#### September 1, 2019

# Pullen News

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

## The Hardest Single Sentence to Speak Out Loud

They are four of the simplest words in the English vocabulary. And yet, they are probably the four hardest words to speak when put together in a single sentence. They are: *I need your help*. Each individual word packs its own punch and carries great emotion. **I. Need. Your. Help.** 

Western culture has taught us to hear this four-word sentence as weakness. It goes against the rugged individualism narrative that we tell ourselves about how this country was built. No matter that it is a false narrative. To admit needing help, we tell ourselves, sends the message that we are not enough, good enough, capable enough. We have been told that to ask for help indicates that there is something wrong with us. And so we soldier on, carrying the weight of our world on our shoulders all by ourselves, even when our knees are buckling underneath us.

I will confess that for most of my life I have lived by the false narrative that to ask for help is a weakness of body, mind, spirit, and soul. The quintessential two-year-old refrain "I do it myself" carried over into my adulthood. And for many of my adult years I fooled myself thinking that I didn't need anyone's help to live a successful life. To be fair, and extend some grace to my stubborn self, there have been a few times when the rugged individualism/I don't need anybody's help has served me well. That kind of resilience and determination has seen me through a few very trying times. But overall, and without question, it has done my soul and spirit more harm than good.

We need each other. Psychology tells us we need each other. To live in isolation is damaging to every aspect of our being. We know that when people live in community and depend on one another they live healthier longer lives. Our faith narrative is clear on this topic as well: we are created to live in relationship to and with one another, serving as each other's helpers. We see this affirmation over and over in our sacred scriptures. My favorite biblical story that illustrates this truth is the story of the friends who dig a hole in the roof of a house so they can get their paralyzed friend to Jesus for healing (Luke 5:17-39). But there are many other passages instructing us to care for one another, to share what we have with others, and to serve each other. In almost all of his teachings, Jesus challenges the false narrative of rugged individualism.

Another confession: I am trying harder in my life to live into the practice of asking for help when I need help. So here goes...I need your help! I have a list of things that I need your help with as we share in the mission and ministry of Pullen Church.

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## Sunday in the Park Provoking Love and Good Works

Hebrews 10:24 encourages us to think of ways to "provoke one another to love and good works", and we could certainly use more of that kind of provocation in our world. Sunday in the Park calls us back from the retreat and recreation of the summer to re-engage our life together as a community of faith. We ease into the swing of things with a casual outdoor service, and a potluck meal that is a family reunion of sorts. This year, our service will focus on encouraging each other in the way of love and good works. We've also invited our Pullen advocacy groups to host information tables so that we can learn more about opportunities to get involved in the good work that is happening right here at Pullen.

We look forward to seeing you on **September 8 at 11 a.m.** on the Gregg Museum lawn!

#### Remember:

- Dress comfortably
- Bring a lawn chair or blanket (we will have some chairs set out for those with mobility challenges)
- Bring a labeled dish to share with 6-8 people
- You can drive up to Finlator to drop off your dish before parking your car.

-Chalice Overy

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## Pullen News

#### We celebrate with:

- Hye Rahlan and Then Rahlan who were married on August 18 at Peace Presbyterian Church in Cary.
- Jim and Lynn Jarrard who welcomed their 7th grandchild, Dharma Lakelyn Jarrard, on August 21.

### **LGBTQ Second Sunday Lunch Cancelled**

We will not have Second Sunday Lunch on September 8 in hopes that everyone will join in the meal following Sunday in the Park. We'll resume Second Sunday Lunch in October.

- Randall Brady

## **BOOK DRIVE: Over a Thousand Books!**



As we close our book drive, generous Pullenfolk have

donated 1,024 books for the students at Southeast Raleigh Elementary School. To this number will be added the books we will purchase with cash donations. Your response has been nothing short of extraordinary. Thank you all!

-Pat Long

Dear Pullen family,



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I am happy to announce that we will be experiencing a baby boom in the coming months! We are preparing a WARM and NURTURING nursery for infants to join us for Sunday Groups and

Worship. (It will be ready to go by September 15.)

We are looking for church members who would love to rock, play with, sing to, play music for and show picture books to infants and crawlers on Sunday mornings. Potential care givers will be SCREENED and TRAINED for this very important role. We are looking for care givers to serve during Sunday Groups and/or Worship hour, and we welcome those who may wish to serve one Sunday a month, every other month, or even quarterly.

