



The Voice on the Hill

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

September, 2024

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

Carolyn Haverland

Financial Secretary

Anita Holubec

Council Members

Bill Albert

Janet Doss

Judy Downing

TREASURER

Ted Wittliff

LICENSED MINISTER

Charlotte Albert

MINISTER of MUSIC

David Cappolino

CHURCH SECRETARY

Barbara Coleman

Garage Sale September 28

Mark your calendar for our HUGE Garage Sale Fundraiser from **8 am to 3 pm on Saturday, September 28, with HALF PRICE after 1 pm.** You'll find a little of everything, plus things you didn't even know you needed!

Proceeds go to the Children's Church program.

We need donations of household goods (no clothing please). Ask family and friends to contribute items and invite them to shop the sale!

Drop off items **at the parsonage garage through September 18**, entering through the side door. **After September 18, leave donations in the fellowship hall** from 8 am to 11 am Monday through Thursday, or on Sunday morning.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

We need help to set up in advance, to work the sale, and clean up later. Text or call Carolyn Haverland at 512-924-2202 or use the sign-up sheet at church. Let Carolyn know if you have a large item to donate.



Confirmation Classes Begin

Krista Poldrack, Brynley Finn, and Kaydence Epperson, (pictured above), were presented to the congregation on August 4th and given Bibles with their name imprinted. All three are students at Thrall. Weekly Confirmation Classes are led by Charlotte Albert and the girls will be Confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2025.

September Worship Leaders



September 1, Communion
Guest Pastor: Rev. Steven Swope
Worship Coordinator: Danny Smith
Liturgist: Charlotte Albert



September 22
Guest Pastor: Rev. Linda McWhorter
Worship Coordinator: Janet Doss
Liturgist: Michele Dupy



September 8
Guest Pastor: Rev. Arlene Turner
Worship Coordinator: Judy Downing
Liturgist: Dean Rumel



September 29
Noisy Offering and Social Sunday Lunch
Guest Pastor: Rev. Gerry Metzger
Worship Coordinator: Anita Holubec
Liturgist: Cindy Wood



September 15, Communion
Guest Pastor: Rev. Larry Gipson
Worship Coordinator: Bill Albert
Liturgist: Charlotte Albert

Pastoral Search Report

The Pastoral Search Team has completed our Church Profile and uploaded it to the database where pastors seeking a position can view it.

Thank you to **Doreen Streit, Heather Shuttles, Scott Ging, Prissy Rumel, and William Dupy** for taking on this important responsibility.

President's Message

When traveling abroad, I'm reminded that People are People. Humankind is created in the image of our Maker. If we could embrace our similarities, there would be less discourse in the world. Let's all remember to show God's love to the people we encounter every day! — *Michele Dupy*

Council Report August 12, 2024

Present: Danny Smith, Judy Downing, Anita Holubec, Janet Doss, Bill Albert, Charlotte Albert.
Absent: Michele Dupy, Prissy Rumel, Carolyn Haverland.

Committees: Charlotte reviewed the new committee structure and said she would have the final list ready in a few days.

Playground: Council approved Prissy's proposal (submitted in advance) to add a shade structure for seating near the playground, provided it stays within the remaining playground budget.

Mission Offerings: September's offering will go to **Family Village Farm** and October will be for **Shepherd's Heart**.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday office hours will change to 7:30-11:30 am for several weeks.

Social Sunday: Charlotte reported that Chef Peter Wabbel would like to prepare an upcoming lunch. She will coordinate with him.

Insurance: Council will seek additional bids for our Property and Liability insurance policies, which renew in November.

Other: Council discussed cemetery fees for members, the results of the phone calls to the member list, the Children's Church rollout, and ways to make visitors feel welcome.

Next Council Meeting: September 9 at 6 pm.

St. Peter's Needs You!

The Council has consolidated and re-named several committees (now called **TEAMS**) and we need volunteers to help! See the enclosed insert.



After the pastor's Children's Moment during Sunday Worship Services, children may leave the sanctuary to participate in supervised activities such as Bible lessons, art, music and games.

