

May news & updates



Upcoming Events
See what's happening this month.

Financial Update

As of March 31, 2024* Income: \$427,518 Expenses: \$318,073 Difference: \$109,445

*Financials are updated on the 10th of the month for the previous month.

Breaking News: 2024 Summer Sunday Series A Star-Studded Line-up Theme: The City in which we Live, Move, and Have our Being Sundays at 9:30 am in Finlator Hall

Following our summer tradition of having one Sunday group in the summer for all adults, we have invited a "star-studded" line-up of Raleigh leaders to come share their perspectives on what's happening in our city. Each guest comes from an institution or organization that is vital to the city in which we live, move, and have our being—The City of Oaks. They will share how their institution or organization is making a difference in Raleigh, what plans they are making for the future, and how a church like ours can be a good neighbor and/or partner. You might ask, "Why is it important for us as a church to hear from these leaders?" As we move forward with our strategic plan over the next several years, hearing and learning about what is happening around us will help guide how we continue to respond to the needs around us. Hearing from these leaders will help us assess if we are focusing in the right directions or if we need to adjust some of our priorities.

So, without further delay, here is the line-up of guests for the month of June. Speakers from three other organizations are still being confirmed for July. On August 4 and 11, the Deacons will guide us in reflecting on what we heard and learned from our guest speakers.

June 2 – Chancellor Randy Woodson, Chancellor of North Carolina State University

June 9 – Nic Neptune, Dix Park Conservancy

June 16 - Maggie Cane, A Place at The Table

June 23 – Bynum Walter, City of Raleigh Planning Commission

June 30 – Meredith Yuckman, The Hope Center at Pullen

July 7 – No Sunday Group (4th of July weekend)

July 14 - United Arts Council of Raleigh Representative

July 21 – One Wake Representative

July 28 – Interfaith Panel of Religious Leaders

August 4 – Pullen Deacons

August 11 - Pullen Deacons

I know summer is a time of travel and vacation for people, but I hope you will make plans to attend the 2024 Summer Sunday Group series when you are in town. Or better yet, plan your time away so that you are back in town on Sunday. This is a unique opportunity to hear from these city leaders in our "home." Let's have a full house for our kick-off on June 2 and give Chancellor Woodson a generous Pullen welcome. Come learn more about what is happening in the city in which we live, move, and have our being.

-Nancy E. Petty, Pastor

Community Prayer

Jovs and Concerns

Celebrating Joys

- We celebrate with our Communications Director Kate Amesbury who got engaged to her now-fiancé, Kevin Clay, on March 30;
- with Mary Martin whom the UU Fellowship of New Bern voted to install as pastor on March 24;
- with Chalice Overy and Dominique Flemming who were married on April 6;
- and with Walker Eads Pruden who was dedicated with parents, Allie and Jack on April 14

Praying in Loss

- We pray for Jonathan Sledge and Deb Norton in the loss of Jonathan's father, Randall Sledge, who died on April 17, one month after the death of his wife, Dorothy;
- We pray for the family of Miriam Prichard, who passed away on April 14. Miriam's memorial service was held at Pullen on April 27.
- We also hold in prayer Allison and Carl Dahle in the loss of their mother, Anne Dahle, who passed away on April 18. Anne's memorial service was held at Pullen on April 28.
- Finally, we pray for Kevin and Maggie Zeillmann in the loss of Kevin's cousin, Zack. Zack had been very ill with a bacterial infection in his heart. Zack died this week at the age of 34.

Praying with our Community

- We hold in our prayers Gail Chesson. Gail received news this week that the tumor on her kidney is cancer. She will have surgery to remove the kidney with the tumor on May 30. We hold Gail and Warren in prayer.
- We pray for Rita Rakestraw's stepmother, Mona, who had a small stroke;
- for Marilyn Parker who is recovering after knee replacement surgery on April 29;
- and for Jill Hinton's grandson, James, who was hit in the head with a baseball at school. He has stitches in his head and a small crack in his skull. He is at home recovering.

