



December 15, 2017

Dear SPR Parishioners,

We, the Wardens and Rector, write during this Advent time of expectation, leaning into the faithfulness of God and hopeful about the future of St. Paul & the Redeemer. We write to invite you to join us this Sunday to say goodbye to Peter, Erin, Simon, and Connor. And we write to clarify Peter's role at SPR after he leaves and what to expect in the New Year.

One of the great traditions of SPR is our Rite of Leave Taking. It is when people who are leaving SPR get up in front of the congregation and we pray for "those who leave and with those who stay." At SPR, we attend to goodbyes and that allows us to be more present for the all-important hellos. Saying goodbye to Peter and his family is another occasion to practice the goodbye part of radical hospitality. So, please make a point of being at worship this Sunday and staying afterwards for a festive party with good food, a couple of speeches, and a hearty farewell to the Lanes.

These next years promise to be a rich time for our parish. One way we can help the transition go smoothly is by being clear about future relationships. From various conversations, we know that you have a few questions: What is the precise timing of the transition? What will be Peter's role at SPR after he leaves? And what about Erin and the boys?

This Sunday, December 17, we will say farewell to the Lanes and celebrate all that we have accomplished together over the last decade. Peter will remain at SPR for one more week, presiding at the Advent 4, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day liturgies. At that point Peter's work as Rector of SPR will be done and he will take his leave. KJ Oh and Roger Ferlo will preside at the liturgies in January and the Wardens will preside over the annual meeting on January 28. We have scheduled a terrific slate of preachers for January. Beyond January, KJ and Roger will continue to lead our worship, and we anticipate having an interim rector in place sometime in February. After December 25, Peter will relinquish all pastoral and administrative duties as Rector and will no longer be part of the pastoral team at SPR. Peter values your friendship. After he leaves, he will no longer be able to function as your pastor or priest. It will no longer be his role to officiate at baptisms, weddings, and funerals (with the exception of a couple that have been long scheduled.) Peter will only come back to SPR at the invitation of his successor and with the concurrence of the vestry. Erin, Simon, and Connor will also stop worshipping at SPR. Provision has been made for the children to be able to participate in select programs, such as attending youth group or the like. Erin and Peter are grateful for the ways this parish has helped raise them up. They will take the spirit of SPR with them to new communities. Some have asked what Peter will do next. In January, he will begin full-time at Chicago Booth School of Business and will continue the process of finding a job where he can engage in the civic conversation and serve communities in the city of Chicago.

The last decade has been terrific and we anticipate flourishing for the next decade and beyond. We hope that you will keep worshiping regularly, continue building hospitable community, and focus on serving your neighbor. And please don't hesitate to talk to any of us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

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