

# THE VOICE ON THE HILL

Issue 1 Volume 10

January 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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# Happy New Year! 2023

### Photos from our Christmas Program Sunday December 18



### Philippians 4:6-7 NRSV

6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



### Caroling on Horses

Carolers in Coupland to share the joy of Christmas on Sunday afternoon  
December 18





## STARK REALITY

JANUARY 2023

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. The reality is that time marches on whether we like it or not. As I write this newsletter article, I went back to my Stark Reality article for January 2022. I would like to repeat one section from a year ago and then reflect on its meaning for 2023.

*As we begin to contemplate another "NEW YEAR," I am struck by thoughts of wondering what 2022 will bring for our life together as St. Peter's Church of Coupland. Will it truly be year of NEW things or will it simply be more of the same. I am reminded that we worship a God who tells us in Revelation 21:5 "See, I am making all things new." I think as people of faith we are each challenged to be about the business of "making things new."*

I ask you now to consider my question from a year ago. Was 2022 a year filled with new things or was it just more of the same? In my mind, I think this past year was simply more of the same. The only really new thing was the completion of the siding project which was indeed a huge improvement for our church facility. When I consider our ministry though, I really think it was more of the same. The often-quoted thought is that "the definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting different results." It seems to me that is exactly what we did in 2022. I reported to the Council at our December meeting that our worship attendance dropped 25% for November 2022 compared to November 2021. My friends, that is not a good sign for our future.

I want to issue a challenge to you and to our Council for 2023. We need to really focus on doing new things this coming year to raise the excitement and energy around St. Peter's Church. What can we do differently this year? On Tuesday December 20, we had a great time at the Coupland Tavern with the Ukulele Group as we sang Christmas carols for an hour. The turnout was great and everyone had fun. This was something new and well worth the effort.

This past month we had a great attendance at our Children's Christmas Program. Perhaps it is time to consider having a Children's Sunday 4 times a year? There is no doubt that there is a special energy and excitement on these Sundays, and it presents an opportunity for more involvement from families.

We will be welcoming at least one **new member** on January 8. If you know of someone who might like to join as well on that date, please let me know. Also, we will have a **totally new format to our new 2023 Offering Envelopes**. They will be available for pickup at our Christmas Eve service and each Sunday following that. Please pick yours up when you can.

Hopefully, you get the idea of what we need to be considering for 2023. Please put on your thinking caps and **let me know any suggestions you might have for new things** that the church could be doing in this new year.

With expectations of Peace and Joy

Charles



Thank you to the folks of St Peter's for the generous Christmas gift.

Charles



## 2023 Shepherd's Heart Schedule

The Shepherd's Food Pantry relies on volunteers to assist with distributing food to clients. St. Peter's Church has been asked to assist during the following months in 2023:

**Saturday, January 14**

**Saturday, April 29**

**Saturday, July 29**

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated



Our next Senior Citizens Luncheon will be on January 17, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. Come join us in the New Year! If you would like to Play Bingo, it is encouraged to bring a prize Under \$10. "42 " Dominoes will be played!

Co-Chairs,  
Sandra Wernli & Lois Schmidt



## Memorial for Marge Gebhardt

Memorial Service for Marge Gebhardt is scheduled for Saturday January 21, 1:00pm at St. Peter's Church.



## Memorial for Otis Narrin

Memorial Service for Otis Narrin is scheduled for Saturday January 28, 11am at Slumber Falls Camp.



## Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2023

A packet of committee reports, and budget documents has been included in this newsletter.

All members are welcome to attend as we vote on new Church Council members and Committee members, receive and review annual committee reports, and review the new church budget.



## Bookkeeper Position Open

St. Peter's Church is seeking a part-time bookkeeper to work in the church office one to two hours per week. Duties include entering income and expenses in QuickBooks, paying bills, preparing payroll, and reconciling bank statements. Once a month an additional hour or so will be spent preparing financial statements for the church council meeting. Must have a good working knowledge of QuickBooks.

