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## St. Peter's Weekly Vision – November 29, 2015

By Susan Ostrout

### What just happened!!!

November 29, 2015

#### THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT: HOPE

Service of Holy Eucharist Rite I at

8:00 a.m. & Service of Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10:00 a.m.



*Hope Anchors the Soul - Hebrews 6:19*

*Once you choose hope, anything's possible. ~Christopher Reeve*

*When the world says, "Give up," Hope whispers,  
"Try it one more time." ~Author Unknown*

#### A Word About Hope for Advent I

Eugene Peterson (*Living the Message: Daily Help for Living the God-Centered Life*) points out that what a lot of people call hope is in reality something different. It's wishing, not hoping: and wishing and hoping are not the same thing.

"Wishing," Peterson says, "is something all of us do. It projects what we want or think we need into the future. Just because we wish for something good or holy we think it qualifies as hope. It does not. Wishing extends our egos into the future; hope grows out of our faith. Hope is oriented toward what God is doing; wishing is oriented toward what we are doing."

Peterson goes on to say that we can picture wishing as though it were a line coming out from us with an arrow on the end, pointing into the future, pointing toward that thing we most want to possess. Hope is just the opposite. It's a line that comes from God out of the future, with its arrow pointing toward us.

"Hope," he continues, "means being surprised, because we don't know what is best for us or how our lives are going to be completed. To cultivate hope is to suppress wishing -- to refuse to fantasize about what we want, but live in anticipation of what God is going to do next."

- Sunday's Bulletin announced the celebration of birthdays this week: Emma O'Shea; (11/28), Marcia Eaton (11/29); Thomas Kancler (12/3), Kelsi Marks (12/2), Harper Perry (12/2), Wendy Paggioli (12/4), Susan Ostrout (12/5), Kelly Perry (12/5). Send along your own best wishes to your friends!

A parishioner is donating a Nativity Set to be placed on the lawn along the roadside in front of Phelps Hall. The set comes with the shed, the manger, Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. The other figures (magi, angels, shepherds, camel, donkey, sheep, etc.) are additional purchases to be made in the future. If anyone would be interested in purchasing one of the "extras" you may get more information (including a link to order the "LARGE" characters) and sign-up for an addition on our website at: <http://www.stpetershebron.com/nativity-scene/> (or go to Events > Sign-Up Page on our website)

The company that makes the nativity scenes has offered to donate the Ox figure if any other pieces are ordered.

### **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. During Advent an hour devoted to quiet reflection and conversation will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the church. 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!**
- **Saturday, December 5, 2015 – St. Nicholas Fair – set up week of November 30<sup>th</sup>**  
More information is in the flyer at church. Remember the bake goods table.
- **Monday, December 7 – Vestry Meeting**

- **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 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 this Sunday.

### **OUR COLLABORATIONS & SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY!**

- **Sunday, December 6, 2015, 3:00 pm** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 27 Plains Road, Windham Center, CT. – Music to Warm the Heart on the concert is free. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door. Any proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM).
- **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** - We will once again be baking cookies for HIHS (Hebron Interfaith Human Services) for Christmas. We will need about 150 dozen this year to serve approximately 50 clients. We will be putting the plates together after coffee hour. Please join us if you can. There will soon be a sign-up sheet on the back table. 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> (deadline)** - The Church of the Holy Family has once again shared with us their mission of making the Christmas season a bit happier for others who are not so fortunate by letting us take a tag and buy a gift for a stranger. The tags are in the narthex of the church. Please take one (two if you can), buy the gift written on it and return it (wrapped & with the tag attached).
- **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](http://www.redcrossblood.org) . Walk-ins are always welcome.
- **The Windham Region No-Freeze Hospitality Center --Cold, wet, unsafe?**  
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, 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 our office: 75 Bridge Street, (First unit in the plaza) Willimantic, CT 06226 (Monday through Thursday from 1-4 pm). 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.
- **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. These discussions will continue to be held on **the second and fourth Sundays** of each month. More events are being planned including a Confirmation Class starting in January. Stay tuned!!!**
- **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!”

The 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!

- Do you know that Fr. Perry’s sermons can now be listened to 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 cover a church school topic more 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>



**PHOTO(S) OF THE WEEK!**

**Send along your favorite photo so we can include it in THE VISION.....Sdoker@comcast.net**

