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St. Peter's Weekly Vision – December 13, 2015

By Susan Ostrout

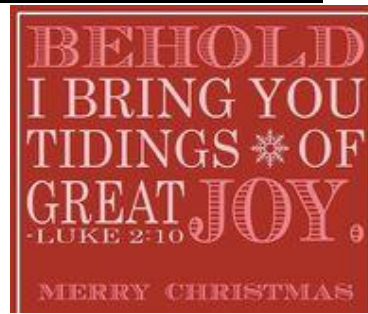
What just happened!!!

December 13, 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:

"We would do well to remember that the spending and the giving (we are engaged in) at this time of year **aren't themselves a means to our joy or a sign of our joy.** Instead, **they're the things we get to do when our hearts are full of lasting joy because of the love that God has for us in Jesus.**"

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

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

Evelyn Schutz (12/13), Grace Downey (12/13), Hannah Mangiafico (12/13), Emily Messier (12/15), Erin Woods (12/15), Talon Kozlak (12/15), Allison Bradley (12/18), Amy Stone (12/18), John Gerke (12/19) Send along your own best wishes to your friends!

Thank you everyone for baking cookies for HIHS (Hebron Interfaith Human Services) for Christmas. We needed 150 dozen this year to serve approximately 50 clients and received plenty. Thanks again for your generosity. Thank you Judi Babin for organizing this activity.

On December 11th in the River East there was a picture of Father Perry, AHM Executive Director, Michelle Hamilton, and St. Peter's vestry member, Rob Mangiafico. It is a wonderful article on our outreach with AHM Youth and Family Services and it talked about our donation and support for the AHM CHORES program. This is an intergenerational project that matches teens that can help seniors living in the region with household chores. The CHORES program is provided at no cost to local seniors.

Thank you to Kathy Kniep for writing the Vision last week while I was away. Awesome job!!

Don't Miss!

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 at 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 at 8 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist; 10 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

- **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!
- **Sunday, December 20th** - The Christmas Pageant is coming up soon. It will be held at the 10 a.m. service on the 4th 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.

Our Community Outreach

- **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 HHHS, AHM and the Windham Area No-freeze Zone
- **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.
- **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 . 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 15th through April of each year. No one is turned away. We provide food, clothing, and 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 can 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 meetings will be held 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 (9th 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) 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>



Beautiful Mexican chapel



Gods wonder – a spider web



Beautiful limestone cave



18 Women from St. Peter's attended the annual Women's Club Christmas Party. Thank you to Joan and Ron Churney for hosting.