If you would like to offer this gift of yourself to our YOUNGEST of Pullenites, please contact me at tcook@pullen.org.

Also, know that there are older preschoolers and elementary aged children that you could share your presence with as well. Thank you!

-Tommy Cook

### 2019 Pullen Scholarship Recipients

The GEMS committee is happy to announce that \$750 scholarships have been awarded from the bequest of Phil Letsinger to Ginny Keister, Angel Knight, Caleigh Norris-Bradshaw, and Sergio Javier Osnaya-Prieto. Best wishes to all of you as you continue your educations.

-Emily Cato, GEMS Committee

## **Conversation About Spiritual Life at Pullen, October 13**

As many Pullenites know, for a number of years the Spiritual Life Group has provided leadership in the area of spirituality at Pullen. In addition to meeting periodically for prayer and personal sharing, over the last 20+ years the SLG has offered Advent and Lenten Quiet Days, spiritual life retreats, Enneagram training/retreats, Taize retreats, Group Spiritual Direction, prayer vigils and labyrinth walks. The membership in the group has changed over time, and we are now at a point of needing to consider the future of the group and what might be helpful for Pullenites in the area of spiritual life and practice going forward.

This is an invitation to join us for an after-worship conversation about spiritual life at Pullen on Sunday, October 13, in Room 203. We'll begin as soon as we can after worship ends and provide a light lunch. All interested persons are welcome to join us and bring your thoughts and your sense of what might be helpful for the Pullen family in these challenging times in which we live. Please direct questions to either Suzanne at suzannehayes1@icloud.com or Cathy at ctamsberg@nc.rr.com.

-Suzanne Hayes and Cathy Tamsberg

### Want to Know More About Pullen?

Pullen 101, the eightweek introduction to our church, will begin again on Sunday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 203. Whether you are new to the



community, thinking about joining, or just want to get a better sense of who we are, Pullen 101 is for you! This is a unique opportunity to hear from Pullen staff and members about our history, values and the ways we put our faith into action. The intimate setting will give you an opportunity to ask questions and get to know other Pullenfolk.

For more information, please contact me at covery@pullen.org or 919-828-0897x214.

-Chalice Overy

## Join us September 10

## **Work Group to End Homelessness**



Since March, several Pullen people have been meeting around the issues that affect people experiencing homelessness in our community. Initially, our aim was to support the work of the Interfaith Network of Care for People Experiencing Homelessness. After the success of

the March event, we have broadened our goals and are continuing to meet monthly on the second Tuesday. We welcome people from Pullen or friends of Pullen to join us. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday**, **September 10** at 6:30 in Room 203.

If you would like more information feel free to contact me at 2katiehurley@gmail.com or 919-622-4245.

- Katie Hurley

## Information and Planning Meeting for a Pullen Delegation to Nicaragua in 2020

Sunday, September 29th, immediately after worship in room 203.

For the last 15 years, Pullen has entered into partnership with Laura and David Parajón and the organization they helped found in Nicaragua, AMOS Health and Hope, sending 6 group delegations and several other individual and small groups to partner with AMOS Health and Hope. Political instability necessitated suspension of these trips for a period of time, but AMOS

Health and Hope is once again encouraging groups to come. We would like to offer a Pullen delegation in 2020 and will be holding an initial meeting September 29th to share information and determine interest in such a trip. If you are interested but unable to attend that day, let us know and we can share some information via email.

Jonathan Sledge (jonathansledge@earthlink.net)
Deb Norton (doctordebnorton@earthlink.net)

### **Gaining Access to Pullen**

We are in the process of installing an access control system to most of the exterior church doors. Once installed, we'll be switching to a card or fob method of controlling who can enter the building and when they can enter. There will also be a keypad on designated doors so that groups without a card or fob can be given a code for entry. Not only will this system help us better secure the building, it will also give us tools to understand who is using the building and for how long. Thanks for your patience as we transition to this new system. We'll let you know when we go "live."

- Brooks Wicker

## Welcome New Members

Andrew and Christina **Sims** join Pullen from Dayton, Ohio where Andrew was working in the real estate industry and Christina was a pharmacist for Kroger. They moved to Raleigh in May for Andrew's work and quickly, through the encouragement of Pullen member Ouida Watson, decided to come and visit Pullen. They immediately fell in love with the Pullen community and, after meeting with Nancy, decided



this would be a great spot for them. In October, Andrew and Christina will welcome their first child, a boy named Liam, to their family and they look forward to introducing him to his Pullen family.



