



# *The Voice on the Hill*

## St. Peter's Church of Coupland

**November, 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 Dupuy

#### **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

### **In Loving Memory of Those We Lost**

Our traditional **Totenfest** ceremony will be held during Worship Service on Sunday, **November 2**. We will light a candle and ring the bell for those who died in the past year.



**S.R. Moss**  
Born: April 28, 1929  
Died: December 21, 2024



**Troy Watson**  
Born: July 1, 1944  
Died: July 10, 2025



**Virginia Sims**  
Born: Nov. 7, 1939  
Died: January 1, 2025



**Lila Louise "Lou" Ray**  
Born: August 2, 1953  
Died: January 19, 2025

### **Hanging of the Greens**

Join us for a very special service on Sunday, **November 30**, as we celebrate the first day of Advent by decorating the church for Christmas.

Pastor Burt will be contacting members to participate in the readings, and recruiting volunteers to retrieve the decorations from storage in preparation for the service.



## Going Deeper

This morning I was looking at the Lectionary Texts and hoping to find a verse or two that would connect with a big day in our church . . . Kirchenfest. I struck out with the Lectionary, so I found myself scouring in Jeremiah, and there it was.

In Chapter 31 God says, *“There’s a day coming . . . a day when I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts . . . No longer will they teach their neighbors . . . because they’ll all know me.”*

I love that . . . God’s gonna download His law (aka Divine Wisdom) into their minds AND hearts. Both function as receivers, both have intelligence, both bear and share, and both are critical for our becoming through our cognitive and cardinal knowing. And I’m guessing you’re aware of that, the heart knows things the mind doesn’t know and that goes both ways. We know via both Mind and Heart.

And that’s the connection to my text and to St. Peter’s version of Kirchenfest. It’s a time to remember and celebrate the experience of Confirmation and how a community “downloaded” theology, doctrines, history, and moral teaching into the Mind.

At the same time, there were spiritual truths and realities that were finding a home in their Hearts. The Divine Truths were being received via relationships and love and spiritual practices and beauty and joy and play. Are you with me?

And who knows in what ways lives were impacted by such an experience in the years to come. That’s why we celebrate and say, “Thanks be to God” for St. Peter’s Church.

~ Burt

## Men’s Brotherhood

Jim Alexander coordinated with the contractor to get the flower beds redone in October, using funds from Men’s Brotherhood. The goal was to create a low maintenance landscape with less weeding, and it looks great! Seasonal plants will be placed in the pots and Jim will plant winter rye grass on the west side of the church.

The Men’s Brotherhood did not meet in October. Their next meeting is **November 12th** at 6:30 pm at Casa Garcia’s in Manor.



Front flowerbed makeover



Arthur Henze's 85th birthday

# Council Report

October 6, 2025

**PRESENT:** Michele Dupy, Prissy Rumel, Ruby Wabbel, Kandice Samuelson, Judy Downing, and Rev. Burleson and Treasurer Ted Wittliff.

**ABSENT:** Danny Smith, Bill Albert and Kay Hart

## FINANCIALS:

Ted Wittliff reviewed the Financials. The Finance Team (Ted, Carolyn Haverland and Bill Dupy) are working on the 2026 Budget. Ted recommends moving funds within the subcategories of Edward Jones accounts for better interest rates; Council approved this recommendation.

## REPORTS REVIEWED:

- August church financials – Jennifer Tatro
- Financial Secretary's report – Kandice Samuelson
- Edward Jones Report – Ted Wittliff
- Rev. Burt's Pastoral Report given verbally

## AWARENESS ONLY: No Council action needed

- Men's Brotherhood Landscaping – three bids received for flowerbeds.
- Kirchenfest **October 26th** – Caterer hired, cake, decoration, flowers arranged.
- Julie Gregory to begin 2 yoga classes on Tuesdays beginning **October 7th**.
- Senior Luncheon –Tuesday **November 18th** with traditional Thanksgiving meal.

