



From the Deacon's Bench...

It is an honor and a pleasure to introduce myself as your incoming deacon. There are two types of deacons: transitional and permanent. A transitional deacon is a member of the church who is on his or her way to becoming ordained as a priest. It is the Anglican tradition that a priest serve as a deacon for six months to a year while preparing and discerning their call into the priesthood.

A permanent deacon is a man or woman who takes an oath before the bishop (in my case it was Bishop Andrew Smith) to obey the laws of the Church, to bring the Word of God (the Bible) to the people, to help those in need, and to work with the parish to bring Christ into our world.

During the time of Saint Peter, it was realized that priests were becoming so busy with the growing population of Christians that they needed help in bringing communion, love and community with those unable to attend services (elderly, widows, homeless, the sick). Deacons were ordained and were given the opportunity to serve this population. We can find this information in the Book of Acts chapters 6-7. Part of

my obligation has led me to organize and lead the Police Chaplains for the Norwalk Police Department which is an ecumenical group of men and women who faithfully serve the officers and their families.

My liturgical role at St. Peter's will be in assisting Rev. Kurt during the service. In the Book of Common Prayer we can easily follow along the roles of the deacon. Since the deacon is responsible for bringing the Word of God to the people, the deacon is entitled to read the Gospel. The deacon also, traditionally, reads and helps to register the Prayers of the People. The task that I most love is preparing the altar for Eucharist.

Beyond the responsibilities I have during the church service, I will assist in whatever way I am needed with outreach and projects. Since I will be with St. Peter's no more than three years, it is a very exciting opportunity for all of us to work together to strengthen and fulfill the dreams and desires of our parish.

I grew up in Fairfield, Connecticut. In 1992 (day after graduation), I began my Law Enforcement Specialist, Military Working Dog Handler career in the United States Air

Force. I served for four years, after which I was hired by the Norwalk Police Department where I have been a patrol officer for fifteen years. I am currently the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Officer, which I am extremely enthusiastic about.

I am married to an amazing opera singer/travel agent/best friend. Christina and I have been married almost fifteen years (May). We have traveled all over together and have settled down to raise our two boys. Alexander is seven and Andrew is five. They have been raised by the parishioners of St. Paul's Fairfield and are quite comfortable in church (you'll understand when you meet them). I grew up a very devote Roman Catholic and served as an acolyte from 3rd grade through high school. My wife grew up Congregationalist & Greek Orthodox and we found all that we had dreamed of in the Episcopal Church. I am excited and looking forward to meeting everyone at St. Peter's✠

Faithfully yours,

~ The Rev. Christopher M. Holms, Deacon ~



"May grace and peace be yours in abundance."
(1 Peter 1:2)

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Annual Parish Meeting

Q. What is the ministry of a deacon?

A. The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

From the Book of Common Prayer, p. 856



On Sunday, January 29 we will have one service at 9 AM as this parish gathers for its 210th Annual Parish Meeting.

We will gather as a parish family downstairs in the Undercroft for breakfast at 9 AM. We will share that meal together along with communion before sending the children and youth into the Memorial Room for a movie.

We will then continue with

prayer, the reading of scripture, the Rector's address and a few reports.

After a short break, we will gather to vote in new vestry members, hear a budget report, welcome those who joined us in 2011 and do any other business that needs to occur before adjourning.

Our Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for us to think about where St. Peter's has been in the past year and to

plan for our future.

The voting member list will be posted in the Narthex and in the library hallway and the minutes from last year's meeting will also be posted. Join your parish family in this yearly event✦



Outreach: Souper Bowl

We will once again participate in "Souper" Bowl Sunday on **February 5 at both services** and join thousands of congregations to battle hunger in the "Souper Bowl of Caring."

There will be soup pots for donations which will go to support Chapel on the Green (New Haven) and all canned food received will be donated to the Monroe Food Pantry. Together we can

help feed those who hunger this winter. And as it has done in the past, all monetary donations will be matched by our ECW. Thank you for your support of our outreach.

