



Pullen

Memorial Baptist Church

December news & updates

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

Financial Update

10.31.2023:

Income: \$949,604
Expenses: \$987,385
Difference: -\$17,781

Advent Happenings at Pullen!



Parent's Day Out

December 2nd at 1:00-5:00 pm in 120

Parents, you can check in children at the church, go shopping, eat out, or take a nap... while children enjoy games, crafts, and seasonal fun.

[Sign Up Here](#)



Pullen Kids Christmas Music/Play Practice

December 3 & 10 (9:30 - 10:30 AM) in Finlator Hall

Children will meet in Finlator Hall to prepare for music, the Children's Christmas Play (Dec. 17), and to learn important lessons of the season.



Pullen Kids Advent Wreath-Making and Lunch

December 3 at 12:15 pm in Finlator Hall

On the first day of Advent, families are invited to gather to assemble an Advent wreath (a custom that originated in family settings) to take home and explore the hope, peace, joy, and love of this season.

Please sign up for us to have the supplies needed.

[Sign Up Here](#)

The Table: An Advent Journey to the Stable

December 6 at 6:30 pm in the Chapel

Join us to pause from the world's hustle and bustle and find yourself in



the heart of the Advent journey toward Bethlehem. Witness all those who are part of this journey as depicted through a beautiful crèche display—take in every detail. Notice especially the animals; they are all smiling. Which animal are you drawn to? And what is it you seek in this Advent season?



Dress Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Play & Christmas Cookie Decorating Practice

December 16 at 10:00 am in Finlator Hall

Children will have one last dress rehearsal to prepare for the Children's Christmas Play at the Christmas

Breakfast! Cookie decorating begins at 10:00 am. All kids are welcome to join us for cookies at 11:00 am, even if they're not in the play!



Pullen Youth: Caroling, Cookies, and Cocoa

December 16, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Join us as we visit some of our Pullen friends near the church to bring Christmas cheer through song. We will begin at the church, and return to the church after caroling for some cookies and cocoa for our last social gathering of the year.



Christmas Breakfast featuring the Children's Christmas Play

December 17 at 9:00 am in Finlator Hall

Join us for our annual Christmas breakfast, a jolly old time of Christmas fun! We will share a potluck breakfast as we enjoy our Children's Christmas Play and a highly interactive rendition

of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." If you are unfamiliar with this tradition, we will have a section designated for each of the 12 days of Christmas, which we act out as we sing. Some acts are carefully planned and pre-rehearsed, while others are created immediately. Either way, it's much fun to participate in and hilarious to watch! This year, we're also adding an "ugly" Christmas sweater fashion show, so pull out that gaudy Christmas gear and get ready to strut your stuff!

Caroling Christmas: An Interactive Service of Worship Led by the Youth Choir, Adult Choir, and Pullen Orchestra



December 17 at 11:00 am in the sanctuary

Inspired by door-to-door caroling experiences, this service of worship, led by the Youth Choir, Adult Choir, and Pullen Orchestra, will involve the gathered congregation in expressing Christmas through song.



Lovefeast

December 20 at 5:30 pm in Finlator Hall

The entire Pullen family will join us for our annual Pullen version of the historic Moravian Lovefeast on Wednesday, December 20. This tradition reminds us that the simple things make the season bright and meaningful--singing carols, sharing a

simple meal of sweet rolls and chocolate milk, and acknowledging God's presence with us. The LoveFeast will be enhanced by the music of the Pullen Orchestra, Children's Choir, youth instrumentalists, and Ju Kim, pianist/organist. Dinner will be served in Finlator at 5:30 pm, and we'll transition to the sanctuary at 6:30 for the Lovefeast!



Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service

December 24 at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Together, we will celebrate the Light coming into the world as we welcome the birth of the Christ child. There is not a more profound message to be proclaimed throughout history than

the one we proclaim on the eve of Jesus' birth: "Emmanuel, God with us!" Our world desperately needs the continual birth of Love, Light, Peace, and Hope. The Christmas story is a story of a radical love for all people. It is a story that we need to proclaim every day. Come join us on December 24 at 5:00 pm to, once again, sound the message: "For unto us is born a child, the Christ child. Emmanuel, God with us!"

-Pullen Staff

Community Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Celebrating Joys

- We celebrate with Allie and Jack Pruden in the birth of their first child, Walker Eads Pruden on Tuesday, November 7. Mom, dad, and baby are all doing well.

Praying in Loss

- We remember Paulette Campbell, in the death of her sister, Adrienne Dyson, who passed away unexpectedly on November 3;
- Cheryl Stallings in the death of her brother, CF Stallings, who passed away on November 10 after a long battle with various cancers;
- Carla Rector in the death of her partner, Bobleigh Daniels, who died on November 17, just 10 days

after being diagnosed with cancer. A memorial service will be held for Bobleigh at Pullen on January 20 at 2:00 pm.

