

THE VOICE ON THE HILL

Issue 12 Volume 10

December 2021

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.

Inside This Issue:

Stark Reality	2
Onward & Upward	3
Offertory Report	4
News & Such	5
Council Meeting	6
Church Calendar	7



Luke 1:30-31 NRSV

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.



Merry Christmas!

Angel Tree Project



St. Peter's is sponsoring the Angel Tree Project again this year. This is a community project with Coupland School and Coupland Volunteer Fire Department. The school helps us to identify students that might need some assistance including their younger/older siblings, and the Fire Department assists with the delivery of the gifts to the families.

We do 3 gifts for each individual that includes: (1) shirt & pant, (2) wish list toy/gift, (3) wish list toy/gift. You can pick up gift tags in the back of the church. You may take all 3 tags for the individual or one tag if you prefer. And, of course, you may shop for more than one individual. When you select your tags from the sign-up sheet, please write your name and phone number in the block of the associated tags in case we need to contact you.

Please return the wrapped gifts with the tag attached by **Sunday, December 12**. This date is very important for coordination with the school and fire department. If there is anyone that needs community service credit, you are invited to stay after church to assist with bundling the gifts and preparing them for pick-up.

If you have questions, please contact Doreen Streit at dkstreit@ymail.com or 512/659-3625.



Glory to the Newborn King!
Join us as we celebrate the
birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Saturday December 11	6:30pm Christmas Party
Sunday December 12	Christmas Pageant Practice
Sunday December 19	10:15am Children's Christmas Program
Friday December 24	6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**STARK REALITY - December 2021**

As we enter into the season of Advent (the four Sundays preceding Christmas), I want to encourage us to take some time to focus on our spiritual journey. Advent is traditionally a time of preparation. It is a season to examine once again the meaning of the incarnation of God in the world. In the manger, God comes among us as a child. No longer is God a remote icon of our spiritual focus, but one who has experienced both the joys and sorrows of life in the world. The witness of the UCC Statement of Faith to this reality is expressed in the words, "you have come to us and shared our common lot."

This is definitely a season in which God can be lost in the bright lights, hurried shopping, and a calendar full of holiday events. I hope that you will invest some time in this church season of Advent to focus on your spiritual journey and the role that God plays in your life. Is God just on your radar on Sunday mornings? Is God with you on your journey in life every day?

It is my hope this Advent season that each of us will re-examine our Christmas priorities and try our best to put God first in all that we are doing. If we will renew our commitment to God this season, we can join the heavenly chorus in singing JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME!

Peace my friends

Rev. Charles Stark

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

After skipping last year due to the pandemic, we are excited to announce that we will once again have a Christmas Pageant thanks to the efforts of Stephanie Finn. The pageant will be a part of the service on Dec 19th. There will be a practice for all participants on Sunday December 12. The time is yet to be determined. Please email the church office if you are interested in participating so we can begin to assemble a list of interested families.

**Heart of Texas Association Calls New Association Minister**

Greetings! My name is Rev. Nikki Stahl. Starting on November 1st, I'm your new Heart of Texas Association Minister. Before I tell you more about me, let me say what an important pastor, mentor, and friend Rev. Liz Nash has been for me. Over the last few weeks, I've been able to hear many of you share how important that she has been to you. Again, many thanks to Rev. Liz Nash! Liz, thank you for your ministry and all the ways in which our lives have been blessed and enhanced by it. Now, go enjoy those grandbabies!!

There is a lot that I can share about me so I will just hit the highlights. I was born and raised in Austin. Grew up Southern Baptist. I have a bachelor degree in Finance from UT of Austin, a masters of Social Work and a masters of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. I've held several "jobs" prior to seminary including Workers Compensation Underwriter, 3M Plant and Operational Accountant, and Business Analyst.

I can be reached at revnikkistahl@gmail.com and my cell number is 512-751-3557. I'm also on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/togetherwithyouonthejourney>.

With you on the Journey,
Rev. Nikki Stahl
Association Minister (elect)



As most people in the area know a movie was being filmed in town and at church in October "Love and Death" which will take about a year before it appears on HBO. Some people were hesitant about filming this kind of movie on church property. They have finished and have left us a few things mostly the garden items which we have someone to work our flowerbeds and the trees will be planted at the parsonage. It was a hectic schedule for Pastor Stark and Barbara during this time. The film crew did repaint the conference room which we decided to keep the color. They serviced our AC units prior to coming and took away the playscape.

We have received two payments totaling \$68,800. In addition to the original amount we have received, we have another payment in process for just under \$10,000 for a reshoot which took place November 17. Also they are talking about having to return in early December for some retakes with the drone. That could potentially amount to another \$9,000. The fence replacement will be postponed until confirmation of no more reshoots.

We will be using some of the monies to pay for the landscaping and a new playscape.

As I came up several times to check things out I was impressed how they always wanted the history of our little country church. We have a special place to come on Sunday mornings...

Big Thank You to Pastor Stark for being our representative for our church while movie people were here at weird hours and additional days ...

