

# THE VOICE ON THE HILL

Issue 10 Volume 10

October 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.

### Inside This Issue:

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



### Galatians 6:9-10 NRSV

<sup>9</sup> So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

<sup>10</sup> So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.



### Coupland's Annual Choo Choo Fest

October 15, 2023

11:15am - until food is sold out

#### Barbeque Plate Sale

Pork Loin, Sausage, Chicken Drumsticks

Potato salad – Beans – Cole slaw, Pickles, Onions, Bread, Ice Tea

**\$15.00 adults \$7.00 children (4-8) Advance ticket sales**

#### Petting Zoo - 12pm to 2pm

#### Famous Coupland Bake Sale

Enjoy popular local baked cakes, pies, breads, & cookies

*"End of the Line" T-shirt Sale - New Colors*

Add to or start your collection today

#### Silent Auction

Antiques, arts & crafts, services, artwork, collectibles, décor items and much more!

**Questions: Call Judy (512) 293-0501 or Becky (512) 269-8571**

## 1st Annual Car Show

The St. Peter's Car Show on September 16th was a big success, with 35 cars on display. Thanks so much to Jim and Cindy Alexander and everyone else who helped organize the show, and to Jeff Nevers of Old Car Revival for making the trophies.





**October 2023**

Pastor Scott will be preaching on True Love from John and I John for the first two Sundays in October before starting a six week sermon series on the Parables of Jesus.

Scott, Crystal, Josh, Xander, Matthew, and Emma want to thank the church for the continued outpouring of prayer, hospitality, and love during their first 90 days as part of the St. Peter's Church family. Team Wasdin is honored to be here:)

"Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." ! John 4:11

Learn to commit every situation to God, and trust Him for the outcome. God's love for you never changes, no matter what problems you face or how unsettled life becomes.

**Billy Graham**

We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing. Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others.

**Clare of Assisi**

Lord, help us to live the virtue of generosity, to love without limits.

**Pope Francis**



A BIG, BIG THANK YOU to all who have generously donated to our Playground Fund! The Men's Brotherhood, as well as several members of our congregation, together contributed \$10,650! Our spending is as follows:

\$25,000 budget
\$19,126.98 expenses
\$10,650.00 donations
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\$16,523.02 Remaining Balance

We still plan to purchase landing pads for the ends of the slides and a new basketball goal, but after that, we are going to pause to see what our children's needs are as we continue to grow.

This congregation is absolutely AMAZING! THANK YOU AGAIN for your support!  
-The Playground Committee



## Senior Luncheon

Our Senior Citizens Luncheon on September 19th was a great success with 57 Seniors and helpers in attendance. We thank Master Chef, Peter Wabbel, for the delicious meal he prepared for all.

L.I.F.T. ladies furnished the dessert. Bingo and 42 Dominoes were played after the meal. Thanks to all the workers who helped make this event a success and to the L.I.F.T. group for sponsoring this community service.

Mark your calendar for our November luncheon. The date is changed to **November 14th at 11:15 a.m.** due to the Thanksgiving holiday. This will be our annual Senior's Thanksgiving meal. Come give thanks for abundant blessings and enjoy a meal of turkey and dressing followed by bingo and 42 dominoes for fun and fellowship.

Hope to see you at the "Church on the Hill"!



## Diners

Join us on Thursday October 19th at 6:30pm for Diners. Jim & Cindy Alexander are coordinating. Location to be determined.

## Kirchenfest

Kirchenfest is a traditional St. Peter's celebration which honors and recognizes past Confirmation graduates. Join us Sunday, October 22nd at 10:15am as we celebrate the history of our church. A catered meal will be served.

Kirchenfest



## Men's Brotherhood

Men's Brotherhood will meet on Thursday October 26th . Location to be determined.



## Noisy Offering Sunday

Sunday October 29th is Noisy Offering Sunday. In addition to our regular offering, you may drop your spare change into the collection plate.



## Trunk or Treat

The Annual "Trunk or Treat" event, presented by the Coupland Civic Organization, will take place on Sunday, October 29th beginning at 5pm. The traditional celebration consists of persons decorating the trunks of their vehicles and parking up and down Wathen Street to enable children a safe haven to trick or treat. Volunteers enjoy dressing for the occasion and handing out goodies to all participants.



**August and September 2023 Income**

**Total Regular Giving for August \$12,085**

**Total Regular Giving for September \$11,357**

**Budgeted Amount for August \$12,577**

**Budgeted Amount for September \$12,577**

**Total Regular Giving January thru September \$106,585**

**Budgeted Amount January thru September \$113,193**

**\*Regular Offering Only\***

*From Daniel Sundeen: Memorial for Don Schmidt*

**October Worship Schedule**

<b>October 1</b> Liturgist: Charlotte Albert Ushers: Becky Sutton	<b>October 8</b> Liturgist: Judy Downing Ushers: Danny & Dana Smith	<b>October 15</b> Liturgist: Charlotte Albert Ushers: Tammy Sane
<b>October 22</b> Liturgist: Michele Dupy Ushers: Bill Dupy	<b>October 29</b> Liturgist: Becky Sutton Ushers: Jim & Linda Miller	

**Members in Assisted Living or Care Facilities:**

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

**Robert Gebhardt:** Bel Air at Teravista Rehab Center  
4105 Teravista Club Drive, Round Rock, TX 78665

**Ann Johle:** Sagebrook Nursing Center,  
901 Discovery Blvd. Cedar Park, TX 76511

**Denny 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

**October Birthdays**

- 1st Logan Fryer
- 3rd Justin Krieg, Pam Blomquist,  
Patricia Dickey, Terry Finn, Bill Dupy
- 4th Ashton Albert, Crystal Krieg,  
Steven Schmidt, Tonya Clemons
- 6th Laurie Morris
- 7th Georgia Hanson
- 8th Emily Garrison, Candice Mills
- 9th Irene Sumner
- 10th Gunner Streit
- 12th Vivian Eiben
- 13th Crissy Johns
- 15th Garrett Stork
- 16th Peter Wabbel
- 18th Hailey Clemons
- 19th Ashley Doss
- 21st Bill Doss, Tiffany Samuelson
- 27th Kim Nelson, Arthur Henze
- 31st Robert Bland





## Report on UCC Affiliation Discussion

At an informational meeting on September 7, members gave their viewpoints about whether St. Peter's Church should remain affiliated with the United Church of Christ (UCC).

