- We hold Ginny Going in prayer in the death of her husband and our friend, Tom Henderson. Tom died on September 26 surrounded by his family. We will share details about Tom's memorial service as soon as they are finalized.
- We pray for Pullen Women's Group member, Sonya Detwiler, whose mother passed away last month.
- We hold in prayer the Brooks and Tenney families in the loss of Bill's brother, and Helen's uncle, Jim Brooks, who died on September 27. A memorial service was held on October 2 in Butner NC.
- We pray for Barbara Ann Hughes in the loss of her sister, Cecileia Shultz, who passed away last week. Her service will be held on November 3 in Tennessee.
- We pray for Brett Baker in the loss of his brother, Bradley Baker, who died unexpectedly on October 22 at the age of 45. His service was held on October 29 in Garner.

## Praying with our Community

- Laurie Cone and Alice Loyd request prayers for Laurie's sister and Alice's daughter, Lisa, who had a brain surgery procedure on October 24 to help with Parkinson's.
- We pray for Valerie Spiva Collins and her family. Valerie's mom, Olivia Spiva, lives in Virginia Beach and needs more care. Valerie asks for prayer as they try to find a safe living solution for her mother.
- We pray for Cathy Wagoner, who had spine surgery on October 26 and is recovering at home.
- Pam Knight asks us to pray for her grandson, James, who has been hospitalized in New Jersey with RSV. Pam is in New Jersey helping to support the family.
- Tony and Elena request prayers for their grandson, Aaron, a college freshman who had a motorcycle accident. Aaron is going to be fine, but he has a dislocated shoulder and a broken hand.
- Grace Evans and Jay Butler request prayers for Rosemary Raynal, who is in ICU after being injured in a car accident. Grace and Jay are long-time friends of Rosemary's parents.
- Nancy and Gary Landis request prayers for Gary's niece, Jazzy Morgan, and Moshe Goldstein, who live in Yokne'am Illit, Israel (outside of Haifa).

## Praying with our World

We pray for the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, and others throughout the world who are living in the midst of war and destruction. We pray that love and liberation will prevail.

*-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor*

## Church wide

### Pullen Events

#### The Table

*Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in Finlator Hall*

Join us at The Table in November! Dinner is served from 5:30-6:15 pm. Dinner is \$7 for adults and youth (grades 6-12), \$4 for children (grades K-5), and free for preschoolers, with a maximum of \$24/family. After dinner, we take time for community announcements, celebrations, and prayers, before our formal program from 6:30-7:30. Programming is also offered for children and youth at this time. Check out what's going on at The Table this month!



### **November 1 - Intergenerational Service Project and Storytelling**

This week we will work together to package the toiletries that were collected to share with our Round Table guests. Also, in recognition of All Saints Day, we'll share stories of some of the ancestors who have made a difference in our lives and our church.

### **November 8 - A Rural Community Builds a Life-Giving Death Culture**

What could change if we considered death-wise and refused to curse it? What if our way of dying was how we elderd and sustained a future of mutuality and care? A collective remembering is currently underway to return death and grief to its rightful place - a community's hands. Join Katherine Savage and Jennifer Dorfield for stories of how

the tiny community of Celo is doing just this. Katherine Savage is a death midwife whose purpose is to build a culture in which people attune their lives to the universal forces of creation and dissolution so that death can become their teacher. Raised at Pullen by parents who began their courtship there, she took its radical gospel to Celo 7 years ago, where the Wild Voice inspires her each time she steps out the door, to become community care. Jennifer Dorfield is a certified wholeness energetics practitioner and mom to Julius, who died unexpectedly by suicide on November 11 of last year. What helped her family tremendously in this experience was living in a place that still "does" community, and in being so, transformed the most tragic experience of their lives into perhaps the most beautiful.

### **November 15 - A Service of Remembrance and Resistance**

We will commemorate Trans Day of Remembrance with a service of lament, song, prayer, and testimonies of hope. Join us in the Chapel after dinner.

**November 22** - No Program

**November 29** - TBD

*-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor*

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## **Volunteer to serve others at the Oak City Marathon THIS SUNDAY**

*November 5 from 6:30 am-10:50 am*

Here's something coming up THIS Sunday at Pullen if you would like to give of your time to LITERALLY serve in our community. This Sunday at Pullen, we'll be hitting the streets to represent Pullen as we cheer on runners and serve Water at the City Of Oaks Marathon. The Pullen "Serving Station" will be located on Hillsborough St. close to Pullen. If you can make it please fill out the volunteer form below. Many helpers are also needed earlier (7:30-9:30 am). Youth and Children will be helping during our Sunday Group Time. Shannon Neiley is leading this event. Contact her if you have any questions at [smneiley@gmail.com](mailto:smneiley@gmail.com) or 919-817-9321.