And kids up to 6th grade may choose one item from the Treasure Chest at the sanctuary entrance each week. Coloring sheets are also available.

Please bring your kids and grandchildren to church and invite your neighbors!



Children's Moment, August 18

Don't Miss Social Sunday on September 29

Gathering for food and fellowship after church on **the last Sunday of the month** is a great way to get to know each other better. There's always lots of chatter and laughter around the tables!

We have a real treat in store for Sunday, September 29. **Our very own Chef Peter Wabbel will be preparing our Social Sunday Meal!**

After worship service, we will carpool to That Place Out Yonder on FM 1466, where we will enjoy **pork cordon bleu with mushroom sauce, spaetzle, red cabbage, salad, and bread.** Iced tea and water will be provided; bring your own adult beverage.

Due to space constraints, seating is limited to the first 40 who sign up. Tickets will be available on Sunday mornings in September, for a donation of at least \$15 per person.

Plan to be there on September 29 to enjoy this special meal!

We also encourage members to get together for lunch on other Sundays, and to invite someone you don't know well to join you.

Worship and Music Report

The Worship and Music Team met on August 4 to discuss order of worship and new music ideas, including a choral response after the scripture.

Special musical performances are planned for the last Sunday of each month. The very talented Johnson family and friends sang and played on August 25.

Sometimes we get lovely surprises, like David playing both saxophone and piano during a recent Offertory!

Thank you to **Prissy Rumel, Doreen Streit, Cindy Alexander,** and **David Cappolino** for being on this team.

Thank You

SO MANY people work to keep St. Peter's running smoothly. This month special thanks go to:

Cynthia Wittliff for heading up our very important Card Ministry, sending cards to visitors, shut-ins, and people on our prayer list.

Prissy Rumel for spending MANY hours cleaning out the children's classroom, old offices, fellowship hall and upstairs rooms, and getting the new bulletin board up. Thanks to **Anita Holubec, Tessa Strider,** and **Charlotte Albert** for helping with this huge project.

Charles Stark for going through the old electronic equipment stored in the church and determining what to sell or recycle.

Hermania Vitek for sending acknowledgement cards for Memorial gifts.

Danny Smith for repairing the air conditioner in the children's classroom, and installing hardware and a mirror in the children's bathroom.

Charlotte Albert and **Prissy Rumel** for organizing our new Children's Church program.

The **family of Mary and Jewel Johnson** for providing beautiful music on August 25.

Dana Smith for creating a brochure and information form for visitors.

Charlotte Albert for all her work in pastoral care: comforting the sick and bereaved, conducting the recent baptism, teaching confirmation class, visiting shut-ins, teaching Sunday School, and much more.

The **Church Council** and everyone serving as **Worship Coordinator, Liturgist** and **Usher** on Sundays.

And everyone else who works to make St. Peter's such a special place!

Community Senior Luncheon, September 17

The Community Senior Luncheon, hosted by the ladies group at St. Peter's Church, is an important ministry providing meals and social interaction for area seniors on the **third Tuesday of odd-numbered months**.

The next luncheon is on **Tuesday, September 17, at 11:30 am**. Attendees will enjoy chicken spaghetti, green beans, French bread, Italian ice and lemon cookies. Volunteers are needed to serve and clean up.

The meal is free, but donations are appreciated. Please bring a \$10 bingo prize if you are able.

Below is a photo of the July 16 luncheon, with 48 attendees.



Coupland School Drill

Coupland School has requested to use the church building as a Safety Evacuation Site in case of emergency.

A training drill was done on August 23, with 320 students, plus faculty, walking to the church and taking shelter in the sanctuary.

Thank you to **Danny Smith** and **Anita Holubec** for helping with this drill.



Infant Baptism of Hudson Graham Janak

During Worship Service on August 11th we celebrated the infant baptism of **Hudson Graham Janak**, son of Hailey Kuntschik and Adam Janak. Grandparents are Terry Kuntschik, Darryl Kuntschik, Pam and Wayne Stifflemire, and Mike Janak.