Carolyn Haverland
President St Peter's



Our Thanksgiving Luncheon was held on November 16 at 11:30 am. Over 40 Senior Citizens including Hostesses and Helpers attended our delicious Thanksgiving Meal. Hostesses were Sandra Wernli, Janet Doss, Cynthia Wittliff, Bonnie Sladek, Charlotte Albert, Becky Sutton, Hermania Vitek, Jack Piper, & Lois Schmidt. The LIFT Ladies furnished the Turkey and Meyers Sausage of Elgin furnished the Dressing & Gravy. We thank Meyers Sausage for their donation!

Helpers were: Joyce & Arthur Henze, Don Wernli, Wanda Walther, Teddy Wittliff & JoAnn Ging. Pastor Charles did our Thanksgiving Blessing and was a helper, too. There was a lot of Bingo Players and 2 Tables of "42" Dominoes. We thank everyone who volunteered to help us with this event.

Our next luncheon will be on January 18, 2022, at 11:30 am. We hope you can join us in the NEW YEAR!! Bring a prize under \$10, if you are playing Bingo. "42" Dominoes will also be played.

Have a HAPPY THANKSGIVING & MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Lois Schmidt & Sandra Wernli Co-Chairmen

Our Sick & Shut-Ins:

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

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

Nancy Goodlett: at home

Ann Johle: has been moved to a care facility in Cedar Park



- 3rd Jacob Doss, Tessa Streit
- 5th Sophia Rae Eiben, Amber Ging
- 7th Reagan Fischer
- 8th Irene Florida
- 12th Jeff Stork
- 15th Cameron Dupy
- 16th Sydney Snell
- 17th Bradley Nelson, Johnathan Dupy
- 18th Craig Albert
- 20th Michael Wellings
- 21st Gene Henze
- 22nd Cody Cox
- 23rd Teddy Wittliff
- 24th Carrie Townsend
- 29th Dakota Brown
- 30th Brittney Brown
- 31st Kimber Finn





Giving for October 24

Regular Offering: \$3,251

Special/Designated Offerings:

Cemetery Operating Fund \$30

LIFT \$70

OCWM \$50

Shepherd's Heart - Diners \$129

Salvation Army Taylor Service Unit \$50

Kirchenfest Food Offering \$900

New Horizon \$400

Memorials \$20

Church Attendance: Adults: 62 Kids: 10

Giving for October 31

Regular Offering: \$1,631

Special/Designated Offerings:

Cemetery Operating Fund \$52

Salvation Army Taylor Service Unit \$25

Church Attendance: Adults: 31 Kids: 1

Giving for November 7

Regular Offering: \$2,727

Special/Designated Offerings:

Christian Education \$2

New Horizon - planter sale \$50

Building Rental \$1,200

Memorials \$80

Church Attendance: Adults: 36 Kids: 1

Giving for November 14

Regular Offering: \$3,234

Special/Designated Offerings:

Cemetery Operating Fund \$31

Landscaping \$40

Down Home Ranch \$42

OCWM \$50

New Horizon \$1,000

Memorials \$175

Church Attendance: Adults: 37 Kids: 0

Giving for November 21

Regular Offering: \$2,163

Special/Designated Offerings:

Cemetery Operating Fund \$57

Building Rental \$300

Memorials \$115

Church Attendance: Adults: 46 Kids: 0

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
...
GENEROUSLY

December Worship Schedule

December 5 Liturgist Judy Downing Ushers Ted Wittliff	December 12 Liturgist Cindy Wood Ushers Paul & Tammy Sane
December 19 Liturgist Charlotte Albert Ushers Anita Holubec	December 26 Liturgist OPEN Ushers Linda Miller



It is hard to believe that **Advent** is upon us, followed quickly by Christmas. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. I invite you to follow along on Facebook (www.facebook.com/HOTA.UCC) as we journey together through the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized utilizing material from Sanctified Art (sanctifiedart.org). Especially for our clergy, I hope you find space and time to walk through these seasons in addition to leading others through them.

I'm grateful for the opportunities in November to visit in-person with Rev. Dan DeLeon (Friends College Station), Rev. Darrin Holub (St. John's Burton), Pastor Rene Slataper (Hope United Georgetown), Rev. Crystal Silva-McCormick (Church of the Savior Cedar Park), Rev. Ryan Hart (Open Cathedral), Rev. Enid Ross (retired chaplain), Rev. Arlene Turner (Bethany San Antonio), and Rev. Eric Gates (Faith United Bryan). Lots of different, yet exciting, life-changing things are happening in each of these local churches and the communities that they serve. I look forward to finding Sundays to worship with you and learning more about how God is working through you.

Please remember that **Annual Meeting Planning** is underway. We would love to have a representative from each church involved in our planning. The dates have been set for Friday, May 27th - Sunday, May 19th (with Worship Service/Installation livestreamed for your congregations) at Camp Allen. Contact me if you are interested. It is never too late to chip in and help.

