



The Voice on the Hill

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

February, 2025

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

Ruby Wabbel

Financial Secretary

Kandice Samuelson

Council Members

Bill Albert

Judy Downing

TREASURER

Ted Wittliff

TRANSITIONAL MINISTER

Rev. Linda McWhorter

LICENSED MINISTER

Charlotte Albert

MINISTER of MUSIC

David Cappolino

CHURCH SECRETARY

Barbara Coleman

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dana Smith

Annual Congregational Meeting

St. Peter's Annual Congregational Meeting was held after Worship Service on Sunday, January 19.

Michele Dupy gave a brief overview of new programs and accomplishments during 2024, including:

- Social Sunday
- Children's Program
- Confirmation Class
- One Baptism and Four New Members
- New Playground Equipment and Play Day
- Card Ministry to Visitors and Members
- Live Streaming of Sermons and Music
- Updated Membership List
- Created Voting Member and Associate Member designations
- Updated Facilities Usage Agreement
- Consolidated Committees and renamed them Teams
- Church Clean-out Project

Ted Wittliff presented the proposed 2025 Budget, which was approved after a few questions.

Outgoing Council members **Janet Doss, Carolyn Haverland, and Anita Holubec** were recognized.

Ruby Wabbel and **Kandice Samuelson** were elected to serve three-year terms on the Church Council. One Council position remains open and there were no nominations from the floor for that position.

The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

*The full **2024 Annual Report** and the proposed **2025 Church Budget** were emailed to members on January 17. Printed copies are available from the office upon request.

Minister's Musings

Rev. Linda McWhorter

“What is that sweet thing that comes sometimes to touch me at the thought of God?... I struggle deliciously to prevent myself from leaving this thing which I desire to embrace forever.” - *Hugh of St. Victor*

Hugh of St. Victor was a 12th century French theologian and Headmaster of a theology academy, the Abbey of St. Victor, in Paris. He was a prolific author, influenced by the theology of Augustine of Hippo, and wrote hundreds of treatises on theology, biblical commentaries, mysticism, philosophy, and the arts.

Surviving today are also many of his letters and sermons. The beautiful quote I included here refers to his experience of the divine, how sweet that divine connection can be, and how difficult it is to leave the divine embrace when it is time to go and do other things (like chores!)

Think of time when you have felt this desire for God. Maybe it is while you are sitting in prayer or reading scripture which takes you away from the world for a time. Maybe it has been while in worship, feeling moved by a particular hymn or prayer or sermon message. Possibly it has happened to you while holding a newborn for the first time or sitting at the bedside holding the hand of a dying loved one.

Or perhaps this feeling of divine connection and closeness has happened to you while out in nature, on the back 40, or your favorite fishing hole, and you find yourself contemplating the awesomeness of creation with deep gratitude for life.

Whenever this experience of God's spirit meeting yours happens, don't let it pass unnoticed and unappreciated. Grasp it, savor it, thank God for it, and say a little prayer asking that it come again. It is God's heart reaching out to your heart, and it is glorious!

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” – *Luke 1:46-7*



Shepherd's Heart Food Distribution January 11

Volunteers from St. Peter's Church served at Shepherd's Heart on January 11, bagging food and handing out groceries at curbside. Thank you to **Heather Shuttles, Aubrey Shuttles, Krista Poldrack, Matthew Kriedel, Michele Dupy, Sharon Kriedel, Doreen Streit** and **Prissy Rumel** (pictured above) for doing your part to help our community.



Council Report

January 20, 2025

PRESENT: Michele Dupy, Prissy Rumel, Judy Downing, Bill Albert, Kandice Samuelson Ruby Wabbel, Danny Smith (via Zoom) and Rev. Linda McWhorter, ex-officio.

OFFICERS: Michele Dupy was elected President, Prissy Rumel and Danny Smith were elected Vice Presidents, and Ruby Wabbel was elected Council Secretary. Kandice Samuelson agreed to serve as Financial Secretary, with other Council members assisting in the counting of the Sunday offering.

