

THE VOICE ON THE HILL

Issue 2 Volume 10

February 2023



St. Peter's Church

of Coupland, UCC

P.O. Box 146 ~ 108 Wathen St.
Coupland, TX 78615



Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Peter's Church of Coupland, recognizing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, invite all to share the joy of God's Word through the Holy Spirit, calling us to community, worship, service and fellowship.

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Lent Begins February 22!



The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, begins a season of fasting and preparation for Easter. We will have soup supper at 6pm followed by Lenten Service at 7pm.



Happy
Valentine's
DAY



New Council Members were voted on Sunday January 15.
Welcome new Council Members Laurie Morris, Tammy Sane, and Rex Snell.

The members going off are Roy Morris, Bonnie Sladek, and Sandra Wernli
A big thank you for your service and dedication!

The following members will take Officer Positions:

President: Rex Snell
Vice President: Sharon Kreidel
Secretary: Cindy Alexander
Treasurer: Janet Doss
Financial Secretary: Anita Holubec



STARK REALITY

FEBRUARY 2023

As we enter the month of February, we continue in the church season of Epiphany which started on January 6. It is a season of light. This month we will transition into Lent on February 22, which is Ash Wednesday. It is a day to remember our own mortality and to realize that life itself is a gift from God. Throughout this Lenten season we will gather on Wednesday evenings to share a simple soup dinner and then gather in the sanctuary for a short worship and educational program. Last year we used a video study by Adam Hamilton. I haven't made any final decisions yet but I am looking at another study by Adam since it was so well received last year.

On February 4, our Council will gather for a Planning Retreat which will help us focus our efforts at being the church in this community and examining what that might entail. It is a time to set goals and objectives for the ministry of St. Peter's. If you have ideas or suggestions of what you think our church should be doing, please don't hesitate to let me know so that I can share that with the Council. Even if you don't have time to share your thoughts before the Planning Retreat, please share your thoughts with me and I will make sure that the Council hears them at our regular February meeting.

This month of February is best known for the celebration of Valentine's Day. It is a day to focus on love. The gospel is a message of love. It is not only God's love for us but a call for us to love one another. I keep FB messages that I find important in a photo album on my phone. Today I looked for messages of love and found this powerful message written by Rachel Marie Martin. These words sum up the gospel message for me and I hope for you as well.

Live in love, not hate.
Live in hope, not anger.
Live in truth, not rumor.
Live in kindness, not rudeness.
Live in generosity, not selfishness.
Live in peace, not frustration.
Live in joy, not doubt.
Live in movement, not fear.
Live in love.

Charles



Trees down outside church

Historic Winter Storm

On Tuesday January 31 Central Texas experienced one of the worst ice storms in years.

Tree branches were frozen, trees toppled over damaging property, leaving thousands without power for days. Schools were closed for (4) days.



Ice on tree limbs outside Parsonage

Late Thursday evening February 2 all of Coupland was without power. Text messages received by Pastor Charles from Oncor stated "the damage from the ice storm is extensive" with no timetable as to when power would be restored.

At St. Peter's Church the Annual Council Retreat scheduled for Saturday February 4 has been rescheduled for the following Saturday February 11.

As of Friday evening February 3, power was restored to the church.



Soup Supper Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to prepare soups for our soup supper during Lent which begins Wednesday February 22.

Soup will be served at 6pm followed by Lenten Service at 7pm. Look for the signup sheet in the sanctuary coming soon.



Senior Luncheon

Our Senior Citizens Luncheon was held on January 17, 2023. Over 61 Senior Citizens including Hostesses & Hosts attended our Luncheon. What a Crowd!

Hostesses were: Sandra & Don Wernli, Becky Sutton, Cindy & Jim Alexander, Charlotte Albert, Hermania Vitek, JoAnn Ging, Lois Schmidt, & Cynthia & Teddy Wittliff.

Helpers were: Wanda Walther, Cindy & Zac Wood, Joyce & Arthur Henze. Thanks to everyone who helped us in any way!

Bingo & "42" Dominoes were played.

Our next Luncheon will be on March 21, 2023. If you are playing Bingo, be sure to bring a prize \$10 and under. We hope to see you on March 21, 2023!

Lois Schmidt & Sandra Wernli
Co-Chairs



Birthday Celebration!

To everyone,

Papa CJ Ging is turning 95 on March 4. You are invited to a "come and go" at Calvin's house on **Saturday, March 4 from 2pm to 4pm**. Lets all have fun celebrating this great day with CJ.

