



Pullen News

January 2021



Becoming an Anti-Racist Church

Last summer, Nancy Petty challenged Pullen to take up the mantle of anti-racism. In response, the Deacon Council created a Task Force on Becoming an Anti-Racist Church and issued the task force with the following charge:

to engage the Pullen community in striving to become an anti-racist congregation. We understand anti-racist to mean implementing practices and policies that support racial justice and equity and challenging systems that perpetuate racial inequity.

Because we hope this will be a congregation-wide effort, the Deacons decided that representatives from each of the church Councils should comprise the task force, as well as a staff liaison and two at-large members with specific expertise that would complement and balance out the strengths of the Task Force as a whole. The current members (and the council they represent) of the Task Force are: Serena Buckner (Worship), Carol Hobbs (Education), Mark Nance (Deacons), Steven Rhudy (Coordinating), Jan Overman (Missions and Outreach), Jill Hinton (at-large), Chris Schwertman (at-large), and Nancy Petty and Chalice Overy (staff liaisons).

As a starting point, ARC Task Force members committed to read Ibram X Kendi's book, *How to be an Anti-Racist*, over the holiday break. In January the Task Force will meet to develop a program of work for the year ahead. If you have thoughts or questions on the work of the Task Force, you can email Mark Nance:

marknance@yahoo.com. - Mark Nance

February Business Meeting

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have us in its grip, the Coordinating Council has canceled the February business meeting. The usual agenda for a February meeting is to celebrate meeting the budget. However, a February meeting takes on a different look if the Finance Committee determines that anticipated revenue requires reducing the budget. In that case, the Finance Committee submits a revised budget to the congregation.

With remote worship this year, the absence of loose offerings complicates the work of the Finance Committee. If the committee decides that the 2021 budget should be reduced, the Coordinating Council has determined that the Finance Committee should make the necessary adjustments in consultation with the Coordinating Council by the third Sunday in February. If reductions are made, the Finance Committee will reassess their necessity at the end of August. The Finance Committee will keep the congregation well informed throughout this process if reductions are necessary. Of course, the best path ahead is for our gifts and pledges to compensate for the loose offerings. Please go to page six for pledging information.

We all anxiously await the time when we can gather in person to do the work of the church, but, in the meantime, we move forward trying to be as faithful as possible to the Pullen spirit. Please feel free to contact Lisa Grabarek (Lisagrabarek3@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns about these decisions by the Coordinating Council. - Lisa Grabarek

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Stay Connected

The Pullen staff works hard to provide meaningful ways for you to connect with the church. The [Pullen website](#), Realm, and social media pages are updated weekly.

Pullen worship services are livestreamed each Sunday and can be viewed on [our website](#).

The Pullen Staff is happy to provide assistance if you need it. Our goal is to make it easy for you to stay connected to Pullen. If you would like to get in touch, email news@pullen.org or call the church at 919-828-0897.

Donations needed for Round Table

We will continue through the winter months serving the guests who come to our door on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In warm weather we have been serving sandwiches, fruit, snack bags and bottled drinks. When cold weather comes, we like to serve our guests some hot food. For the next several months, we are asking for donations of these canned items:

- Hormel Chili with beans
- Progresso potato with bacon & cheese

We just packed 408 snack bags. We are now collecting for our next packing and need:

- cans of Vienna sausages
- cereal/granola bars
- 6-pack crackers (any variety except whole wheat peanut butter).

You can drop off these items off during Round Table Ministry times on Tuesday or Thursday between 1:00 and 3:00pm, or contact Brian Crisp to make alternate arrangements.

You can also donate money to the Community Ministry fund and we can purchase the items. Thank you!

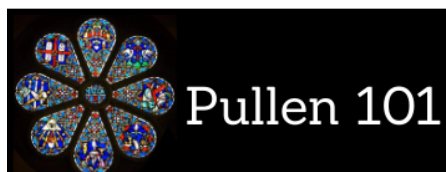
-Nancy Bradley
and Brian Crisp

Care Calls

We certainly hope 2021 will bring us the gift of safely gathering in person again. As we continue to stay safe at home, members of the Congregational Care Council along with other volunteers will be calling Pullen members and participants just to check in. In fact, you may have received a call already! The purpose is simply to extend care and maintain connection during this unprecedented time, and to offer additional support when needed. We'll check in roughly every other month until regular in-person activities resume. I hope you will receive these calls in the caring spirit in which they are extended. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Chalice Overy at covery@pullen or 919-475-2167.