SURVEY: The results of the Participation Survey were compiled and distributed to Council and Team leaders. Barbara Coleman will contact volunteers to arrange dates to serve as Liturgist, Head Usher and Projectionist. For ease of scheduling, people may be asked to serve for a one-month period.

EVENT COORDINATORS: Monthly Worship and Event Coordinators were assigned. Bill Albert will be Coordinator in February, Prissy Rumel in March, and Michele Dupy in April.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Services for Kay Hart's sister, Lila Louise (Lou) Ray, will be in the sanctuary on **February 1 at 1:00 pm**. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Hart's home afterward.

UPCOMING EVENTS: The **February 23** Social Sunday will be at Meyer's in Elgin. The Ash Wednesday soup supper and service will be **March 5**.

CALL LIST: Everyone on Council will have a Call List of church members to stay in touch with. Prissy will finalize the list.

VISITORS: Visitor information cards placed in the offering plate will be routed first to **Rev. Linda** for immediate contact, before being sent to **Cynthia Wittliff** to mail a card.

Meet Your Council

New Church Council member **Ruby Wabbel** and her husband, **Peter Wabbel**, have been members of St. Peter's for about 15 years.

"St. Peter's Church has been part of our life for so many years and I felt a calling to serve on the Council," says Ruby.

She grew up in upstate New York and attended Baptist and Christian Missionary Alliance churches. Ruby and Peter met while she was serving in the Army in Germany. They have three children, Torsten, Daniela, and Markus, one granddaughter and two grandsons.

Ruby is an animal lover and enjoys doing puzzles and needlework. She likes going out to hear good music and even played saxophone in a band while she was in Germany.

Ladies' Circle

Upcoming Events

The Ladies' Circle typically meets for lunch on the **second Wednesday of every month** to discuss the Community Senior Luncheon and other activities. The time and location changes from month to month, so please check the announcements in the bulletin and weekly email for updates.

Our goal is to provide more opportunities for ladies in our church and community to come together to promote fellowship among us.

On Saturday, **February 15, 2025**, we will be hosting a **Social Tea** in the Fellowship Hall at St. Peter's Church from Noon to 2:00 pm. More details will be provided in the near future about the event.

We invite all ladies at St. Peter's and community into our Circle. We appreciate any input you have for future activities to allow social interaction outside of Sunday worship services.

Contact **Cindy Alexander** at 512-699-7515 if you have questions or suggestions, or would like to be added to the contact list for future meetings.



Welcome Rev. Linda McWhorter

Our part-time Transitional Minister, Rev. Linda McWhorter, will be preaching three Sundays a month.

She is in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm and on non-communion Sundays after Worship until 3:30 pm. On Communion Sundays, Rev. Linda will visit and bring communion to members who are homebound and living in facilities

For pastoral care, contact Rev. Linda at 209-401-6739 or MinisterStPetersCoupland@gmail.com (note new email address).

MEET
n
EAT

Social Sunday February 23

Don't miss our first Lunch Out of the year on **Sunday, February 23**, after Worship Services.

We will meet for lunch at **Meyer's Elgin Smokehouse** at 188 U.S. Highway 290 in Elgin.

Plan to join us for lunch—this is a great way to visit and get to know each other better!



Baptism on January 19 of **Adalyn Muery** with her parents Adam Muery, together with his wife Astrid, and Merissa Figueiredo. Godparents Christian Solomon and Rebecca Muery are also pictured, along with Rev. Charles Stark.

ASH
Wednesday

Looking ahead to Lent, this year we will have an **Ash Wednesday** service, including imposition of ashes, on **Wednesday, March 5, at 7 pm.**

Prior to the service, there will be a **Soup Supper at 6 pm.** Look for sign-up sheets on the foyer bulletin board to volunteer to bring soup, bread or dessert.

Men's Brotherhood

The Men's Brotherhood met at the Lucky Duck on January 15. Watch the announcements for notice of future events. If you have suggestions or questions, or would like to be added to the contact list, call or text **Jim Alexander** at 512-514-5951.



A huge THANK YOU to everyone who shares their time and talents in the day to day work of our church: planning and leading worship and events, keeping everyone informed, taking care of our facilities, and reaching out to help others. Special thanks this month:

Prissy Rumel spent many hours creating the Church Participation Survey and compiling the results. A big THANK YOU to **everyone** who filled out the survey and volunteered to help in the life of your church!