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



**Regular Offering Income December 2022 (thru December 18)**

**Total Regular Giving for December (thru December 18) \$9,540**

**Budgeted Amount for December \$11,579**

**Total Regular Giving January thru December 18 \$139,726.38**

**Budgeted Amount January thru December 18 \$147,632.25**

**\*Regular Offering Only\***

**January Worship Schedule**

<b>January 1 (New Year's Day)</b> Liturgist: Becky Sutton Ushers: Anita Holubec	<b>January 8</b> Liturgist: Carolyn Haverland Ushers: Dana & Danny Smith	
<b>January 15</b> Liturgist: Charlotte Albert Usher: Ted Wittliff	<b>January 22</b> Liturgist: OPEN Ushers: Tammy & Paul Sane	<b>January 29</b> Liturgist: Laurie Morris Ushers: Michele & Bill Dupy

**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

**January Birthdays**

- 2nd Christine Stewart
- 3rd Darren Streit, Elizabeth Pearson
- 4th Dean Rumel, Jacob Reyes
- 5th Ann Johle
- 7th T.J. Wittliff, III
- 8th Dennis Kreig
- 15th Don Wernli, Mary Pfluger, Ted Schneider
- 16th Becky Sutton, Scott Ging
- 17th Danny Smith
- 19th Cynthia Wittliff
- 20th Lucy Pfluger
- 21st Torsten Wabbel
- 22nd Bonnie Stark, Wanda Walther
- 25th Terry Poldrack
- 27th Alyson Richards
- 28th Bill Albert, Kellie Marak, Jackson Webb
- 31st Amanda Kreig





## Angel Tree Project

We had another successful year with the Angel Tree Project! I would like to thank everyone for your help with shopping, wrapping and bagging the gifts! It is truly a blessing for us to help some children in our community have a bright and Merry Christmas! We had a total of 26 “angels” this year!

Happy New Year!  
Doreen Streit



### Recent Memorials

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

**For: Marge Gebhardt**

**By:** Calvin Ging (N)  
Robert & Doreen Streit (N)  
Jack & Barbara Piper (N)  
Cindy Wood (N)  
Lance, Marcela Isabel,& Brenda Albert (N)

**For: Marge Gebhardt**

**By:** Bonnie Sladek (N)  
Bill & Charlotte Albert (N)  
Don & Sandra Wernli (N)  
Jim & Cindy Alexander (N)  
Bill & Janet Doss (N)  
Becky Sutton (Memorial Fund)

**For: Dean Rumel's Mom**

**By:** Bill & Charlotte Albert (N)



**St. Peter's Church of Coupland  
Council Meeting Minutes  
December 18, 2022**

Members present: Roy Morris, Sandra Wernli, S.R. Moss, Anita Holubec, Peter Wabbel, Sharon Kreidel, Cindy Alexander, Carolyn Haverland, Janet Doss      Absent: Bonnie Sladek

The agenda was adopted with additions.

Minutes for November 2022 were approved.

Financial reports for Income & Expense and Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual were reviewed by council members. Effective January 1, 2023, Memorials will go to the Memorial Fund instead of the Horizon Fund.

**Committee reports:**

No reports available.

**Pastor's report:**

Pastor Charles noted a significant drop in attendance for November 2022 compared to 2021. He also provided an update on the pianist position. Please see Pastor's report for additional information.

**Old Business:**

Pianist search update: We currently have a pianist through January 2023. The search for a permanent pianist is ongoing.

Contacting members of a death: It was found that most people still prefer to be called in the event of a member's death. The information be provided via email as well.

**New Business:**

Signs to direct people to Church office: Pastor Charles will research the cost of purchasing two signs with directions to the office in addition to office hours.

**PA system upgrade:** Pastor Charles has researched the cost of upgrading the PA system in the church to allow for better volume control. A motion was made and approved by the council to allow \$150 to purchase the upgrade.

**Elgin Food Pantry:** A motion was made and approved by the council to designate February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 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.

**Request for renewal of License for Charlotte Albert:** Motion was made and approved by the council to renew her license for another year. Pastor Charles will send the letter for renewal.

**Budget Review:** Updated 2023 Ballot and Committee list were reviewed. Errors were discovered and needs to be corrected. List will be updated and sent to council members via email for review and approval.

**Annual Meeting Agenda for January 8, 2023:**

The proposed budget for 2023 was presented to the council for review. A motion was made and approved by the council to approve the proposed budget with an additional line item added for funds to cover any expenses for the pastoral search.

A Resolution will be presented to the congregation regarding the proposed sale of Slumber Falls Camp by the South Central Conference.

**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 Member:** The council approved the request for a new member in January 2023.

**City of Coupland:** The City Council of Coupland has requested permission to use the Fellowship Hall for their monthly meeting which are held the second Thursday of every month. They will provide a yearly donation for the facilities. A motion was made and approved by the council to allow their use of Fellowship Hall.