Praying for our World

We pray for those facing unimaginable violence across the globe, along with those who bear witness
and continue to raise a cry for peace.

Church wide

Pullen Events



Sunday Groups in May:

Sundays at 9:30 am

Exploring the Bible

May 5, & 12 in Room 307

For the final three weeks of the 2023-24 Sunday Group year in Exploring the Bible:

For May 5, Katie Founds will continue in her Sabbath Series by leading us in looking in depth at one or two of the Gospel stories we read about Jesus healing on the Sabbath, so we can look more closely at context and nuance.

On the 12th, Katie will wrap up her Sabbath Series talking about some basic contemporary Christian and Jewish practices and their connection to Biblical texts.

North Carolina's Political Landscape and a Faith Response

May 5 in Room 203

May 5 – Rev. Rob Stephens will offer his perspective on a faithful response to the moral issues impacting this election, specifically in North Carolina. Rob will also discuss ways that people of faith can be involved in our state and national elections. Rob is an organizer with Repairers of the Breach and the Poor People's Campaign. He also served on Cheri Beasley's campaign for US Senate. Rob is a dear friend of Pullen Church.

Eco-Theology and Eco-Spirituality 101: Part 2

May 5 in Room 310

Rev. Ian McPherson will lead part 2 of the Eco-Theology 101 class lifting up some Biblical and Christian theo-ethical approaches to environmental justice and creation care. Together we will encounter artists, activists, church leaders, and scholars who will embolden our faithful response to the climate crisis and reconnect us with our faith's deep reverence for God's Creation.

Intentional Transition

May 12 & 19 in Room 203

At the time of a death, there are so many stressors. The grief, itself, is overwhelming. Overlay the grief with having to attend to all the aspects of a burial, funeral/memorial service, and other necessary details, a family can quickly become overwhelmed. After almost 40 years of being with families in times of death, I have noticed that the more intentional a person can be about their wishes upon their death it can truly be a gift to their loved ones. Things like having prepared a draft of the obituary, writing down wishes for burial (cremated or buried), memorial service, and other vital information to help the grieving family in remembering and celebrating the life of their loved one.

This two-session Sunday Group, facilitated by our pastor, will be a practical workshop on intentional planning around death. We will discuss the common structure of an obituary and spend some time writing down important transitions in our lives. We will also work through a worksheet on planning a funeral/memorial service. We will also discuss how to communicate to our families our hopes and wishes in our final days.

Open Mic Poetry Reading

May 12 & 19 in the Chapel

Poetry is a way to the heart, mind, and soul often giving expression to our deepest spiritual longings. Our sacred text, the Bible, contains quite a bit of poetry, especially in the Psalms. All throughout history, it has been the sacred writings of poets that have opened our eyes, ears, and hearts to the mystery of both the human and spiritual experience.

In this two-week Open Mic Poetry Reading Sunday group, participants are invited to bring a poem or two to read (original or by your favorite poet) and then briefly share what the poem means to you. This session will be facilitated by Ian McPherson.

-Nancy E. Petty, Pastor



Join us at The Table this month! Our Wednesday evening begins with dinner from 5:30-6:15 pm, and continues with community celebrations, announcements and prayer before we move into our programming for the evening at 6:30 pm. We also offer activities for children and youth. Dinner is \$4 for children (grades K-5), and \$7 for youth (grades 6-12) and adults, with a \$24 cap per family. Check out what's going on in May at The Table!

May 1 - The Critical Race Theory Culture War: Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a widely discussed topic that brings with it many opinions and emotions. What is it, why is it controversial, and why does it matter? Dr. Tirzah Turner, a minister in Cary, takes a look at fact and fiction, misconceptions, different viewpoints, its possible application in other nations, and how to untangle some of the messaging around CRT. Dr. Tirzah Turner; Doctorate of Ministry in the field of practical theology, Drew University; MDiv, Gardner-Webb University; B.M., Carson-Newman University; community pastor at a non-denominational church in Cary and has a particular interest in the intersections of culture, justice and religion. Menu: Vegan Cheeseburgers with Potato Wedges, Salad Bar, and Cookies

