



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

October news & updates



Pullen
Memorial Baptist Church

EVERY
NOTE
counts



Upcoming Events

See what's happening this month.

Finance Report:

September Giving:

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

\$ 52,739.35

As of September 30, 2021

Total Contributions:

\$ 810,592.57

Total Expenses:

- \$ 860,618.91

Difference:

- \$ 50,026.34

Joys and Concerns

Every Note Counts in Pledging Our Budget

Dear Pullen Members and Supporters,

As we steadily approach a new calendar year and thus a new Pullen budget for 2022, I first digress with an extraordinary amount of gratitude. I have been thankful this year to serve as Co-Chair of the Finance Committee with Linda Silber. The gratitude we share is much in part to your unending support—not only spiritually but financially. We as an institution have not only weathered possible financial hardships as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic but we are poised to enter another year on extremely sound economic footing. This has only been possible because of the trust and confidence you show with your commitment to giving week after week and month after month. So, thank you, for standing with us even when we can't always physically stand together.

Pullen has not always had such high levels of confidence when it comes to solvency. There have

We share in the joy of Janet and Larry Thomas as they welcomed their newest grandchild, Elyse Augustine Brown, on September 9.

We pray for the family of Jane Gurry. Jane died on September 14. Some of you will remember that Jane was the Rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Raleigh. Upon Jane's retirement she and her husband, Ellis Gurry, attended Pullen.

We pray for Brenda Rozar and Nance Swauger in the loss of Brenda's dad, Roy Lamar Rozar Jr., on September 17. His service was on September 25 in Georgia.

We pray for Derrick Davis in the death of his brother-in-law who died after a brief struggle with cancer.

We continue to pray for Julie Purcell as she grieves the death of her husband Ted Purcell who died from Lewy Body Dementia in June. A memorial service celebrating Ted's life will be held here at Pullen this coming Saturday, October 2, at 2:00 pm.

been years when serious cuts had to be made. There have been years where (I learned) we had to have tough conversations because we knew that cuts, when it comes to some things, are morally undesirable. I have worked with and led many Finance groups and teams outside of Pullen. It can be a tough and unglamorous job. You all made it a little less tough (though still not glamorous 😊) because you stepped up to the plate with pledges and carried through with them.

Even with all of the uncertainty going into 2021 we were able to maintain a budget that was essentially flat from 2020. In fact, we are within \$700 of the 2020 budget. We are on pace to spend about \$1.18 million in 2021. We reflected as a team at a recent Finance meeting that not only are we on track to achieve the 2021 budget, but we are in a slightly better position than we normally are at this time of the year. Now before we get too excited, I want to remind you about the Paycheck Protection Program loan-turned-grant that we received from the federal government last year. Because of this emergency relief, we carried over about \$93,000 from 2020 to 2021. Recall that, at the time of accepting the assistance, no one had any idea what lay ahead. Would many Pullen family members lose their jobs? Would investments that some count on to give to Pullen be decimated? Would social security payments be jeopardized because of this unprecedented global pandemic? Needless to say, so far the sky has not fallen to the extent it could have.

All of the unknowns of the pandemic made it quite challenging when it came to crafting the 2021 budget. One example is that as many of us witnessed, streaming services and reliability had hiccups early on. We have made technological upgrades for internet speed and other virtually enabling services such as Zoom. These costs were higher. We simultaneously did not return to in-person services and some mission work as quickly as anticipated. Thus, money in the budget ebbed and flowed. A huge thanks to everyone who owns a piece of the budget...your diligence in managing costs has been terrific.

While we have worked hard as a congregation and Finance Committee to be in a healthy fiscal position, it is that time to ask for your support to maintain and even strengthen our finances as we approach 2022. We all have ideas about how to expand Pullen's reach through more incredible mission work. To build on what we have we must first reaffirm our commitments to where we are today. If you can go above and beyond your 2021 giving, please think about doing so. If your financial situation has become more stressful and you need to adjust your giving downward, we are here to support you regardless of what you are able to contribute. (REMINDER: No one is privy to giving amounts other than the Church Administrator.)

