

THE VOICE ON THE HILL

Issue 3 Volume 10

March 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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Psalm 33:20-21 NRSV

²⁰ Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.

²¹ Our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name.



John Sumner Paintings for Sale

Rev. John Sumner, Pastor Emeritus of St. Peter's Church, has donated three of his paintings to benefit St. Peter's.

Grain Silos is a 24" x 20" oil painting in a 29" x 25" frame.

Palo Duro Canyon is a 36" x 24" oil painting in a 40" x 28" frame. There are some nicks in this frame.

St. Peter's Parsonage is an 11" x 14" oil painting in a 15" x 18" frame.

The paintings are on display in the fellowship hall and open for silent auction bidding. If you're unable to bid in person, you can email your bid to StPetersCoupland@gmail.com

Proceeds will go toward replacing the St. Peter's playground.



Palo Duro Canyon



Grain Silos



St. Peter's Parsonage

The auction ends on Sunday, March 26 (at the Potluck Lunch) and winners must pay for and pick up their paintings by April 2.

**STARK REALITY****MARCH 2023**

On Sunday morning February 26, the power went out in Coupland sometime after 5:00am. When my alarm on my phone went off at 6:00am, I tried to switch on the light by my bed and realized that there was no power. My mind began to race as I contemplated what we would do about worship. We don't have a pianist and so we need both power for the projector but also internet for the YouTube videos that provide our hymns. We had just begun our Lenten journey on Wednesday with the imposition of ashes. I know that a long held tradition among many Christians is to give up something for Lent, but no one gives up electricity!

Then my mind began to slow down and think about the reality of the situation. What if we had no power for worship? It hit me then that the early Christian Church had no electricity. They had no laptops or projectors or PA systems. The situation we faced was to be the church in much the same way that the early church gathered. When you think about it, we don't really have to have electricity to worship and pray. Much like the early days in Coupland, preachers didn't have microphones and my voice can certainly be loud enough to be heard by the congregation. As for music, we can make a joyful noise without accompaniment. We are doing it even now with the singing of the Doxology.

As I pondered what would happen that particular Sunday morning, I realized that all we really needed to be the church was to have folks who come together to worship our God by joining together in prayer, hearing the scripture read, contemplating the meaning of that holy Word for our lives, taking up an offering for the mission of the church, and finally being sent out to live our lives for Christ in this community. We don't need electricity for that! Our real power comes from the presence of God in our lives.

At 7:10am after contemplating all of this, the power returned. In retrospect, I wonder if God was reminding me that the only real power we need to be the church is the presence of the Holy Spirit!

Friends, I invite you to join me on Wednesdays for our Lenten services and on Sunday mornings for our worship. Regardless of what happens around us, we will always have what we need to be the church if we just remember that God is with us on the journey!

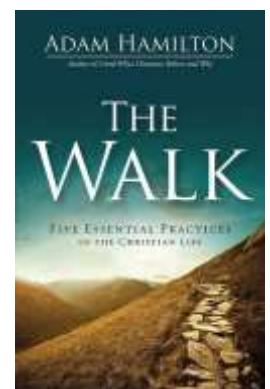
See you in church!

Charles

LENTEN WORSHIP

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent for a soup supper at 6:00pm and worship at 7:00pm. This year we are focusing on a study by Adam Hamilton entitled "The Walk, 5 Essential Practices of the Christian Life".

The Lenten Offering will be collected in a plate at the back of the Sanctuary and will be designated for St. Peter's Vacation Bible School this summer. Our VBS will be directed by Laurie Morris.





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



LIFT

LIFT will meet at Randy’s Ice House, 1321 W 2nd Street in Taylor, on Tuesday March 7 at 6:00pm



Diners

Join us for Diners on Thursday, March 16 at 6:30pm. We will meet at Sirloin Stockage 3607 N Main Street in Taylor. Cindy & Zac Wood are coordinating



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering March 19

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. Special Offering Envelopes will be available for this offering.

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

March Birthdays

- 3rd Gretchen Finn, Alex Dollins
- 4th Calvin Ging, Ryan Haverland
- 7th Eric Kennedy
- 9th Krista Poldrack
- 11th Cindy Krieg
- 13th Paul Sane
- 18th Alaina Gregory, Hailey Kuntschik,
Rick Smitherman
- 19th Dillon Kreidel
- 20th Larry Kelso
- 21st Lance Albert
- 22nd Jill Streit
- 26th Chad Watson, Glen Kreig





Council Meeting

Council will meet on Sunday March 19 at 11:30am



Senior Luncheon

Our next Senior Luncheon will be Tuesday March 21 at 11:30am. .

If you would like to play bingo at our Senior Lunch, it is suggested but not required that you bring a prize under \$10. "42" Dominoes will also be played.

Lois Schmidt & Sandra Wernli
Co-Chairs



Men's Brotherhood

The Men's Brotherhood will meet at Lucky, 220 E 4th Street in Taylor on Thursday, March 23 at 6:00pm



Potluck Sunday

Join us on Sunday March 26 for food and fellowship after morning worship. Bring your favorite dish to share!



Vacation Bible School

This summer St. Peter's Church will be hosting a community wide Vacation Bible School directed by Laurie Morris. The council has voted to designate our Lenten offerings to support the expenses related to Vacation Bible School. More details will be available in the upcoming newsletters.