*-Shannon Neiley*

Volunteer

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## **All Saints' Sunday**

*November 5 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary*

This Sunday, November 5, is All Saints' Sunday. It is our Pullen tradition to have the "Roll Call of the Saints" as a part of our worship. This is always a moving service as we remember those whose lives have shaped our lives and our church community. As we hear their names read, we feel the "great cloud of witnesses" surrounding us. If you have a person(s) that has passed away, whose name you would like read, you may fill out this [online form](#) by Friday, November 3. We will also have cards available for you to fill out in worship if you prefer.

I look forward to seeing you in worship on Sunday!

*-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor*



### **Pullen Mission Women**

*First Tuesdays at 10:00 am in Finaltor Hall for Even Months, on Zoom for odd months*

Please join our all-inclusive Pullen Mission Women's group at our monthly meeting held in person or virtually on Zoom. Our next meeting will meet on Zoom on Tuesday, November 7th at 10 am. We are dedicated to supporting many service groups in the Raleigh area as well as socializing with warm and caring women. Please join us.

***-Marty Saunders and Sandra Brown***



### **Pullen Women's Group**

*November 14 at 6:00 pm at 1002 Azalea Cottage, Knightdale*

Join us for a potluck baby shower in honor of our youth leader, Allie Pruden, hosted at Rita Rakestraw's home. Please RSVP by calling or texting Rita at 919-360-0975.

***-Rita Rakestraw***

## **Pullen News**



### **Pledge Sunday Thank you**

Pledge Sunday on October 29 was, in all aspects, a beautiful worship that gave witness to the generosity of Pullenites. From the flowers on the communion table that unfolded before us as Rachel Smith expressed generosity in the bounty and colors of the flowers, to the art on the cover of the worship guide by Grace Evans, and the hymn that Cathy Tamsberg wrote especially for our pledge season, the meaning of generosity was on full display. If you were not able to worship with us this past Sunday, it

will be worth your time to go to the Pullen website and watch the service. The music alone will inspire you.

For me, the most moving part of the worship was watching those in attendance bring forward their pledge cards along with items to share with our neighbors who face the winter weather without housing to keep them safe and warm. There was an abundance of generosity in the bringing of coats, socks, hats, blankets, and other much-needed items.

If you were not in worship this past Sunday or weren't prepared to bring your pledge card forward, I, along with the Finance Committee encourage you to send in your pledge card to Vicky Bass or email her at [churchadmin@pullen.org](mailto:churchadmin@pullen.org) to make sure your pledge is recorded. Help us make this the year that we pledge our budget early.

It is an exciting time in the life of our church. As you may know, the Deacons are currently leading our church through a strategic plan process that will help define our direction over the next three to five years. Soon, they will share with the congregation an exciting Vision Statement along with goals and objectives. As a preview to the Vision Statement, I leave you with the last paragraph of it in hopes that it will encourage you to support with your financial pledge the justice-love work of our church.

Pullen holds the history and legacy of a social justice Christian congregation that stands on the shoulders of past Pullenites, while simultaneously daring to be born into each moment, expansive and new. Here, in this safe place, a seeker finds that they can be their most authentic self as they question and discover what holds meaning in their life. Pullen is a church defying gravity in a culture of religion-driven divisiveness that holds people down in an oppressive and abusive faith. Instead of living in that culture, Pullen has chosen to

be a place that brings people together in their differences as well as their commonalities while offering a faith of love and justice. Just as Jesus ate at the table with those that society deemed unworthy, so Pullen invites all to the table of love, especially those who have lost faith in religion and religious institutions. Pullen is defying gravity in America's religious landscape.

*-Nancy Petty, Pastor*

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## City of Oaks Marathon

November 5

This Sunday, November 5, is the date of the City of Oaks Marathon. Expect delays getting to the church building, as most of Hillsborough Street will be closed. The best way to get to the church will be from Western Boulevard, or by parking on the Village District side of Hillsborough Street and walking across.

[Detours and Closures](#)

[Course Map](#)

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## Two Special Guest Preachers (who are also Pullen Friends) Preaching in November



On Sunday, November 12, 2023, we welcome our friend Imam Abdullah Antepi to our pulpit. Please join us for worship as Imam Antepi shares his wisdom and heart with us.

