



The Voice

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

June, 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

Vacant

Vice President

Prissy Rumel

Vice President

Danny Smith

Council Secretary

Kay Hart

Financial Secretary

Kandice Samuelson

Council Members

Robert Bland

Judy Downing

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



Tithely | Simply Serve™

On May 17 we launched a new way to give to St. Peter's Church. We have replaced Venmo with **Tithely**. This digital giving platform is really easy to use and it will provide a lot of advantages for both the church and for you as a giver. There are two ways to give using **Tithely**.

The first is through a link on our website (stpeterscoupland.org). It will send you to a **Tithely** page where you can easily give any time or day of the week. No longer do you need to be in church to give.

The second and the easiest is to download the **Tithely App** to your phone from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. In either case the first step is to create an account which is simply your name, address, phone and email.

The next step is to add your payment method. You can add credit/debit cards or you can add your bank checking account.

When you give, you have the option to cover the fees (2.9% + .30 for credit/debit and 1.0% + .30 for your bank). This will help out the church and maximize your offering to the church.

When you make a gift to the church, there will be a drop down box to select where you want the gift to go (General Fund, Mission Offering of the month, special all church offerings in the UCC or OCWM). You can make multiple designated gifts in one transaction by just selecting + another gift in the app before you submit your gift. We are working on adding Memorial Gifts to your options but we have a few details to work out first.

One of the advantages to the app is that you can set up recurring giving on a schedule you decide. That way even when you are gone on vacation this summer, your giving to the church doesn't stop while you are away.

So check it out and never have to worry about bringing your check-book to church.



Do you ever feel hungry? Do you feel spiritually hungry... sometimes or thirsty? Our souls get hungry and thirsty, which is a good thing you know. Jesus said, **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.”** We want things to be... RIGHT! We hunger for what flows from The Soul. The Soul is always drawing us... always.

I think about this a good bit and remember Paul’s writings...

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3: 14-19)

Filled to the measure of all the fullness of God!!!!
I’m hungry. You?



Last month, Burt created a survey pertaining to the worship experience here at St. Peter’s. The survey was posted on MailChimp for members to complete and printed copies were available for pick up in the church Narthex.

Thank you to everyone who participated. This information will be reviewed by our Worship Committee and Council.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2026

ATTENDANCE Present: All 8 members + Burt & Ted Witliff

EVENT COORDINATION

May - Charles Stark (Work Day, May 16;) | June - Judy Downing

REPORTS

Financial Report (Ted Witliff)

Year-to-date regular offering through April: \$43,842 — approximately \$8,000 below budget. April spending: approximately \$11,200; expenses on track. ACH payee description issue resolved. Edward Jones estimated balance: \$514,000 (statement lag of one month). Monthly transfer to savings for sabbatical and reserves continues; memorial gifts deposited directly to savings.

Financial Secretary's Report (Kandice Samuelson)

No additional items. Thanks to Judy Downing and Doreen Streit for covering during her absence.

Pastor's Report (Rev. Burleson)

Pastoral care: nine visits. Associate Members mailer sent; no responses received. Worship/sound vendor will return for a follow-up site visit before providing final options. Missions/service conversation with Dana and others to be scheduled in coming months.

Pulpit Supply — Vacant Sundays

Three Sundays identified requiring pulpit supply: May 10 (Kay Hart covering), July 12, and August 16. Supply preachers to be offered \$200/Sunday, consistent with prior practice and budget. **Action:** Rev. Burleson will identify and confirm pulpit supply for July 12 and August 16.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

UT Filming — Revised Terms and Fee

Request expanded to full-facility use for one day (sanctuary, conference room, kitchen/fellowship hall, restrooms, ~30 crew). Council approved revised fee of \$300 with a \$100 refundable cleaning deposit; deposit returned if facility is left clean.

Action: Danny Smith will contact producer to confirm date, send a facility use agreement, and collect the deposit.

Sanctuary Seating

Prissy Rumel presented a draft diagram showing removal of three pews per side (six total) to create open space at the rear for accessibility and fellowship. Diagram is preliminary and has not been reviewed by the Worship Committee.

Action: Prissy Rumel will bring the revised diagram to the Worship Committee before the next council meeting. Congregational input process approved in April remains the plan.

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Parking Stops

Rubber/composite stop pricing increased (\$27 to \$35/unit; shipping now ~\$384, previously free). Purchase not made. Seven concrete stops acquired at no cost; will replace the most damaged units.