On behalf of the Finance Committee, please join me in signing into Realm and making your pledge early. You will receive a budget letter in the mail soon. We are

using a music theme this year, with a reminder that "Every Note Counts." So does every dollar, and every pledge. You are the reason we can continue to pass along Pullen's song from generation to generation, and from Raleigh throughout the world.

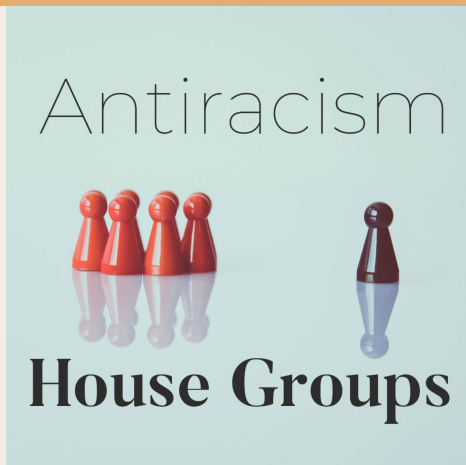
Also, be on the lookout for an "I Pledged" sticker with that letter. We would love for you to take a fun picture with the sticker once you've pledged, and feel free to send along a song or dance with that (ala TikTok!) to news@pullen.org to potentially be featured in our communications and to give others the incentive to pledge!

-Jim Zupancic, Co-Chair, Pullen Finance Committee

P.S. Having served the last couple of years on the Stewardship team, I urge you to PLEASE pledge early!!!

Pledge Now

Church Wide



Following a well-known Pullen tradition, the Anti-Racism Committee this fall will be organizing "house meetings" (with virtual and in-person options) to prompt searching conversations around race, racism, and our faith community. How do we as a congregation act to fight racism? More importantly, where and why do we fail to fight? How can we do better? We hope you'll find a meeting to join. To kick off this effort, we'll organize the first virtual house meeting as part of the Wednesday night programming on October 20th. We'll watch a short video together and, via the power of Zoom, break off into different "houses" to reflect together on our reactions to the video. After the 20th, we'll work with hosts to arrange other meetings in different places--some in homes, some on church grounds, some virtual. We hope that by Sunday, December 12th, 200 Pullenites will have participated in these important conversations. We'll provide more information as the date



Offering of Letters October 3

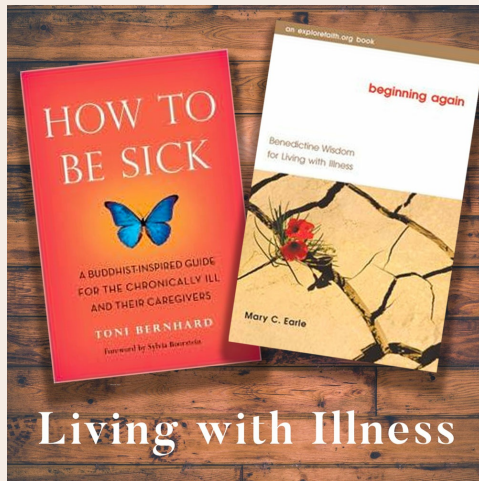
Child hunger has skyrocketed during the pandemic, both at home and abroad. The Child Tax Credit in the American Rescue Plan is lifting millions of children, nearly half, out of poverty right now. It is helping to fund nutritious food children need as they grow and to decrease the wealth gap. The first thing Bread for the World is asking of Congress is to make the Child Tax Credit permanent. The second ask is to increase global nutrition funding to \$300 million. These two requests are in the letters you are invited to sign to our two senators and your representative. For more information, go to [Write to Congress](#) | [Bread for the World](#) or www.bread.org Get Involved/ Write to Congress. **Our annual Offering of Letters will take place this Sunday, October 3. Letters will be available at the front and back entrances to the church both before and after the worship service.** Please come a few minutes early to sign your

approaches. In the meantime, if you can join us on October 20th, we hope you will. As always, if you have questions, please feel free to email Mark Nance (marknance@yahoo.com) and Jill Hinton (hinton.jill@gmail.com).

letters. The more letters we sign, the greater our witness to Congress of the urgent need to feed hungry people. Thank you!