See you there!
The Ging Family

Members in Assisted Living or Care Facilities:

Irene Florida: Shavano Park Senior Living, Apt #102
3220 North Loop 1604 W, Shavano Park, TX 78231

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

Ann Johle: Sagebrook Nursing Center,
901 Discovery Blvd. Cedar Park, TX 76511

Karen Rhoades: Heritage Lakes Assisted Living
Room #110
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 Candice Wilson
- 10th Linda Boydston, Grace Nelson
- 11th Jay Sutton, Kenny Asbury
- 13th JoHannah Valchar
- 18th Jake Townsend
- 19th Colin Snell, Kyle Snell, Layne Harkins
- 20th Kristin Rathburn, Nancy Pfluger
- 22nd Russell Schmidt, Sr.
- 23rd Addison Reyes
- 25th Richard Brown, Sherry Stifflemire, Tammy Sane
- 27th David Wellings
- 28th Haydon Shuttles





Welcome New Member!

On Sunday January 8, the members of St. Peter’s Church welcomed new member Amanda Palm.

Mandy is Director of Communications & Partnership at Sport Clips Haircuts where she oversees public relations and communications for the entire Sport Clips system of almost 1,900 locations nationwide. In addition, she manages the company's "Haircuts with Heart" philanthropic partnerships with the American Red Cross, St. Baldrick's Foundation, Dream Flights and the VFW's Help A Hero Scholarship program, which was awarded more than 2,400 scholarships for veterans totaling \$11.4M.

Through promoting the scholarship program, she's made many trips to New York to stand on the plaza at the Today Show with Hoda and been in the audience at Good Morning America and shared tweets with Robin Roberts & Michael Strahan.



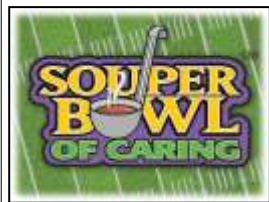
Bookkeeper Hired

Jennifer Tatrow has been hired as the part-time church bookkeeper. Jennifer will be responsible for entering income and expenses in Quickbooks, paying bills, entering payroll and reconciling bank statements.



Men’s Brotherhood

The Men’s Brotherhood will meet Thursday, February 9 at 6:30pm at Randy’s Ice House, 1321 W 2nd Street in Taylor.



“Souper” Bowl Sunday

Due to the winter storm we will take up collection Sunday February 12. Collection was also taken up February 5. This offering supports the Elgin Food Pantry.

2022 Offering Report

Total Regular Giving for 2022 (January thru Dec)
\$143,206.38

January 2023 Offering Report

Total Regular Giving for January 2023
\$12,221

Budgeted Amount for 2022 \$150,527

February Worship Schedule

February 5 Liturgist: Judy Downing Ushers: Roy Morris	February 12 Liturgist: Michele Dupy Ushers: Bill Dupy
February 19 Liturgist: Charlotte Albert Ushers OPEN	February 26 Liturgist: Tammy Sane Ushers: Sandra & Don Wernli



**Minutes for Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 8, 2023**

Meeting was called to order by Sharon Kreidel, Council President.

Pastor Charles provided the opening prayer.

A quorum of 35 members was verified by Peter Wabbel.

A motion was made by Charlotte Albert and seconded by Laurie Morris and to approve the Agenda. Motion was approved.

Minutes from the 2022 meeting were not available.

Pastor Charles spoke to congregation on how glad he was to remain as interim pastor until a permanent one is hired. He plans to continue living in the parsonage to be available for the members.

Sale of Slumber Falls Camp Resolution

Charlotte Albert provided a history of the Slumber Falls Camp. A resolution was presented to the congregation which calls for a special meeting of the South Central Conference to be held to address the issue of the Board of Directors initiating discussions relating to the sale of Slumber Falls Camp. A temporary restraining order against the Conference has been put in place. A motion was made by Charlotte Albert and seconded by Michelle Dupuy to complete the Resolution and submit to the South Central Conference. Motion was approved.

Pastoral Search Committee

Michelle Dupuy presented an update and issues facing the Pastoral Search Committee. She provided options about providing profile outside of UCC. She addressed questions from the congregation. A motion was made by Becky Sutton and seconded by Laurie Morris and Barbara Piper to put the position profile on websites outside of UCC. Motion was approved.

2023 Budget

Sharon Kreidel presented the proposed budget for 2023 and answered questions from members. A motion was made by Charlotte Albert and seconded by Sandra Wernli to approve the budget. Motion was approved.

