

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron CT 06248  
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## **St. Peter's Weekly Vision – December 6, 2015**

By Susan Ostrout

### **What just happened!!!**

December 6, 2015

#### **THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT: JOY**

**Service of Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8:00 a.m.**

**Service of Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10:00 a.m.**

#### **From Fr. Perry's sermon:**

What is it that we seek this Advent? A lot of words or rhetoric or analysis about what this season means? Or do we, like the prophets of old, seek the assurance that God is with us - that no matter what our life journey may be, no matter what pain and suffering might come our way that God is with us - that God's presence will bring us peace, will grant us shalom? Don't we seek the courage to face the future with the knowledge that there is more to life than what we see - that the riches in life lie in our relationships with one another and with God? Don't we seek the freedom to live in love and joy and peace even in the midst of our darkest hours?

You can hear the full sermon online at <http://www.stpetershebron.com/sermons/>

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#### **Birthdays: Sunday's Bulletin announced the celebration of birthdays this week:**

Cynthia Anderson (12/08), Trisha Beatty (12/06), Peter Celio (12/10), Betsey Downey (12/11), Joshua Woods (12/12). Send along your own best wishes to your friends!

#### **Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Schedule**

**Sunday, December 20:** Services of Holy Eucharist at 8 & 10 with Advent Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candles. The Christmas Pageant will be part of the 10 a.m. service.

**Wednesday, December 23:** Holy Eucharist with Service of Healing at 7 p.m., followed 7:30 by an hour of reflection and conversation.

**Thursday, December 24:** Christmas Eve services at 4:30 p.m. (Family Service) and at 10 p.m. (Festive Celebration)

**Friday, December 25:** Christmas Day service of Holy Eucharist at 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, December 27:** Christmas 1 Service of Morning Prayer with music at 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, January 3:** Christmas 2 8 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist; 10 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

**Don't Miss!**

- **Every Tuesday, Choir practice 6:30-8:15 pm**
- **Every Wednesday 7:00 p.m. --- Holy Eucharist with Service of Healing** (a lovely, quiet soul-refreshing informal service held in the church) followed at 7:30 p.m. by an hour devoted to quiet reflection and conversation. If you are looking for a space to get away from the bustle of the season and focus on the meaning of Advent, please join us!
- **Monday, December 14th at 7:00** at Joan Churney's home will be the next Women's Club meeting. This is our annual Christmas party and everyone is invited - even if you have never come before! We each bring a wrapped Christmas ornament for a Yankee Swap, which is a lot of fun. Under \$10. We all bring the usual snacks and beverages, so the food is very tasty. Please join us for a fun event! You can call Joan for directions and more info. If you want to carpool, call Kathy Kniep and we will make arrangements. Hope to see you there!
- **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** - The Christmas Pageant is coming up soon. It will be held at the 10 a.m. service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. If you or your child would enjoy being a part of this Annual Christmas event, please speak with Allison Forrest after the 10 am service on Sunday.
- **Monday, Dec. 21st at 7:00 p.m.** – the annual “Blue Christmas” Service at Gilead Congregational Church. This service provides a special time of being together to receive words of strengthening and hope that can speak to us in the midst of sadness and sorrow. Bring your fears, pain and grief and join with others for a time of prayer, reflection, singing, communion and a candle-lighting ceremony. Bring a friend as well.

### **Our Outreach**

- **Sunday, December 13th** - We are once again baking cookies for HIHS (Hebron Interfaith Human Services) for Christmas. We need about 150 dozen this year to serve approximately 50 clients. We will be putting the plates together after coffee hour on the 13th. Please join us if you can. For more information, please call Judi Babin. Thanks in advance for your generosity. It is always a much appreciated gift for HIHS's clients
- **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> Gift Tag deadline** – To those of you who responded by taking a gift tag to benefit our venture with The Church of the Holy Family to provide Christmas gifts for those in need, please return the gift you purchased (wrapped & with the tag attached) by Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> when the gifts will be collected by a representative of The Church of the Holy Family. Thank you so

