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112 ALGONQUIN ROAD
BARRINGTON HILLS, ILLINOIS 60010-5199
www.barringtonhills-il.gov

TELEPHONE
(847) 551-3000

FACSIMILE
(847) 551-3050

November 19, 2013

The Reverend John R. Peterson
c/o Lee Peterson
3611 West Jetton Avenue
Tampa, FL 33629

Dear Reverend Peterson,

A ship is known by its captain and a building by its architect, to that adage one can say a Church is a reflection of its pastor. On the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of the ex-Rector Reverend John R. Peterson, of St. Mark's Episcopal in Barrington Hills, we here in Barrington Hills can describe the presence of St. Mark's and in turn, reflect the influence of its former Rector.

One first finds St. Mark's by its sign post on two rural roads signs that confirm a destination, but still require attention to travel. Upon arrival, St. Mark's is set back from Ridge Road in Barrington Hills, providing that shelter and preparation prior to entry to its sanctuary. In that turn-about, cars have waited for christenings, weddings and funeral entourages. A Trustee who passed away in office had his funeral at St. Mark's providing that momentary convergence of family, friends and civic duty, all under the shelter of a far greater purpose. That balance is seen on the outside from the columbarium for prayer and reflection to the nearby playground of the young and hopeful.

Our exploration ends at the front door as the privacy of Church is a protected right and preserved but not one of exclusion as St. Mark's has otherwise welcomed its host community.

It may all be brick and mortar known to the drivers along Ridge Road, but at this time of reflection on the ministry of Rev. John R. Peterson, know what has been casted, continues, thrives and enriches. Congratulations on a job well done.

Sincerely,

Martin J. McLaughlin,
Village President

cc: Gina Erdman, St. Mark's Episcopal Church