-Congregational Care Council



Are you interested in joining a virtual Pullen 101 class?

Pullen 101 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 gives you an opportunity to ask questions and get to know other people at the church. Pullen 101 is for those who are new to the community, thinking about joining or just want to get a better sense of who we are.

Pullen 101 will be held via Zoom on Sundays from 9:30-10:30 am on the following dates: February 7, February 14, February 21, February 28, March 7, March 14, and March 21.

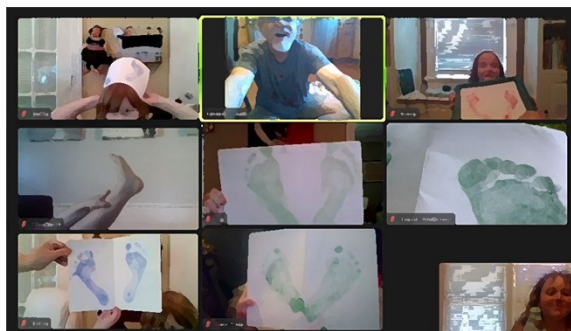
Please register by January 31, by clicking [here](#) or email Chalice Overy.

Pullen Children and Families

Join us for Sunday Group Zoom Meeting!

Children, join us THIS NEW YEAR for our Sunday Group Zoom Meetings. Let's check in with friends and make discoveries through interactive activities! Zoom in through the links found in the Children's Ministry weekly email or contact [Tommy Cook](#) for the link.

- ◆ Kindergarten – Second Grades Zoom : Sunday Mornings from 9:30-10am
- ◆ Third – Fifth Grades Zoom : Sunday Mornings from 10:15-10:45am



K-2nd Grades
9:30-10 AM
3rd - 5th Grades
10:15-10:45 AM



Join us at The Table in January

We've come through quite a year—living in a pandemic and with a heightened awareness of racial tensions in our country. It's been intense to say the least. We want to dedicate January at The Table to some restorative conversations and practices to help us show up at our best for this year. [Please register in advance](#) to join us at The Table in January.



- **January 13- Grief, Grace and God's Love for us in a Pandemic**

Ashley Gilmore, licensed therapist and owner of Gilmore Counseling Services and Jeremy Gilmore, Director of Spiritual Care at WakeMed will lead a conversation about managing grief and stress in the new year.

- **January 20- Befriending our Nervous System: body practices to support the year to come**

Suzanne Hayes, a biodynamic craniosacral therapist and physical therapist, along with Karen Delahunty, a bodyworker and ecopsychologist, will lead us in an overview of how our nervous system is structured, and experiential practices to support us in challenging times.

- **January 27- Mindful Movement, Mindful Eating**

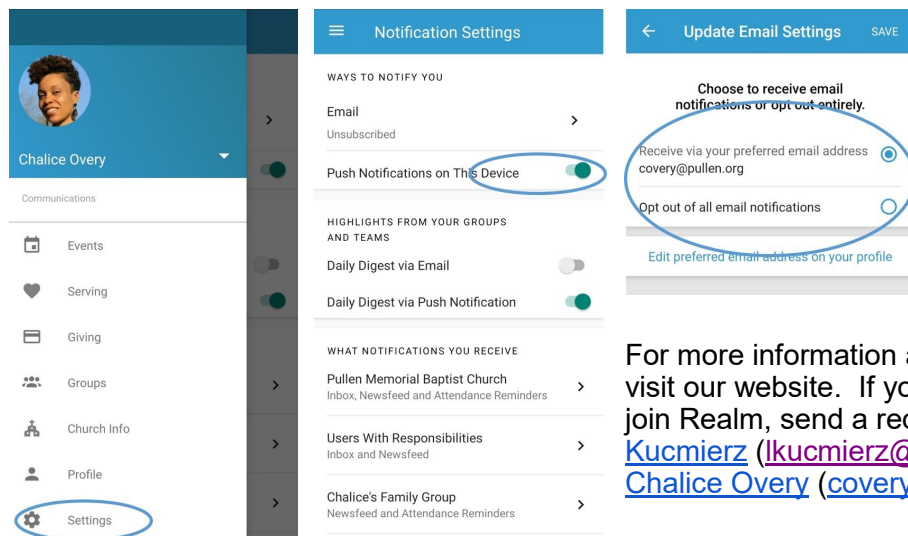
The pandemic has created a scenario where we are more stressed and more sedentary. Julie Gilbert, chef and yoga instructor, will offer tips to keep moving while we shelter in place and show us how to eat to sustain overall health.

