



Fall 2022 Newsletter

## [Look Well to the Growing Edge](#)



The Gathering at Washington Street (The Gathering) was established as a mission congregation in Petersburg in 2021 because of limited opportunities for membership and resources to form a traditional congregation in the community. I took the picture above during a Wednesday walk on the Appomattox River Trail. **Do you see the flower sprouting from the rusty spigot of an old tarnished water fountain?** “Such is the Growing Edge” in Petersburg. New life, new blossoms grow amidst decay and neglect. The Gathering works with community members and organizations to cultivate and refresh hope in the city. How do we do this?

For the first twelve months I showed up, listened, and learned what residents had to teach me about their community. They shared hope and challenges, possibilities, and fears.

Our ecumenical leadership team is committed to discern what is ours to do in Petersburg for building God’s kingdom as we work with the community. .

We connect with residents and organizations through community meetings, prayer walks, small group formation, community cookouts, and monthly volunteer service with other organizations. We support Westview Early Childhood Education Center, and donate funds to house unsheltered persons in the winter.



## The Power of Proximity



To change the world, we are each going to have to find ways to get closer to people who ... are living on the margins of society.

Bryan Stevenson

With your prayers and financial support, The Gathering is poised to move closer to the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable residents of Petersburg as we listen to their stories, and build personal relationships that lead to faith. Faith in “God who created humanity in God’s own image” Genesis 1:27 (CEB).

12 to 15 volunteers will dialogue with 50-60 residents who need priority support to better their lives as we introduce [The Open Table](#) relationship model in January 2023.

## Seeking the Welfare of the City

*Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because your future depends on its welfare Jeremiah 29:7(CEB).*

How will The Gathering continue to grow as a mission congregation? We grow impact when we attract enough of the right resources to empower residents to build positive relationships that transform their lives and the city. Relationships with each other and a spiritual relationship with God. We become sustainable when we use the right resources effectively. We need your support to continue the “growing edge” of new life in the city. Join with us in the work!

[Click Here](#) or mail to: P O Box 2719, Petersburg, VA 23804

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