**Finance:** Stacy Stork has submitted her resignation from her bookkeeper position effective January 3, 2023. A motion was made and approved by the council to purchase a new computer to move the QuickBooks software from Stacy's computer for the future bookkeeper to use.

The council reviewed and updated the calendars for January and February 2023. Event coordinators will be Carolyn Haverland for January and Anita Holubec for January.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Alexander  
Secretary



# Annual Report

St. Peter's Church of Coupland, UCC

2022 Committee Reports

## Building Maintenance Annual Report for 2022

Below is a summary of the maintenance, repairs and improvements on the church buildings during 2022:  
Repaired the trash enclosure in March.

In April a carbon monoxide and explosive gas alarm was installed in the kitchen and in the storage room where the gas water heater is located.

In preparation for the siding, Pro Level Foundation Solutions leveled the church buildings in June at a cost of \$9,000.

The long awaited siding project was done from July 18 to November 1 for a cost of \$131,435. RoofCrafters removed the old vinyl siding, replaced it with fiber-cement siding, and painted. We still have a couple of issues to take of once the weather improves, but it looks great.

New seamless gutters and downspouts were installed by Central Texas Custom Gutters.

The air conditioner units in the old offices were removed and the hole in the wall of the old secretary's office was insulated, drywalled, taped and floated. The opening in the old pastor's office was not accessible and will need to be completed in the future.

Motion activated light fixtures were installed in the courtyard and along with two new wall mounted lights. Pending electrician on the two-wall mounted light fixtures.

In July a new soap dispenser was installed at the handwash sink in the Kitchen.

In August Bill Dupy repaired the ice maker and Danny replaced all the plumbing lines to the coffee maker, tea maker, ice maker and installed more cut off valves. Water filter replacement is pending.

Danny Smith refurbished the Texas Historic Landmark plaques at the church entrance in August.

Reed Oliver with Associated Crafts – Willet Hauser replaced the cracked stained glass covering at the front of the church at no charge. He also gave us an appraisal/replacement cost value of \$244,625 for all of our windows.

In October Vic's Heating and Air replaced the parsonage upstairs HVAC system for \$6,900.

The parsonage dishwasher was replaced in November at a cost of \$649. Thank you to Rick Murdock for doing the plumbing work for free, with assistance from Danny and Pastor Charles.

First Fire Safety reinspected and retagged all the fire extinguishers in November.

Pastor Charles installed six Ecobee programmable thermostats in the church and Fellowship hall buildings at a cost of \$732 in November, with Danny's help. This will save money on power and allow for remote programming.

- Submitted by Danny Smith



## 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET - ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Approved by Council 12-18-22

EXPENSES		2022 BUDGET	2022 ACTUAL YTD 12-13-22	2023 BUDGET PROPOSAL
<b>UTILITIES:</b>				
	Water/Sewer	\$1,400.00	\$1,567.07	\$1,700.00
	Trash Service	\$600.00	\$677.37	\$500.00
	Propane	\$1,400.00	\$2,662.18	\$2,700.00
	Electricity	\$9,700.00	\$9,912.66	\$10,000.00
	Telephone	\$800.00	\$844.08	\$900.00
	Internet	\$1,500.00	\$1,170.03	\$1,300.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,400.00</b>	<b>\$16,833.39</b>	<b>\$17,100.00</b>
<b>BUILDINGS &amp; GROUNDS:</b>				
	Building Maintenance & Re- pair	\$2,000.00	\$4,304.23	\$4,000.00
	Lawn & Landscape	\$2,400.00	\$1,606.17	\$2,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,400.00</b>	<b>\$5,910.40</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
<b>Cemetery:</b>				
	Maintenance	\$0.00		\$7,200.00
	Water	\$0.00	\$1,058.02	\$1,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		<b>\$8,200.00</b>
<b>Insurance:</b>				
	Property/Liability		\$12,864.81	\$13,816.00
	Workmans Comp		\$473.01	\$484.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>	<b>\$13,337.82</b>	<b>\$14,300.00</b>
<b>Congregational:</b>				
	Hospitality/Funeral Supplies	\$800.00	\$336.83	\$500.00
	Music, Licenses, Piano	\$500.00	\$95.80	\$100.00
	Cong./Worship Needs, Misc	\$900.00	\$1,033.09	\$800.00
	Heart of Texas Assoc & SCC	\$2,000.00	\$2,138.50	\$2,200.00
	Evangelism & Member Care	\$600.00	\$985.00	\$1,000.00
	Christian Education	\$2,000.00	\$371.88	\$500.00
	Gifts	\$0.00	\$110.82	\$200.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,800.00</b>	<b>\$5,071.92</b>	<b>\$5,300.00</b>
<b>Administrative:</b>				
	Office Supplies	\$750.00	\$1,001.06	\$800.00
	Postage	\$950.00	\$795.16	\$800.00
	Copier/Printer	\$600.00	\$582.40	\$650.00
	Computer & Software	\$132.00	\$417.60	\$250.00
	Advertising/Promo/Website	\$340.00	\$171.59	\$200.00





