



The Voice

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

September , 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

Kay Hart

Vice President

Prissy Rumel

Vice President

Danny Smith

Council Secretary

Charles Stark

Financial Secretary

Kandice Samuelson

Council Members

Robert Bland

Judy Downing

Charles Stark

TREASURER

Ted Wittliff

LICENSED MINISTER

Charlotte Albert

MUSIC DIRECTOR

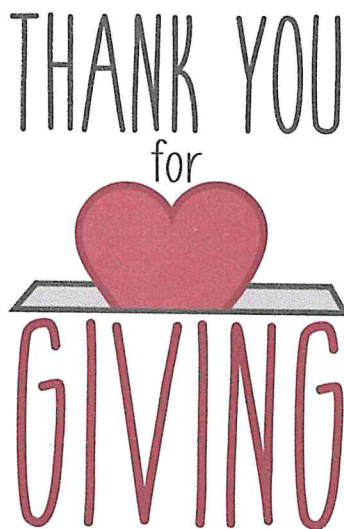
David Cappolino

CHURCH SECRETARY

Barbara Coleman

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Charles Stark



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who provided financial support and clothing donations to the family of Japheth "J" Singleton and Mimi Cavanaugh, who lost their rented home and all their belongings in a fire. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have raised \$1,310 through the church as of August 23, plus an additional \$300 in direct donations to the family.

The Singleton/Cavanaugh family is very grateful for our support as they work to re-build their lives. Please continue to lift them up in your prayers during this challenging time.

We will be **CLOSED**
TO OBSERVE
Labor DAY

Wishing you and safe and happy Labor Day Holiday!



Who Is Our Neighbor?

Summer is winding down. School has started again. Calendars are filling up, routines are returning, and somehow we are already looking toward fall.

There is something about this time of year that feels like a new beginning—even for those of us who haven't had a first day of school in quite some time.

St. Peter's is in a season of new beginnings, too. As you move through this time of transition and prepare eventually to call your next settled pastor, there is an opportunity not only to think about where St. Peter's has been, but also to wonder about where God might be calling you next.

This past Sunday, as I gathered with members of the Missions Committee, our conversation led us to a deceptively simple question:

Who is our neighbor?

It's an interesting question for St. Peter's because our church family comes from several different communities. Some live in Coupland, while others drive in from Elgin, Taylor, and beyond. Each of us has neighbors where we live.

But who are *St. Peter's* neighbors?

Who are the people who live, work, learn, and gather in the community immediately surrounding this church? What are their joys? What are their struggles? What needs exist that we simply don't know about yet?

And maybe that's where mission begins—not with deciding what we think people need, but with listening.

Before we decide what St. Peter's can do for Coupland, perhaps we first need to ask, "What can we learn from Coupland?"

So how do we listen? Perhaps it begins simply by paying attention. Talk to people who know Coupland well. Ask questions of teachers, community leaders, business owners, and neighbors. Show up at community events. Notice where people gather and who might be missing. Learn about the good work that is already happening. And above all, resist the temptation to decide what our neighbors need before we've taken the time to ask them.

Being a good neighbor begins with knowing our neighbors.

As St. Peter's continues thinking about its mission and ministry, I hope these are questions you will continue asking together. Pay attention. Ask questions. Build relationships. Learn about this community and the people who call it home.

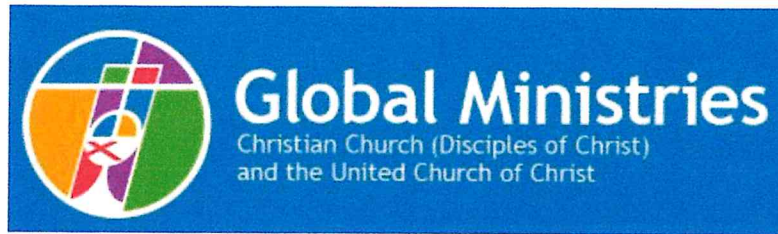
And as you do, perhaps you'll discover places where God is already at work—places where St. Peter's doesn't need to create something new as much as simply come alongside what is already happening.

I don't know where those conversations will lead.

But that's part of the adventure, isn't it?

As St. Peter's listens for God's voice during this season of transition, perhaps one of the voices worth listening to is the community right outside our doors.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Nikki Stahl



September Mission Offering Family Village Farm

St. Peter's Church has long supported the Family Village Farm (FVF), which was founded in 1969 to care for orphans and the elderly in the Vellore area of Southern India.

Children are provided food, clothing, shelter, love, discipline and training in a home-like setting. Ten to twelve children, a mother, and grandparents live in cottages in a family-type group. The adults, who are from difficult circumstances, help care for the children while benefiting from housing and support.

The farm also includes staff housing, a bakery, poultry farm, dairy and feed mixing unit. Boys are trained to tend crops and fruit trees and the girls are trained in sewing, making school uniforms and hospital linen.

The King's Matriculation School serves the children at Family Village Farm plus 300 children from surrounding villages, many of whom cannot afford school tuition. Training at school helps the children learn skills to enable them to be self-supporting in the future.

Boys can live at FVF until the age of 18. Girls, if they do not have living parents, are allowed to stay until marriage.

