



## Staffing Update from Personnel Committee

Over the past sixteen months of the pandemic, our ministerial and administrative staffs have worked incredibly hard continuing to deliver and support Pullen’s missions and goals, while being attentive to its congregants and the larger community. Based on intense study and careful consideration, the Personnel Committee has determined that some changes to the administrative staff’s work, including certain staff position changes, will better meet the church’s needs going forward. We want to share with you the following position changes:

- Facilities Manager Warren Chesson requested a reduction in hours from 30 to 22 per week. He and Sylvanda have completed major work on the Cox Avenue building, along with contractors, and it is felt this reduction in hours is appropriate. Warren will continue to be on call for any facility emergencies.
- Custodian Sylvanda Judd will continue to work a 40-hour week, though some of Sylvanda’s normal duties will not resume until the church fully re-opens to members and outside groups. Sylvanda is being trained on all systems at the Cox Avenue building and the church’s buildings, so will be familiar with operations at all of our owned facilities.
- Administrative Assistant Kiara Ruth’s hours have been reduced from 20 to 15 per week. Kiara will be in the office 3 hours a day, usually in the mornings, assisting the staff. She will also continue to support Nancy Petty in her many responsibilities.

Communications Specialist Dana Deaton currently works 18 hours per week producing and managing church publications and email outreach, including the church’s several social media platforms, and managing the church website.

Minister with Youth and their Families Bryan Lee works part-time with assistance from Dana and several volunteer members (Nathan and Henry Powers and Erich and Jack Rakestraw) to manage the livestreaming functions. Bryan troubleshoots any technical difficulties in that process.

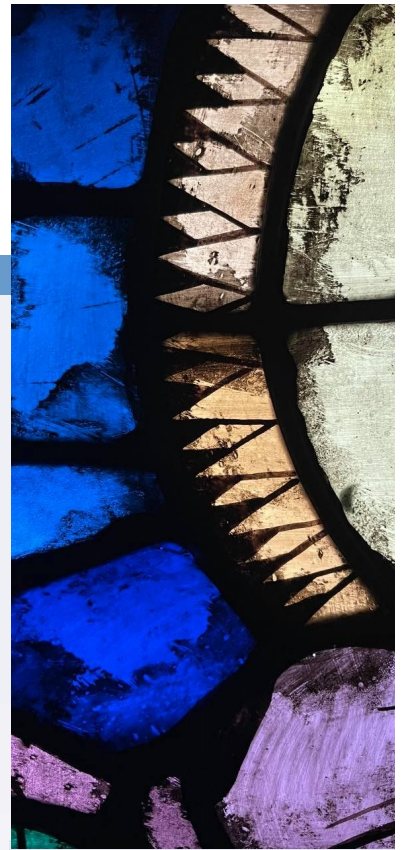
The church’s communications and Information technology needs have been studied by the Personnel Committee for several years. We believe that it is now appropriate to make some changes, expanding and improving our communications and IT efforts. Thus the functions of the Communications Specialist position have been reconfigured into a position titled Communications Director. The individual hired for this position will work 32 hours per week, consolidating the current part-time duties and expanding opportunities to better promote PMBC to its congregation and broader communities.

Both the Coordinating Council and Finance Committee have approved this reorganization of responsibilities. Funding for this newly configured Communications Director position will have minimal impact on the budget due to the consolidation and reconfiguration of other part-time staff positions.

The job announcement and description have been posted on the church web site and several external employment opportunity web sites. We hope to fill this position as soon as possible.

These changes do not require congregational votes to implement, but we hope for your support. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Nancy F. Jones, Chair of Personnel, [nfjones@gmail.com](mailto:nfjones@gmail.com) or Bob Harris, Co-Chair, at [snagaiag@aol.com](mailto:snagaiag@aol.com).

-Nancy F. Jones



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## Finance Update

Contributions for June were \$81,603.39, this includes a 2020 carryover of \$7,818.20.

Remember you can give on-line through the Pullen website, through the mobile Realm app, or through your Realm account.