Action: Danny Smith will install concrete stops and continue monitoring pricing for future rubber stop purchase.

Spring Workday — May 16

Project list: paint and install wheel stops; re-stripe parking lot; restore playground benches; check playground and spray features for wasps; level north-side steppingstones; power wash exterior concrete; polish/replace rusted bathroom hardware; paint Barbara's office.

QR Code / Giving Slides

Some bulletin slides may still reference Venmo or pew-card giving. All giving-related slides must be updated consistently.

Action: Rev. Burleson will confirm with Barbara that all giving slides are corrected before Sunday.

Memorial Fund — Project List

No longer needed as a standing agenda item. Council members will raise Memorial Fund project proposals as they arise.

NEW BUSINESS**Church Identity and UCC Affiliation**

Council discussed the need to clarify how St. Peter's communicates its identity and UCC relationship in publications and signage. No decision made. A broader conversation is needed.

Action: Rev. Burleson will identify a time and format for a focused conversation on church identity and UCC affiliation.

Accounting Practices — Budgeted Commitments

No payment was made to the Heart of Texas Association in 2025 despite a budget line. Root cause: the bookkeeper pays on receipt of invoices; non-invoice commitments are not being initiated.

Action: Ted Witliff will work with Jennifer and the Financial Secretary to ensure budgeted commitments without invoices are paid on schedule. Periodic review of budget compliance to be incorporated into treasurer oversight.

Platform

Charles Stark presented Tithely as the recommended replacement for Venmo, based on research and use at St. John's Burton. No monthly or setup fees. Supports mobile app, Apple/Google Pay, recurring giving, pledge campaigns, tax statements, and multiple admin access. Integrates with the church website.

Action: Charles Stark will configure Tithely, establish admin access for Kandice Samuelson, and coordinate transition. Venmo retired upon launch.

Google Workspace

Charles Stark presented the concept of branded church email via Google Workspace. Council agreed to table; not a current priority.

City-Wide Garage Sale

A city-wide garage sale was proposed for May 23. Council determined the church cannot organize a sale in this timeframe; the church typically participates in the fall.

Action: Danny Smith will inform the Mayor the church is not participating in May. Fall sale to be considered separately.

AED — Maintenance and Replacement

The church's AED (installed 2013) is past recommended replacement age; adult and infant pads are expired. Texas law does not require AEDs but requires monthly inspection of any unit in service. Council agreed not to pursue a commercial maintenance contract. Grants may be available public-facility AED placement.

Action: Prissy Rumel will research AED grant availability.

Bylaws Revision

The bylaws revision committee (Michele Dupy, Charles Stark, Kandice Samuelson, Doreen Streit) has completed drafts of both the Constitution and Bylaws — a full rewrite, not a revision. Review of standing committees (21 in current bylaws) tabled to June.

Action: Bylaws committee will finalize draft. Revised documents to be presented to the full council, then to the congregation for approval.

Council Reorganization — Outgoing Council President

Michele Dupy announced her resignation as Council President effective following this meeting, after 26 months of service. The council will reorganize and address the vacancy at or before the June meeting. Michele Dupy will continue on the bylaws committee.

South Central Conference Delegate — June 6

SCC Annual Meeting to be held June 6 via Zoom. Robert Bland designated as lay delegate.

Action: Charles Stark will confer with Robert Bland and complete registration.

Worship Music Survey

Rev. Burleson presented a brief anonymous survey form on worship music preferences of the congregation.

Action: Rev. Burleson will finalize the survey and submit to Barbara for distribution.

AWARENESS ITEMS

- Ted Witliff has been confirmed as Registered Agent with the Texas Secretary of State.
- Associate Members mailer sent. Barbara to hold undeliverable returned mail for follow-up.
- An informal monthly book club gathering is meeting; council discussed raising visibility through church communications.
- All giving-related slides to be updated once Tithely is operational.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:00 PM

*Respectfully submitted,
Kay Hart, Council Secretary*

(continued)

Council President Resignation

Dear St Peters Congregation ~

After much discernment throughout the Lenten Season, I have decided to tender my resignation as Church Council President and step off of Council.

I need to dedicate more time to my family relationships, improve my health and reduce my stress levels.

I appreciate everyone's support and have every confidence that Pastor Burt and the Church Council will lead St. Peter's Church to continued success.

Sincerely,
Michele Dupy



The Ladies' Circle met on May 6th at the Lucky Duck, and 8 ladies attended. We discussed and finalized the menu for the Senior Community Lunch on May 19th. We also approved a donation to the May Mission Offering for Heifer International.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Food Drive for the Community Cupboard in Elgin. We donated 28 pounds of groceries to the food pantry.