- We pray for our Church Administrator, Vicky Bass, in the loss of her father, Claude Rudolph Bass II, who died on November 22.
- We also remember the family of Ralph Capps, leader of The Wake County Boys and Girls club for over 50 years, who passed away on November 24, leaving a meaningful legacy to the youth of Wake County;
- and the family of Wake County Commissioner Dr. James West, who passed away last month. He was a civil rights activist and public servant whose service spanned decades.

Praying with our Community

- We pray for Brooks Wicker and Pat Hielscher, as they move Brooks' mother, Kathleen Wicker, into an assisted living community. We also pray for Kathleen during this transition.
- We offer prayer for Jeanne Sumpter, who is recovering in the health center at Springmoor after being hospitalized due to a fall;
- Leigh & Cynthia Hammond, Pullen members for nearly 6 decades, who recently moved to Brooklyn, NY to be closer to their daughter;
- Mary Moore's brother, John, who was hospitalized for heart, kidney, and respiratory issues;
- and the Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School community and the families impacted by the fatal stabbing on November 27.

Praying with our World

- We offer prayers for Marlen Acosta Balciro in Matanzas, Cuba who is home recovering from a recent surgery;
- for our Transgender siblings around the world as we remembered those whose lives were cut short by violence on Transgender Day of Remembrance;
- for those who suffer as a result of the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS as we commemorate World AIDS day;
- and for an end to war on every front.

-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor

Church wide

Pullen Events



The Table

Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in Finlator Hall

Join us at The Table in December! 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 pm. Programming is also offered for children and youth. Check out what's going on at The Table this month!

December 6 - An Advent Journey to the Stable

A time to pause from the world's hustle and bustle and find yourself in the heart of the Advent journey toward Bethlehem. Witness all those

who are part of this journey as depicted through a beautiful crèche display—take in every detail. Notice especially the animals; they are all smiling. Which animal are you drawn to? And what is it you seek in this Advent season?

December 13 - Every Voice Choir Concert

The Every Voice Choir will present a concert featuring Christmas music. This local choir brings together adults with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Autism to make music and share that music-making in the community. A brief reception will follow the 30 minute concert.

December 20 - Lovefeast

Join our annual Pullen version of the historic Moravian Lovefeast on Wednesday, December 20. This tradition reminds us that it's often the simple things that make the season bright and meaningful—singing carols, sharing a simple meal of sweet rolls and chocolate milk, and acknowledging God's presence with us. Dinner will be served in Finlator at 5:30 pm, and we'll transition to the sanctuary at 6:30 for the Lovefeast.

December 27 - No Program

January 3 - No Program

-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor



Pullen Mission Women

First Tuesdays at 10:00 am in Finlator Hall for even Months, on Zoom for odd months

Please join our all-inclusive Pullen Mission Women's group at our monthly in-person or virtually on Zoom meeting. Our next meeting will be in Finlator on Tuesday, December 5th at 10 am. We are dedicated to supporting many service groups in the Raleigh area and socializing with warm and caring women. Please join us.

-Marty Saunders and Sandra Brown

Report on ARCC House Meetings

December 10 at 12:30 pm in Finlator Hall

The Committee on Becoming an Anti-Racist Congregation (ARCC) will present the results of the house meetings conducted over the past several months. We'll be able to present our key findings and do our best to answer your questions about this ongoing effort at Pullen. We want to invite you to join us for this critical conversation.

-Mark Nance



Pullen Women's Group Potluck

December 14 at 6:00 pm at Jan Crouch's Home, 3920 Laurel Manor Ct., Raleigh

Calling all those who identify as female! Please join us for the next Pullen Women's Group, a Potluck! We visit each other and catch up with no particular agenda. Newcomers are welcome. This is a way to get to know other Pullenites! Please call/text Rita Rakestraw at 919-360-0975 if you can make it.

Contact: Rita Rakestraw

-Rita Rakestraw

Pullen News



The Hymn Writer and Hymn that Keeps on Giving

In 2002 I returned from the national conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada having experienced the hymns of relatively new hymn writer, Mary Louise Bringle. Though I was enthusiastic about her entire body of work, one of her hymns with music by William Rowan particularly resonated with me, and I thought it would also be meaningful to the people of Pullen. Little did I know at the time how much Pullen would come to love and make significant use of "Light Dawns on a Weary World!" The hymn's words exclude no one as they offer a vision for the beloved kingdom. Its music, sung by our congregation either meditatively or vibrantly, lifts the words and our voices.

As the ministerial staff discussed an Advent theme for this year, once again the hymn's opening words of "light dawning" came to mind. As we considered the hymn, we realized the stanzas included the ideas of

Light, Hope and Love, and noted: "Wouldn't it be nice to have additional stanzas related to Peace and Joy to fill out the Advent season." Though our congregation considers Mary Louise ("Mel") a friend as she was once commissioned by the Pullen Music Ministry and preached for us in 2010, it was probably presumptuous to send this now world-renowned hymn writer an email days before the Advent season to ask about providing new stanzas! But I did. And she did!