	Bank Service Charges	\$75.00	\$66.00	\$0.00
	Professional Fees	\$3,000.00	\$3,187.50	\$3,200.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,847.00</b>	<b>\$6,221.31</b>	<b>\$5,900.00</b>
<b>Pastor:</b>				
	Salary		\$26,400.00	\$13,200.00
	COLA Adjustment			\$1,148.40
	Payroll Expense			\$0.00
	Pension			\$0.00
	Health Insurance			\$0.00
	Life & Disability Insurance		\$59.44	\$0.00
	Auto Mileage		\$848.64	\$1,000.00
	Continuing Education			\$0.00
	Benefits Other			\$32,500.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$65,000.00</b>	<b>\$27,308.08</b>	<b>\$47,848.40</b>
<b>Pastor Search Committee:</b>				
	PSC Expenses			\$2,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>Staff:</b>				
	Administrative Assistant	\$12,480.00	\$11,557.50	\$13,312.00
	Payroll Expense	\$1,000.00	\$884.16	\$1,018.36
	Music Leader	\$9,500.00	\$6,230.00	\$8,500.00
	Music Leader Mileage		\$841.87	\$2,500.00
	Cleaning Service	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
	Fill-In Pastor	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
	Fill-In Pastor Mileage		\$116.85	
	Fill-In Music Leader		\$90.00	\$0.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28,080.00</b>	<b>\$24,820.38</b>	<b>\$30,430.36</b>
<b>Missions/Special Offering:</b>				
	OCWM	\$6,000.00	\$4,400.00	\$6,000.00
	OGHS	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
	Strengthen the Church	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
	Neighbors-In-Need	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
	UCC Christmas Fund	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,800.00</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,800.00</b>
<b>Transfer to Savings:</b>				
	Pastor Sabbatical	\$600.00		\$300.00
	Building Reserve	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,600.00</b>		<b>\$6,300.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$150,927.00</b>	<b>\$104,503.30</b>	<b>\$150,178.76</b>



## St. Peter's Cemetery Committee Report for 2022

Burials and Headstone Installations (maiden names)

Ollie (Findeisen) Red - Burial - Section 1, Plot 17

Sherry Lynn (Plantt) Eiben - Headstone installed - Section 3 Row 7 Grave 9

Arthur C. and Annie H. (Erdmann) Mundkowsky - Headstone installed - Section 2 Plot 14

Lisa Jean Gebhardt and her brother Kenneth Z. Briggie - Headstone installed and ashes buried - Section 3 Row 7 Grave 10

Rev. Jewel Robertson and Mary (Wissinger) Johnson - Headstone installed - Section 2 Plot 25

Randall E. Haverland - Headstone installed - Section 3 Row 7 Grave 4

Melva Faye (Fake) Keil - Headstone installed and ashes buried - Section 4 Row 6 Grave 2

Wayne and Kay (Kreidel) Finch - Headstone installed - Section 2 Plot 56

There is a website called [FindAGrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com) which provides the means for families to locate the grave sites of their loved ones. All the graves in our cemetery are listed there. We are working to add additional information including links to the graves of family members, photos, obituaries, etc. Please check out the site, have a look at your family, and let us know if you see any errors or want to add something.

We currently have three trees which did not survive the drought. They will be replaced early in 2023.

During the year various families requested research of graves of their loved ones. We provided them with the information we have on file.

The irrigation system does from time to time have problems with leaks, timers, etc. Those problems have been fixed when found.

Complaints: Various people complained about the cost and quality of work provided by the Black Stallion Company who had the contract for mowing the grass. At mid year we terminated the Black Stallion contract and contracted with Zac Woods. He has been doing a good job.

