



The Voice on the Hill

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

January, 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

Carolyn Haverland

Financial Secretary

Anita Holubec

Council Members

Bill Albert

Janet Doss

Judy Downing

TREASURER

Ted Wittliff

LICENSED MINISTER

Charlotte Albert

MINISTER of MUSIC

David Cappolino

CHURCH SECRETARY

Barbara Coleman

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dana Smith

Rev. Linda McWhorter Called as St. Peter's Transitional Minister

As our Pastoral Search Team continues to seek a Settled Pastor, the Church Council has called **Reverend Linda McWhorter** to serve as our part-time Transitional Minister, starting January 1, 2025.

Rev. Linda will be available 20-25 hours a week. This includes all day Sunday and Monday, with office hours on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 am to Noon. She will reside in our Church Parsonage while in Coupland.

In addition to overseeing worship preparation and preaching, Rev. Linda will provide Pastoral Care, supervise the office/secretary, oversee communications and visitor outreach, support Christian education, attend Council meetings and advise the Pastoral Search Team regarding the process to find a Settled Pastor.

Rev. Linda will have one Sunday off each month, with the pulpit to be filled by one of our own member pastors.

She has preached at St. Peter's several times, so many members have already met her. See page two to learn more about her background. **She can be reached at 209-401-6739 or spiritguidelinda@gmail.com.**

Let's all join in making Rev. Linda feel welcome at St. Peter's!

Annual Meeting January 19

Join us for the St. Peter's Annual Congregational Meeting immediately after Worship Service on Sunday, January 19.

We will approve the 2025 Budget and elect three new Council members.

Be sure to attend this important meeting!

We want everyone's voice in decision making and we need a quorum of Voting Members to conduct the business of the church.

Watch your email in January for **St. Peter's Annual Report**, including a review of St. Peter's activities in 2024.

Rev. Linda McWhorter



Rev. Linda McWhorter is an ordained Minister with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has served as Senior Minister and Intentional Interim Minister at small and large churches in California and Texas since 2004.

Linda also held dual standing with the United Church of Christ in the Northern CA/NV Conference before returning to Texas in 2009.

While in the Navy stationed in San Diego, Linda earned a Bachelor of Science degree from San Diego State University. After graduation and separation from the Navy, she earned a Master in Public Health from UCLA, and a Master of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA.

Before attending seminary, Linda spent over 20 years in various roles in the non-profit sector, including Public Health education, University Women's Health, HIV/AIDS, Addiction Recovery, and Poverty, Housing and Homeless Services.

She also has experience as a Clinical Chaplain with hospice, hospitals, addiction recovery facilities, and adolescent residential behavioral health facilities.

Linda says, "I have always seen my work as ministry, even while serving in the Navy I would counsel troubled sailors. People just seemed to trust me. I have felt called to ministry from an early age."

Linda currently serves on the Regional Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest and on the Board of the South Central Conference of the UCC.

Now retired from full time ministry, she lives with her spouse, Sam, and their four furry children (dogs) near Killeen.

Membership Updates

Members present at the Congregational Meeting on November 17 unanimously approved changes to St. Peter's Constitution and Bylaws that allow members who do not regularly participate in the life of the church to remain as "Associate Members," instead of being removed entirely from the membership list.

In December letters were mailed to all members explaining these changes and notifying them of their membership status.

If you did not receive a letter, please contact the office at StPetersCoupland@gmail.com or 512-856-2433.



Shepherd's Heart Food Distribution January 11

Volunteers are needed to help with food distribution at the Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry on **Saturday, January 11, from 7:30 to 10:30 am.**

We will bag food and hand out groceries at curbside. No heavy lifting is required.

The address is 121 East 2nd Street in Taylor and you can enter through the side door on Porter Street.

Please contact **Charlotte Albert** or the office if you can help with this important mission.

Council Report

December 9, 2024

PRESENT: Michele Dupy, Prissy Rumel, Judy Downing, Anita Holubec, Bill Albert, Carolyn Haverland, Janet Doss and Charlotte Albert. **ABSENT:** Danny Smith

FINANCIALS: Ted Wittliff presented updated Financial Reports and the proposed 2025 Church Budget. Council recommended several adjustments to the budget and then approved it for presentation at the Annual Meeting, for adoption by the congregation.

PASTOR SEARCH: Pastoral Search Team is currently reviewing a Pastoral Candidate and still accepting Candidate Profiles.

TRANSITIONAL MINISTER: Council approved the part-time Call Agreement for Transitional Minister **Rev. Linda McWhorter**. This is an initial six-month contract (with option to renew) beginning January 1, 2025.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is scheduled for January 19, 2025, and Council will meet on Monday, January 20, to include newly elected Council members.

LADIES' AND MEN'S GROUPS: The former LIFT group was re-named Ladies' Circle, with **Cindy Alexander** as leader. **Jim Alexander** has agreed to lead the Men's Brotherhood group.

Men's Brotherhood

Starting in January, **Jim Alexander** will be organizing meetings for the Men's Brotherhood. The group will meet on different days of the month to allow everyone an opportunity to attend. In the past, we had 6 to 8 attendees, but hope to grow the group.