-Pat Long

-Anti-Racism Committee



New Course Alert!

Living with Illness, Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm, Oct. 27 - Nov. 17, Virtual

This 4-week course is designed for those whose change in health status has necessitated profound shifts in their daily lives. Through discussion, centering prayer, journaling, and art, we will support each other and try to “give the mess some meaning,” as author Mary Earle writes. We’ll work with Earle’s “Beginning Again: Benedictine Wisdom for Living with Illness” and Toni Bearnhard’s “How to be Sick: A Buddhist-Inspired Guide for the Chronically Ill and Their Caregivers.” Each text moves the reader toward deeper self-compassion and acceptance, opening the possibility for transformative practices. There is no expectation that one divulges personal medical information to take part in the group. Confidentiality is sacred. Co-lead by Grace Evans and Dana Wynne Lindquist. Register on the “groups” page in Realm to access the Zoom link.

-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor

[Register Now](#)

Pullen Mission Women- Who are We?

You may be aware of PMW as the women who collect non-perishable food for the Urban Ministries Food Pantry, and we and all of our hungry neighbors greatly appreciate your generosity.

We are Pullen MISSION Women after all, but the word mission doesn’t capture the full essence of our membership experience. We do, each month from September through June, support one of the causes chosen by our membership. This year, we are supporting the Hope Center at Pullen, Urban Ministries Crisis Intervention Center, AMOS Health and Hope in Nicaragua, Housing All, FIGS prescription assistance, the Helen Wright Center for Women, Pullen’s own Round Table, Emmaus

House for men, the Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women and the PMW Community Missions Fund.

In February we also put together hygiene kits for migrant farmworkers, who arrive in NC without resources. These kits are distributed to NC labor camps by the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry.

While we have hoped for goals each month for each cause, there is no fixed amount required or even expected by an individual member. In other words, giving according to one's passion and ability is customary, but not mandatory to be a member and to participate in Pullen Mission Women-there are no pledges in PMW.

To really understand us, you need to know that we are a group of Pullen women who truly care for one another. If you want to support a cause you could simply drop a check in the mail. What PMW offers in addition to its heart for mission is its heart for one another. We are a close and mutually supportive community. We share good times and bad with one another and get to know each other better and better month by month. Joining PMW is a wonderful way to get to know other Pullen women and to feel even more connected to Pullen. Membership in PMW is a wonderful resource for new Pullenites as well as long-term members who would like to enjoy the monthly fellowship of other Pullen women.

Normally, we have a brunch on Valentine's Day and a potluck dinner for our annual meeting in June. We often go out together in December to celebrate Christmas and have had several of those luncheons at the University Club. At the current moment, though, to keep each of us safe, we have been meeting via Zoom. We have a variety of interesting speakers as well as time to check in with one another. PMW is co-led by an Executive Committee comprised of Cathy Corbin and Cindy Chew (co-chairs) Sandra Brown (secretary), Pat Long (treasurer), and Julia Williams (our representative to Church Women United). You may contact any of us if you have questions about our fellowship.

If you have a desire for fellowship with other Pullen women and a heart for mission, please join us. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 10 am. If you would like to better see what we are about and to participate in one of our monthly meetings, simply contact Pat Long (plong8@nc.rr.com) for the Zoom link. We would love to have you join us.