Also, don't miss out on various celebrations and news events being posted on the **Heart of Texas Association Facebook Page** (www.facebook.com/HOTA.UCC) (Instagram, Twitter coming). Some November recognitions included church anniversaries, ordination anniversaries, clergy birthdays, new calls, special local church events/accomplishments, and more! Send us pictures and updates about how you are transforming lives in your local communities so we can celebrate with you and share with the wider Association!

Remember too that 2021 **church contributions to the Association** are due by December 31st so that our Treasurer, Joe Ward, can close our books.

Finally, words cannot even begin to express the joy of this first month of ministry with you. **I feel so honored to be on the journey with each and everyone one of you.**

Peace,
Rev. Nikki Stahl
Heart of Texas Association Minister
cell: 512-751-3557
revnikstahl@gmail.com

Recent Memorials

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

For: Helen Polzin
By: Coupland 42 Club (N)
William & Charlotte Albert (N)
Don & Sandra Wernli (N)
Pam & Herb Blomquist (N)
LaVerne Ernest Robles (N)
Arthur & Joyce Henze (N)

For: Helen Polzin
By: Ted & Dianne Cook (N)
Troy & Jeanette Watson (N)
Terry & Martha Poldrack (N)
Fred & Betty Marosko (N)
Becky Sutton (N)
Jack & Barbara Piper (N)

For: Peggy Ging
By: Bill & Charlotte Albert (N)



**St. Peter's Church of Coupland
Council Meeting
November 21, 2021**

Members Present: Carolyn Haverland, Bonnie Sladek, Sandra Wernli, Ted Wittliff, Roy Morris, Judy Downing, Barbara Piper, S. R. Moss, and Janet Doss. Pastor Charles Stark was also in attendance as well as our Bookkeeper, Staci Stork. Sharon Kreidel was absent.

Pastor Stark opened the meeting with a prayer.

The agenda was adopted with a couple of additions, review under Pastor's Report, and authorized users for the United Church Funds account. Minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

There were no committee reports, however, it is anticipated that beginning 2022 there will be reports either on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Staci had provided council with a Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Sheet prior to the meeting. There were several questions Staci had posed and council answered these questions.

Pastor Stark provided council with a report as part of the council package. Items were briefly discussed. It was noted that the confirmation class had begun on October 26 and now has four attendees. They are Cayli Johns Haydon Shuttle, Avery Ochoa, and Sophia, an eighth grader from Coupland. Several changes in the way things are ordered and approved were presented. Also brought forth were things that council highlighted that they believe are positive. Some mentioned were community involvement, working long hours with the HBO Max personnel, and working with the school.

Old Business

The search for a permanent Music Director has produced no results. It was decided to revise the description and repost to hopefully gain responses.

The flowerbed irrigation (in front of the church and on the west side of the church) has been installed. Mulch will be added; planting will not occur until spring or until we know that HBO will not be coming back for additional filming. Discussion ensued regarding a drip irrigation system for the parsonage. The cost quoted was \$1,700.00.

It was agreed to proceed with this project and with the planting of shrubs, etc. left by HBO.

HBO delivered the television for the Conference Room. Roy volunteered to help Charles with getting it installed as this is a larger one than was previously there. There seems to be confusion with the HBO Max production. After the retake done last week, plants and shrubs were taken by the HBO people. Confusion is the best way to describe it! Chocolate Lizards did a one-day filming (exterior only) and it seemed to have gone well with the exception of their caterer taking items that belong to the church kitchen. Most of these have been returned.

The Budget Committee continues to meet and work on the budget to be presented to council in December.

Hanging of the greens will occur in church on November 28th. Several large items will need to be put up prior to the Sunday service.

There will be no Potluck on November 28th.

The Adult Fellowship Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 11th in the home of Ted and Cynthia Wittliff beginning at 6:30 p.m. Additional information will be sent.

The council approved the following as authorized users for the United Church Funds account: Ted Wittliff, Janet Doss, and Carolyn Haverland.

The calendars for December and January were reviewed with changes made accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Piper
Substitute Council Secretary

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 10:15am Worship/ Communion	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am Confirmation 5-6pm	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 6pm Christmas Party
<i>12</i> 10:15am Worship Christmas Pageant Practice	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am Confirmation 5-6pm	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 10:15am Worship/ Communion Children's Christmas Program Church Council	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am Confirmation 5-6pm	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> Newsletter Deadline	<i>24</i> 6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<i>25</i> Christmas Day
<i>26</i> 10:15am Worship	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> Newsletter Assembly 10:30am Coffee Connections 9:30am Confirmation 5-6pm	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> New Years Eve	

THE VOICE ON THE HILL

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

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
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

December 2021

WORSHIP SERVICE HOURS

10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

Interim Pastor: Charles Stark

Interim Pastor Phone: 830-660-7239

Pastor Email: clstark52@gmail.com

Licensed Ministers -

Charlotte Albert, John Boydston,

Interim Pianist- Van Herd

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"