May 8 - A Local Approach to Mutual Aid: We will hear from a representative from Raleigh United Mutual Aid Hub (RUMAH), a social center and mutual aid hub located in downtown Raleigh. Their mission is to create a more interconnected community by providing free to sliding scale space to local individuals, grassroots organizations, musicians, artists, and mutual aid organizers. Menu: Taco / Nacho Bar with Tofu/ Be'ef, Pinto, Black beans, Salsa, Guacamole, Sour cream, Salad Bar, and Cookies

May 15 - To be announced. Menu: Baked Ziti with Dinner Rolls, Salad Bar, and Cookies

May 22 - Jammin' for Justice and Joy: For our last Wednesday night program going into summer, the Pullen Pickers and friends are planning a sing-along program for all ages filled with songs designed to uplift, energize and inspire. Bring a friend, your singing voice and tapping foot! Words to songs will be available, and there may also be time for a special request or two. Contact Noelle Schofield or Jim Jarrard with questions or to make a song request. Menu: Breakfast for Dinner with Veg Sausage, Chic'n nuggets, French toast, Hash Browns, Grits, Salad Bar, and Cookies

-Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor



Imagine God! A Multigenerational Worship Experience led by the Children's, Youth & Adult Choirs

May 5, 2024, 11:00 am in the sanctuary

Through story, song, and creative arts, the Children's Choir and Sunday Groups for Kids with the Youth and Adult Choirs have explored many different ways to imagine the divine. Join them this Sunday, May 5, as they lead in imaginative worship through the musical, Imagine God! by Jann Aldredge-Clanton and Larry E. Schultz.

-Larry Schultz, Minister of Music



Join David Disher's Conversation with Pullen Mission Women about the Food and Nutrition Program at Urban Ministries

Tuesday, May 7 at 10:00 am on Zoom - contact Pat Long for the link

How does Pullen work to reduce local food insecurity? One way is our long partnership with Urban Ministries of Wake County (urbanmin.org). In addition to giving through the Mission and Outreach budget, we collect nonperishable food at Pullen's Finlator entrance for the Food and Nutrition program. Join Pullen Mission Women as we learn about hunger in Wake County, how Urban Ministries addresses the problem, how our contributions are used, and how we can give most effectively. David Disher, director of the Food and Nutrition program, will join us on Zoom on May 7 at 10 AM for an informative discussion. Since the food collection is a church-wide effort, we invite all Pullenites to mark your calendar and join us as you are able! Contact Pat Long for the zoom link. To learn more about Urban Ministries, click here.

-Deb Norton

Pullen Durham Bulls Outing (with Dean John Witcombe of CCN):



May 11 (Deadline May 1) at 6:35 pm at the Durham Bulls Stadium (409 Blackwell St, Durham)

Join Dean John Witcombe of Coventry Cathedral for a rousing game of American baseball! Saturday, May 11 at the Durham Bulls stadium. The cost is \$12.00 per person. Please RSVP and purchase your ticket by Wednesday, May 1. You can sign up and pay here. Please put DURHAM BULLS in the memo line. -lan McPherson, Minister of Social Justice and Students



Pullen Outdoor Weekend Pre-gathering: May 11 at 2:00 pm RSVP for address Pullen Outdoor Weekend:

May 24th -27th at Hanging Rock State Park

Pullen Outdoor Weekend is May 24-27 at Hanging Rock State Park. Each year, a group of Pullenites gathers to camp, eat, hike, and socialize in the great outdoors. The Kasper family is hosting an optional pre-gathering at their home on Saturday, May 11, from 2-4 pm. Confirmed Pullen Outdoor Weekend participants and the

curious-but-not-yet-committed are welcome (There are still a few slots left!). We'll let Kevin Neiley instruct us on the logistics he's perfected from years of organizing Pullen Outdoor Weekend, engage in some light planning, and enjoy each other's company (and snacks). RSVP to elizabethwkasper@gmail.com for the address, or to kneiley1@gmail.com to RSVP for Pullen Outdoor Weekend.