Newsletter Delivery

1. **Members can request to be on the postal mailing list** by calling the office at 512-856-2433 or sending an email to StPetersCoupland@gmail.com
2. **Join our email list** by clicking the "Email List" button at the top of our website at www.StPetersCoupland.org. You'll get weekly updates from St. Peter's, with a PDF copy of the newsletter attached on the last Thursday of the month.
3. Read online any time by clicking the "Newsletter" link on the top of our website at www.StPetersCoupland.org.



We lift up prayers of healing and comfort for those who are sick, grieving, or facing challenges.

Prayers for **Troy Watson, Robert Bland, Terry Finn, Robert Gebhardt, Lois Schmidt, Arthur Coleman** (brother of church secretary Barbara Coleman), **Sue Inghilleri** (sister of Cynthia Wittliff) who lost her husband, the families of **Ann Johle** and **Irene Sumner**, and for our homebound and those in care facilities.

For pastoral concerns or prayer requests, please contact Charlotte Albert at 512-924-3335 or email her at charlottealbert66@gmail.com.

Community Play Days

The **Community Play Day** is at 9:00 am on the **last Saturday of the month** at St. Peter's playground. Please tell your neighbors!

The playground is open every day from dawn to dusk, with equipment for children ages 2 to 12. The sports court in the pavilion is also being used for basketball and pickleball games!

Moment of Reflection

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had." - Romans 15:5

In this verse, Paul highlights the importance of having a Christlike attitude toward one another. Just as Jesus encouraged and uplifted those around Him, we are called to do the same.

God is the source of endurance and encouragement, and as we grow closer to Him, we can learn to demonstrate these qualities in our interactions with others. Our words and actions should build others up, reflecting the love and grace of Christ.



Members in Care Facilities

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

Calvin Ging: S.P.J.S.T. 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 #9, 19005 Pleasant Bay Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660

September Birthdays

3rd	Martin Garrison
5th	Wyatt Townsend
6th	William Matetzschk
8th	Aaron Fryer
9th	Erin Barber, Levi Harkins
11th	Brandi Watson, Solomon Eiben
16th	Brenda Cox, Denney Poldrack
19th	Greg Stifflemire
20th	Kelly Fryer
22nd	Derrick Finn
24th	Cole Harkins
25th	Bonnie Sladek
28th	Pastor Frank Dietz
29th	Gaylon Finn





Regular Giving August 4--25 \$7,707

Year-to-Date Regular Giving: \$81,187

Special Offerings:

- Coupland School Supplies \$290
- Music Fund \$25
- Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry \$80
- Cemetery Operating Fund \$50
- Memorial Offerings \$450

MEMORIAL GIFTS FOR AUGUST

Memorials for Irene Sumner

- Bill & Charlotte Albert
- Robert & Doreen Streit
- Janet and Bodie Doss
- Dana & Danny Smith
- Coupland Area Bunco Group
- Dean & Prissy Rumel
- Don & Sandra Wernli
- Anita Holubec

Memorials for Irene Florida

- Robert & Doreen Streit
- Dean & Prissy Rumel

Memorials for Melvin Poldrack

- Robert & Doreen Streit
- Dean & Prissy Rumel

Offering Reminder

It's a big help to the folks who count and record the offerings if you **write on the memo line of your check what the money is for** (regular offering, food pantry, memorial for xxxx). It's not necessary to use an envelope for checks. Just place your check face-down in the plate. Thank you!

Family Village Farm

This month's mission offering goes to the **Family Village Farm** orphanage and school in Southern India. See the enclosed flyer for details.



St. Peter's on Facebook

Follow us on Facebook to get photos and updates about the life of St. Peter's!

Search for "St. Peter's Church of Coupland" in the search box or go directly to our page at www.Facebook.com/StPetersCoupland



In Memoriam Irene Sumner

Irene Sumner, wife of our Pastor Emeritus **John Sumner**, passed away on August 1.

Irene was born the ninth child of Johanna and Pastor Gustav Haertwig on October 9, 1943, in Waldenburg, Germany, during of the chaos of WWII. Her mother was killed in a bombing raid a year later.

In 1973, she met the love of her life, Pastor John Sumner, in Washington, DC and they were married in 1975 in Quincy, MA.