Dana Hollywood and Thomas Bartle met in the Spring of 2017. During spring vacation last year the couple went on a Mediterranean cruise and Dana proposed to Thomas while they were in Greece. They are planning on getting married in 2020. Thomas has been attending Pullen since 2014 and Dana began attending

2017. They have two dogs and a cat. In the near future, they plan on moving into a larger home in the Raleigh area. Dana (pictured on the left), is an avid reader and is currently writing a novel and hopes to be published in the future. Thomas (right) enjoys completing DIY projects around the house and spending time with friends and family.

Thomas has been an elementary teacher at Briarcliff Elementary in Cary since 1998. He taught previously in New York and Durham. Thomas grew up in NY and obtained his bachelor degree in elementary/special education at SUNY Plattsburgh. After graduation, he began teaching in Saratoga Springs, NY. While teaching there he completed his masters degree at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY.

Dana currently serves as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) in the U.S. Army, although he will be retiring in the fall of 2019 after 20 years of service. He is currently stationed at Fort Bragg and has previously deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Bosnia, and Korea. He is originally from Woburn, MA and after undergrad served as a Peace Corps volunteer in East Africa. While in the military Dana obtained his law degree at William and Mary University. Dana will transition to civilian life and has begun looking for employment opportunities.

### Make Music and Friends this Fall!

Through communal music-making, Pullen's Music Ministry Groups offer an invitation to form lasting friendships

while resonating that which is meaningful in our lives. All are warmly invited to join us this Fall!

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- → Chancel Choir (Adults) Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 PM, Rehearsal Hall. Begins Wednesday, September 4, with an Ingathering Rehearsal at 6:30PM.
- → Pullen Orchestra (Youth & Adults) Sundays, 8:45-9:45 AM, Rehearsal Hall. Begins Saturday September 7 with a rehearsal for Sunday in the Park at 10:00AM.
- ★ Music Discovery (K-Grade 2) Wednesdays, 6:30-7:00 PM, Room 122. Begins Wednesday, September 11.
- **← Children's Choir** (Grades 3-5) Wednesdays in September-March, 6:00-6:30 PM, Rehearsal Hall. Begins Wednesday, September 11.
- **→ Youth Choir (**Grades 6-12) Sundays in January-May, 1:15-2:00PM, Rehearsal Hall. Begins January 6, 2019.

In addition to Pullen's vocal and instrumental groups, the Spirit Movers is a group for youth and adults that engages participants in the expressive arts of movement, dance and story. Contact Ginny Going for information on this group (colleagues.interplay@gmail or 919-821-3723).

For additional information on Pullen's Music Ministry go to pullen.org/music or contact lschultz@pullen.org. - Larry Schultz

## Pullen Children's Ministry

- Sunday, Sept 8: Sunday in the Park
- Wednesday, Sept 11: Wednesday Night Programs resume
- Sunday, Sept 15: Sunday Groups resume @ 9:30

a.m., New Acolyte Training after worship (for rising 3rd graders and older children who have not gone through training)

◆ Saturday, October 5, 11 a.m-1 p.m. Pullen Family Picnic @ the Park at Laurel Hills Park Come when you can, bring a picnic lunch —we'll provide beverages. Meet at the playground!

This event will be canceled if it rains.

Once a month on the FIRST WEEKEND of the month (Friday, Saturday or Sunday), Pullen families will have a planned gathering to get together for fun and fellowship. We hope you can join us!



Please contact me at tcook@pullen.org if you have any questions about Pullen's Children and Family Ministry Programs.

-Tommy Cook

## Pullen Youth Ministry

#### **Sunday Morning Groups**

The youth start back on September 15th with a brunch and welcome. We will introduce the Rite 13 curriculum and catch up on how the school year is going.



Rite 13 Currciulum Starts September 22!