-Liz Kasper

Fall Trip to Matanzas, Cuba Interest Meeting

June 2 at 12:15 pm in 203

Groups from Pullen have been visiting our beloved sister church in Matanzas, Cuba, since the mid-90s. If you have been wanting to experience the deep connections we share with the Primera Iglesia Bautista community and would like to learn more about the next opportunity to go, please join us for an interest meeting immediately after worship on June 2 in Room 203. Travel dates will be November 11-18, and commitments will need to be made by July 15. For more information about this rich opportunity, please contact Jill Hinton or Vickie Leigh.

-Jill Hinton and Vickie Leigh

Pullen News

Celebrating New Members



Kathryn Royal

What are your pronouns? She/her

Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences. I am a Raleigh native, mother of 3 grown children. I am also blessed with three grandchildren. Right now I am working doing gig work, but I also worked in IT for about 25 years.

Why did you choose Pullen? Being a Raleigh native I have known about Pullen and the happenings around it for years. I have always admired how truly everyone is welcome. I have to admit that I was turned off by all the hate I have heard from the pulpit of many churches I have attended. I will always believe in the words of a song that I learned at 4, Jesus loves all the children of the world.

How do you imagine yourself growing with this community? I would love to serve God by helping others as Jesus wants me to do. I am politically active and believe that everyone deserves the same rights and the opportunity to live with dignity. I am just looking for a place where I can do some good and to have a feeling of belonging.

Mark D. Becker

What are your pronouns? He/Him

Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences: Originally from Pgh PA, relocated to Raleigh after retirement in 2021.

Why did you choose Pullen? Love the congregation, staff, church, views & teachings.



How do you imagine yourself growing with this community? Helping where I can.



James Kastner

What are your pronouns? He, Him

Describe yourself in 2-3 sentences. I was born in Pittsburgh, PA and spent 52 years in the beauty business. When I retired, I along with my spouse, Mark, moved to Raleigh.

Why did you choose Pullen? Acceptance for who I am and an atmosphere of respect.

How do you imagine yourself growing with this community? Right now, I'm without a plan, but will seek growth slowly and respectfully.

Promised Land Museum Exhibit in Finlator Hall

May in Finlator Hall

In an effort to continue the work of understanding the history of the Middle East, particularly the relationship of Palestine and Israel, we have secured an exhibit that contains six double-sided panels. It will be on the stage in Finlator this month for all to review and learn at your leisure. It is called the *Promised Land, The Jewish Museum of the Palestinian Experience*. It is on loan to us from Dr. Stephen Feldman, a native of Winston-Salem. Dr. Feldman is an American Jewish physician who has extensively traveled to Israel and Palestine, and he is the curator of this exhibit. Here is a link to preview the exhibit: **Promised Land Museum**.

The exhibit was previously at Binkley Baptist Church in Chapel Hill and will go to Watts Street Baptist Church, in Durham after Pullen in late May.

There will be a sign in sheet at the beginning of the exhibit and we ask that you please sign in. Thanks!

-Elena Ceberio and Tony Quartararo



Needed: Volunteer Coordinator for Pullen's Table at Out! Raleigh Pride 2024

We need someone (or a small team!) willing to lead Pullen's presence at this summer's Pride event in downtown Raleigh on June 22nd. This person/team would work closely with Rev. Ian and Communications Director Kate Amesbury to 1) coordinate volunteers to set up for, table at, and clean up after the event on June 22nd and 2) get the word out about Out! Raleigh

among Pullenites ready to show up (and show out!) for the LGBTQIA+ community of our region. If interested, please reach out to lan at imcpherson@pullen.org or 910.448.1794 as soon as possible!

-lan McPherson, Minister of Social Justice and Students



Thank you to Ella and Catherine for the beautiful new playhouse in the preschool room (room 120). Their hard work will give our kids a space to imagine and explore for years to come. Check it out if you haven't already!

-Shelby Forrest/ Children's Committee!