## NEW BUSINESS: Discussion Items

- Members are looking into projects that might be funded through the Memorial fund.
- Worship Team Report and Church Team Organizations proposal – Prissy
- Rev. Burt's UCC Installation Ceremony tentatively scheduled for **January 25, 2026**.
- Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for **January 18, 2026, directly following Worship**.
- December 13 Wedding request – MOTION: unanimously approved Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall usage for Becky Mazyrack (Karen Rhoades' daughter).

## *Council Report continued*

- Angel Tree – Doreen Streit will lead this project with school.
- Men's Brotherhood request for overage costs on landscaping – MOTION: unanimously passed to pay Woodsman bill (\$275) out of Buildings & Grounds budget.

# Ladies' Circle

The Ladies' Circle will meet on **November 5th** at 1:00 pm at Casa Garcia's Mexican Restaurant at 12700 Lexington Street in Manor. We will discuss the menu for the Thanksgiving Senior Luncheon. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please let Cindy Alexander know if you would be able to prepare food and/or help in serving and cleanup.

Please put **December 10th** on your calendar for the Ladies annual Christmas lunch and ornament gift exchange. The event will be held at Cynthia Wittliff's house at 11:30 am. Details to come.

# Senior Luncheon

## November 18

On **November 18th** at 11:30 am, the Ladies' Circle will host our annual Thanksgiving Community Senior Luncheon, including turkey, dressing, sides, rolls and dessert. The meal is free, but donations are appreciated. Attendees can enjoy 42 dominoes and bingo afterward. Please bring a \$10 bingo prize if you are able.

# Election Day November 4

**November 4th** is Election Day and St. Peter's Church will serve as a voting location. Unless you are voting, please do not enter the Fellowship Hall. The Coffee Connections group should use the central entrance.



## Veteran's Appreciation

In recognition of Veterans Day on November 11th, we will be honoring and thanking the members of St. Peter's Church who served in the armed forces on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> during our time of worship.

The service, which is very fitting, will reflect St. Peter's thoughtful ministry of worship and give the community an opportunity to remember and bless our sisters and brothers who have done so much for us.

Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors for this important occasion and also for the reception immediately following the service where there will be plenty of cookies and refreshments.



## Angel Tree Project

St. Peter's is sponsoring the Angel Tree gift project again this year. This is a community project with Coupland School and Coupland Volunteer Fire Department. The school identifies children who might need assistance, and the Fire Department assists with delivery of the gifts.

We provide three gifts for each child: (1) shirt and pant, (2) wish list toy/gift, (3) wish list toy/gift. You may take all three tags for a child or just one. And, of course, you may shop for more than one individual.

Gift tags will be available in the foyer in late November. When you select your tags, write your name and phone number along with the tag numbers on the sign-up sheet, in case we need to contact you.

Please return the wrapped gifts with the tag attached by Sunday, December 14. This date is very important for coordination with the school and fire department. Contact Doreen Streit with any questions.

## Family Event November 8

St. Peter's will have its first "Family Get Together" on Saturday, November 8, at 2 pm at the Rumel's woods, 650 County Road 488 in Coupland.

Activities include games, walking in the woods, making hot dogs and s'mores, etc.

Parents and grandparents with any age kids are invited to attend – it's for the whole family! Let Prissy Rumel know if you can make it.



Tessa Strider teaching the kids why we should not judge others by how they look.



Glorious Special Music by Andrew Hatchett on October 5.

## Folding Chairs for Sale



Anyone need folding chairs? We have about 20 older chairs that we no longer need.

Think how pretty these would be spray-painted in fun colors, with cushions added!

We're requesting a donation of \$2 each. Please coordinate payment and pickup with Barbara in the office.



Children's Sermon by Prissy Rumel on October 5.



Pastor Burt and the choir lead us in learning a new song.

# PRAYER list

We lift up prayers of healing and comfort for all members, friends, and family, who are sick, grieving, or facing challenges.

We remember: **Charlotte Albert, Carolyn Haverland, Ruby Wabbel's sister, Julie Downs and her family** as they grieve the sudden loss of her brother-in-law recently, **Gene Henze, Robert Bland, and Terry Finn.**

And we continue to pray for those in care facilities.