— Dana Smith, Mission Committee

Church Work Day

Thank you to everyone who assisted during our church work day spring clean up.



Community Senior Luncheon

The Community Senior Luncheon was held on May 19th. The Ladies' Circle served ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls, and Dream Strawberry Cake for dessert. Special thanks to all the Ladies who prepared the meal, and also, many thanks to the men who helped with serving and cleanup. We couldn't do it without you.

The next Senior Lunch will be held on July 21st. The meal is free, but donations are appreciated. Attendees can enjoy bingo and 42 dominoes afterward. Please bring a \$10 bingo prize if you are able, but not necessary to enjoy in the fun.

Cindy Alexander
President



South Central Conference

Sign up for the weekly SCC E-News.

<https://sccucc.org/scc-e-news/>

SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING



Due to conflicting events taking place in College Station, the previously scheduled Annual Meeting (hosted by Friends Church) had to be transitioned to a Zoom meeting by the Board of Directors.

The Annual Meeting will now take place via Zoom on June 6 from 9:00am – 12:00pm. St Peter's Church will be represented by the following ministers and lay delegate:

Authorized Ministers - Burt Burleson, Charlotte Albert, and Charles Stark

Lay Delegate – Robert Bland

Our representatives will be meeting in the church Conference Room for the meeting via Zoom.



Extending a Warm Welcome

Do you remember the first time you attended a service at St. Peter's or another church? Visiting a church can be daunting, especially for people who come alone. It's important that we show everyone who walks in our doors a warm welcome. If you see anyone you don't know, please introduce yourself! If they are visitors, they will say so. Introduce them to others and invite them to sit with you.

There are visitor information forms on the table in the foyer, along with church newsletters and red pens to hand out to visitors.

Let's all join in making our visitors feel welcome at St. Peter's!

FILMING AT ST. PETERS JUNE 19TH & 20TH (DATE CHANGE)

The film crew will bring a cargo trailer with all of their equipment on Friday June 19 and park it in front of the church. At the end of the filming day on Saturday, June 20, they will load up the trailer and move it to our remote parking lot across Broad Street. They will pick up the trailer on Sunday.

Charles Stark and Danny Smith will share in being present during the filming so that we will have someone present during the entire day to supervise the group's presence in our facilities.

LUNCH OUT



Rising Sun Vineyard
McDade Texas

Join us on Sunday, June 28th after worship for lunch out.

We will meet at Rising Sun Vineyard, 233 Edmondson Ranch Road in McDade.

Members in Care Facilities

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

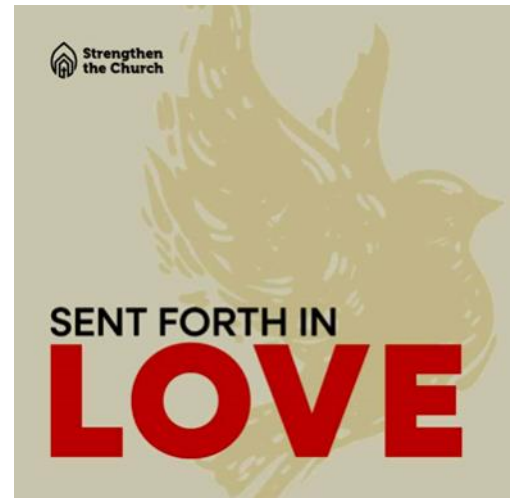
Robert Gebhardt: Autumn Leaves of Georgetown, 3600 Williams Drive, Georgetown, TX 78628

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

June Mission Offering Strengthen the Church



The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our conference and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, start new congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults.

The offering is divided, with 50% staying regionally within our conference and 50% supporting the national ministries. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.



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

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Mornings

Adult Sunday School 9:00 am
Children's Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship at 10:15 am

Monday Evenings

Fitness Dance Class 7:00 pm

Tuesday Mornings

Community Connections 9:30 am

Tuesday, June 2

Council Meeting 6:00 pm

Friday, June 19 & 20

UT Film Project

Sunday, June 28

Lunch Out ~ Rising Sun Vineyard
233 Edmondson Ranch Road
McDade, TX

Connect With Us

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

PO Box 146
108 Wathen Street (physical address)
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](https://www.facebook.com/StPetersCoupland)

Our Website:

StPetersCoupland.org

Photos of Church Life