Please register no later Tuesday before the session you plan to attend. Once you register you will be able to attend any session in January.

[Click here to register](#) or email Chalice at covey@pullen.org.

Getting the Most from Realm

More than 200 of you signed up for Realm last year! Realm is a cloud-based member website that helps us stay connected to each other and the activities at our church. By default, Realm notifies subscribers via email when we post information or an event. If you want to keep your inbox a little more tidy this year, consider downloading the Realm Connect app from your Apple or Google Play store. After logging into the app, you can go to your settings to enable push notifications on your phone and disable email notifications if you'd like.



For more information about Realm, visit our website. If you would like to join Realm, send a request to [Lucy Kucmierz](mailto:LucyKucmierz@pullen.org) (lkucmierz@pullen.org) or [Chalice Overy](mailto:ChaliceOvery@pullen.org) (covey@pullen.org).

An Invitation from Pullen Member Irene Lawrence

When it comes to our criminal justice system and the injustice of mass incarceration for non-violent crimes, Governor Roy Cooper has the absolute authority under our state constitution to free and protect hundreds or thousands of individuals from repeated exposure to COVID-19 in our prisons. To date, he has only granted 5 pardons.

From November 4, 2020 - January 1, 2021, a coalition of North Carolinians stood vigil outside the NC Executive Mansion to highlight our collective call for Cooper to use his clemency powers and all other means to decarcerate North Carolina now.

Please watch the 18-minute documentary about the vigil, share social media content from the vigil, sign onto the letter to Governor Cooper if you haven't already, and stay tuned for information about this year's vigil - we hope this one will be the first of many.

Contact Irene Lawrence at Lawrence.IreneA@gmail.com with any questions.

Video: <https://www.decarceratenownc.org/the-letter>

Pullen Photos Needed!

We have received much positive feedback about seeing the faces of our congregation during livestream worship services.

Starting in January, look for a slideshow on Sunday mornings between 10:45 and 11:00am prior to the start of worship.

We would love to have some new pictures. Show us what you are up to these days! We miss seeing your faces!

Please email any pictures of you or your family to Bryan Lee at blee@pullen.org, or share your photos on social media and tag #pullenchurch.

*If you do not wish to appear on the slideshow, please email Bryan Lee to let him know.



History of Emmaus House Report Now Available

In the winter of 1983-1984 two men froze to death in vacant lots in Raleigh. With no local government city or county brick-and-mortar response to homelessness until five years later in 1989, a number of local churches led by Pullen Memorial Baptist Church established homeless mission groups and even opened their buildings as overnight shelters beginning in January 1985. Their consciences declared that “No one should ever freeze to death for lack of shelter.”

The initiating leaders from Pullen church included Jim Hutchby, Paul Carr, John Hilpert, Larry Highfill, Nancy Jones, and Bill and Debbie Bennett Reynolds. Other active early participants included Bob Cato, Jonathan Sledge, Brooks Wicker, Renee Keever, and Barbara Smalley-McMahan.

Report Overview:

Chapter 1 is a chronology from 1965 to 2020. It includes the 1987 opening of the first Emmaus House and the opening of four additional Emmaus Houses in 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2019. It traces the mission from “shelter for homeless men” to “a safe, affordable, supportive

community for men in transition to self-sufficiency” who have been clean and sober for at least six months and who have a job.