Irene and John have three children, Anneli, Hans-Michael, and Christian, and four grandchildren.

Read the online version of Irene's obituary on St. Peter's website to get the remarkable full story of this special lady's life.

Irene and John were much loved in Coupland and we grieve with John and the family. Condolences can be sent to John Sumner at 1989 60th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710.

Sunday, August 25



Music from the Johnson family



Children's Moment with Dr. Burt Burlison



Potluck Lunch

September Events

Sunday Mornings

Adult Sunday School, 9:00 am

Worship Service and Children's Church, 10:15 am

Council Meeting

Monday, September 9, at 6:00 pm

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, September 25

Garage Sale

Saturday, September 28, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Community Play Day

Saturday, September 28, at 9:00 am

Social Sunday, Special Music, Noisy Offering

Sunday, September 29

Coffee Connections

Each Tuesday at 9:30 am

Connect With Us

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

108 Wathen Street, PO Box 146

Coupland, TX 78615

Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday, 8:00 am -12 noon

Phone: 512-856-2433

Email: StPetersCoupland@gmail.com

Facebook: St. Peter's Church of Coupland

or www.facebook.com/StPetersCoupland

Website: www.StPetersCoupland.org

or use the QR code below:



Join the St. Peter's Team!

It takes many people working behind the scenes to keep St. Peter's running smoothly. Current team members are listed below, but we need more helping hands. Please consider joining one or more of the six teams described below and do your part for the life of your church! If you can help or have questions, text or call Charlotte Albert at 512-924-3335 or email charlottealbert66@gmail.com.

Building and Security Team

Handle building maintenance and repairs, secure doors during services, plan for general security of the property, arrange for groundskeeping, coordinate with organizations using our facilities. *William Dupy (leader), Danny Smith, Anita Holubec.*

Worship and Music Team

Make recommendations for the Order of Worship and plan music for services and events. *Prissy Rumel (leader), David Cappolino, Doreen Streit, Cindy Alexander, Martha Poldrak*

Kitchen and Meals Team

Stock kitchen with supplies, organize meal events (including potluck and senior luncheon), help serve and clean up at events, organize and serve funeral luncheons. *Anita Holubec, Peter Wabbel, Janet Doss, Charlotte Albert, Cindy Alexander, Ruby Wabbel*

Altar and Communion Team

Change altar cloths by season, stock worship supplies, coordinate altar flowers, prepare communion service. *Anita Holubec (leader), JoAnn Ging, Peter Wabbel*

Mission and Outreach Team

Recommend organizations to receive the monthly mission offering and organize community outreach projects. *Dana Smith, Charlotte Albert, Prissy Rumel, Doreen Streit, Kay Hart*

Communications Team

Coordinate communications to members and community, oversee newsletters, publicize events, encourage stewardship, manage website, post on social media, maintain card ministry to visitors and members, develop and implement marketing plan. *Dana Smith (leader), Prissy Rumel, Tessa Strider, Cynthia Wittliff, Kay Hart*

Teams Appointed by Council

- Budget
- Pastoral Search
- Nominating
- Others as needed

Teams Elected at the Annual Meeting in January:

- Cemetery
- Investment Advisory
- Pastoral Relations
- Christian Education
- Memorial



September Mission Project

FAMILY VILLAGE FARM

St. Peter's Church has long supported the Family Village Farm, founded in 1969 to care for orphans and the elderly in Southern India.

Children are given food, clothing, shelter, love, and training in a home-like setting, with ten to twelve children, a mother, and grandparents living in a family-type group. The adults, who are from difficult circumstances, help care for the children while benefiting from housing and support.

The farm also includes staff housing, a bakery, poultry farm and dairy. Boys are trained to tend crops and fruit trees and the girls are trained in sewing, making school uniforms and hospital linen.

The King's Matriculation School serves the children at Family Village Farm, plus 300 children from nearby villages. Education helps the children gain skills to be self-supporting in the future.

Boys can live at the farm until the age of 18. Girls, if they do not have living parents, are allowed to stay until marriage.