Many thanks to **Bill Dupy** and **Peter Wabbel** for cleaning and repairing AC units. Bill also repaired the ice maker in the church kitchen and worked on exterior lights and garage doors at the parsonage.

We appreciate **Adam Muery** preaching on January 19.

Kathy Burkholder (daughter of the late **Irene Florida**) has graciously agreed to continue her mother's tradition of sponsoring St. Peter's quarterly ad in the *Coupland Herald* newsletter.

Thanks to **Tessa Strider** for designing a new ad for St. Peter's to run in the *Coupland Herald*.

Rev. Linda expresses her heartfelt appreciation to St. Peter's Church Council for allowing her use of the parsonage two nights a week, and to all the generous people who helped make the parsonage cozy with furnishings. Thank you!

Thank you to **Prissy Rumel** for coordinating basic furnishings for the parsonage; to **Tessa Strider** and **Martha Poldrack** for contributing items; and to **Danny Smith, Ryan Strider, Prissy** and **Dean Rumel**, and **Bill Dupy** for transporting furnishings. Also thanks to **Charles Stark** for assisting **Rev. Linda** in getting the wi-fi working at the parsonage.

Thank you to **Anita Holubec, Janet Doss** and everyone else who helped with the funeral reception for S.R. Moss.

We appreciate **Michele Dupy's** work in preparing for the Annual Meeting and for everything that she and the other Council members do behind the scenes to keep St. Peter's on track!

Thank you to everyone who collected plastic bottle caps for the pediatric cancer project in Mexico. That project has ended and we are now collecting eyeglasses. See details on page 8.

If we missed mentioning anyone here, please know that we appreciate everything that you do for St. Peter's!

Community Senior Luncheon

The Ladies' Circle will continue to host the Community Senior Luncheon on the third Tuesday of March, May, July, September and November of 2025. Unfortunately the luncheon scheduled for January 21 was cancelled due to severe weather.

The next luncheon will be **Tuesday, March 18, at 11:30 am**. After lunch, attendees can play Bingo or 42 dominoes. The meal is free, but donations are appreciated. Please bring a \$10 bingo prize if you are able.

Many thanks to the members of our Ladies' Circle for organizing this important ministry, providing meals and social interaction for our seniors. As always, we need volunteers to help with the food, serving and clean-up. Contact **Cindy Alexander** at 512-699-7515 if you can help.

Death of Virginia Sims

Virginia (Kalinowski) Sims passed away January 1, 2025 and was buried in St. Peter's Cemetery next to her husband, Edward Earnest Sims, Jr. She ran The Coupland Store (now the Stockup) for many years.

PRAYER list

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

Prayers for the family of **S.R. Moss** and for **Kay and Brett Hart** on the loss of Kay's sister, **Lou**. Continued prayers for **Calvin Ging, Lois Schmidt, Gene Henze, Troy Watson, Robert Bland, Terry Finn, Betty Marosko, Fred Marosko**, and for our homebound and those in care facilities.

For pastoral concerns or prayer requests, please contact **Rev. Linda McWhorter at 209-401-6739 or MinisterStPetersCoupland@gmail.com**.



After the pastor's **Children's Moment** during Sunday Worship Services, children may leave the sanctuary to participate in supervised activities such as art projects, music and games.

Coloring sheets are available at the back of the Sanctuary, and kids up to 6th grade may choose one item from the Treasure Chest in the foyer.

Please bring your kids and grandchildren to church and invite your neighbors!