**As of June 30, 2021**

**Contributions:**

**\$ 568,320.24**

**Expenses:**

**\$ 565,611.59**

**Difference:**

**\$ 2,708.65**

## Midyear Statements

Midyear contribution statements will be sent out over the next few weeks.

You can always review your contributions through your Realm account.

If you have any questions please contact me at: [Lkucmierz@pullen.org](mailto:Lkucmierz@pullen.org).

–Lucy Kucmierz  
Church Administrator

## Music Ministry Update

### Behind the Scenes of the “Commonwealth of Love” Project

This year’s Pentecost service led by the Music Ministry premiered a special recording by Pullen’s Chancel & Youth Choir voices. Though Music Ministry Groups recorded music during the pandemic using simple applications, this project used a more involved process to produce a video that not only includes words and music, but visual imagery and filmed footage to interpret the song and express its story-line.

The video’s song, “Commonwealth of Love,” is now a familiar Pullen anthem as it won our 2015 Church Music Search. We were grateful to reconnect with the anthem’s composer, Chris O’Hara, who, from his home in the UK, provided us with a new arrangement and instrumental accompaniment for the recording. In addition, Chris edited the audio for the project – a lengthy process combining each individual singer’s recording into one balanced choral sound. We were also delighted to have Chris add his image and voice to the project.

Following audio work, came the video editing done locally by Justin Allen, known to Pullen through his participation and work as media technician at Kirk of Kildaire, Presbyterian, Cary. Justin’s video editing effectively combined with the audio to present the song’s story-line.



(above) Recent videos from the Pullen Music Ministry, produced by Larry Schultz for livestream services during the COVID-19 quarantine.

Influenced by the anthem, the word “commonwealth” has become a meaningful word at Pullen to reference the kind of community we wish to be. The song speaks of our building a commonwealth of justice, freedom and peace together and for all people. The anthem’s music supports this idea by including an eclectic mix of middle-eastern, gospel and jazz influences. The interpretive visuals in the video begin with an image of downtown Raleigh, from Pullen’s sanctuary art, and footage of busy Hillsborough Street (representing the setting where Pullen resides and from where the church moves out to build a commonwealth for all). Looking closely, one can see signs requiring masks on a passing city bus, historically noting the time of pandemic in which this video was made. Footage from the Poteat Chapel Labyrinth interprets the song’s words about difficult journeys and times of searching. Images of the shining sky seen through the chapel’s windows and a green tree through its open door symbolically express the text’s emphasis on light, love and hope. The end of the video sweeps the viewer up from the Pullen sanctuary of worship, past the communion table and chancel fountain, dissolving through the church walls, back to busy Hillsborough Street, concluding with a view toward downtown. The combined visual imagery seek to express the connected and cyclical nature of worship and ministry as a “commonwealth” is built both within our community and beyond.

*Because our congregation can freely use “Commonwealth of Love,” Pullen participants, groups, councils and committees are encouraged to use the video in creative ways to enhance gatherings, various ministries and church events. It is the hope of the Pullen Music Ministry that this project helps to “tell our story” and promotes the good work of Pullen among ourselves and with others. The video may be accessed and downloaded from [pullen.org/music](http://pullen.org/music).*  
-Larry Schultz



## Meet us on Zoom for a Summer Group!

### Summer Education Groups: Reorienting Beyond Covid July 14 - July 28

As we anticipate a world where COVID-19 becomes less of a threat and restrictions begin to ease, the Adult Education Committee has been working diligently to develop a Summer Education Series that will inspire and challenge a wide-range of attendees. This year's series was planned intentionally to examine and strengthen our personal and corporate lives as we come out of this pandemic. As not to impede with Sunday worship, we are moving our time to Wednesday evenings from 6:15 - 7:30 pm. To bring us closer to our normal rhythm of a lighter schedule for mid-week gatherings in the summer, we will suspend The Table in June, July and August. We will have a gathering time before we feature members of our community. The following topics will be covered:

#### July 14: Practices and Practicalities July 28: Reorienting and Reshaping Our World

These offerings are meant to encompass a wider scope of education as Pullen strives to support people in a full-body experience. Each session will take place on Zoom and registration is required. A component of the Summer Series will have people assigned to small groups. These small groups will meet each session as a means to offer people a way to foster and strengthen community. Please watch for announcements in the newsletter and on social media.



