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The Rev. Myrna Koonce, Priest In Charge

April 14, 2026

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's,

This coming Sunday, April 19th, I will complete my ministry with all of you at our Sunday morning mass. It will be a privilege and honor to preside and preach at this service, marking the conclusion of a little over five years of our mutual ministry.

As I prepare for this Sunday, my heart overflows with gratitude. Your many expressions of love and thanks - spoken, written, and offered in prayer - have touched me deeply. The retirement celebration this past Sunday afternoon exemplified what has made St. Peter's such a fulfilling place of ministry for me: in so many ways we expressed to each other how our love of God, the love of Jesus Christ for us, and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst have shaped our life together and enabled us to grow in faith.

Of course, as I end my pastorate with you it means our relationship will inevitably change. You have warmly welcomed your new Priest In Charge, the Rev. Myrna Koonce, and now she gladly takes on the responsibilities of being your priest and pastor. In accordance with the guidelines for all Episcopal parishes, I will no longer be available to officiate at baptisms, weddings, or funerals. I also will not engage with the parish for a year, ensuring that you have time to grow in your relationship with your new priest. While that inevitably means some separation, a deeper reality is that we will always be united by Christ's love for us, and the ways in which we shared that love with one another in the last five years.

You have taught me much about what it means to be the church: faithful in the midst of adversity, devoted in prayer and worship, welcoming the neighbor and stranger, and trusting the faithfulness of our God who is, in the words of St. Paul, "able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine."

I thank you, and I love you.

In Christ,

The Rev. Thomas Mousin