



“A Gathering of Pastors”

Next Gathering December 9th

(meeting at 12 noon for lunch and at 1 for gathering)

“...where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them.” (*Matthew 18:20*)

We are almost there in confirming our new day of the week and time of day. As of right now, our next gathering will be on December 9th, **meeting at 12 noon for lunch** [location to be announced in next week’s CHATLine] followed at **1 PM for the gathering** at the Presbytery office. Today, we had them coming from as far as 2 hours away, and as close as Hanahan. Join us when you can. We’re on page 130, of Chapter 17 “**Tuesdays**” – starting with, “Sixteen of us—two priests, one rabbi, and thirteen Protestant pastors... sat on metal folding chairs...” I know, it sounds like a joke, but this is very much the way our gatherings go...

“To the Mountain ~ Join the Journey”

As we came to the mountain (Montreat) for our planning retreat, we took some time examining, reflecting, and considering what might be possible as it relates to the year-long study being considered for next year. We spent time in prayer and conversation with God and each other. We are now in the listening-to-God prayer time to see where the Spirit leads, and where the light shines along the way. If you (this is for anyone/everyone – not just pastors) are interested in joining the journey, please contact me by the end of this year. I’ll send some background information and/or get you in touch with one of the other leaders that took part in the retreat to help. If the way be clear and the Spirit leads, we hope to have this study start in January/early February. God’s blessing to you and yours in these Holy Days!

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A GATHERING OF PASTORS

"I can't imagine now not being a pastor. I was a pastor long before I knew I was a pastor. I just never had a name for it. Once the name arrived, all kinds of things, seemingly random experiences and memories, gradually began to take a form..." quote from inside cover **The Pastor ~ A Memoir** by Eugene H. Peterson (author of The Message)

Who: For **Pastors & Commissioned Pastors**.

What: **Reading and Conversation** of Eugene H. Peterson's book, **The Pastor ~ A Memoir**. In this weekly gathering, we will read out loud from the chapters of this book. We will take time to recall, reflect and share some of our own faith journey and experiences of being a pastor. We will share what works best, current challenges, also keeping in mind pastors of smaller congregations during these ever-changing times. For those interested, this might even be a chance to jot down some notes for your own memoir.

When: ~~Each Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:30 AM.~~ Come once a week, come once a month, come when you want, when you can... this is for you. **Next gathering on 12/9/25.** For those who would like to break bread and enjoy a bit more table conversation, **this time we'll start with the food and end with the gathering.**

Where: **Charleston Atlantic Presbytery office** (4701 Park Pl West, North Charleston, 29405) There is still the possibility of satellite versions in other locations (Hilton Head area, Moncks Corner / Orangeburg area, downtown Charleston area, and others).

How: Obtain a copy of **The Pastor ~ A Memoir**, Eugene H. Peterson. It is recommended that each person have their own book in whatever version they prefer, but because we will be reading the material out loud, it is possible to attend a time or two without a book (Achim will keep a couple on hand for following along. Also, if you attend at least three sessions, the book is yours thanks to a donation provided).

Why: As we make our way along this journey of being a pastor, we find that even though we are working with people all the time, **it sometimes is a very lonely journey**. Because of the confidences required and each situation being unique, and because our primary strength & guidance comes from God, some of the "how to" program models of being a pastor simply do not provide the relational resource we gain by our being in a meaningful quality relationship with God and each other. Most importantly, this will be a rest along the way of the journey... **"every step an arrival."**¹

If you plan to attend or have questions contact AchimDaffin@gmail.com or (803) 417-9775.

Also, let Achim know if you would like to be a part of a team to start one of the satellite locations.

¹ **Overland to the Islands**, Denise Levertov, Jonathan Williams, publisher, Highlands 1958, last phrase of title poem.