Though Mel busily and creatively works as Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Brevard College, thanks to her generosity, the Pullen congregation will have two new stanzas to sing this Advent as we consider the ways Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love dawn with Light upon our weary world.

-[Larry Schultz](#), Minister of Music

SAVE THE DATE for LAY LEADERSHIP DAY TRAINING

Saturday, Feb 10, 2024, 9-12

For all church officers, members of councils, committees, and coordinators. More details coming. Feel free to contact Kevin Neiley at kneiley1@gmail.com or Nancy Jones at nfjones@gmail.com.

-[Kevin Neiley](#) and [Nancy Jones](#)

Join the Youth and Adult Choirs at Festival in 2024!

Each year, the Youth Choir travels to Myrtle Beach, SC, and the Adult Choir to Charleston, SC, where we partner with other churches to provide the Festivals by the Sea. In 2024, the adult festival is January 26-28, and the youth festival is March 1-3. Consider joining the youth or adult choirs to enjoy these upcoming festivals that offer a retreat experience that includes fellowship, worship, and music-making with 250 other voices! Contact Minister of Music, Larry Schultz, for details (lschultz@pullen.org).

-[Larry Schultz](#), Minister of Music

Let's Fill the Wagons!

When arriving at the most used entrance to Pullen (from the parking lot), my first thought is to look at the wagons to see if they are empty or full (of food). Wouldn't filling both wagons each week through November and December be wonderful? The food we collect is for our neighbors, who are served by Urban Ministries Raleigh and is monitored and delivered by Pullen Mission Women members. As you shop, please remember to pick up extra amounts (this is also an excellent opportunity for children to participate by choosing things they think other children would like or enjoy). Some suggestions include peanut butter, mac and cheese, canned chicken and tuna, soups, canned veggies & fruit, cereal, dry beans, and more. Please remember-no glass containers. LET'S FILL THE WAGONS AND FEEL A FULL HEART!

-[Sharron Underwood](#), PMW member

Pullen Youth Ministry

Final Youth Sunday Group of the Year

December 10, 9:30 am

-[Chalice Overy](#), Associate Pastor

Final Wednesday Youth Group of the Year

December 13, 6:30 pm

-[Jan McPherson](#), Minister of Youth and Social Justice

Kids Ministry

Pullen Kids Sunday Groups/Children's Choir: Imagine



God!

Sundays at 9:30 am beginning in January 2024

Pullen's Children's Choir and Pullen Kids Sunday Groups will combine as older children open their imaginations and the Bible to explore many different ways to imagine the divine. Children will express gender-full, gender-fluid, and non-gender images of God through story, song, and creative arts as they learn the musical *Imagine God!* by Larry E. Schultz and Jann Aldredge-Clanton. Combining with multiple generations from January through May, the Children's Choir will sing

songs from the musical in worship services, and the entire musical will be presented for worship in Spring 2024. A parallel experience for younger children will occur as Music Discovery as 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.

Sample Schedule:

9:30 am:

Older children (3-5) will meet in the Rehearsal Hall (Room 128-8)

Younger Children (K-2) will meet in Room 123

10:00 am:

All children will gather in Room 120 for theme-related activities

-[Tommy Cook](#), Minister with Children and Their Families, and [Larry Schultz](#), Minister of Music

Around the Pullen Community

Find More information about these opportunities at pullen.org/connect.

PSTF Presents: Drag for Equality: A Glamorous Night of Drag, Crafts, Art, Music, and Political Advocacy:

December 2 at 8:00 pm at Talley Student Union

[Learn More](#)

Catalyst: A Benefit Concert in Support of the Neighbor2Neighbor Housing Initiative

December 5 at 7:00 pm at Church on Morgan (136 E. Morgan Street)

[Learn More](#)

Now is the Time! Rally for Commutation, Community & Compassion

Saturday, December 2, 1-2:30 p.m. in Raleigh

[Learn More](#)

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

Third Tuesdays at 12:00–12:30 pm

[Learn More](#)



December Hope Center Update

The Hope Center at Pullen is currently raising funds for our annual campaign! You can help us reach our goal! Go to tiny.cc/PowerTheFuture.

Did you miss out on helping with our Angel Tree? You could still help bring joy into the homes of former foster youth – we are looking for donations of 2'- 4' artificial Christmas trees (along with ornaments), new or gently used, to gift to our clients. A small tree can bring large amounts of hope, joy, and comfort. If you would like to donate an artificial tree (with or without ornaments and lights),

email bsherley@hopecenteratpullen.org.

Program Updates:

We are proud to share some of our outcomes for the 2022-2023 program year (all possible because of supporters like you!):

95% of the youth who came to The Hope Center in need of housing secured stable housing by the end of the program year.

95% of Hope Center clients have or are actively pursuing their high school diploma or GED.

- Nationally, only 50% of former foster youth will be employed at age 24. 92% of our 24-year-old clients were employed at the end of the program year.

-***Brittney Sherley***, Hope Center Director of Development and Communications



Pullen Memorial Baptist Church | 1801 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27605

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