



# *The Voice on the Hill*

## St. Peter's Church of Coupland

**August, 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**

Ruby Wabbel

**Financial Secretary**

Kandice Samuelson

**Council Members**

Bill Albert

Judy Downing

Kay Hart

**TREASURER**

Ted Wittliff

**PASTOR**

Rev. Dr. Burt Burleson

**LICENSED MINISTER**

Charlotte Albert

**MINISTER of MUSIC**

David Cappolino

**CHURCH SECRETARY**

Barbara Coleman

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Dana Smith



## New Youth Group Starts on August 17

We are beginning a Youth Group for high school age kids. The first outing is August 17 at Hunter Poldrack's pond, with a rope swing, zip line, platforms to jump in, etc.

The second event will be September 14 with a suite at a baseball game at Dell Diamond.

All high school age kids are welcome and invited to bring a friend. If you would like to participate, please contact Prissy Rumel.

We are also looking for someone to be the youth leader, so please let the office know if that's something you'd be interested in.



## Back to School Play Date August 23

August 23 (re-scheduled from August 16) we will have a "Welcome Back to School" play date for the whole community at the church playground from 9 to 10:30 am. We will be giving all the kids a pencil and popsicle!

All in the community are invited, so help to spread the word to your friends and neighbors.



August is hybrid time, you know. One way of looking at it is that it's still summer . . . kids are out of school, vacations are being taken, and it's hot!!! Hot as Hades, as blue blazes, hotter than a jalapeno's armpit, and hotter than a June bug in July.

I could go on, but the point is it's still summertime. And yet, the rhythms of our lives, our schools, and our church are awaiting on us and will soon be drawing us back into things that connect us to people and the goodness we bring to one another.

Being a part of a place, a community, especially one where we receive and experience meaningful connections, is critical to our wellbeing and for the wellbeing of those around us. Well, I've got some good news about these matters.

One scholar, Dr. Google, says that our society is experiencing an uptick in our informal connections: taking walks in the neighborhood, going to the swimming pool, meeting for coffee, watching a game together.

Yay . . . that's great. However, across the nation, we're not doing better with our volunteering. So, in these days, Dr. Google says we're doing better at just "hanging out" (Yay again) but not so good, nationally, at signing up and committing.

However, sitting here on this Thursday morning, I can count over 30 people, well over half our active congregation, who have made commitments to serve in some way.

In these days of transition and trying new things, we've had some challenges. We're working on better ways of communicating about who is doing what in worship. Please be patient as we all think together in the coming weeks.

And thank you for carrying faithfully the legacy of a church where people serve one another. You're totally messing up Dr. Google's data.

- *Burt Burlison*



## Community Ice Cream Social

Our first Community Ice Cream Social on July 20 was a huge success, with about 85 attendees from the church and community enjoying vanilla and chocolate ice cream with a variety of toppings.

Thank you to those who brought yummy toppings for the ice cream, including **Doreen Streit, Charlotte Albert, Lisa Townsend, Michele Dupy, Prissy Rumel, JoAnn Ging, Astrid Muery** and **Cynthia Wittliff**.

And thank you to everyone who helped set up, serve and clean up, including **Heather Shuttles, Janet Doss, Aubrey Shuttles, Krista Poldrack, Charlotte Albert, Cindy and Jim Alexander, Ryan Strider, Adam Muery**, and **Mick Lemp and his kids**.

Special thanks to **Prissy Rumel** for organizing this event, to HEB in Elgin for donating ice cream for this and other summer events, and to the Men's Brotherhood for covering additional expenses.





## Council Report

### July 7, 2025

**PRESENT:** Michele Dupy, Prissy Rumel, Ruby Wabbel, Kandice Samuelson, Judy Downing, Bill Albert, Kay Hart, and Rev. Burt Burleson. **ABSENT:** Danny Smith. **GUESTS:** Charles Stark and Charlotte Albert

**PASTORAL REPORT:** Pastor Burt presented his Pastoral Care Report.

**FACILITIES:** Bill Albert will schedule a crew to seal the roof/chimney seams at the parsonage where a leak has occurred.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Council agreed to assign the title of CTO (Chief Technology Officer) to Rev. Charles Stark. Council approved his recommendation that we switch our internet service to T-Mobile (for better service and lower costs), and that we move our phone service to VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) with OOMA instead of landlines from Frontier. These two changes will save nearly \$150 per month.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Charlotte Albert's request to change the Prayer Chain participant list was approved. She will speak to the congregation on Sunday with an open invitation for all to participate if they like.

**CEMETERY FORMS:** The revised Burial Plot Application Form and Cemetery Rules and Regulations were approved, with minimal rewording regarding what constitutes "Immediate Family".