Chapter 2 is about the spiritual and Biblical bases of the Emmaus House project. The name was chosen based on the epiphany of two of Jesus’ followers on the day after his resurrection as recorded in Luke 24:13-16 and 30-31. Their epiphany was that Jesus is encountered in “the stranger” and also that they were being called to an innovative new life in Jerusalem instead of returning to their old familiar life in their hometown of Emmaus.

Chapter 3 describes the lives of selected residents. Chapter 4 is about funding sources. And Chapter 5 is the most useful chapter of all because it contains “Advice from Emmaus House Organizers to Anyone Seeking to Organize a Similar Project.”

The title of the report is “*The Five Houses on Raleigh’s Emmaus Road: Jesus Called Us: A Record of Discernment: Inspired by Jim Hutchby and Compiled by Dan Figgins.*” The cover design is by James Crook. The project would never have come to fruition without the publishing expertise and dedicated persistence of Carol Majors.

The report is available online on the Emmaus House website and also on the Pullen website under “Missions and Outreach.” <https://pullen.org/missions-outreach/emmaus-house/>. It is also available free of charge in a printed and bound format, mailed to you by request from the Pullen Church Administrator, [Lucy Kucmierz](#), from the author, [Dan Figgins](#), or from the Emmaus House director, [Joe Demuro](#).

-Dan Figgins

Grant Received!

We are pleased to announce that Pullen has successfully acquired a grant from Wake County Waste Management to continue our momentum in properly managing our waste so that less of it goes into the landfill. The grant of \$6000 will be used for: (1) purchasing more clearly labeled (and more attractive!) receptacles for compost, recycling and landfill waste, with proper signage that will help people understand where to put different kinds of waste; and (2) educational materials and programming for all ages of the congregation regarding proper waste management and its importance. The funding will be used between January and June 2021. While we are not personally in church right now, we hope that these new receptacles and materials will help get us back on the right track once we are able to join each other once again.

If you are interested in helping with the implementation of this grant, please contact [Karen Delahunty](#) or Ann Eller (anneller57@gmail.com).





Music Ministry Notes

See the Music Ministry Video Series: "May a Song Remain Within You" on periodic Fridays as a part of Pullen's Weekend Connections. The episodes contain a variety of musical items of interest and are also showcased on the Music Ministry page of the Pullen website.

Persons interested in participating with the Chancel Choir or Pullen Orchestra during their bi-monthly Zoom gatherings are invited to contact Minister of Music, Larry Schultz for additional information and Zoom link. (lschultz@pullen.org). -Larry Schultz

Notes and News from the Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN)

Reconciliation is at the heart of the ministries of the Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN), and the members of this global network found many reasons and ways to remain active in 2020, despite lockdowns and travel restrictions. Note that Pullen joined the CCN in 1977, which makes it our oldest international partnership. Here are some highlights.

Pilgrimages – Felicia Roper, Cathy Tamsberg, Brian Crisp, and Erin Newton participated in the first-ever virtual CCN pilgrimage: half-days led by the Coventry Cathedral staff on Zoom Oct 14–16. The agenda included information sharing, discussions in breakout groups, prayers, presentations from each organization represented, and online cathedral services. Other participants joined from Cape Town, Brussels, Houston, Swansea and Cardiff in Wales, Oxfordshire and London in the UK, and Leipheim in Germany. Two clergy participants—one from Leipzig, formerly East Germany; and the other from South Africa—jointly led a session on "Confronting Racial Injustice with Reconciliation: The Role of the Litany of Reconciliation." Coventry will continue offering this option going forward; read about the next virtual pilgrimage, April 28–30, 2021, at www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/pilgrimage. Hopeful plans are afoot for a large in-person members' gathering in May–June 2022, and a youth international gathering a month or so later, to commemorate the 60th (diamond) anniversary of the consecration of the new cathedral in 1962.

CCN–North America board meeting – Erin and Brian attended the virtual (Zoom) annual board meeting of the Community of the Cross of Nails–North America, Nov 18. The group shared activities and events from our own backyards, from around the network, and at the cathedral.