- September 22 Recognizing your reality
- ♦ September 29 Recognizing your reality
- October 6 Struggling in your reality
- October 13 What are your struggles
- October 20 Moving beyond your current reality

#### **Wednesday Night Live**

- September 11 All youth who attended BYC will share their stories with the congregation.
- September 18 Facing White Supremacy The language and terms we use to talk about it
- September 25 Intergenerational Game Night
- October 2 Facing White Supremacy The School System

Please contact me at blee@pullen.org if you have questions about the Pullen Youth Programs. -Bryan Lee

## The Hardest Sentence to Speak Out Loud (continued from page 1)

**Worship** – I need your help with worship. I spend a good amount of time every week making phone calls to secure a liturgist and prayer person for Sunday worship. You would probably be surprised how many phone calls it takes each week to find someone who will be in town and is willing to help lead worship. So, I need your help. My idea is to create a list of people who are willing to be liturgist and lead prayers with dates of when they are available to help. From that list, I would try and work about a month in advance securing people for each Sunday. If you are willing to help please send me an email indicating your willingness with a preference for liturgist or prayer person and any dates that you are NOT available to help. (It's a lot harder to find people willing to lead prayers so if you are inclined to pray in worship I could really use your help.) Kiara, my assistant, will then create a list for me to use. When sending the email please put as the subject title: "Worship Assistant."

**Social Justice and Interfaith Relationships** - I need your help nurturing our commitment to social justice and our interfaith relationships. I am continually awed by your commitment as a community to making a difference in the world. For over 135 years the people of Pullen have been committed to social justice and the social gospel: loving one's neighbor, promoting peace, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, showing kindness to the oppressed, speaking out for those who are marginalized, and standing for justice love for all people. Beginning with our founder, John T. Pullen, this mission is in our DNA and throughout the ages Pullen people have never wavered from being God's prophetic voice. This is our strength. It is the glue that holds us together.

At a time in our nation's history when God's justice love and the gospel's call to compassionate living is being challenged we are being invited to strengthen and deepen our commitments to social justice. Part of our justice work right now is around interfaith dialogue. Our Jewish and Muslim communities are under attack and we must stand strong in our solidarity with them.

Here's how I need your help with this one. On October 27 we will resume our Interfaith Worship Services with our Jewish and Muslim friends. I need you to mark your calendar now and plan to be at Temple Beth Or for an evening of fellowship and worship with our Jewish and Muslim sisters and brothers. We will have a light dinner at 6:00 p.m. and worship at 7:00 p.m. I am asking for your help in making sure we, Pullen people, pack the pews at the Temple to show our solidarity. I promise that if you come you will receive a blessing beyond what you can imagine.

**PR Team** - To anyone who has experience and skill in public relations, I need your help. With the blessing of Pullen's Development Team I am initiating an ad-hoc group to help our church expand our story into the larger community. Almost weekly someone will say to me something like, "I have lived in Raleigh for 10 years and am just now learning about Pullen Church." In keeping with our traditions and staying true to who we are, I want to explore ways for us to tell our Pullen story to the larger Raleigh community and beyond. I have a feeling there are people out there looking for a community of people like Pullen to engage in the kind of social justice work we do here. And we are always looking for partners in doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly. The point of this project is not to get people to join our church. It is to find those in our community who want to partner to do the work we are committed to doing. If you have experience, skills, and/or interest in working on this project, please email me. You can note on the subject line: "PR Team Interest." Or you can always call me: 919-349-1203.

**Financial Health of Pullen –** I need your help in making sure we are a financially healthy community. We are doing an amazing job this year with our budget. This year is the first time in my 27 years at Pullen that I can remember our budget operating in the black through July. Usually, the summer months, with everyone traveling, we fall behind on our monthly giving. Not so this year. Our worship attendance has stayed strong throughout the summer and that has supported our financial health throughout the summer months. You are to be commended for that!

As we approach our budget season, I am asking for your help. In another month or so the Finance Committee will present the 2020 budget to the congregation. We will begin pledging that budget in late October. I am putting out an early ask for help: Let's end the year financially strong by completing our 2019 pledges by the end of December and pledging our 2020 budget no later than the beginning of January. This allows us to focus on the important ministries that we are engaged in within our church walls and beyond. Knowing your generosity, I am asking for your continued help in caring for the financial health of our community.

Wow. That's a lot of asking for help. But here is what I know: the strength and health of Pullen Church depends on us asking and responding to the requests for help from one another. Please don't ever hesitate to ask for whatever help you need from your church community. No longer will I buckle under the weight of a false narrative that tells me asking for help is a weakness. And I hope you won't either. I invite you to join me in this new spiritual practice of asking of help when needed.

It is my hunch that if practiced there will be blessings overflowing.