**CHURCH LOGO:** Council approved the adoption of a logo designed by Tessa Strider as our official logo.

**PASTOR SCHEDULE:** Burt's request for Fridays and Saturdays to be his days off work was approved.

**ELECTION:** Williamson County's request to use the fellowship hall for the November 4 election was approved and we will continue to charge a \$300 usage fee.

## Senior Luncheon

The Community Senior Luncheon on July 15 had a picnic theme. The Ladies' Circle served chicken salad sandwiches, potato chips, and pickle spears, with root beer floats for dessert.

A total of 37 people attended the lunch and enjoyed bingo and 42 dominoes after the meal. Thank you to **Cynthia Wittliff** for making the delicious chicken salad, and to everyone who helped make this event a success.

Our next Luncheon will be held on September 16. The menu will be discussed at a future Ladies' Circle meeting, with place and time to be announced at a later date.





## Summer Splash Children's Program

Our Summer Splash children's program on July 16-18 was a big success, with 28 children from the church and community attending.

Each day the kids had story time, art, music and outdoor play, with a large water slide on the last day. On Sunday, July 20, thirteen children and youth presented a music program during worship service.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with this program! **Cynthia Wittliff, Charlotte Albert,** and the **Ladies' Circle** provided lunches.

**Rebecca Muery, Michele Dupy, Martha Poldrack** and **Prissy Rumel** taught and led activities, assisted by adult helpers **Mick Lemp** and **Ari Jaramillo Arce**, and youth helpers **Krista Poldrack, Emma Davis** and **Kaydence Epperson**.

*See more photos on page 9 and on the St. Peter's Facebook page.*







## Cricut Machine Needed

We're looking for someone with a Cricut or similar machine who would be willing to help create signs and graphics for the church.

Or if you have a Cricut gathering dust that you'd like to donate, that would be awesome. Please contact **Dana Smith** or **Prissy Rumel** if you can help.



We need you! Volunteers are essential to the smooth operation of our worship service.

Pastor Burt and Barbara Coleman will be reaching out via email and phone to members who have expressed interest in serving as **Liturgist**, **Projectionist** and **Usher** for worship services. Please remember to check your email and respond so we will know if you are available to assist.

Don't worry if you have never done it before—training and written instructions are available.



Men's Brotherhood met at Randy's Ice House in July for food and fellowship.



Thank you to **Tessa Strider** for designing our new church logo!



## Social Sunday Lunch Out August 31

Join us after Worship on Sunday, August 31, for food and fellowship at our bi-monthly Lunch Out. The restaurant location will be announced later.



Children's Moment July 27



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 **Jeanette Watson** and the entire Watson family as they mourn the loss of Troy.

We pray for everyone affected by the July 4 floods, especially those families who lost precious children.

Continued prayers for **Betty Marosko, Robert Bland, Denney Poldrack, Gene Henze, and Terry Finn.**

We remember all those who are living in care facilities or are homebound. A card, call or visit really brightens their day!

We also pray for everyone serving as caregivers to their loved ones.

For pastoral concerns or prayer requests, contact **Pastor Burt** at [CouplandPastor@gmail.com](mailto:CouplandPastor@gmail.com) or 254-644-0944.



## Hill Country Flood Relief

Our August Mission Offering goes to the Kerr County Flood Relief Fund, supporting relief and long-term rebuilding after the devastating floods of July 4, 2025. This fund was created by The Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, a 501(c)(3) charity based in Kerrville. The foundation will directly distribute funds to vetted local organizations providing rescue, relief, recovery services and flood assistance. Just write "flood relief" on your check. Thank you!



## Members in Care Facilities

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

**Betty Marosko:** Pavilion at Great Hills, 11819 Pavilion Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

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

**Calvin Ging:** SPJST 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 #17, 19005 Pleasant Bay Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660



## August Birthdays

1st	Evan Poldrack
2nd	Marcela Albert
3rd	Becky White, Linda Rowland
6th	Rev. Paul Mohr
8th	Renee Thompson
9th	Remington Poldrack, Willy Zucknick
11th	Karen Johle, Tinsley Streit
12th	Michael Townsend
13th	Caleb Ging
14th	Karen Dietz
15th	Cayli Johns
18th	Samantha Valchar
19th	Martha Poldrack
21st	Maven Ochoa, Eli Ochoa, Cade Watson, Dorothy Hahn
22nd	Prissy Rumel
23rd	John Boydston
24th	Lee Alan Valchar
26th	Fred Marosko, Jeanette Watson
27th	Michele Dupy
28th	Kimery Poldrack
29th	Tyler Sane, Kaley Gregory
31st	Elizabeth Wabbel, Sharon Kreidel



**Regular Giving for July:** \$9,889

**Year-to-Date Regular Giving:** \$77,056

**Mission Offerings in July**

Coupland School: \$110

Youth Programs: \$150

**Other Income in July**

Memorials: \$320



**In Memory of Troy Watson**

Bill & Charlotte Albert

Kay Harkins

Arthur & Joyce Henze

Pat Martin

Ronnie & Cindy Patrick

Kandice Samuelson

Don & Sandra Wernli

## Noisy Offering August 31

In months with five Sundays, we invite everyone to bring their loose change for the Noisy Offering on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

Remember to **bring your coins on August 31** and make a joyful noise when you toss them into the metal buckets during the offering!