Administrative Announcements

First Quarter Pledge Statements: First Quarter Pledge Statements went out last week. Please review them and let me know of any discrepancies. If you receive the statement via mail as you requested, please let me know if you're open to receiving it via email to help save the church money with postage costs. I appreciate it!

Fees for Pullen payment options: For Pullen payment options there are methods with no fees and then others which have increasing fees due to convenience or other reasons. Here are the details:

- Cash or Checks No Fees!
- Zelle No Fees!
- Venmo 1.9% + \$0.10 for all credit and debit card transactions.
- Square 2.6% + \$0.10 tapped card or 2.9% + \$0.30 for online card transactions.
- Realm 0.35% + \$0.29 e-checks, 2.6% + \$0.10 online card transactions and \$3.00 returned e-checks, \$0.35 returned online card transactions.

Gregg Museum Parking Announcement: Please do not park at the Gregg Museum except on Sundays from 6 am to 1 pm or if we have been permitted to park there for a specific event or funeral service. We have a parking agreement with the Gregg Museum, and we want to ensure we are being good neighbors and honoring the agreement.

- Vicky Bass, Church Administrator

Pullen Youth Ministry



Mandatory BYC Summer Camp Information Meeting

May 1 at 6:30 pm in 130-H or May 5 at 12:15 pm in 130-H

All youth (and their grownups) interested in returning to or attending BYC this summer will need to attend a quick, mandatory meeting on either Wednesday, May 1st at 6:30 pm OR Sunday, May 5th after worship. Both meetings will be held in the youth room and will cover topics like expectations and covenants, COVID policy, camp costs and dates, camp theme, etc. If your family is not able to attend one of the 2 mandatory meetings, please let Allie know ASAP.

-Allie Pruden, Youth Ministry Coordinator

The Youth Choir joins the Adult and Children's Choirs to lead worship with Imagine God! this Sunday, May 5.

If you've been absent from choir, don't hesitate to join us as we rehearse this Wednesday from 6:00-6:45 pm in the Rehearsal Hall. An additional Imagine God! rehearsal will take place on Saturday, May 4, from 10:00-11:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Following Saturday's rehearsal, the Children's Ministry will provide a pizza lunch! On Sunday, May 5, we will meet at 10:15 a.m. in the Rehearsal Hall. We will not wear robes for this service; plan to wear collared shirts or Festival by the Sea t-shirts and long pants.

-Larry Schultz, Minister of Music



End of School Year Ice Cream Social:

May 22 starting in Finlator Hall at 6:30 pm

Calling all youth to join us on Wednesday, May 22, for dinner in Finlator, followed by a walk to GoodBerry's in The Village District for some custard and fun! RSVP on Realm or by emailing Allie.

-Allie Pruden, Youth Ministry Coordinator



Youth Summer Kickoff Pool Party

June 2 at 12:30 pm (RSVP for Address)

Let's kick off summer break with a pool party at the Rakestraw's home and neighborhood pool after worship on Sunday, June 2nd! The youth ministry will provide hotdogs, burgers, veggie options and buns. Bring a side, dessert, or beverage to share. We'll have the potluck at the Rakestraw home and walk over to the pool. We look forward to seeing everyone (families included) come out! RSVP

Kids Ministry



Imagine God! Rehearsal After Party:

May 4 at 11:30 am - 1:30 pm in Finlator Hall

After Choir rehearsal with Children and Youth, we will have a pizza lunch in Finlator Hall. Weather permitting, children may walk to the YMCA playground for fun and games.

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and Their Families



Camp Pullen:

July 8-12 at 9:00 am-5:00 pm Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Friday

Camp Pullen is hosting another awesome children's day camp this summer! It's a whole week of fun for kids who have finished Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. Our theme this year is all about "What Every Living Thing Needs." We'll be diving into how important it is to take care of our planet and all the living creatures on it. Humans are a part of this amazing creation, but we want to focus on understanding the needs of every living thing - like shelter, food, water, air, and community. And of

course, we'll explore how humans can show compassion towards the more-than-human world when it comes to meeting those needs.