The 14 speakers were united in expressing their love for St. Peter's Church and our church family. Here's a summary of the major points made for and against leaving the UCC:

### LEAVING UCC

The national UCC has become too liberal, and we don't want our money going to support their causes.

Some resolutions proposed or passed by the UCC synod are counter to our values.

Our church will die out if we don't make changes to grow membership. Attendance is falling in denominational churches across America, but independent churches are growing.

Potential visitors or members will be turned off by what they see on the UCC website.

### STAYING IN UCC

Actions of UCC churches in other parts of the country don't affect our worship and community. Local UCC churches are autonomous, so we can continue to do our own thing here in Coupland while still having the support of a denomination when we need it.

A very small portion of our UCC giving goes to the national church, but we can designate where our money goes, or reduce or eliminate giving to UCC.

Growing our membership will require outreach to our community and beyond. Visitors will come back because they like our service, sermons and people.

Potential visitors are much more likely to visit St. Peter's website than the UCC site, and the UCC is not mentioned on our site. We can remove "UCC" from all our communications if we choose.

### NEXT STEPS

Council has voted to delay any vote on this issue until our annual Congregational Meeting in January, at the earliest. This will give us more time to discuss, research and pray about what we believe is the right direction for St. Peter's Church.

Council would like to clarify and reiterate the opening statement of letter that was sent to the congregation in August regarding the association question. The council did not vote to leave the United Church of Christ. Not everyone on council wants to leave the UCC. We did vote to give every member of the congregation the opportunity to express their opinion about St. Peter's association with the UCC.

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## More photos from the Car Show





**ST. PETER'S CHURCH OF COUPLAND  
CHURCH COUNCIL  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023  
MINUTES**

Call to Order and Opening Prayer – Meeting was called to order at 11:26 and the opening prayer was said by Pastor Scott

**Members Present:** Carolyn Haverland, Anita Holubec, Sharon Kreidel, Linda Miller, Laurie Morris, Tammy Sane, Rex Snell, Peter Wabbel  
**Members Absent:** Cindy Alexander, Janet Doss

**Adoption of Agenda** – Anita made a motion to adopt, second by Sharon, unanimous approval

Approval of Last Month's Minutes – motion was made by Rex and seconded by Peter, passed Unanimously

Financial Reports were reviewed

**Committee Reports**

- Playground - Tammy Sane reported that pads for the slide have been ordered by Barbara Coleman. A basketball goal will be purchased from Sam's Club.
- Communications - Council reviewed a summary of the informational meeting regarding St. Peter's and its association with the UCC that was held on 9/7/23. The article was submitted by Dana Smith and will appear in the October newsletter.

**Old Business**

A. Contract Termination and Restorative Meeting Request letters were reviewed. Copies of those letters are included in these minutes.

B. The inaugural St. Peter's Car Show was a success! Final totals on donations and food/water sales will be presented at a later time. A 2nd expanded show will be planned for next year.

C. Slumber Falls - all future special offerings slated for Slumber Falls Camp will now go to Friends of Slumber Falls

**New Business**

A. A new timeline for the UCC association discussion was tabled until the October Council meeting.

B. An outreach proposal and budget adjustment was presented by Barbara Piper via email to Laurie Morris. That email is attached to these minutes and will be presented to the Budget Committee when creating the budget for 2024.

C. The Stork family offered a pool/game table as a donation to St. Peter's. Council discussed and determined that this isn't the right time for that gift.

D. Sharon Kreidel alerted Council that there is a 2nd water meter on the church property that was not active. A motion was made by Sharon and seconded by Tammy to reactivate the meter for \$375 and pay the monthly fee of \$25 to keep it active. The motion passed unanimously.

E. The St. Peter's Church sign at Ging Fertilizer is falling down. Laurie will let Danny and Dana Smith know and help coordinate an effort to get that corrected.

**October & November Calendars**

A. Kirchenfest is 10/22. Sharon has arranged for Chris Kelm to provide a chicken fried steak meal. Donations will be accepted from the congregation to cover the cost of the meal.

B. Hanging of the Greens - Advent starts 12/3

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 12:36

# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship/ Communion	<i>2</i>	<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	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> Coupland City Council 6:00pm	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> <b>Choo Choo Fest</b> 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship/ Communion	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> Diners 6:30pm	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship <b>Kirchenfest</b>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Newsletter Deadline Men's Brotherhood 6:30pm	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship <b>Noisy Offering Sunday</b> <b>Trunk or Treat 5:00pm</b>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> Coffee Connections 9:30am Newsletter Assembly 10:30am				

# 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

**October 2023**

### **WORSHIP SERVICE HOURS**

10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

*Pastor: Scott Wasdin*

*Pastor Phone: 423-637-5813*

*Pastor Email: swasdin@gmail.com*

*Licensed Minister -*

*Charlotte Albert*

*Pianist- David Cappolino*

*Secretary - Barbara Coleman*

*Church's phone: 512-856-2433*

*Church Email: stpeterscoupland@gmail.com*

*Church Website: stpeterscoupland.org*

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