Global Ministries (the missionary arm of the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ) has a Child and Elder Sponsorship Program to provide food, clothing, education, and training. Global Ministries also provides funding for capital improvements and infrastructure.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Give a special offering this month by indicating "Family Village Farm" on your check or online gift.
- Sponsor a Child or Elder at Family Village Farm (\$40 a month or \$480 annually).
- Sponsor a Student at King's Matriculation School, providing tuition and one meal a day (\$30 a month or \$360 annually).

*Contact Charlotte Albert or Dana Smith
for more information*



Thank you from the family of Willy Zucknick

Thank you all so much for all your work for us concerning Willy Zucknick's celebration of life. The service was perfect and I appreciate all the women who prepared the food for us! It was great to have a bite and chat with family and friends after celebrating Willy's precious life.

I know a lot of people were involved in the preparation and we really appreciate it.

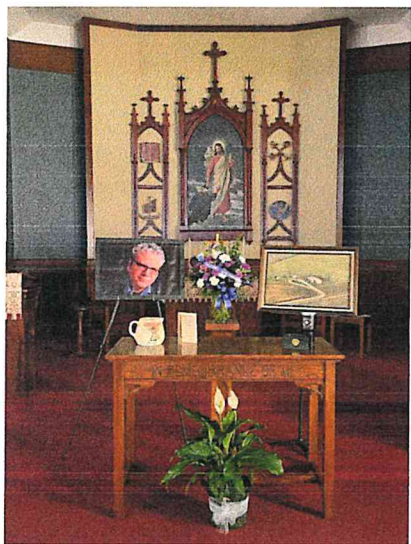
It was really good to see old friends I went to church with especially Kandice and Prissy. Kandice was such a dear friend and it was special to see her!

Again thank you for all you did for us! St Peter's has a special place in my heart after so many years attending there. It was wonderful seeing the church again with all the special stained glass windows!

What a wonderful blessing it was to have Willy's service there and the pastor was amazing!

Thank you for your caring attitude towards us.

Love in the Lord,
Kathy Friedrich
Willy's sister



IN LOVING
Memory

In Memory of Willy Zucknick

Bill & Charlotte Albert
Kandice Samuelson
Doreen Streit

PRAYER list

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

We pray for the Zucknick Family, Julie and Burt Burleson, Jeanette Watson, Susan Schmidt, Karen Cappolino, Gene Henze, and Terry Finn.

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 Rev. Nikki Stahl at
revnikkistahl@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


*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

CHURCH COUNCIL SUMMARY

The Church Council met on August 4 and took several significant actions as St. Peter's moves through its pastoral transition. Council voted to engage Nikki Stahl as **Bridge Pastor** beginning August 14 for 20–25 hours per week with preaching duties beginning September 1, 2026.

Nikki will provide pastoral coverage, including Sunday services, visitation of members and homebound, and coordination of pastoral care, while the congregation conducts its pastoral search.

Council approved the formation of a five-member **Pastoral Search Committee**: Danny Smith, Robert Bland, Sharon Kreidel, Charlotte Albert, and Mick Lemp. The committee will review the church profile and guide the search process.

Kay Hart was elected **Council President**. Charles Stark was elected **Council Secretary**.

Council updated the authorized signers on church bank accounts to remove individuals no longer serving on the council and add the appropriate council officers.

Council voted that no **council vacancies** will be filled until the revised bylaws have been fully approved by the church.

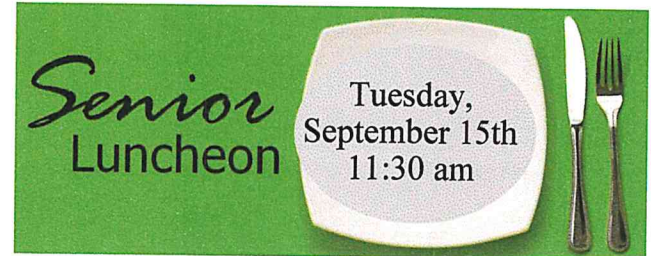
The Council also held working sessions on August 15 and 21 to review the draft Constitution and Bylaws prepared by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Next steps, including a timeline for congregational adoption, will be discussed at the September meeting.

Coming Up at the September Meeting: Council will take up the cemetery rules amendment addressing natural burial requirements and the revised definition of family for burial eligibility, hear a first report from the Pastoral Search Committee, and finalize the Constitution and Bylaws to be presented for Church review this fall.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Community Senior Lunch will take place on Tuesday, September 15th at 11:30 am.

Volunteers are always needed to serve and clean up.

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.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry Saturday, October 3

4 to 8 Volunteers are needed to help distribute food at the Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry from **7:30 am to 10:30 am on Saturday, October 3.**

If you can help, contact **Charlotte Albert** at 512-924-3335 or email CharlotteAlbert66@gmail.com.

We will bag groceries and then distribute the food at curbside—no heavy lifting required!

Shepherd's Heart is at 121 East 2nd Street in Taylor. You can enter through the side door on Porter Street.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Mornings

Adult Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship at 10:15 am

Monday Evenings

Fitness Dance Class 7:00 pm

Tuesday Mornings

Community Coffee 9:30 am

Tuesday, September 1

Council Meeting 6 pm

Monday, September 7

Labor Day, Office Closed

Tuesday, September 15

Senior Lunch 11:30 am

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

Facebook: St. Peter's Church of Coupland

or www.facebook.com/StPetersCoupland

Our Website:

StPetersCoupland.org

Photos of Church Life