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.

LIFT is Renamed Ladies' Circle

On December 9th, **Prissy Rumel** hosted a Christmas party for the ladies of St. Peter's and 14 attended. Those present unanimously approved changing the name of the group from LIFT to Ladies' Circle, to make it more recognizable and inclusive.

We invite all women at St. Peter's into our Circle and appreciate input for future activities to promote fellowship among us all.

Contact **Cindy Alexander** at 512-699-7515 if you would like to be added to the contact list.



Volunteers are needed to serve as Liturgist, Usher and Projectionist on Sunday mornings. No experience is needed!

Liturgists assist the Pastor with the Order of Service on Sundays, including reading scripture and other short readings that are pre-printed.

Two **Ushers** are needed each week to greet and hand out bulletins, count attendance, ring the bell, and pass the offering plates. On the first and third Sundays we need three extra ushers to help serve communion.

The **Projectionist's** job is to click the remote control to advance the slideshow during the service. It's super easy—you just need to pay attention!

Please email StPetersCoupland@gmail.com, call the office at 512-856-2433, or speak to **Prissy Rumel** to volunteer to help with these vital tasks.

In Memoriam S.R. Moss

S.R. Moss died at home on December 21, 2024, at the age of 95.



Shirley Ragene Moss was born on April 28, 1929, in Foss, OK. He grew up on a cotton farm and graduated from East Central State University in Ada, OK, where he worked his way through college at a funeral home.

After college, S.R. served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and worked in accounting at Conoco Oil in Ponca City, OK, and then in Houston. He married Carolyn Joyce Parks in 1952 and they had three sons.

When Conoco told S.R. that he would be transferred to New York City, he said, "New York City - I'm not gonna raise three kids in New York City. Enough!" In 1966, he and his family moved to Taylor, after purchasing Whites Home & Auto in downtown Taylor by looking at the *Houston Chronicle* classifieds. In 1996, he built a larger store to better serve his customers and changed the name to Moss True Value.

S.R. was known as a caring, patient, giving and quiet man. He ran his business with the motto "the customer is always right." Locally, he was involved in Kiwanis International and was a member of the Taylor ISD School Board, First United Methodist Church in Taylor, and St. Peter's Church of Coupland.

S.R. is survived by companion Hermania Vitek of Taylor; sons Mike (Leslie) of Lubbock, Brad (Belinda) of Taylor, and Doug (Dai) of Austin; three grandchildren Kirk (Ashley), Amanda (Jason), and Megan; and three great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Carolyn, and his grandson Chad.

Services will be Friday, January 3, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Condra Funeral Home in Taylor, with a reception following at St. Peter's Church of Coupland.

In lieu of flowers, please make any contributions to St. Peter's Church of Coupland.

St. Peter's Needs You!

It takes a village to run a church! If you haven't already done so, **join one or more of these teams to do your part for the life of your church!** Teams should elect a leader by the end of January and let the office know.

- Facilities and Security Team
- Worship and Music Team
- Kitchen and Events Team
- Altar and Communion Team
- Children's Program Team
- Mission and Outreach Team
- Communications and Media Team



Many thanks to our 2024 Council Team Members:

- Michele Dupy, President
- Prissy Rumel, Vice President
- Danny Smith, Vice President
- Anita Holubec, Financial Secretary
- Judy Downing
- Bill Albert
- Carolyn Haverland
- Janet Doss

Charlotte Albert served as advisor to the Council, attending meetings and helping with projects.

This Council did an amazing job in challenging circumstances and accomplished a great deal through their dedication and hard work. Special thanks to **Michele Dupy** for leading the Council and for her many hours of work on behalf of St. Peter's.

Carolyn, Janet and Anita will be rotating off the Council in 2025 and three new Council members will be elected at the Annual Meeting in January.

Please keep the 2025 Council members in your prayers and support them as they do the important work of leading St. Peter's Church in the coming year.



A huge THANK YOU to all of our Team Members who generously share 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.

We are grateful to the guest pastors who preached at St. Peter's these past eight months and to our UCC Association Minister, **Nikki Stahl**, for scheduling the pastors. Special thanks to our own **Adam Muery, Charles Stark**, and **Brett Hart** for preaching and to **Charlotte Albert** for handling Pastoral Care.

We're so thankful to **Barbara Coleman** for her dedicated work in managing our office and to **Emma and Pedro Ortega** for keeping our facilities clean.

Many thanks to the **Johnson family** for continuing their tradition of providing beautiful music for our Christmas Eve service. Singers included **Prissy Rumel, Tessa Strider, Martha Poldrack, Paul Johnson, Daniel Johnson**, and **Emma Leigh Maciazek**, accompanied by **Kaley Gregory** on violin, **Tessa Strider** on bass, **David Cappolino** on piano, and **Dori Johnson, Luke Johnson, Krista Poldrack, Heather Shuttles**, and **Aubrey Shuttles** on ukuleles.