Pick up trash from Cemetery and placed it in Church' dumpster once a month.

Put flag up on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and 4th of July.

- Submitted by Ted Wittliff and Scott Ging

## Investment Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022

Committee members are Gretchen Finn, Barbara Piper, and Dana Smith, chair. Ted Wittliff serves as advisor to the committee and Jay Sutton at Edward Jones is investment advisor for St. Peter's Church.

The committee met on March 22, 2022 and discussed the purpose of each of the six investment accounts and several administrative details regarding the accounts. The specific investments and balances were reviewed and it was decided to recommend no changes to the investments at this time.

Ted agreed to continue to download the investments statements each month and forward them to the committee members for review.

- Submitted by Dana Smith

**PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 2023**

I want to begin by saying that I am very happy being your interim pastor this past year. Since the Pastoral Search Committee has not had a great deal of applicants this year, many folks have begun to worry about how long I will serve as the interim pastor. I want you to know that I am committed to St. Peter's Church and will remain as your interim until you call a settled pastor. You should also know that my plan is to become a member of this congregation and will stay involved even after you have called a settled pastor.

You need to know that as a congregation, you are a very supportive and fun loving congregation which makes our shared ministry so enjoyable for any pastor. I hope that we can continue to find new and fun ways in the year ahead to live out the Good News in our community.

The biggest project this past year was the completing our siding project which will have a very long lasting effect on maintaining these historic buildings. The Sanctuary was built in 1906 and the Fellowship Hall was built in 1925. As a congregation, you should be commended for your attention to the upkeep of your church.

More recently, we upgraded the majority of our thermostats to Eco Bee internet enabled units. This allows either me, Barbara or Danny to set them from our computers or phones for special events. In the past, I had to walk around to 4 different thermostats to set an event for the fellowship hall. And then of course, I had to do it all over again to remove the settings for the event. Now since those 4 are linked as group, we can just set one from our computer and all 4 are given the same settings. At any time, they can be over-ridden at the individual thermostats.

The biggest challenge we faced this past year was once again having to do without a regular pianist. We really enjoyed having Anna Harbuck play for our worship services in the spring and also working with our choir. Unfortunately, Anna made the decision to move to Germany and so left us after the first Sunday in June. Van Herd rejoined us for the remainder of June but had to leave mid July since he took a full time position with Amarillo College. Since that time we have relied on YouTube Videos and were very fortunate to have Sherri Walker join us on the last Sunday of August and then on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of September and October. The music committee interviewed Weizhen Lai, who is a student working on her master's in piano performance at Lynn University in Florida. Weizhen (pronounced Way Gin) will be with us from Christmas Eve through the end of January when she returns to Florida for her last semester. She will be returning to Austin after graduation and it is our hope that she might consider a more permanent arrangement with St. Peter's. We will still need to find help with the spring and so please spread the word. We are now paying \$150 per worship and mileage from any commute exceeding 15 miles.

On a personal note, we are finishing up the renovation of our farm house and Bonnie hopes to move in by Christmas. I will continue to live in the parsonage to be more accessible to the church which I find has a number of benefits. Also, if you have noticed a black Silverado parked by the parsonage, that is my replacement for my white Silverado which was totaled by Texas Farm Bureau in August.

As we move into 2023, I am still looking for the release of "Love and Death" by HBO Max which will feature a number of scenes filmed here at St. Peter's. I will let you know when it airs and I hope to record it for those who do not have HBO Max. Maybe we can arrange a showing here at the church this spring.

This past year we confirmed 3 students on Pentecost which was a big joy. It is my hope that we might be able to start another confirmation class in the fall of 2023. Please be thinking of those students who will be in the 7<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades at that time. Of course, like last time, if we have a 9<sup>th</sup> grader or beyond who wants to join the confirmation class, we are certainly open to them as well.