"CCN Thought for the Week," <http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/thought-for-the-week/> – This is a great place to find regular updates from individual contributors about goings-on across the international network. During 2020, CCN–NA President Robert Childers (weeks of Jun 6 and Jul 7) and Brian Crisp (week of Aug 3) wrote about the many heightened moral crises in the US. Coventry's CCN Project Officer Alice Farnhill prepared a lovely and full retrospective (week of Dec 18), "[A look back on 2020 for the CCN.](#)"

Coventry was named UK City of Culture for 2021, and the cathedral community will be in the thick of it. A sampler: As a kickoff event, a public ice rink ("Coventry Glides") was installed in the ruins in early Dec 2020. Joseph Epstein sculptures and statues, some huge, will be on loan for display on the cathedral grounds. Regrettably, one of the irreplaceable glass angel panels in the huge West Screen, etched by artist John Hutton, was smashed by burglars in Jan 2020; in 2021, that space will be resurrected with a succession of temporary art installations. Composers, writers, instrumentalists, and vocalists are working on a contemporized version of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* (the original premiered at the cathedral's consecration in 1962).

CCN Sunday – The fourth Sunday in September each year is designated as "CCN Sunday," a day that members and partners can observe, somewhat like World Communion Sunday. The question has been asked: Could CCN–NA (that would include Pullen!) lead the preparation of shareable resources for CCN Sunday in 2021?

—Erin Newton, for the Pullen Cross of Nails Reconciliation Fellowship



Time to Pledge

A time when things are different,
a time when they are the same.



Call to Action: Please Pledge to Support Pullen in 2021!

Over the past couple of months you have been hearing from many Pullenites as to why they continue to support Pullen financially. As Stewardship Chair, I want to share now an update about where we are as a church community when it comes to 2021 Pledging. So far, we have only 171 pledge units (households/individuals/family units). This is about 30 pledges below where we were at the same time last year. While giving patterns certainly change year to year for many, generally, over the last many years we need to reach the 275 pledging unit threshold in order to say we have “pledged the budget”.

End of 2020 Financials

Though we have not closed the books on 2020, here's an update on our current financial position.

- ⇒ 2020 Contributions: \$1,096,605.60
- ⇒ SBA PPP Grant: \$127,000
- ⇒ 2020 Expenses: \$1,136,898.96
- ⇒ Difference: \$86,706.70

2020 Pledges

- ⇒ Pledged: \$1,094,112.00
- ⇒ Received: \$1,063,647.27
- ⇒ Difference: -\$30,464.73

So, if you have been waiting to see how 2020 played out before making your pledge, here's your CALL TO ACTION: IF YOU ARE ABLE, PLEASE PLEDGE TO SUPPORT PULLEN IN 2021 (@onrealm.org). Please ensure continuation of all the amazing ministry work Pullen performs. We need you and can't wait until we can connect again - regularly - in-person. Until then, know Pullen and its people are continuing to fight the good fight. Thanks for all of your support!

-Jim Zupancic, Stewardship Chair

2021 Budget Pledging	2021 Budget: \$1,191,822
Percent of Budget Pledged:	Pledged to Date: \$653,524
55%	Number of Pledges: 171

2021 Pledge Update

It's easy to pledge! To make a pledge to support Pullen in 2021 you can visit pullen.org/pledge, enter your pledge through your REALM account, or mail your pledge card to the church.

To give through your church REALM account:

- 1) Log in and select Giving
- 2) Manage Payment Methods
- 3) Add Payment Method
- 4) Select Checking or Credit Card and complete.

IMPORTANT UPDATE to those already giving monthly through credit card or auto payment.....

If you have previously set up an auto draft or make a payment through PayPal you will need to set up your account information in REALM. You can set this up easily by logging into your REALM account or contacting Lucy.

If you need assistance with pledging or Realm, please contact Lucy at the church office 919.828.0897, ext 224 or Lkucmierz@pullen.org





Hope Center

Happy New Year! We hope you had a restful and rejuvenating holiday season.

Transition Program Angel Tree

Thank you for all you did to help bring the joy of the holidays to our young adults and their children. If you missed the video of our holiday celebration, you can [check it out here](#). Because of your generosity, 20

young adults and 10 children had presents to unwrap together over the holidays. Thank you!!