IN LOVING Memory

Memorials for SR Moss

Danny & Dana Smith	Odoms & Zwachers
Robert & Jane Hensley	Oliver & Steve Hester
Bill & Charlotte Albert	Gilbert & May Belle Repa
Doreen Streit	Robin & Donald Walker
Jaboa Matoska	Parkhill, Smith, Cooper
Scott & JoAnn Ging	Jack & Janice Taylor
Matt & Sharon Kreidel	Jim & Cindy Alexander
Jimmie Cain	Michael Bachmeyer
Marsha & Raymond Beckermann	
Dovetail Wealth Management	
Darwin Harrison & Robert Buckner	

Memorials for Irene Florida

Scott & JoAnn Ging



Members in Care Facilities

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

Calvin Ging: S.P.J.S.T. Assisted Living, 505 East Lake Drive, Room #110, 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



February Birthdays

1st	Anita Holubec, Kevin Krieg, Robert Streit
2nd	Janet Doss
3rd	Lois Schmidt
6th	Heather Shuttles
8th	Kandice Samuelson
9th	Candace Benad Wilson
10th	Linda Boydston, Hermania Vitek
11th	Jay Sutton
13th	JoHannah Valchar
18th	Jake Townsend
19th	Colin Snell, Kyle Snell, Layne Harkins
20th	Nancy Pfluger
22nd	Russell Schmidt, Sr.
25th	Richard Brown, Sherry Stifflemire
28th	Haydon Shuttles
29th	Gunnar Lemp



Regular Giving thru January 19: \$ 8,907

Year-to-Date Regular Giving \$8,907

Special Offerings:

- Taylor Senior Center/Meals on Wheels: \$125
- OCWM \$50
- Coupland Herald \$200
- Cemetery Operating Fund \$400
- Memorials: \$2,340



Giving statements will be available for in-person pick up through Sunday February 2nd, either in worship or by visiting the church office. All statements not picked up by this day will be mailed on Monday February 3.

St. Peter's depends on regular contributions to fund our operations. Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving by 5% or more this year.

Many people like to present offerings in person on a weekly basis. But 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.



LA Wildfire Relief

Our February Mission Offering goes to help those affected by the horrendous fires in Los Angeles. It's hard to fathom the scale of the destruction and many thousands of people are in need of help in the long road to recovery. The Altadena Community Church, a UCC church, was lost in the fire.

We are channeling our donations through the United Church of Christ **Disaster Ministries Team**, who are working with the UCC's Southern California and Nevada Conference to determine the best ways to help locally.

Your gift will support the community's immediate needs and long-term recovery efforts. How to give:

- Note "wildfire" on the memo line of your check.
- Make a cash donation listing "wildfire" on the offering envelope.
- Use the QR code to donate through Venmo and specify "wildfire"



St. Peter's accepts donations through Venmo. Use this QR Code or search for "StPetersCoupland" on your Venmo app. Please use check, cash or bank transfer for Regular Offerings, if possible, due to the fees charged by Venmo.

Donations by Venmo

Offering Reminder

It's a big help to the folks who count and record the offerings if you **write on the memo line of your check what the money is for** (regular offering, food pantry, memorial for xxxx). It's not necessary to use an envelope for checks. Thanks!



Donate Your Used Eyeglasses

For 100 years the Lions Club has been helping to combat vision impairment and blindness. Now you can help by donating used eyeglasses in the collection box in the foyer of our sanctuary.

Most of us have old glasses laying around. Please check your junk drawer and ask your family and friends. All types of glasses, including prescription, readers and sunglasses are accepted. Children's glasses are especially needed. The Lions Club distributes the glasses to people in need, primarily in developing countries.

Let's all help give the gift of sight!



Attend St. Peter's Church Virtually

If you can't make it to worship services, you can watch the sermon live on Sunday morning or watch it any time later on St. Peter's Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/StPetersCoupland.

And be sure to follow us on Facebook to get photos and updates about the life of St. Peter's!

February Events

Sunday Mornings

Adult Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship Service and Children's Church, 10:15 am

Tuesday Mornings

Coffee Connections at 9:30 am

Monday, February 3

Council Meeting at 5 pm

Tuesday, February 18

Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, February 23

Social Sunday: Lunch Out at Meyer's Smokehouse

Tuesday, February 25

Newsletter Distribution

March Events

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday Service & Imposition of Ashes

Connect With Us

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

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Coupland, TX 78615 * 512-856-2433

Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday, 8:00 am -12 noon

Email: StPetersCoupland@gmail.com

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



Our Website:
StPetersCoupland.org



Venmo Donations:
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