



The Voice on the Hill

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

February, 2026

Mission Statement

Recognizing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, we invite all to share the joy of God's Word through the Holy Spirit, calling us to community, worship, service and fellowship.

CHURCH COUNCIL

President

Michele Dupy

Vice President

Prissy Rumel

Vice President

Danny Smith

Council Secretary

Vacant

Financial Secretary

Kandice Samuelson

Council Members

Robert Bland

Judy Downing

Kay Hart

Charles Stark

TREASURER

Ted Wittliff

PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Burt Burleson

LICENSED MINISTER

Charlotte Albert

MUSIC DIRECTOR

David Cappolino

CHURCH SECRETARY

Barbara Coleman

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Charles Stark



Lent Begins February 18!

First Day of Lent, begins a season of fasting and preparation for Easter.

Ash Wednesday is on February the 18th and, as we have in recent years, we'll be having our Soup Supper at 6:00 pm. The imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary will be at 7:00 pm.

We need 2-3 volunteers to provide soup for our soup supper. If you are willing, please contact the office at (512) 856-2433 or stpeterscoupland@gmail.com

If you are unable to be here for the evening gathering, we'll have the Sanctuary open and I'll be there at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 and 12:00. There will be a brief silent preparation to read before the imposition.

For the remaining weeks of Lent we will have a simple daily devotion via a very small book that will guide our reflections on the season and our times in prayer. Weekly, we will send a question based on the devotion that will prompt our conversations for Sunday School.



Council Member Installation Rescheduled

On **Sunday, January 25**, Worship Service was canceled due to inclement weather. The Ceremony to install all 2026 Council Members will be rescheduled for a later date.



Over the past few weeks, the congregation and I have been walking through the loss of two wonderful human beings. I say, “wonderful human beings” because both of them lived exemplary lives. At both funerals family members offered the eulogies... and I was moved, convicted, inspired, challenged, and wishing I had known them deeply.

These two loved life and loved it in their own unique ways. They just kept saying “yes” to life.

Way back in the 3rd century Origin, the most powerful mind of early Christianity said, “The saints are the living ones, and the living ones are the saints.” (Read that again and sit with it for a while... really... now). What is sacred will always be manifested in a life well lived, and those who are living life well will always be the ones from whom grace and joy flow.

If you knew Alice or James, I’m sure you were blessed, and for the world’s sake, let’s all keep saying “yes” to the life God has given.

Dr. Burt Burluson



Newsletter and Website Changes

Please note that there are changes in the near future for our Newsletter and our Website. At a meeting of leaders recently, I volunteered to be the Newsletter Editor and also the Website Administrator. I want to give a shout out to Dana Smith who has been handling these tasks for some time. She has done an excellent job and I will be filling that role starting this month.

The newsletter will be pretty much the same format this month and perhaps next month. The one change is that you will find an actual calendar page as an insert in the printed version or in a separate link for the digital version which is sent to everyone on our email list. This calendar can be put on your fridge or some prominent space to easily remind you of what is happening at the church for the month. In the near future we will explore moving to Canva for a new look and design for the newsletter. If you have suggestions for the newsletter, please let me know your thoughts.

The website for the church has been hosted by Wix for years. Unfortunately, it is very hard to work with and more costly than our new hosting company. I will be designing a new website in Wordpress. This switch will take place by Feb 9 when our Wix account will terminate. The new website may be very simple at first, but it will be developed over time this spring. One advantage will be that we will have a live calendar embedded which will reflect updates as events are added. So, make sure you bookmark our website to keep up with the latest information on St. Peter’s Church of Coupland. www.stpeterscoupland.org

Like the newsletter, I am open to your suggestions for our website.

Charles Stark
Chief Technology Officer
St. Peter’s Church

Annual Congregational Meeting January 18, 2026

The meeting was Called to Order by Michele Dupy, Council President, with an opening prayer by Rev. Burt Burleson.

