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April 25, 2017

Dear Friends of St. Peter's,

On Monday, May 8th, I begin my Sabbatical. The purpose of the sabbatical is to allow me to step away from my regular duties as Rector of St. Peter's Church, from May 8 until September 12, so that both you and I may renew our mutual ministries as disciples of Jesus Christ.

My Letter of Agreement with St. Peter's Church provides for a sabbatical after five years of ministry. I am now in my eighth year as Rector. A Vestry committee has been exploring the possibility of a sabbatical since 2015, and in the spring of 2016, the Vestry unanimously agreed that the sabbatical would take place in 2017.

The focus of the sabbatical is God's Story, Our Stories. Making connections between our stories and the biblical story, between our words and the Word, Jesus Christ has been at the heart of my ministry for thirty years. As a congregation, we've discovered the importance of story through our work with the Diocesan initiative, Going Local. With the Spirit as our guide during the sabbatical, we'll continue to listen and join God at work in our world today.

Under the direction of the Wardens and Vestry, St. Peter's will continue its normal ministries. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated twice a month in May, June and July. On the other Sundays, and during the month of August, members of the congregation will lead Morning Prayer with Dwelling in the Word. At all times, a member of the Episcopal clergy will be on call to respond to pastoral emergencies.

If you have a pastoral emergency from May 8 - September 12, and need to be in touch with a priest, please don't hesitate to call our Wardens, Angie Ratkowitz (732-616-1297) or Ruth Portela (973-229-2413). Ann Rea, our Parish Administrator, will be in the church office once a week as well.

I hope you'll join our worship on Sunday, May 7th at 10 a.m., when we'll wish each other Godspeed for the sabbatical time. Please check St. Peter's website (www.stpetersliv.com) for blog updates on all our sabbatical activities. We'll celebrate our reunion on Sunday, September 17th at 10 a.m.

May our time apart be rich in the unity we have in Jesus Christ!

Blessings,

Elizabeth