Stephanie Ochoa organized the Children's Christmas Program, with 13 kids participating. Special music was performed by **Krista Poldrack, Luke Johnson, Prissy Rumel, Martha Poldrack**, and **Daniel Johnson**.

Thank you to **Doreen Streit** and **everyone** who participated in the Angel Tree Gift Project. We provided 3 gifts each for 23 "angels" this year. It's such a blessing to help children in our community have a bright and Merry Christmas!

Last month **Danny Smith** arranged for a diseased hackberry tree at the parsonage to be cut down and **William Dupy** made repairs to the parsonage, set up timers for our exterior lights, and repaired a kitchen light.

Thank you to everyone who lit the advent candles during December services and to **Cynthia and Ted Wittliff** for hosting the Adult Christmas Party in their home.

Prissy Rumel ordered new candle holders (that don't drip wax on your fingers) for the Christmas Eve service and organized the annual Horseback Christmas Caroling through Coupland.

Thank you to **David Cappolino** and all the singers and musicians who have provided beautiful and inspiring music at St. Peter's this past year.

We appreciate everyone who served as **Worship Coordinator, Liturgist, Usher and Projectionist** and **prepared communion**. Thank you to **Anita Holubek** for counting the offering and changing the altar cloths.

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

Social Sunday Potluck on January 26

Don't miss the first Social Sunday event of the year! Join us for Potluck Lunch on **Sunday, January 26**, after Worship Service. Please bring a main dish, side or dessert to share.

Community Senior Luncheon January 21

Join us **Tuesday, January 21**, at 11:30 am for a lunch of soup, cornbread and dessert. The meal is free, but donations are appreciated. Please bring a \$10 bingo prize if you are able.

This is an important ministry, providing meals and social interaction for area seniors on the **third Tuesday of odd-numbered months**.

As always, we need volunteers to help with serving and cleanup.

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 **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 spiritguidelinda@gmail.com.

Children's CHURCH

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!



EPIPHANY

January 6 we remember the three wise men from the East who brought precious gifts to the baby Jesus.

Thinking of you

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 #9, 19005 Pleasant Bay Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660

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!

January Birthdays

- 3rd Darren Streit, Elizabeth Pearson
- 4th Dean Rumel, Jacob Reyes
- 7th T.J. Wittliff, III
- 8th Dennis Kreig
- 15th Don Wernli, Mary Pfluger
- 16th Becky Sutton, Scott Ging
- 17th Danny Smith
- 19th Cynthia Wittliff
- 20th Lucy Pfluger
- 21st Torsten Wabbel
- 22nd Bonnie Stark, Wanda Walther
- 25th Terry Poldrack
- 27th Alyson Richards, Adalyn Muery
- 28th Bill Albert, Kellie Marak
- 31st Amanda Kreig





Regular Giving for December: \$11,123

Year-to-Date Regular Giving: \$125,357

Special Offerings:

UCC Christmas Fund: \$471

Memorials for S.R. Moss: \$50

Memorials for Irene Sumner: \$50



At the Annual Meeting on January 19, members will vote on St. Peter's budget for 2025.

Costs for everything from utilities to insurance to salaries have risen more than normal in the past few years.

Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving to St. Peter's Church by 5% or more this year.



Mission Offering

Taylor Senior Center Meals on Wheels

January's Mission Offering goes to the **Taylor Senior Center**, which runs the **Meals on Wheels** program serving the Taylor, Coupland, Granger, Bartlett and Hutto areas.

Meals on Wheels serves about 200 meals a day, Monday through Friday, with about 85% of those meals delivered to homebound seniors.

Seniors who are able to visit the Senior Center in Old Taylor High at 410 West 7th Street can eat a hot lunch at the center and participate in activities such as games, exercise classes and crafts.

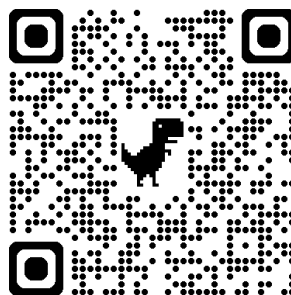
Please consider supporting this very important program, providing meals, activities and contact for seniors in our area. Just write **Taylor Senior Center** on your check or offering envelope.



Giving statements for 2024 will be available for pick up on **Sunday, January 26**. Statements not picked up that Sunday will be mailed.

If there are any discrepancies on your statement, please contact the church office.

Donations by Venmo



St. Peter's is now able to accept donations through the Venmo app. Use this QR Code or search for "StPetersCoupland" on your Venmo app. Please use check, cash or bank transfer for Regular Offerings if possible.

Children's Christmas Program



January 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

Wednesday, January 1

Office closed for New Year's Day

Saturday, January 11

Serve at Shepherd's Heart, 7:30 to 10:30 am

Sunday, January 19

Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship

Monday, January 20

Council Meeting at 6 pm

Monday, January 20

Office closed for Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 21

Community Senior Luncheon at 11:30 am

Sunday, January 26

Social Sunday: Potluck Lunch

Tuesday, January 28

Newsletter Distribution

Connect With Us

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

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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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Christmas Eve