January 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes were reviewed with MOTION to accept by Charlotte Albert/2nd Danny Smith - Motion approved.

Burt spoke about he and Julie's time here since their mid June 2025 arrival and his upcoming 2026 emphasis to be towards Spiritual Formation, our church's local impact and getting to know Members better.

Michele Dupy highlighted our 3 new Confirmands (Kaydence Epperson, Brynley Finn, Krista Poldrack) and our 2025 groups/events such as Ladies' Circle, Men's Brotherhood, Tuesday Community Coffee, Playground improvements and the Flowerbed being beautifully replanted/rocked.

With specific examples of:

- 28 children for Summer Splash Program in July
- 85 attendees at our 1st Community Ice Cream Social in July
- 40 person average attendance at Community Senior Luncheons
- 100 people attended the May Car Show sponsored by Men's Brotherhood
- 93 people attended Easter Worship after Sunrise Service & Breakfast
- 89 worshipers came to our spectacular lighted Christmas Eve Service
- 20 "Angels" from our Angel Tree Project given multiple gifts each

Kandice Samuelson presented the Proposed 2026 Budget and all questions were answered.

MOTION to accept the 2026 Budget was made by Charles Stark/2nd Adam Muery - Motion approved
Outgoing Church Council Members: Bill Albert and Ruby Wabbel were recognized for their service.

Incoming Church Council Members: Robert Bland and Michele Dupy

MOTION to accept as presented made by Adam Muery/Charlotte Albert - Motion approved

*Article provided by Michele Dupy, Church Council President

St. Peter's Council Meeting Minutes January 5, 2026

PRESENT; Michele Dupy, Prissy Rumel, Danny Smith, Kandice Samuelson, Judy Downing, Bill Albert, Kay Hart,
Rev Burt Burleson & Charlotte Albert.

Absent: Ruby Wabbel

Awareness Items:

- a. Sunday, February 15th, Rev Burt's Installation Service (Rev Molly Carlson, Interim Conference Minister preaching)
- b. No Senior Luncheon until March
- c. Cemetery Water Main break - Ted, Danny, Bill aware - will work with Manville Water

New Business:

- a. Robert Bland to fill open Council Position
- b. Ruby Wabbel resignation and CC reappointment
- c. Venmo Payments for Bookkeeping - Giving Amount vs the Fees.

Discussion concluded and Danny agreed to speak with Jennifer and Ted to help resolve this issue.

Meeting adjourned: Next Meeting Monday, February 2nd, 2026

Respectfully Submitted: Michele Dupy,
Council President

COUNCIL ACTION VIA EMAIL/PHONE

1/19/26 Council voted to appoint Charles Stark to fill the unexpired term of Ruby Wabbel.



Men's Brotherhood



Ladies of the Coupland Community
And St. Peter's Church, it's Tea Time!

Please join us at the church on Saturday, February 14, 2026, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm, for fun, fellowship, laughter, and learning. We will start with a devotion on the baggage we carry around. Be sure to bring your PURSE, and find out what kind of baggage you have in it. Please don't take anything out of your purse, you'll spoil the fun!

There will also be games, PRIZES, and we will end with a light lunch. We would be honored to have you attend and bring along a friend. Please feel free to come dressed in "Tea" Attire, hats, purse, and gloves included, or dressed in what is comfortable. Most importantly, we want you to attend and be our special guests!

It is important you RSVP so that we have enough material and food for everyone. Please RSVP to Charlotte Albert by texting or calling 512-924-3335, or email: charlottealbert66@gmail.com

The St. Peter's Church of Coupland, Ladies Circle, look forward to seeing you on Valentines.

The Men's Brotherhood met on January 14 th at Julios Mexican Restaurant in Hutto. We had 7 attendees and had good fellowship and food. We discussed our 3 rd Annual Classic Car Show, and decided it will be held on April 11, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. We had 52 vehicles last year, and we are hoping for 100 this year.