-Adult Education Committee



## Join us for Dinner! Monday, July 26

The next Pullen Women's Group will be held on Monday, July 26 at 6 pm. at Neomonde's (3817 Beryl Rd, Raleigh). Join us for a fun get together!

RSVP by calling or texting Rita Rakestraw 919-360-0975

## Joys and Concerns

- Bob and Holly Harris in the birth of their first grandchild. Yuna Amalia Harris was born to parents, Jonathan and Yumi on May 3 at Mt Sinai West Hospital in NYC.

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- Julie Gilbert and her family in the loss of her father, James Cochrane who passed away on June 14 at the age of 93. His service was held on June 26 in Greensboro.
- Ted Purcell passed away at home on June 24. Ted had been a member of this community for over 40 years, and remained active for as long as his health allowed. We hold Ted in our hearts and we hold his wife, Julie, in our prayers.



# It's a busy summer for Pullen Kids!

Join us on **Wednesday, July 21** at Pullen from **9 am - 5 pm** as **PULLEN KIDS**, rising 1st through 6th graders, enjoy a fun, splashy day of mostly "WET" activities!!!



- ⇒ Children will need to wear a mask when inside Pullen.
- ⇒ Children should come wearing a swim suit and water shoes, and sun block, kids will apply more during the day as needed.
- ⇒ Bring a towel and change of clothes for dryer activities during the afternoon.
- ⇒ Children will need to bring a water bottle and a bag lunch.

Drop off at the church begins at 8:30 am and all children must be picked up by 5:30 pm.

Sign up for this fun activity by contacting Tommy Cook at [tcook@pullen.org](mailto:tcook@pullen.org).

After signing up, you will receive a children's participation form along with safety guidelines for children, volunteers and staff.



**August 2-6**  
**9 am - 5 pm @ Pullen**  
**Rising 1st through 6th Graders**  
**NO COST!**



JOIN US FOR CAMP!

Creative Arts Camp is an alternative to traditional Vacation Bible School programs. It is designed to be a thoughtful, theologically-sound blueprint for building an experience that meets the needs of kids, leaders, and your church community. Children will experience art through music, story telling, visual art, drama and movement.

Sign up for this free activity by scanning the qr code or by contacting Tommy Cook at [tcook@pullen.org](mailto:tcook@pullen.org).

It has been **AWESOME** to see our children back at Pullen! We are doing all we can to be prepared and safe for those who feel comfortable coming back, but we need your help.

**IMPORTANT SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS!!** In order for us to have sufficient care for your children, **PLEASE** let me know if you are bringing babies, toddlers or Pre-K children so we can have paid caregivers **JUST FOR THEM**. **ALSO**, if you are bringing young elementary age children, **I MAY HAVE** a planned Children's Worship planned **IF I KNOW THEY ARE COMING IN ADVANCE**. I would like this **WELCOME BACK** experience to be good for your child and you, so **email**, **text** or **call** me and I'll make sure your babies, toddlers, pre-K children and elementary aged children have something **JUST FOR THEM!**



-Tommy Cook [tcook@pullen.org](mailto:tcook@pullen.org) (919) 333-4248 (text or call)

# ONE Wake Update

ONE Wake is a non-partisan, multi-ethnic, multi-issue group of religious congregations, associations, and other non-profits in the Wake County area. As a member institution we commit to showing up for our neighbors especially around the issues of educational equity, living wages and affordable housing.

## Introducing 10,000 STRONG

At the June 10 Annual meeting, ONE Wake member organizations ratified a 10,000 voter power strategy to get our elected officials to work to build homes that people can actually afford, form real pathways to better jobs, and ensure equity and opportunity for all of our students. Here are some specific ways we're calling on officials around the county to make this happen.