I also want to take this opportunity to publicly thank our Administrative Assistant Barbara Coleman. She is a real joy to work with and makes our office a fountain of smiles, laughs, and compassion! Friends, please know that St. Peter's continues to be a beacon of Good News on the hill in our small community of Coupland. If there is anything that I can do for you as your pastor, please do not hesitate to contact me. Faithfully yours,

Rev. Charles Stark  
Interim Pastor



## St. Peter's Church of Coupland Ballot 2023 – Nominees Listed Below

### **Council – 4 positions open**

Janet Doss – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

Laurie Morris

Rex Snell

Tammy Sane

### **Memorial Committee – 5 positions open**

Hermania Vitek – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

Lois Schmidt

Cindy Wood

Linda Miller

Becky Sutton

### **Pastoral Relations Committee – 1 Open**

Michele Dupy 1<sup>st</sup> expires 2023 – Need this filled

### **Investment Advisory Committee 1 Open**

Gretchen Finn – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term



## Pastoral Search Committee Annual Report for 2022

### BACKGROUND

The Pastoral Search Committee was formed in August of 2021, with Jim Alexander, Judy Downing, Michele Dupy, Dana Smith, and Peter Wabbel answering the call to find a new pastor for St. Peter's Church. Michele was appointed chair and Dana is vice chair. Rev. Phil Hodson, our conference minister, has provided support and guidance.

From August to December of 2021 the committee worked independently and held several meetings to create our Church Profile. This 33-page document describes our church and congregation in detail, including our history, culture, demographics, and finances, along with a description of our community and several letters of reference.

Our Church Profile was approved by Rev. Hodson and uploaded to the UCC website in January of 2022. So far we have received one informal inquiry from a seminary student and two formal applications. None of these candidates were a good fit for St. Peters, in the view of the committee.

When we began this process more than a year ago, Rev. Hodson said that the average time to fill a pastor opening is 18 to 24 months. Recently we asked him to provide some context to help us understand the current climate. He said that searches are slower and more difficult than they've been in a long time – regardless of church size or pay scale – and that rural pulpits are harder to fill.

### CONCLUSION

A small, rural church such as ours will tend to attract less experienced pastors and the demographics of those pastors are more diverse now. There aren't as many candidates who have characteristics similar to our previous pastors.

Realistically, we need to recognize that we probably won't find our "ideal" candidate. Our proximity to Austin is attractive, but our small size, limited salary, rural community, and more traditional congregation is less attractive to some candidates.

In January of 2023 the Pastoral Search Committee will be inviting input from the congregation regarding the pastor search and how we proceed from here.

- Submitted by Dana Smith



## Memorial Committee

There were 30 memorial contributions totaling \$4,080

- Submitted by Hermania Vitek

## Christian Education

Christian Education did not meet in 2022. Three students were confirmed in June 2022. We are always looking for interested members to volunteer to teach or lead other youth events. Our Adult Class continues to meet Sunday Mornings at 9:15am.

- Submitted by Stephanie Ochoa

## Senior Citizens Luncheon

We have had a great year for our Senior Luncheons.

We thank all hosts, hostesses, and helpers that helped us with our luncheon during the year.

We had luncheons in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Our November luncheon was our big Thanksgiving meal. We had over 60 senior citizens attending. We thank everyone who helped us in anyway with our luncheon.

Our January luncheon will be on January 17, 2023 at 11:30am. Bingo and "42" Dominoes will be played. If you are playing Bingo, you are encouraged to bring a prize, \$10 and under.

We hope you can join us for our January 2023 luncheon!  
Co-Chairs Lois Schmidt & Sandra Wernli

- Submitted by Lois Schmidt

## Lift Activities for 2022

Sent birthday cards to some of the shut-ins

Helped throughout the year with Senior Citizens Luncheons

Sent Christmas cards to shut-ins

Gave Coupland School \$400 to use where they need it

We would like to thank everyone for the donations that helped us accomplish our goals. Hopefully we will get the funds to do some things in 2023.

- Submitted by Joyce Henze

# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship/ Communion <b>New Year's            Day!</b>	<i>2</i> <b>Office            Closed</b>	<i>3</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship <b>Annual            Congregational            Meeting</b>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> Coupland City Council 6:00pm Fellowship Hall	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry Distribution
<i>15</i> 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship/ Communion <b>Church Council</b>	<i>16</i> <b>MLK Day            office            closed</b>	<i>17</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> <b>Memorial            for Marge            Gebhardt            1:00pm</b>
<i>22</i> 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am	<i>25</i> Newsletter Deadline	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> <b>Memorial            for Otis            Narrin            11:00am            Slumber            Falls</b>
<i>29</i> 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship <b>Noisy Offering            Sunday</b>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am  Newsletter Assembly				

# 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

**January 2023**

### **WORSHIP SERVICE HOURS**

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:15 a.m. SundayWorship 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](mailto:stpeterscoupland@gmail.com)

*Church Website:* [www.couplandchurch.org](http://www.couplandchurch.org)

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