**The money goes to support kid's programming, including our Summer Program.**



## In Memorium Troy Watson

Troy Vaughan Watson passed away on July 10th at age 81. Our prayers are with Troy's wife, Jeanette; his children Patrick Watson and wife Melinda, Chad Watson and wife Brandi, and Crissy Watson Johns and husband Shorty; and the rest of the family.

Troy was born on July 1, 1944, to Vernon and Lula Mae Womack Watson in Oatmeal, Texas. He graduated from Bertram High School in 1962. He proudly served in the U.S. Air Force from 1962-1966.

On November 25, 1967, Troy married Jeanette Patrick of Elgin at St. Peter's Church of Coupland. Together they shared 57 wonderful years of marriage, a union founded in love, faith, and a dedication to family and the Elgin community.

Troy was known far and wide for his kindness, easy smile, and his uncanny ability to make anyone feel like a friend.

Throughout his life, Troy worked as a carpenter and he took pride in the many buildings he helped shape across Austin. He retired from Elgin ISD in 2005, where he had served as the Director of Maintenance.

Troy served on the Elgin School Board for six years, contributed to Elgin Little League as both the President and coach of various teams, as well as being an active member of the Wildcat Booster Club.

Services were held on July 17th and Troy was buried in St. Peter's Cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. Peter's Church of Coupland or to the Troy Watson Athletics/Purple Diamond Memorial Scholarship, care of Crissy Johns, 146 Forest Dr., Elgin, TX 78621.

# Promotional Postcard

Special thanks to **Prissy Rumel** (with help from **Tessa Strider**) for designing and mailing the wonderful promotional postcard to the entire Coupland community, introducing Burt and Julie and promoting our July and August events.

As a result of the postcard, Facebook posts and personal contacts, we had 28 kids at the summer program and 85 people at the ice cream social.

This is a huge increase in community involvement!



## **Sunday Mornings**

Adult Sunday School, 9 am  
Worship Service and Children's Church, 10:15 am

## **Tuesday Mornings**

Community Connections at 9:30 am

## **Monday, August 4**

Council Meeting at 5 pm

## **Tuesday, August 12**

Coupland School Starts

## **Sunday, Augusts 17**

Youth Group at Hunter Poldrack's

## **Tuesday, August 19**

Newsletter Deadline

## **Saturday, August 23 (rescheduled from Aug 16)**

Play Date at Playground 9-10:30 am

## **Tuesday, August 26**

Newsletter Distribution

## **Sunday, August 31**

Noisy Offering  
Lunch Out—restaurant to be announced



Thank you to everyone who dedicates their time and talents to St. Peter's! Special thanks this month to everyone who helped with the summer program, senior luncheon and ice cream social. It was a great team effort and valuable community outreach.

# New Phone System and Internet Service

Thank you to **Charles Stark**, our Chief Technology Officer, for the many hours he has spent dealing with our phone and internet service. After initially helping to restore service after our outages last month, Charles researched and implemented new services that will save the church nearly \$150 per month.

Our internet is now provided by T-Mobile (which should be more reliable) and we have switched to Ooma VoIP Phone Service (internet based).

If you call during normal business hours, you will get the option to press 1 for Barbara and 2 for Burt. After business hours, calls will go to Barbara's voicemail.

# Connect With Us

## **St. Peter's Church of Coupland**

108 Wathen Street, PO Box 146  
Coupland, TX 78615 \* 512-856-2433

## **Office Hours:**

Monday to Thursday, 8:00 am -12 noon

**Office Email:** [StPetersCoupland@gmail.com](mailto:StPetersCoupland@gmail.com)

**Pastor Email:** [CouplandPastor@gmail.com](mailto:CouplandPastor@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** St. Peter's Church of Coupland  
or [www.facebook.com/StPetersCoupland](http://www.facebook.com/StPetersCoupland)



**Our Website:**  
[StPetersCoupland.org](http://StPetersCoupland.org)



**Venmo Donations:**  
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# Summer Program Photos