With gratitude,

Nancy

## Sunday Groups - Get involved!



### **Sunday Groups Resume September 15**

Fall Sunday Groups begin September 15 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. This year we will have several adult options from which to choose. These are the following ways to enhance your faith, deepen your spiritual practice, or strengthen your biblical understanding:

#### Care of Creation // Room 309

The evidence for human causation of climate change due to global society's excessive CO2 emissions is scientifically incontrovertible. Given these current facts and our seemingly devastating trajectory, it has become clear that there is a relationship problem between humans and the rest of life on this planet. How do we, amongst all the perilous news remain engaged? How do we learn to accept, cope and continue to enjoy our earthly experience? The focus of this year's group is to provide spiritual understanding of how to mend the human/nature relationship through the study of the great works of Thomas Berry, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Sally McFague. We will also lean into the biblical teachings of right relationship with our planet's elements: air, water, fire, earth, and how these elements influence our emotional, spiritual, physical and mental health and wellbeing. Care of Creation Sunday Group is planning to join with the Spiritual Practices Group approximately once a month for supplemental restorative practices to deepen our relationship with creation. Care of Creation focuses on environmental, political and social challenges faced by people of faith.

#### Discoverers // Room 303

Finding grace, hope, joy, peace, love, gratitude and patience may seem like tall orders these days, but the Sunday Group of Discoverers believes we can do it—together! Discoverers are Pullenites who gather each Sunday to share their quest for a faithful, authentic life in these challenging times. Longtime adult teacher Suzanne Newton is joined this year by group members in facilitating a conversational format. We will begin by sharing our personal answers to questions posed by Shirley Erena Murray's hymn "How Shall We Find You?" as we seek to find, know, trust, see and love God. Then we'll explore how we can nurture gratitude, hope, peace, joy, love, patience, and light during Thanksgiving, Advent and Epiphany. In the spring, this personal reflection and discussion will continue with topics our group members find challenging as we seek to discover sacred truths that inspire just, gracious living.

#### **Exploring the Bible // Room 307**

With a rotating roster of teachers, Exploring the Bible focuses on thematic, topical, and exegetical passages from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. The group combines the best and current practices of biblical scholarship with contemporary issues and social situations. From the format of lecture and discussion, questions arise that address the texts while informing our individual lives of faith.

#### Free Thinkers // Room 310

Free Thinkers (formerly the Grope Group) is a discussion-based class that grapples with hard questions in the current political and social world. These discussions are informed by written, oral and visual references that encourage and enlighten the commitment of participants to justice and compassion in our personal and civic lives.

McMillan Group // Room 312 This group looks to stories and life for great guestions and greater answers.

#### Parenting Together // Room 308

Parenting Together is an open and informal gathering for Pullen parents and caregivers of children to explore, together, what it means to parent. We will share our experiences, ask questions, and enjoy each other's company. Bring your coffee or tea as Sarah Bowen facilitates the discussion.

#### Pullen 101 // Room 203

Pullen 101 is an 8-week course designed to introduce people to the culture and ministries of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church. See page two for more info.

#### Spiritual Practices // Poteat Chapel

The Spiritual Practices Sunday group will continue to deepen its exploration of contemplative practices in a worship-like fashion, including centering prayer, chant, lovingkindness meditation and lectio divina. This year, we will expand our practices to acknowledge our relationship with the natural world by focusing our practices on one of the natural elements—such as water, fire, air, earth. We will be joined for this exploration approximately once per month by the Care of Creation Sunday Group.

I hope you will make plans to attend one of these classes as it is a great way to participate in the life of Pullen. Please contact me at bcrisp@pullen.org if you have questions.

-Brian Crisp

## Sustainable Living: The New Norm

The incessant buzz of cicadas surrounds me. It's another 95 degree day with a heat index of 107. My black-eyed Susans and bee balm are already wilted and it's only 9:30. Somehow most of the scattered thunderstorms over the past weeks have missed my neighborhood. Yet, just months ago, we were deluged with rain when Hurricane Florence hung over NC for days. It's the new normal - extreme weather. It's time for all of us to examine our resource intensive lifestyles and begin to make changes to reverse this new norm.

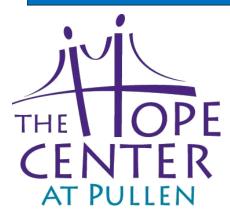
It's time to examine our consumption of energy, food, water and consumer goods. It's time to consider new lifestyle choices and embrace a personal journey toward tending and caring for the earth (Genesis 2:15) and fostering a more sustainable existence for our children and grandchildren. Think of it as a never ending challenge! There is so much that each of us can do to help reverse climate change. If you are just getting started, do the easy things first— LED light bulbs, adjust your thermostat, bring your own coffee mug and shopping bags. Then, focus on new habits that might be a little harder to adopt. Small continuous changes over time can have a huge long term impact, especially when your habits inspire others to change their lifestyle too. Select three easy actions and get started! Your children and grandchildren and all future generations will thank you!