-Cathy Corbin

Gems Mission Update

In early summer, Mission and Outreach was made aware of the interest available from the Pullen Endowment. This financial surplus has made supporting works in our local, national, and global community a possibility. Members of Missions and Outreach research submitted proposals and discussed these ideas. After several months of consideration, Missions and Outreach has come to a unanimous decision regarding the spending of the GEMS money. These requests were submitted to the GEMS committee and granted approval to move forward with funding. The following endeavors have received financial support from Missions and Outreach:

Canada to Cuba Medical Supplies for COVID-19 \$2000
Cuba Syringe Program for COVID-19 \$2000
Dorcas Ministries in Cary \$1000
Feed The Pack \$1000
Interfaith Power & Light \$1000
Legal Aid of NC \$3000
Pullen Green Roof Garden \$1000
Pullen Sanctuary and Resettlement \$1000
RAFI Farm to Table \$2500

Total \$14,500

The Council has made every effort to be wise stewards of this money and to fulfill the mission of Pullen Church.

-Brian Crisp on behalf of Missions and Outreach



Pullen Family Hike Saturday, October 23
9:00-12:00 pm
Eno River State Park (Fews Ford Access)
Weather Permitting

Families with children are invited to join a 2.5 mile trail filled with fall like visual landscape. If you like, you can pack a picnic lunch for your family at the end of the hike. This trip may be more suited for children in the 3rd - 5th Grades, however if your younger children can keep up and love the outdoors, they are welcome!

Please let me know if your family might be interested!

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and their Families

RSVP



All are invited to our 2021 **Children's Sabbath**. This year's theme is "Where Does it Hurt? Listing to Heal or Children." It will take place Sunday, **October 10** during Morning Worship at 11:00 am. The multi-faith Children's Sabbath weekend engages places of worship across the country in focusing prayers, worship, education programs, and action on learning more about the urgent problems facing our nation's children exploring sacred texts and teachings that call us to love and protect children, responding with outreach and advocacy, and—most importantly—inspiring new, year-round action to improve the lives of children. Join us in person or online as we worship together.

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and their Families

Youth Ministry



October 6th- Wednesday Night Live Fall for it - 6:30-8:00 pm in Finlator Hall

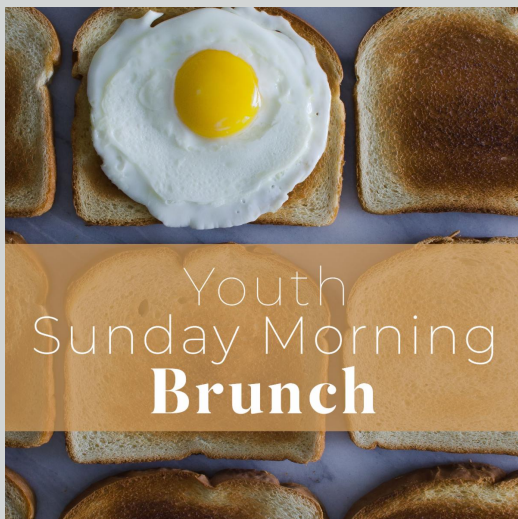
October 27th - Wednesday Night Live - Taboo: things we don't talk about - 6:30-8:00 pm in Finlator Hall

-Bryan Lee, Minister with Youth and their Families

October 24th-Circle with Open Table United Methodist

Join us for discussion, games, and food from 5-7:00 pm.

-Bryan Lee, Minister with Youth and their Families



October 10th - Sunday Morning Brunch - Nooma 7 Luggage - 10:00 am - in Finlator Hall

-Bryan Lee, Minister with Youth and their Families



October 18th - Climate Change Protest - 5:00 pm - Wade Avenue - More details to come.

-Bryan Lee, Minister with Youth and their Families

Earth Ministry

Solar Panel Update

The finance committee ran a 30k 30 days + campaign to secure the funding for the nearly \$130,000 solar project so that Pullen could own it debt-free.