Imam Antepi is the Associate Vice President/Associate Vice Provost for Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning at Duke University and Associate Professor of the Practice in the Sanford School of Public Policy.

Worship begins at 11:00 am.



On Sunday, November 19, 2023 we welcome our Rabbi friend Rabbi Lucy Dinner to our pulpit. Please join us for worship as Rabbi shares her wisdom and heart with us. Rabbi Lucy Dinner is the senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Or. Serving her congregation for 30 plus years, Rabbi Dinner's dedication to speaking out on local and national social justice issues has endeared her to the Raleigh community as a trusted faith leader. Worship begins at 11:00 am.

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## Hope Center Christmas Angel Tree: Pullen Supporting 20 Foster youth/families

*Notebook in Church Library*

Once again, Pullen folks are supporting the Hope Center's Angel Tree. Pullen is providing gifts for 20 foster youth, some are single and some have children. The clients have identified about 5 items on their wish list which range in price for you to choose from.

A notebook will be in the church library beginning Sunday, November 5th containing two copies of the wish lists. One copy is for the donor to take home and one copy remains in the notebook for The Hope Center. The deadline to drop off gifts is December 8th. Please wrap the gifts.

You may drop off your gifts along with your donor sheet at The Hope Center, December 4th through December 8th, Monday through Friday from 9:00-4:00 pm. (112 Cox Avenue, next door to church). The front door will be locked but Melissa works at the front desk (cell 919-636-3641). Call her if you do not see

her at her desk when you arrive.  
Thank you for supporting The Hope Center and the foster youth they serve!

*-Pat Hielscher*

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## Music Ministry Notes

### Congregational Voices

In October, the entire congregation joined the Youth Choir, Adult Choir, and Pullen Orchestra to vibrantly sing a choral anthem and other worship music for Pledge Sunday worship. All are invited to continue that communal music experience by participating in one of Pullen's choirs or the orchestra! Even if you are unable to participate all year, join us this month to learn music for Advent and Christmas. Information on age-group choirs and the orchestra is below.

### Youth Choir & Adult Choir

Rehearsals continue on Wednesday evenings (Youth Choir from 6:00-6:30 pm and Adult Choir from 6:45-8:15 pm) in the Rehearsal Hall. This month these choirs prepare music for upcoming services and the seasons of Advent and Christmas. In addition, participation in these choirs provides the opportunity to attend their Festivals by the Sea! The Youth Choir Festival takes place in Myrtle Beach, SC, March 1-3, and the Adult Choir Festival in Charleston, SC, January 26-28. Join us!

### Children's Choir & Sunday Groups for Kids

Beginning in January 2024, Pullen's Children's Choir and Sunday Groups for Kids combine as older children open their imaginations and the Bible to explore many different ways to imagine the divine. Through story, song, and creative arts, children will express gender-full, gender-fluid, and non-gender images of God as they learn the musical, *Imagine God!* by Larry E. Schultz and Jann Aldredge-Clanton. Combining with multiple generations from January through May, songs from the musical will be sung by the Children's Choir in worship services, and the entire musical will be presented for worship in Spring 2024. A parallel experience for younger children will take place as Music Discovery and Sunday Groups for Kids enjoy the songs and activities from *Sing and Dance and Play with Joy!*, a curriculum created by Schultz and Aldredge-Clanton for Pullen children. Additional information for parents and children will be presented on Sunday, November 12, at 9:30 am in Pullen's Music Ministry Rehearsal Hall (Room 128-B).

### Pullen Orchestra

Youth and Adult instrumentalists continue to rehearse on periodic Sundays and play for worship. Join us for our next rehearsal on Sunday, November 12, at 8:45 am in the Rehearsal Hall. The orchestra plays for worship on November 19, for worship on December 17, and for Pullen's LoveFeast on December 20.

*-Larry Schultz, Minister of Music*

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## URGENT NEED of Casseroles to Serve at Round Table Fellowship

Our food recovery and meal distribution ministry, which provides over 120 meals per week to our most housing- and food-insecure neighbors, is in extra need of support over the next several weeks.