- Eat less meat. Start with meatless Mondays and gradually eliminate more meat over time. You don't have to be a vegan to have a huge impact.
- Buy locally grown, unprocessed foods as much as possible to reduce the fossil fuel burden of your diet.
- · Compost your food waste.

- Use mulch to reduce the size of your lawn and improve water retention in gardens.
- Water at night or early morning to reduce evaporation.
- Plant native, drought tolerant species in your yard.
- Run your dishwasher and washing machine when they have a full load.
- Replace existing appliances and toilets with water saving models.
- Place a brick in your toilet tank. Install low-flow showerheads.
- Set your thermostat at 78' in summer and 68' in winter.
- Use fans to supplement cooling. Fans use very little electricity.
- Install and use programmable thermostats.
- Get a free energy audit from Duke Energy.
- Consider solar energy for your home.
- Consider an electric or hybrid car.
- Buy the smallest, most energy efficient car that meets your daily needs.
- Plan your errands so you drive less.
- Drive or telecommute instead of flying.
- Carpool, use mass transit, ride a bike or walk.
- Shop locally. Buy less stuff.
- Remember the 5 R's: Refuse Say no to single use items. Reduce Choose items with less packaging, bring your own water bottle and bags, Reuse Can I reuse or repurpose this rather than discarding it?, Recycle glass, plastics, paper, cardboard, batteries and electronics, and Rot compost food scraps, some paper waste and lawn waste.

-Gail Powell

## The Hope Center at Pullen



We closed out August with our annual End of Summer Internship Celebration. It was a beautiful event. Social workers, Guardians ad Litem, site supervisors, foster parents and community partners gathered to celebrate our interns' accomplishments. The celebration ended with our announcement that one of our new community partners, Macy's, is giving each intern a shopping spree in their Crabtree store! We are thrilled and so grateful.

#### **Celebrating Stable Housing**

After waiting 2 years for a Hope Center housing voucher to become available, M finally moved into her own apartment in early August. When she walked in the door of her new home she said, "This is the first time I've had something that is my own." Through the voucher M will pay 30% of her income towards rent while she works toward completing her degree at Wake Tech. Hope Center staff

will continue to walk beside her on her journey to a safe and stable adulthood. Later in the month, she had the opportunity to visit our partner, Green Chair Project, to find some new furnishings for her home. Green Chair accepts donations of furniture and works with clients to mix and match pieces to create just the right look. The experience gives our young adults the ability to furnish their homes and take pride in the way it looks. We love our visits to Green Chair and the fun we have with our clients and their staff.

#### **Academic Mentor Opportunities**

Wake County students have kicked off the 2019-2020 school year and we are working to help ensure the success of all of our youth. If you want to be a part of that success, consider becoming an Academic Mentor. Academic Mentors meet weekly with youth to help youth catch up in school and gain the skills they need to be ready to advance to the next grade level. There will be another training for interested volunteers in October. To apply or obtain more information, contact Joseph McNeill at jmcneill@hopecenteratpullen.org.

Thank you for your generosity that makes all of this progress possible!

-Erin Witcher





## The Table - our revamped Wednesday evening program launches on September 11!

Here's what's in store:

#### **September 11-Welcome to the Table**

We'll have fun celebrating September birthdays, and spend some time getting acquainted with the rhythm of our new programming. We'll also hear our youth and young adults talk about how they represented the congregation this summer.

#### September 18-Christmas in September Luau

Join us for a luau with The Ambassadors of Christmas Cheer. This is the

last tour stop for this ukulele playing ensemble of Santas and spouses before they head back to the North Pole to gear up for the big season. We'll share a Hawaiian-themed meal, and The Ambassadors will lead us in a sing-a-long of island music as well as some Christmas classics. So grab that Hawaiian shirt, or something festive and join us for the luau! The Ambassadors have told me that each attendee with receive not one, but two lei--one for you, and one to share the spirit with someone else!

#### **September 25-Intergenerational Game Night**

Children, youth and adults will combine for an evening of fun for all ages!