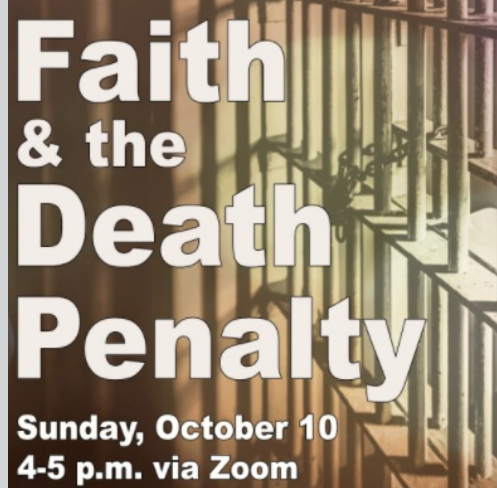
The Earth Ministries who spearheaded the project from inception to signing the contract along with the finance committee cannot thank you enough. However, at what was supposed to have been our last posting about the campaign 2 weeks ago, the content contained an error that needs clarifying.

The campaign itself did not receive \$38,651.70 as previously noted, but rather we received \$26,637 toward this project. This leaves a balance of \$3363 to pay off the debt. We remain optimistic that the goal will be reached and we cannot thank you enough for your generosity.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

-Linda Silber

Around the Community



ONE Wake Update: Take Action on Rising Property Taxes

Did you know that property taxes in some low and fixed-income neighborhoods in Raleigh have doubled and even tripled since 2016 as a result of gentrification? Through community canvassing efforts in some of these neighborhoods over the summer, the issue of rising property taxes was one of the top concerns raised by residents. After several meetings, these long-time residents have decided to ask the city and county to prioritize assistance to offset the impact of soaring property taxes in their spring budget planning. On October 21 at 6:30 pm at Southeast Raleigh Table (1950 New Bern Ave.), they will ask elected officials for their commitment. This is a hybrid meeting with the option to join virtually. As a ONE Wake member institution, Pullen has pledged to bring 50 people from our church in support of this effort. We hope you will be in the number!

If you are willing to support this effort with your presence (in-person or virtual), please email me at noel.lichtin@gmail.com, and include your preferred contact number so we can update you on how to connect to the meeting as the date approaches.

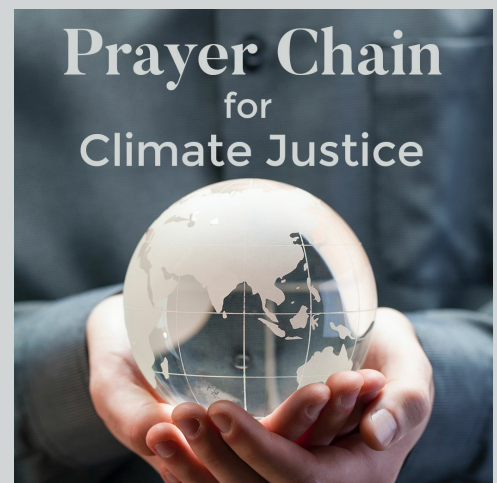
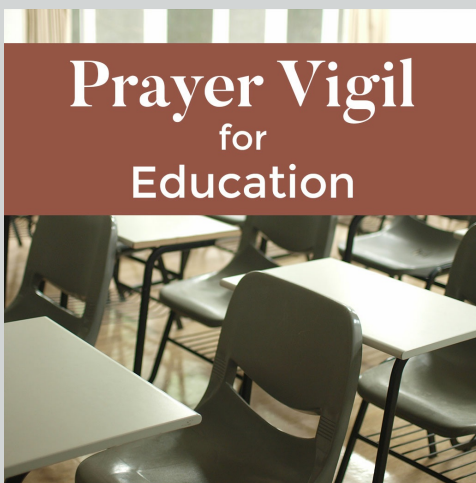
-Noel Lichtin, Pullen Core Team Leader

Faith and the Death Penalty-

Join the North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NCCADP) for "Faith and the Death Penalty", an online conversation about faith with those most impacted by our capital punishment system. Panelists include George Wilkerson, who is living on North Carolina's death row; Andre Smith, who has survived the murder of a loved one; and Reverend Sharon Risher, who lost her mother and two cousins in the shooting at Mother Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston. Jonathan Wilson Hartgrove, noted writer and leader in the **Red Letter Christian** movement and the **Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival**, will bring his perspective as moderator of the panel.