### Cary

- Prioritize the budget so that a penny of the Town's tax rate goes toward creating and preserving affordable housing;

### Raleigh

- Create a new property tax subsidy program to prevent rising property taxes from displacing low income homeowners;
- Designate over 100 acres of city owned land for affordable housing;

### Wendell

- Use county land in the West Town neighborhood of Wendell for affordable housing and other amenities;

### Wake Forest

- Preserve manufactured housing through resident-owned cooperatives in Wake Forest;

### Countywide

- Grow the Barriers Removal Program at WakeTech to provide more cost of living scholarships for students in workforce development courses;
- Address inequities in Wake County Public Schools relating to learning loss, teaching conditions, mental health, and access to technology.

This [issue agenda](#) was formed through over 3,600 grassroots conversations within our member institutions and the communities that surround them. Regardless of the timing of the next municipal election, ONE Wake is committed to holding our elected leaders accountable with the 10,000 STRONG strategy.

Here's how you can help: this summer every ONE Wake member institution is asked to collect at least 200 pledges from Wake County residents who commit to supporting our [grassroots agenda](#) and who also commit to vote in their next municipal election. Sign up at the link below, and let us know we can "count you in"!

[onewake.org/10000strong](http://onewake.org/10000strong)

*-Noel Lichtin, Pullen Core Team Member*

Please contact me if you are interested in connecting to the work of ONE Wake.

*-Chalice Overy  
coverey@pullen.org*



# Updates from The Hope Center

## Join us in the Sanctuary this Sunday!

During June we opened in-person worship for 100 people. Our online registration process worked well and allowed us an opportunity to slowly reopen the church.

Starting Sunday July 4, you will no longer need to register, as we welcome you to attend church each Sunday. Please follow the Covid-19 protocols outlined on our web page. Masks and distancing are required.

We know that some of you aren't ready to resume in-person worship. Our worship services will be livestreamed each Sunday on our website and Facebook page.

### Visit

<http://pullen.org/reopening>

## Office Volunteers

We are ready to welcome back our office volunteers. If you were a volunteer pre-pandemic or if you would like to volunteer now, please send me an email with days and times you are available.

[lkucmierz@pullen.org](mailto:lkucmierz@pullen.org)

*-Lucy Kucmierz, Church Administrator*

### We're Moving!!

HCP is moving to the Cox Avenue building! We can't wait to start using the additional space. When new clients come in, we'll have space to have private conversations. Clients can hone their skills in the computer lab and relax in our "family room." We're so thrilled that this move keeps us close to Pullen and all the people who've made our growth possible. We can't wait to have y'all over to warm the new space.

Our clients are excited, too! We already had the opportunity to host an outdoor Youth Advisory Board meeting in front of the building, pictured below:



### Summer Internship Program and Transportation Volunteers

It's been amazing to have our teens in foster care back in internships! They are all over Wake County working alongside videographers, beauticians, and nonprofit professionals while they learn the skills needed to be successful in the workplace. We're so grateful for everyone who is supporting our youth.

We're halfway through the summer and will continue to need transportation volunteers through the middle of August. We'd love your help getting interns to and from their individual job sites. If you're interested in learning more about how you can help, please email Delana at:

[depps-avery@hopecenteratpullen.org](mailto:depps-avery@hopecenteratpullen.org).

### Celebrating Housing

In June, another Hope Center participant got the news that she was approved for her housing voucher. She cried with relief and joy when we told her the news. She and her daughters will be moving out of a hotel room and into their first apartment. While living at the hotel she has earned her GED, been working at a job, and started a certificate program. We're thrilled that her hard work paid off and look forward to her move-in day!

*-Erin Witcher*

# The Linear Economy Vs. the Circular Economy of Waste

## A Focus on One Local Company's Efforts

Increasing our impact on the health of our planet can be achieved in how we operate our homes and businesses. For example, in addition to reducing our carbon footprint through the use of sustainable energy sources, composting and where we invest our money, we can also make an impact through our shopping habits. Making choices which reduce packaging waste are one of the ways we can make a difference. Recently an article in Walter Magazine focused on this important shift in consumer habits by featuring a local company that helps individuals and companies shift to a more sustainable approach to shopping. Their approach can be described as following the circular economy of waste.