Now, for the logistics. The times for Camp Pullen this summer are 9:00 am - 5:00 pm on Monday -Thursday and 9:00 am to Noon on Friday. Drop-off begins at 8:30 am, and pick-up is by 5:20 pm. Families may pick up children at noon if this works best for their family.

Exciting, right? We can't wait to have a blast with your kids this summer!

Register for Camp Pullen here by June 1!

-Tommy Cook, Minister with Children and Their Families

Around the Pullen Community

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

Parity presents: Pride Peacebuilders: A 3-part series

April 30 - May 18, 2024

Learn More

Grief Workshop from John Parker

Friday, May 3rd, from 9:00 am-3:30 pm at Edenton St. UMC (228 W Edenton St)

Learn More

A Great Cloud of Witnesses: An Exhibition of **Icons by Kelly Latimore**

May 4 at 1:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cary (221 Union St, Cary)

Learn More

Compassionate Care for the Abortion Journey

May 16 at 2:00 pm ET online

Learn More

Child Care for North Carolina Day of Action
May 16 at 10:00 am

Learn More

Worship Service Celebrating the Community of the Cross of Nails

Learn More

May 15 at 8:00 am in the Goodson Chapel (407 Chapel Dr, Durham, NC)

"Bad Faith" Film @ The Rialto in Raleigh:

7:00 pm on May 18th at The Rialto 1(620 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh)

Learn More

WAIT TIL YOU SEE THIS! 2024: Burning Coal Theatre's collaboration with four rising companies/artists

June 5 -23 at 224 Polk St.

Learn More

Attention Knitters and Crocheters: Transitions

Lifecare Hospice Home Volunteers Needed!

Learn More

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

Third Tuesdays at 12:00-12:30 pm

Learn More



May HOST Update

As the spring semester concludes, HOST has seen more referrals for students seeking summer housing. Surprisingly, we are already receiving inquiries for help with housing for the fall semester, revealing some of the ongoing challenges faced by students in securing and maintaining accommodation.

Financial barriers are the biggest obstacle students face, with inadequate aid to cover housing and tuition expenses for many students, particularly those lacking familial support. Additionally, qualifying for leases with limited income poses a hurdle for many full-time students and international students who have visa limitations on where and how much they can work. The absence of guarantors further complicates matters, as landlords often require proof of income or a co-signer, a resource unavailable to many students due to familial circumstances or financial constraints.

Moreover, transitioning between housing arrangements can leave students temporarily without housing. This situation is common among students moving between on-campus and off-campus housing or facing gaps between summer housing and the start of fall leases.

Looking ahead, HOST anticipates a busy summer as it recruits new host homes to accommodate students for the upcoming fall semester. If you want to learn more about the barriers contributing to college student homelessness or want to consider hosting, please register at https://www.hostnc.org/hostinfo for a monthly information session. If hosting is not an option for you, please consider talking to your friends, neighbors, and coworkers about the need to support college students and ask them to consider hosting.

-Libby Stephens, HOST Program Coordinator



May Hope Center Update

Raising Hope, May 2 – We are so thankful for the support from Pullen members for our annual fundraising event. We can't wait to share our fundraising total with you!

Let the Bidding Begin - Silent Auction is Open!

Don't miss out on the chance to win some fun and unique items in the Raising Hope Silent Auction. Items and packages have been donated by businesses and

individuals, which means that <u>100% of the auction proceeds go to our programs</u>! That means that we can help more foster youth...with your help.

Silent auction items will be on display at Raising Hope on May 2, and the auction will close that evening. Even if you can't make it to Raising Hope, you can still participate—the silent auction (and raffles!) are open to the public. <u>Start bidding now!</u>

Here are some sneak peek pics - keep checking the link for new items! You will also get a peek at our live auction items, which you need to be present for to win - so if you don't have your ticket yet, get yours quick. We are almost sold out!

We are hosting a mother's day event on Saturday, May 4 for the moms in our Transition Program. If you would like to contribute gift cards, flower bouquets, or other small gifts, please contact Brittney at bsherley@hopecenteratullen.org.

-Brittney Sherley, Director of Development and Communications the Hope Center at Pullen









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