Teen Program Holiday Celebration

Our teens are spread across Wake County and are especially prone to profound loneliness over the holidays. We wanted to make sure they had moments of joy and connectedness this holiday season. Our staff delivered 27 holiday packages to the doorsteps of our teens with invitations to a holiday zoom party, complete with a Gingerbread House decorating contest and a DJ. Our teens loved it!!



Annual Appeal Update

We are BLOWN AWAY. We raised over 125% of our Annual Appeal goal. We have no idea how long it will take the economy to rebound in 2020, but your jaw-dropping generosity means that we can assure our clients that they will continue to have every bit of support they need to stay housed and on the road to safe & stable futures. THANK YOU!!! *-Erin Witcher*

ONE Wake Update

[ONE Wake](#) is a non-partisan coalition of congregations (including Pullen) and other organizations working together toward equitable education, affordable housing and living wages in Wake County.

Downtown South Project

Many of you joined ONE Wake's action to call for the Raleigh City Council not to approve the rezoning application for the Downtown South Project until more community benefits were guaranteed. By now you likely know that the council voted 7-1 to approve rezoning. While efforts did not result in securing all that was hoped for, the pressure did result in binding commitments for stormwater protection and some affordable housing where none was previously offered. There is still work to do as the developer will be requesting taxpayer subsidies for the project. This will be another opportunity to advocate for more community benefits. Stay tuned!

Dates to Remember

- **Education Team Meeting**
Thursday, January 21, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
[More Information and Registration Available Here](#)
- **Affordable Housing Team Meeting**
Tuesday, January 26, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
[More Information and Registration Available Here](#)
- **ONE Wake Internal Assembly**
Thursday, February 25, 7:30 - 9:00 pm
[More Information and Registration Available Here](#)



Advent Mission Offering Continues through January 31

Your Advent offerings will go to places around the world where they will make a difference. Checks not designated to a specific international partner will be divided equally among:

- AMOS Health and Hope, Nicaragua
- Community of the Cross of Nails, UK
- First Baptist Church of Matanzas, Cuba
- Peace Cathedral of Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia
- Zimbabwe Theological Seminary, Zimbabwe



Please mail your Advent offering to:

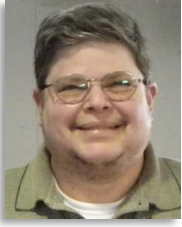
Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

1801 Hillsborough St

Raleigh, NC 27605

Welcome New Pullen Members!

Are YOU interested in joining Pullen? Please reach out! Pullen 101 info on page 2.



Chris T. Schwertman

I was born and raised at Pullen Church from 1955 to 1982. My father, Elmer Schwertman, taught in the adult Sunday School program and served on the Board of Deacons. I was an active member in my teens and twenties, and enjoyed singing in the choir under Geraldine Cate and serving on the Worship Committee. From 1982 to 2020, I moved to New York where I did graduate work in English and then taught Introduction to Literature, Composition, LGBT Literature, Mythology, The Goddess in World Religions, and Bible as Literature for thirty years at Nassau Community College. I am an out, proud, transgendered individual who identifies as "two-spirit." I recently retired back to Raleigh and am looking forward to reconnecting with my Pullen family.

Why did you choose Pullen? The Pullen Church community nurtured my difference as a child and made me feel special. It was from my Pullen family that I experienced and learned about God's unconditional love. When my mother was murdered in 1981, I dreamed I was in a boat with members of my Pullen family, crossing a lake. I wanted to go back to save my mother, but they put their arms around me and said, "No, you are with us now."

How do you imagine yourself growing with this community? I see myself growing in spirit and in love, through authentic and respectful relationships with others, as we walk this faith journey together. I see the Pullen community as a place where I will be spiritually and personally challenged.



Brian Thacker

I was an Air Force brat for 14 years of my youth, so no hometown. My partner and I have been together for thirteen happy years. I have been employed by Wake County Public School System for fifteen years.

Why did you choose Pullen? I was drawn by the open-mindedness, acceptance of all, and the focus on experiencing God your way without judgement.

How do you imagine yourself growing with this community? To start I imagine getting to know the people and culture better. As I get more comfortable I want to get involved in charitable efforts and maybe even come up with new ways to share my gifts.



Pullen Memorial Baptist Church
1801 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27605

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