Stay tuned for further updates.
Jim Alexander



Men's Brotherhood at Julio's Restaurant in Hutto
Friday, November 14



The Community Senior Lunch will be held on March 17th at 11:30. The meal is free, but donations are appreciated. Attendees can enjoy 42 dominoes and bingo afterward. Please bring a \$10 bingo prize if you are able, but not necessary to enjoy.



January Memorial Services



James Brazell, Attorney and Judge passed away on December 23, 2025. He attended Stephen F. Austin High School and the University of Texas, then received his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center.

James was a gifted singer with an enthusiasm for local musical theater, performing in several productions with the Midland community theater. While in Midland, he welcomed his daughter, Rachel, for whom his world revolved around.

James returned to Austin where he enjoyed an esteemed career in energy, oil and gas law, and government and administrative law. In addition to private practice, he worked with the Texas Railroad Commission, and the Office of the Attorney General.

James appreciated all genres of music, especially 60's and 70's classics. Perhaps more than music, James loved dogs, horses, and all animals. There may have never been a time when he didn't have dogs. James enjoyed wide open spaces, cycling, flyfishing, and playing polo; but he may have been most at home on his farm in Coupland. He leaves behind his daughter Rachel Brazell and son-in-law Conner Stack.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, January 10th 2026 at 1:00 PM at St. Peter's Church

The world bids farewell to Alice Matetzschk (Taylor, Texas), departing on January 5, 2026 at the age of 89. Alice leaves behind memories cherished by the community. Family and friends can send flowers and/or light a candle as a loving gesture for their loved one. Leave a sympathy message to the family in the guestbook on this memorial page of Alice Matetzschk to show support.

She was predeceased by: her parents, Gus Sakewitz and Alice Sakewitz; her husband Elton Albert Matetzschk; her brothers, Gus Sakewitz, Jr., Milburn "Sonny" Sakewitz (Katherine), Kenneth Sakewitz, Kermit Sakewitz (Betty), W. T. "Billy" Sakewitz and Harry Sakewitz; and her siblings' children, Mike Sakewitz and Sandra Trussell.

She is survived by: her children, Terry Kuntschik (Chris Smith), Rick Matetzschk (Jeana) and Craig Matetzschk; her grandchildren, Kellie Marak (Robert), Corey Kalnasy (Erin Griffith), April Knapek (Justin), Hailey Kuntschik (Adam Janak) and William Matetzschk; her great grandchildren, Alyssa, Dakota Marak, Hayden, Kaleb Knapek, Hudson Janak, Triston and Natalie Griffith; and her sisters-in-law, Wandeen Sakewitz and Joyce Sakewitz.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, January 14th 2026 at 10:00 AM at St. Peter's Church.

PRAYER list

We lift up prayers of healing and comfort for all members, friends, and family, who are sick, grieving, or facing challenges.

Jeanette Watson, upcoming surgery. The families of James Brazell and Alice Matetzschk.

As a community we hold in our hearts and pray for those who are impacted and grieving the tragedies in our nation and around the world: the floods and fires, the shootings, accidents, and escalation of war.

Lord, hear our prayers.

For pastoral care contact Pastor Burt at CouplandPastor@gmail.com.



Members in Care Facilities

Lois Schmidt: SPJST Skilled Nursing, 1810 Old Granger Rd, Room 101, Taylor, TX 76574

Robert Gebhardt: Autumn Leaves of Georgetown, 3600 Williams Drive, Georgetown, TX 78628

Calvin Ging: SPJST Assisted Living, 505 East Lake Drive, Room #111, Taylor, TX 76574

Denney Poldrack: Will-O-Bell Nursing Home, P.O. Box 107, Bartlett, TX 76511

Karen Rhoades: Heritage Lakes Assisted Living, Room #17, 19005 Pleasant Bay Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660



St. Peter's depends on regular contributions to pay salaries, utilities, insurance and other operating expenses. Our costs rise each year, so please prayerfully consider increasing your giving by 5% or more this year.