**much! We always come through for Holy Family each year, and, once again, you have demonstrated your generosity!**

- **We are in the news!!** Please view us online to see press releases citing our outreach efforts in donating 10% of our community dinner profits to HIHS, AHM and the Windham Area No-freeze Zone
- **Saturday, December 26th from 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Red Cross Blood Drive Please consider giving this Christmas gift to three people with your single donation. It takes only about an hour and is painless. Spread Christmas joy and help those who are desperately in need of a blood donation in this Christmas season. Call for an appointment: 1-800-733-2767 or go on-line to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) . Walk-ins are always welcome.
- **The Windham Region No-Freeze Hospitality Center** Many of the Windham area's homeless live in makeshift camps along the Willimantic River all year long. The Windham Region No-Freeze Hospitality center seeks to provide a warm shelter for those in the community who are homeless and over the age of 18 from November 15<sup>th</sup> through April of each year. No one is turned away. We provide food, clothing, hygiene among other services. Donations to keep the center going are always welcome. If you are able to donate items to help please drop them off at their office: 75 Bridge Street, (First unit in the plaza) Willimantic, CT 06226 (Monday through Thursday from 1-4 pm). Items may also be left at the St. Peter's office or in the narthex of the church. Items needed are listed in the bulletin.

### **Nuts and Bolts!**

- **Christmas Flower sign-up** - A sheet for ordering Christmas flowers used to decorate the church is now at the back of the church (on the bulletin board) along with a manila envelope for the checks. Please do not put your flower money in the offertory plate. If you pay with cash, please be sure to place the cash in an envelope well-marked with your name and 'Christmas Flowers' (or you may drop it off in the office). Please write your name and the name of the person(s) remembered or honored on the sheet. Be a Christmas angel and please write clearly.
- **Christmas mail boxes** are out at the back of the church. Save a stamp and put your cards for parishioners here. Don't forget to check to see if you have received a card as well.
- **Judi Babin and Lynn Hassouna** will begin a new series of discussions for youth to be held on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in Father Perry's office. Any

young person in grades 7 through 12 is welcome to join them. The next meeting will be on December 13<sup>th</sup> and on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

- **Confirmation Classes to begin in January!** Father Perry will be scheduling Confirmation classes for any interested youth or adults beginning in early January. This provides a wonderful opportunity for anyone wishing to join the Episcopal Church, any youth (9<sup>th</sup> grade or older) wanting to become adult members of the congregation or anyone interested in engaging in conversation about the meaning of our Episcopal traditions or how our faith enriches our lives. Please contact the parish office or speak to Father Perry if you have questions or are interested in “signing up!”

### **Visit us on the internet**

Our website ([www.stpetershebron.com](http://www.stpetershebron.com)) offers an always up to date calendar, upcoming events listed with details, news from Sue, the bulletin, the latest happenings, an updated photo gallery, and more!

- Fr. Perry’s sermons are available on St. Peter’s website. If you missed Father Perry's sermon, or want to hear it again, feel free to listen from the website. Sermons may be found at: Services > Sunday Audio Sermons
- Church School schedule is now on the website – If you were not able to attend church one Sunday, or want to review a church school topic at home, the website has a schedule of church school topics including bible verses and additional information. Just go to: About Us > Church School > Church School Schedule
- Check out our Comfort and Joy website designed by Pat Kell. Lots of nice sayings. <https://www.facebook.com/#!/thecomfortandjoycommunity>

**The Christmas Fair was a great success! We’re sending out a huge THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who helped with set-up, made donations, made centerpieces, baked goodies, knitted and crocheted, created holiday baskets, cooked a fabulous lunch and so much more! We only have room for four pictures (below) but you can see more pictures on our website: [www.StPetersHebron.com](http://www.StPetersHebron.com). Click on ‘Photos’ to see them all!**



**PHOTO(s) OF THE WEEK!**  
**Send along your favorite photo so we can include it in THE**  
**VISION.....[Sdockey@comcast.net](mailto:Sdockey@comcast.net)**