The North Carolina Council of Churches is a sponsor of this event.

-Rachel Baker, Communications Director of the North Carolina Council of Churches



Prayer Vigil for Education October 18

On Monday, October 18, at 10:00 AM, Pastors for North Carolina Children is holding a Prayer Vigil for Education at Bicentennial Plaza (pending permit approval). Our own Chalice Overy is on their board. Clergy in clerical garb, faith leaders, and allies are urged to attend. The Leandro decision came 27 years ago, but the legislature is still not in compliance with its requirements. This vigil is an attempt to ask the legislature to do the right thing for the 1.4 million children in North Carolina. For more information or to RSVP, click the link below.

-Pat Long

RSVP

Sponsored by Pullen's Earth Ministry and Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle October 17 & 18, 2021

In the Triangle and around the world, faith communities are rising to the call from GreenFaith's "Faiths 4 Climate Justice" at weekend worship services and halls of power worldwide. People of faith will raise their voices, urging world leaders to take bold action to reverse climate change at the U.N. COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland in November.

In the Triangle on Monday, October 18 at 5:00 p.m., people of faith will form a socially distanced Human Prayer Chain for Climate Justice along Wade Avenue in Raleigh. The prayer chain begins at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh (UUF) and will extend as far down Wade Avenue toward downtown as we have souls to take us! At 6:00 local clergy will lead a short Outdoor Prayer Vigil for Climate Justice at UUF for all those who wish to join. Banners reading "Act Now on Climate, Amen!" Are available here to order no later than October 1.

See details, order banners, and register at the link below.

-Lynn Lyle

Visit our website

Hope Center Update

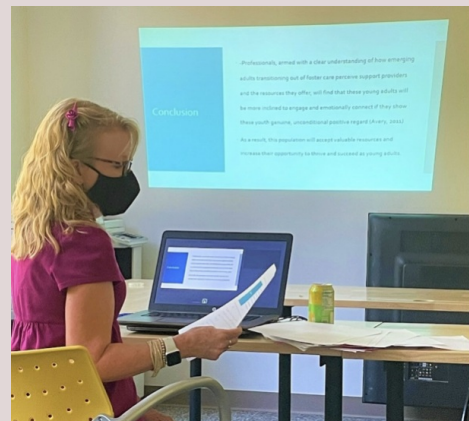
October is shaping up to be a very busy and fun month. Thank you to everyone who attended one of our volunteer trainings in September. Our Academic Mentors and Life Mentors are making huge differences in the lives of our teens. Just last week, a foster parent called to tell us how grateful she was to have extra support to help her teen stay on track while they were quarantined from school. Thank you to everyone who is supporting teens and their caregivers

Thank you, Rita!

We're so grateful to Rita Rakestraw. Rita is interning with us as part of her MSW program. At our last staff meeting, Rita shared compelling new research that examined the "Social Support Needs of Emerging Adults Transitioning Out of Foster Care." It underscored how important it is for our youth to have access to trusting, stable relationships to advance in their goals.

Expanded Internship Program

We've officially launched our first-ever fall Internship Program. Many fall participants are continuing on with the job site they worked with over the summer. We're also connecting all participants with Academic Mentors to ensure that their schoolwork remains a top priority while they work. Thank you to all the transportation volunteers who are ensuring our youth get to their shifts on time.



College Access for our Teens

October 18-22 is Countdown to College week in North Carolina. During this week, many NC colleges and universities waive their application fees. We're busy preparing to host drop in hours during the week to help all interested teens in foster care apply for admission. Our staff and partners will provide support in preparing applications, understanding FAFSA requirements, and drafting those daunting admission essays. If you're interested in helping out during the week, contact Cara O'Connor at coconnor@hopecenteratpullen.org.

-Erin Witcher, Director of Development & Communications at the Hope Center

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