Many people like to present offerings in person on a weekly basis. If you aren't able to be in church every Sunday, consider using your bank's automatic bill pay service to send funds to the church on a regular basis, weekly or monthly. This ensures a steady flow of funds to meet our financial obligations.

Giving statements for 2025 contributions are available for pickup in the narthex of the church. Any statements not picked up by February 9 will be mailed. Contact the church office if there are any discrepancies on your statement. Thank you for your support of St. Peter's Church!



Our special offering this month is for **Down Home Ranch**, located near Elgin. This working farm and ranch was founded in 1989 by parents of a girl born with Down syndrome.

Today the ranch provides on-site housing, day programs, vocational training, and employment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The beautiful Christmas poinsettias at St. Peter's come from the ranch greenhouse, which provides both job training and income.

You can make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities! Support this world-class organization right in our backyard. Learn more at on their website at DownHomeRanch.org.



Regular Giving through January 18 \$8,398

Mission Offerings in January: \$120

Other Income in January:

Cemetery Fund \$600

Memorials \$550

IN LOVING
Memory

In Memory of Irene Florida

Betty Sue Aniol

In Memory of Alice Matetschk

Robert & Doreen Sreit

Anita Holubec

Esther Smith

Brenda Sakewilz

Beverly Townsend

Kandice Samuelson

In Memory of Helen Polzin

Janet Doss

In Memory of Olga Whorton

Matthew & Jessica Meece

February Birthdays

1st	Anita Holubec, Kevin Krieg, Robert Streit
2nd	Janet Doss
3rd	Adam Muery, Lois Schmidt
6th	Heather Shuttles
8th	Kandice Samuelson
9th	Kay Hart, Candace Benad Wilson
10th	Linda Boydston, Hermania Vitek
13th	JoHannah Valchar
18th	Christian Muery, Jake Townsend
19th	Layne Harkins
20th	Nancy Pfluger
22nd	Russell Schmidt, Sr.
25th	Richard Brown, Sherry Stifflemire
28th	Haydon Shuttles
29th	Gunnar Lemp



**WORLDWIDE
MISSIONS**

Thanks to the generosity of our members, our small church supports neighbors in our own backyard and around the world. Last year we:

- Collected about 50 pair of eyeglasses for the Lion's Club
- Distributed groceries at Shepherd's Heart three times
- Provided three Angel Tree gifts each to 20 local children
- Collected bottle caps for a cancer treatment project in Mexico
- Donated groceries to the local food pantries during Advent

Thank you for contributing to these special offerings last year:

- Taylor Senior Center (Meals on Wheels) \$125
- Los Angeles Fire Relief \$120
- One Great Hour of Sharing \$570
- Down Home Ranch \$125
- Community Cupboard (Elgin food pantry) \$145
- Heifer International \$355
- Coupland School Supplies \$110
- Kerr County Flood Relief \$385
- Family Village Farm (orphanage/school in India) \$400
- Shepherd's Heart Ministry (Taylor food pantry) \$220
- Strengthen the Church (UCC) \$70
- UCC Christmas Fund for retired clergy in need \$439
- Our Church's Wider Mission (UCC Conference) \$600

If you would like to serve on the Mission and Outreach Team, please contact Dana Smith.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Mornings

Adult Sunday School at 9 am, Worship at 10:15 am

Tuesday Mornings

Community Connections at 9:30 am

Monday, February 2

Council Meeting 5 pm

Sunday, February 8

Council Installation

Saturday February 14

Ladies Tea 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

Sunday, February 15

Pastor Burt Burleson installation

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

Connect With Us

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

108 Wathen Street, PO Box 146
Coupland, TX 78615 * 512-856-2433

Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday, 8:00 am -12 noon

Office Email: StPetersCoupland@gmail.com

Pastor Email: CouplandPastor@gmail.com

Facebook: St. Peter's Church of Coupland
or ww.facebook.com/StPetersCoupland



Our Website:

StPetersCoupland.org

Venmo Donations:

StPetersCoupland

Photos of Church Life