*"The way that most people consume goods is the manufacturer makes something that gets sold to a store, you take it home, consume it, and then it gets thrown away, composted or recycled. That's the linear economy of waste. The circular economy is where you have the vessel or packaging for the good, you take it home and use the good, then you take it back to the manufacturer and it's used again, which promotes reuse versus disposal." Interviewed in Walter Magazine in April 2020, Alyssa Cherry, founder of Fillaree, a Durham company specializing in sustainable soaps and cleaning products, describes her company mission and operational approach. "It's about feeling empowered and having control over the impact that you're making on the environment and the planet. While we can do a lot of things to reduce our carbon footprint, like reusable coffee cups and bags, when it comes to other consumables like food, body care, personal care and household items, it's difficult to consume in a way you feel good about. That's why refillable soap is so important. Plastic pollution is a huge problem—China has stopped taking all of our imported recycled plastics—and we all need soap, especially these days! We all need to be washing our hands to keep our bodies healthy and families safe. But you don't always need to buy a new container every time." "Subscribers to the refill program receive a 32 ounce vessel of liquid soap, refill their containers, then send it back to Fillaree in a prepaid envelope where it's washed, sanitized and re-filled, and then shipped off to its next destination." Customers can subscribe or not and also purchase and refill their products at the Durham store. Many of the products are also sold in Raleigh at The Zen Succulent, at Green 4 Life in Cary, the Durham Food Co-op and at many other locations.*

If you are interested in finding out more you can visit this site <https://fillaree.com/pages/contact-us> Listed are participating stores and sustainably responsible companies which use Fillaree. Several other companies that are committed to reducing waste can be found at the online bulk directory called Litterless, <https://www.litterless.com/online-zero-waste-bulk-shopping>.

-Grace Evans, Pullen Earth Ministry



## Young Adults—we hope to see you soon!

### Fourth Sunday Lunch— July 25

Join us for this casual time to connect at The Players' Retreat (105 Oberlin Rd) after church on July 25. We will gather at the front door of the church and walk over together. Players' Retreat does require your COVID-19 vaccination card for some seating areas, so bring yours if you can.

Contact Philip Taff for more information: [philipctaff@gmail.com](mailto:philipctaff@gmail.com)

### Kayaking at Lake Johnson—August 14

Mark your calendars for some fun on the water! We will rent kayaks (or you can bring your own) and paddle around Lake Johnson on Saturday, August 14 at 11:00 am. Afterwards we will find a place to have lunch together.

Please RSVP on Realm by August 6 so we know how many kayaks to reserve.

Contact Chalice Overy for more information: [covevery@pullen.org](mailto:covevery@pullen.org)



# Housing All Peer Advocates Needed!

In October of 2020 the **Housing All** fund began as a collaborative partnership between First Baptist and Pullen Memorial Baptist Churches. Both congregations were independently helping their neighbors in need with rental and utility assistance. However, the sheer volume of those needing assistance was too much for the churches to shoulder independently. We hope that this fund can grow to be a multi-church, inter-faith effort, with congregations partnering together across Wake County. We believe that we can do more together than we can apart.

To help us meet our goal of keeping families together in their homes, we need volunteers as peer advocate support. Peer Advocates are responsible for answering voice mail, assisting with financial request intake, and providing accessible resources to people seeking help.

We will be holding several **Housing All volunteer** trainings in July. You need to attend only one training session. Trainings will be held in the Pullen church library from 1:30-3 pm on the following Mondays:

- ◆ **July 12**
- ◆ **July 19**
- ◆ **July 26**

Contact Brian Crisp, [bcrisp@pullen.org](mailto:bcrisp@pullen.org), for more information or to sign up for the training.  
*-Brian Crisp*

Housing All has one goal: **Keeping families together in their homes.**



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