We remember as well all who are serving as caregivers to their loved ones.

As a community we hold in our hearts and pray for those who are impacted and grieving the tragedies in our nation and around the world: the floods and fires, the shootings, accidents, and escalation of war.

**Lord, hear our prayers.**

For pastoral care contact Pastor Burt at  
[CouplandPastor@gmail.com](mailto:CouplandPastor@gmail.com).



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

Pastor Burt will be calling people who have expressed interest in serving as **Liturgist, Projectionist** and **Usher** for worship services. Please remember to respond to messages 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.



## 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

## November Birthdays

1st	Ruby Wabbel
2nd	Judy Downing
5th	Zac Wood
6th	Dinah Smith
7th	Hank Smith
8th	Brandon Dupy
9th	Peggy Walther-Anderson
10th	DeAnna Snell, Regina Eiben, Doyle Lee Harkins, Barbara Coleman
11th	Lance Haag
13th	Isabel Albert
14th	Aleshia Harkins, Alice Finn
16th	Rex Snell
23rd	Terry Kuntschik
24th	Matt Eiben
25th	Sandra Wernli





**Regular Giving through October \$9,351**

**Year-to-Date Regular Giving: \$107,671**

**Mission Offerings in October**  
**Shepherd's Heart \$220**

**Other Income in October**  
 Kirchenfest \$810  
 Building Rental \$200



## Noisy Offering

Don't forget to bring your coins to church for Noisy Offering on Sunday, November 30. Make a joyful noise as you toss your change into the bucket!

Our Noisy Offering on 5th Sundays goes to fund our children's programs.



## MISSIONS Offerings

### November Mission Offering Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC.

The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

## Support Local Thrift Stores

You may have noticed that there's a new Goodwill store in Taylor, but please remember our local thrift stores with your donations and shopping dollars.

In addition to meeting the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors, Shepherd's Heart and St. Vincent de Paul are sources of low-cost clothing and household items for area residents. The toys and children's items are especially helpful to families during the Christmas shopping season.

**Shepherd's Heart** at 121 East 2nd Street in Taylor is supported by local churches, including St. Peter's. Proceeds go to the Food Pantry, which distributes groceries to more than 400 local families weekly. The store is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm.

**St. Vincent de Paul** store at 209 North Main Street in Taylor is operated by St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church. Proceeds help area residents with emergency assistance for rent, utilities and medicines. It's open Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday Mornings

Adult Sunday School at 9 am, Worship at 10:15 am

### Tuesday Mornings

Community Connections at 9:30 am

### Monday, November 3

Council Meeting at 5 pm

### Tuesday, November 4

Election Day—voting in Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, November 5

Ladies' Circle at 1 pm, Casa Garcia's

### Saturday, November 8

Family Get Together at 2 pm at the Rumels

### Tuesday, November 11

Veterans Day—office closed

### Wednesday, November 12

Men's Brotherhood at 6:30 pm, Casa Garcia's

### Tuesday, November 18

Community Senior Luncheon at 11:30 am

Newsletter Deadline

### Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving—office closed

### Sunday, November 30

Hanging of the Greens and Noisy Offering

## 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

**Pastor Email:** CouplandPastor@gmail.com

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



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

**Venmo Donations:**  
[@StPetersCoupland](https://www.venmo.com/stpeterscoupland)



## Daylight Savings Time Ends November 2

Be on time for church —remember to set your clocks BACK one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night!

## Oktoberfest 2025

Thank you to Cynthia and Ted Wittliff for hosting the special Oktoberfest meal prepared by our own Chef Peter Wabbel. Attendees enjoyed a multi-course meal of authentic German food, beautifully presented.



# Kirchenfest 2025



Pastor Burt preaching



Blessing the Children



Children's Sermon



Carolyn Haverland  
Ruby Wabbel



Cayli Johns  
Jeanette Watson



Donna Eiben Hall  
50th anniversary  
Confirmation class of 1975

Kerry Finn  
25th anniversary  
Confirmation class of 2000



Members enjoying  
lunch

