

Dear People of St. Peter's,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sophie and I are deeply grateful and humbled that the Vestry has called me to serve as your next rector. We give thanks to God for leading us to St. Peter's, and we are excited to begin this new chapter with you.

Leaving a congregation we have come to love is not easy. Yet we are grateful for God's call and trust that he is leading both Ascension in Westminster, MD, and St. Peter's into the next chapter of their life and ministry.

A little about us: Sophie and I have been married for twenty-nine years and are the proud parents of three grown children. Our family now stretches from Virginia to Japan, while our youngest recently settled in Westminster. We were both born and raised in France and came to the United States in 2008, when my bishop sent me to Virginia Theological Seminary. What we thought would be a two-year stay became our new home. Looking back, we can clearly see God's hand guiding us every step of the way. We became American citizens in 2018 and are grateful to call this country home.

St. Peter's will be the fifth parish I have been privileged to serve since graduating from seminary, and we are now looking forward to making our home in Geneva. Sophie currently serves as the Director of the Family Center in Westminster, a ministry she has loved deeply. Every chapter of my ministry has also been part of Sophie's journey, and I am deeply grateful for her unwavering love and support. We are both looking forward to becoming part of the life of St. Peter's and getting to know each of you.

Throughout this discernment process, we trusted that God was guiding both your parish and our family. Looking back, we can see his faithfulness every step of the way.

I am especially grateful to the members of the Search Committee and the Vestry, whose warmth, hospitality, and openness made us feel welcome from the very beginning.

Over the years, Sophie and I have learned that every move begins with saying goodbye to people we love and ends with discovering new friends whom God has already been preparing for us. We trust that this time will be no different.

I look forward to gathering around the Lord's Table with you, listening together to God's Word, and following Christ together. My prayer is that, by God's grace, we will continue to grow in faith, to love God with all our hearts, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to bear faithful witness to Christ by serving our neighbors in Geneva.

I do not come with all the answers. I come eager to listen, to learn your stories, and to discover the many ways God has already been at work among you. I look forward to discerning together where the Holy Spirit is leading St. Peter's in the years ahead.

Please know that you are already in our prayers, just as we ask to be remembered in yours. We look forward to meeting each of you, worshiping together, and following Christ with you.

May God bless you, strengthen you in faith, and fill you with his peace until we meet.

Faithfully in Christ,

Pierre-Henry+ and Sophie