As we have the last 5 years, the service on Feb. 5 at 10:15 AM will be a family Sunday **U2charist**, which is an Episcopal Eucharist service that features the music of the band U2 (and

others), and a message about the importance of caring for your neighbor, particularly the most vulnerable and in need.

Our next outreach opportunity to Chapel on the Green will be Sunday, March 11✦



Office: Upcoming Events in February



Bridgeport SoundTigers Hockey
Sunday, Feb. 12
3 PM ~ \$15
(RSVP by Feb. 1)



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Feb. 21 – 5 to 7 PM
Adults: \$6
Child: \$3
(max \$20 for family)



February 22 (Beginning of Lent)
Services at 12 Noon & 7:30 PM



Our annual Wine Tasting event is tentatively set for Saturday, February 25 from 6 to 8 PM.

Details to come!

From the Treasurer – Dee Stelmak

Income thru October:

Little Ivy	7,500
Facility Use	5,775
Fund Raising	31,424
Plate Offering	2,131
Pledges	99,890
Wiggins Trust	3,759
All Other	3,540
TOTAL	154,019

Expenses thru October

Ministry	1,376
Mission	16,153
Office	10,524
Property	41,962
Staffing	97,221
TOTAL	167,236

DEFICIT (\$13,217)

As you can see we are still running a deficit with our

income being out paced by our expenses. Pledges are down \$6,387.

If you are behind on your pledge, please catch up to the best of your ability by the end of December.

If you are an old friend of the parish, or caught up with your pledge, consider making a December donation to help us with our deficit.

Reminder: All pledges & contributions for 2011 are due by Sunday, December 25 or postmarked by December 31.

All members of the parish

who made a 2012 pledge (or in a previous year) may pick up their pledge envelopes from the table in the Narthex on December 11. If you do or do not wish to receive envelopes, please let me know.

Please write the offering number on all your checks so they can be properly recorded in our computer (or if paying by cash, please include a note or envelope with your # on it to help the Sunday Counters).

Thank you for your financial support of St. Peter's Church ☩



"For all things come from You, O Lord, and from Your hand we have given You."

1 Chronicles 29:14

Stewardship Thought

Stewardship Weekend went extremely well and we are so pleased that so many of you were able to be part of the conversations thus far!

As of November 29, we have in hand for 2012:

\$130,774 pledged from 67 pledges

\$21,280 increased pledges
\$38 avg. weekly pledge

We have taken a very positive and significant step in determining whether this congregation will be a part time or full time ministry!

If you have not pledged yet, we need your pledge and your help to keep moving us

forward in a positive direction. These are Suggested Ways to Think about Pledging:

Tithing - 10% of your income (salary, pension, other). \$2.00 per week for every \$1,000 you receive per year.

Modern Tithing - 5% of your income. \$1.00 per week for every \$1,000 you receive per year.

Fair Share - Divide the church budget by the number of giving households in the parish. The giving would need to be around **\$45** per week to fund a full time ministry in the Average size Church.

National Average - The average pledge in the Episcopal Church is about **\$37-\$42** per week.

Please mail in or place your pledge sheet in the offertory plate on Sunday. You can also pledge online at our website.

This is the first step of our work with Peter Saros, our Parish Consultant. In the New Year, we will be meeting with him again to work on church growth and marketing through the parish committees of Promotion, Special Events, and Newcomers.

Thank you for your support of St. Peter's Church ☩

A quick look...

Sat., Dec. 3 – 9 to 3
ECW Christmas Fair

Sunday, Dec. 4
Christmas Tree Lighting on the Green – 5 PM

Sunday, Dec. 11
Canon Scanlan's Visit Men's Breakfast – 9 AM

Sunday, Dec. 18
*Christmas Pageant
Greening of the Church
Parish Potluck Luncheon*

Sat. - Christmas Eve
*Family Eucharist – 5 PM
Choral Eucharist – 10 PM*

Sun. - Christmas Day
Family Eucharist – 10 AM

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012
One Service at 9 AM