Global Ministries (the mission organization of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church/ Disciples of Christ) has a Child and Elder Sponsorship Program to provide food, clothing, and education. They also help with funding for capital improvements and infrastructure.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Give a donation in September, noting "Family Village Farm" on the memo line of the check.
- Sponsor a Child or Elder living at Family Village Farm for \$420 annually.
- Sponsor a Student at the school (tuition and one meal a day) for \$300 annually.

Feel free to split a sponsorship with a friend or family member! Just make a note on your check. St. Peter's will receive photographs and biographies of the children or elders we are sponsoring and we can even correspond with them if we wish.

Contact Charlotte Albert at charlottealbert66@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you for your support!

In Memorium
Irene Martha Elfriede Sumner
October 9, 1943-August 1, 2024

Irene Haertwig was born the ninth child of Johanna (b. Askevold) and Pastor Gustav Haertwig in the midst of the chaos of WWII on October 9, 1943 in Waldenburg, Silesia, Germany. Her parents had evacuated from Witten in the Ruhr valley to the safer area of eastern Germany where Irene was born. They moved back to Witten where, a year later, a bombing raid prompted sirens to sound, forcing everyone to leave their packed suitcases behind and head to the basement. It was that night that Johanna held her youngest child, Irene, in her arms as a concrete wall fell, killing her instantly, but protecting Irene.

Extended family members subsequently raised Irene for several years in Waldeck, Germany. Irene later learned she was fed horse's milk to sustain her given the lack of food during the war. Irene eventually reunited with her father, six older siblings who endured a harrowing walk through post-war Germany, and two other siblings in Waldeck.

Following the tumultuous war years, Irene's father Pastor Haertwig moved back to Witten and remarried. There Irene would learn to live from Care packages, eating the dry milk power by the spoonful, and eating oatmeal daily. After those post-war years, she never, ever ate oatmeal again. She later enjoyed the best cow's milk after the family moved to a country church in Gemünden, Westerwald, Germany, where she would eat her way through numerous parishioners' homes. She was always hungry, she said, after so little sustenance during the war. She loved it in Gemünden, and thought it was so peaceful compared to the rubble and bomb craters she learned to play in around Witten.

By age 14, she was ready to move on, so she relocated to Waldeck to join her older sister Helga. There she attended school and took over milking the six cows on the farm of Helga's husband, Paul Neuhaus. She learned many farming and gardening skills that stayed with her for her entire life. She could cook and bake like a farm wife for 10-15 people per meal, load hay bales, help slaughter a pig, and always loved to get her hands dirty in the soil. Wherever she lived, her gardens were the envy of so many neighbors, and her cakes were the highlight of every meal.

By age 18, she was ready to explore the wider world and decided to go to nursing school. She attended Diakoni-Krankenhaus Nursing School in Wiesbaden and received her RN in 1964. She found out very early that she loved the operating room and became an OR nurse for over ten years, working in the Universitatlinik in Berlin. Even in hospice care, she talked to the nurses about her love of the OR. She spoke about how she would repair rubber gloves used in the OR by gluing holes closed, learned the use of ether with a funnel and gauze, and straightened and sharpened hypodermic needles for use again. [Can you imagine?]

In 1973, she met the love of her life, Pastor John Sumner in Washington, DC and they were married in 1975 in Quincy, MA. She eventually became the mother of three beautiful children, Anneli, Hans-Michael, and Christian. They became the focus of her entire life. John decided to become a U.S. Army chaplain and thus began the 20-year journey of military life, moving overseas almost every 3-4 years. After the military, Irene followed John to pastorates in Belvidere, TN and Coupland, TX. She never complained about the moves and always embraced a new challenge. In her retirement years, she enjoyed carpentry work around the house and gardening. Nothing gave her greater pleasure than being outside in the fresh air and seeing things grow. She also devoted herself to caring for the first three grandchildren, J.J., Cameron, and Rosie, often daily.

Irene was active and busy until just two months before her death and decided early on not to endure any extraordinary measures. Cancer far too rapidly ended her life, and she died on August 1, 2024, surrounded by her family and newest granddaughter, two-year-old Ellie who was belting an original lullaby to her "Omama". Irene left us at that perfect moment and brought us a sense of completion, a life so well lived.