Committee Member Elections

Nominees for the Council, Memorial Committee, and Investment Advisory Committee were presented to the congregation. A motion was made by Barbara Piper and seconded by Becky Sutton to accept and approve all positions by acclamation. Motion was approved.

Pastor Charles provided the closing prayer and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Alexander
Council Secretary

Recent Memorials

N= New Horizon C=Cemetery L=Landscaping M=Memorial Fund

For: Marge Gebhardt

By: Arthur & Joyce Henze (M)
Lois Schmidt (M)
C.J. Ging (M)

For: Lanell Poldrack

By: Melvin Poldrack (M)



**St. Peter's Church of Coupland
Council Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2023**

Members present: S.R. Moss, Anita Holubec, Peter Wabbel, Sharon Kreidel, Cindy Alexander, Carolyn Haverland, Janet Doss, Rex Snell, Tammy Sane, Laurie Morris

The agenda was adopted.

Minutes for December 2022 were approved.

Financial reports for Income & Expense and Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual were not available due to resignation of bookkeeper. The balance sheet was provided and reviewed by Council.

Committee reports:

No reports available.

Pastor's report:

Pastor Charles stated the Resolution for the sale of Slumber Falls was submitted to the South Central Conference. Please see Pastor's report for additional information.

Old Business:

Pianist search update: Weizhen Lai will be leaving the position at the end of January 2023. The Music Committee is interviewing David Webb for a start date on the first Sunday in February. He currently plays at a Lutheran church in Austin which is closing at the end of January.

Signs to direct people to Church office: Pastor Charles is still researching the costs of purchasing two signs with directions to the office in addition to office hours.

PA system upgrade: The upgrade has been purchased.

Elgin Food Pantry: February 5th, 2023, has been designated as "Souper" Bowl Sunday. Donations will be collected and donated to the Elgin Food Pantry. Members are also encouraged to wear their favorite team's jerseys or apparel.

Council Planning Retreat: The retreat will be held for all council members on February 4, 2023. The retreat allows the council to decide priorities for 2023.

New Business:

Council Package: Copies of the Constitution and By-laws, Budget for 2023, and contact information for council members were provided since new members have been elected.

Review Project List: Sharon Kreidel went over possible future projects that have been identified by the council since new members have been elected. This includes updates to the parsonage (already budgeted), new church sign, providing electricity to the pavilion, propane tank, fire alarm emergency system, and playground equipment.

Bookkeeper Update: A new computer to run QuickBooks software has been purchased. Sharon Kreidel and Carolyn Haverland will be in charge of getting it set up. Position has been listed on Craig's List, and applications have been received. A motion was made and approved to allow Sharon and Carolyn to hire the next bookkeeper as they have working knowledge of the software.

Vote New Officers: The following are the officers of the Council.

Rex Snell, President
Sharon Kreidel, Vice President
Cindy Alexander, Secretary
Janet Doss, Treasurer
Anita Holubec, Finance – Peter Wabbel, Laurie Morris, and Tammy Sane will be trained as backups for Anita.

The council reviewed and updated the calendars for February and March 2023. Event coordinators and Communion bread providers will be Carolyn Haverland for February and Peter Wabbel for March.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Alexander
Secretary

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship/ Communion "Souper" Bowl Sunday offering	6	7 Coffee Connections 9:30am	8	9 Men's Brotherhood Randy's Ice House 6:30pm	10	11 9:00am Council Retreat
12 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship "Souper" Bowl Sunday offering	13	14 Coffee Connections 9:30am Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship/ Communion 11:30am Church Council	20 President's Day	21 Coffee Connections 9:30am	22 Ash Wednesday 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Service	23 Newsletter Deadline	24	25
26 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship Potluck Lunch	27	28 Coffee Connections 9:30am Newsletter Assembly 10:30am				

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ST PETER'S CHURCH OF COUPLAND
PO Box 146, Coupland, TX 78615

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PERMIT #2
COUPLAND, TEXAS 78615

Return Service Requested

Come and Worship with Us

St. Peter's Church of Coupland, UCC

108 Wathen St.
P.O. Box 146
Coupland, TX 78615

Office Hours:

Monday- Thursday
8:00 am - 12 noon

February 2023

WORSHIP SERVICE HOURS

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

Interim Pastor: Charles Stark

Interim Pastor's Phone: 830-660-7239

Licensed Ministers -

Charlotte Albert

Pianist/Choir Director-

Secretary - Barbara Coleman

Church's phone: 512-856-2433

Church Email: stpeterscoupland@gmail.com

Church Website: www.couplandchurch.org

St. Peter's... "The Church on the Hill with the Heart as Big as Texas"