Our leadership team is in urgent need of support from our community as they seek to feed around 65 people every Tuesday and Thursday. If you would like to volunteer to cook casseroles in the coming days, please contact the RT leaders below:

- If you would like to support a Tuesday meal, please contact Jan Crouch at [jancrouch50@gmail.com](mailto:jancrouch50@gmail.com).
- If you would like to support a Thursday meal, please contact Jim McMahan at [jimmcmahan1019@gmail.com](mailto:jimmcmahan1019@gmail.com) and Ginny Going at [ginny.going@gmail.com](mailto:ginny.going@gmail.com).

*-Jan McPherson, Minister of Social Justice and Students*

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## Cold Weather Kits for Housing Insecure

Thank you so much for your generosity in bringing cold weather items and toiletries this past Sunday to share with our Round Table guests! Some are housing insecure, and these items will help them through the colder months.



If you still want to give, you can bring items through Wednesday evening and we will package items together after dinner on Wednesday.

Items we still need:

Deodorant

Toothpaste

Hand warmers

*-[Chalice Overy](#), Associate Pastor*

## Kid's Ministry



### **Pullen's PALs (Parents and Littles)**

*November 11 at 11:00 am in Finaltor Hall*

Are you the parent of a baby or toddler looking to connect with other parents at Pullen? Join the Pullen PALs (Parents And Littles) for our outing to Pullen on Saturday, November 11, at 11:00 am (or, you know, whenever the kids agree to put their shoes on!). We'll meet at the preschool playground for a couple of hours of playing, riding the train, and fellowship between parents. Text Maggie Zeillmann at 919-757-3658 to let her know you're coming!

*-[Tommy Cook](#), Minister of Children and their Families*



### **Pullen Kids Family Gathering**

*November 19 at 12:15 pm at the YMCA Playground on Cox Ave. (down the road from the church)*

After worship, all children's families are invited to join us for our Pullen Kids Family Lunch! We'll provide lunch (TBA). Just meet us at the YMCA Park right off of Cox Ave. To help prepare for the day, please let us know if your family will attend the Pullen Kids Family Lunch after worship. Hope to see you there!

*-[Tommy Cook](#), Minister of Children and their Families*

[Sign Up](#)

## Around the Pullen Community

Find More information about these opportunities at [pullen.org/connect](https://pullen.org/connect).

### ***Friends and Family of Trans & Gender Expansive Folx Virtual Support Group***

*Wednesdays 6:00 pm October 4- Nov 8*

[Learn More](#)

### **Youth Empowerment Day**

*November 1 at 8:00 am at 402 W Edenton Street*

[Learn More](#)

### **Climate and Our Money Forum: How to Stop Funding Fossil Fuels**

*Thursday, November 2, 7-8:15 pm on Zoom*

[Learn More](#)

### ***"All Colors of the Rainbow: Creating Literature for Our Community"***

*November 4 at 11:00 am at the ECU Main Campus Center (501 E*

[Learn More](#)

## Hope and Healing: Nagasaki Survivors' Last Message to America

November 8 at 7:00 pm at Highland United Methodist Church (1901 Ridge Rd)

[Learn More](#)

## Triangle Gay Men's Chorus Presents: The Best of Burt Bacharach

Nov 17 at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

[Learn More](#)

## Community Cares Collaborative

Nov 17 at 11:30 am at White Memorial Presbyterian Church (1704 Oberlin Road) (search Volunteer Raleigh at website)

[Learn More](#)

## Gratitude for Creation An Interfaith Devotional Gathering

November 19 at 2:00 pm at Greystone Baptist Church (7509 Lead Mine Rd)

[Learn More](#)

## Community of the Cross of Nails: Litany of Reconciliation via Zoom

Third Tuesdays at 12:00–12:30 pm

[Learn More](#)



### November Hope Center Update

- Please see Pat Hielscher's Hope Center announcement about the Angel tree above.
- We are about to kick off our annual campaign to raise much-needed funds for our programs and will soon be mailing out our updated impact report, client testimonial, and a special surprise insert! To get on the mailing list and be one of the first recipients, contact Brittney Sherley at [bsherley@hopecenteratpullen.org](mailto:bsherley@hopecenteratpullen.org).
- In-kind Item Call Out! Our client "C" just got her own apartment and is working through her journey toward a self-sufficient adulthood. While she has most of what she needs in her new home, she still needs a washer and dryer. If you have a used and functional washer and/or dryer, please contact Brittney at [bsherley@hopecenteratpullen.org](mailto:bsherley@hopecenteratpullen.org). Assistance with delivery and setup will also be appreciated.

-[Brittney Sherley](#), Hope Center Director of Development and Communications



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