March Worship Schedule

March 5 Liturgist: Becky Sutton Ushers: Dana & Danny Smith	March 12 Liturgist: Carolyn Haverland Ushers:
March 19 Liturgist: Charlotte Albert Ushers Ted Wittliff	March 26 Liturgist: Laurie Morris Ushers: Cindy & Zac Wood



Heart of Texas Association News

Spring Meeting

The Heart of Texas Spring Association Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2023 at United Christian Church of Austin. More information will be forthcoming.

Congratulations to our re-licensed Pastors!

The COM voted to renew licenses for the following pastors:

- Pastor Rene Slataper at Hope United (Georgetown)
- Pastor Carl Schwartz-King at United Christian Church (Austin)
- Pastor Charlotte Albert at St. Peter's UCC (Coupland)



Delegates Needed

St Peter's Church in Coupland is entitled to 5 Lay Delegates for our Heart of Texas Spring Meeting which will be held Saturday morning April 22 at United Christian Church in Austin.

We currently have 3 Delegates lined up and we are seeking 2 additional Delegates. In addition to the 5 Lay Delegates, our two authorized ministers will be Clergy Delegates.

If you are interested, contact Pastor Charles or Charlotte Albert.

2023 Offering Report

Total Regular Giving for January thru February
\$21,197

February 2023 Offering Report

Total Regular Giving for February 2023
\$9,831

Recent Memorials

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

There are no recent memorials to report



**St. Peter's Church of Coupland
Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2023**

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

Absent: Rex Snell

The agenda was adopted with addition.

Minutes for January 2023 were approved.

Committee reports:

Pastoral Search Committee: A Zoom interview scheduled for February 16th, has been rescheduled on February 23, 2023.

Facilities: Looking at timeframe for replacing children's Playscape and repair of swings.

Financial Reports: Jennifer Tatrow has been hired as the new bookkeeper. She is currently working with Sharon Kreidel and Carolyn Haverland to understand the system. No reports were available for the Council meeting.

Pastor's report:

Pastor Charles conducted memorial services for Marge Gebhardt and Otis Naron. Purchased Adam Hamilton Series for Lenten Worship Services. Please see Pastor's report for more information.

Old Business:

Pianist search update: David Webb declined the pianist position because he accepted a traveling job. David White has been interviewed and will be available March 19th through mid-May.

Signs to direct people to Church office: Pastor Charles provided examples of signs and costs to the council to get input on type and size. He plans to meet with Fast Signs to discuss their products as they do not provide prices online.

PA system upgrade: The upgrade has been installed.

Elgin Food Pantry: \$363 was collected for the Souper Bowl Offering. The council discussed and approved alternating donations from the Diner's group between the Elgin and Taylor Food Pantries as both are in great need.

New Business:

Heart of Texas Association Lay Delegates (5): The Spring Association meeting will be held on April 22, 2023, at the United Christian Church in Austin, TX.

Amanda Palm, Anita Holubec, and Carolyn Haverland will be attending. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Charles.

Edward Jones Access List: The Financial Committee is working with Jay Sutton, E. Jones Financial Advisor, to get the appropriate people on the access list.

American Church Boxed Envelope Renewal Discount: St. Peter's has been offered a 10% discount for renewing our contract for printing of envelopes if renewed by February 28, 2023. A motion was made and approved to hold off on renewing contract to see if members are happy with new envelopes.

Noisy/Extra Offering Recipients: The council discussed options for keeping the donations to use locally. Donations will go towards funding Vacation Bible School for 2023. Laurie Morris has volunteered to be the coordinator for the program.

Parsonage Siding Proposal: This received prior approval by the congregation with the funds coming from the New Horizons account. The council approved plans for Roof Crafters to complete the project.

Parsonage Leveling Quote: This received prior approval by the congregation with the funds coming from the New Horizons account. The council approved plans for Pro Level to complete the project.

Gretchen Finn rental for Baptism on April 21, 2023: Gretchen Finn has completed the paperwork to request the usage of the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. A motion was made and approved by the council for her request.

WILCO request for use of Fellowship Hall for voting in May and November 2023: A motion was made and approved to allow this request.

Review Updated Call List (Add new members): The Call List was reviewed by Council to include new members and correct and update information. A revised Call List will be available in the near future.

Garage Sale: Requests have been received about donations for the garage sale in 2023. Carolyn Haverland will begin looking at possible dates for the fall. However, donations cannot be accepted until a date has been approved.

The council reviewed and updated the calendars for March and April 2023. Event coordinators and Communion bread providers will be Peter Wabbel for March and Janet Doss for April.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Alexander

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Service	2	3	4 CJ Ging Birthday Party 2 to 4pm
5 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship/ Communion	6	7 Coffee Connections 9:30am LIFT Randy's Ice House 6:00pm	8 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Service	9	10	11
12 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship	13	14 Coffee Connections 9:30am	15 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Service	16 Diners 6:30pm	17	18
19 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship/ Communion One Great Hr of Sharing Offering 11:30am Church Council	20	21 Coffee Connections 9:30am Senior Lunch 11:30am Elgin Ministerial Alliance 11:30am	22 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Service	23 Newsletter Deadline	24	25
26 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship Potluck Sunday	27 Coupland Civic Organization 6:30pm	28 Coffee Connections 9:30am Newsletter Assembly 10:30am	29 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Service	30	31	

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

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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

March 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"