

# THE VOICE ON THE HILL

Issue 12 Volume 10

December 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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# Merry Christmas!

## Angel Tree Project

St. Peter's is sponsoring the Angel Tree Project again this year. This is a community project with Coupland School and Coupland Volunteer Fire Department. The school helps us to identify students that might need some assistance including their younger/older siblings, and the Fire Department assists with the delivery of the gifts to the families.

We do 3 gifts for each individual that includes: (1) shirt & pant, (2) wish list toy/gift, (3) wish list toy/gift. You can pick up gift tags in the back of the church. You may take all 3 tags for the individual or one tag if you prefer. And, of course, you may shop for more than one individual. When you select your tags from the sign-up sheet, please write your name and phone number in the block of the associated tags in case we need to contact you.

Please return the wrapped gifts with the tag attached by **Sunday, December 10**. This date is very important for coordination with the school and fire department.

If you have questions, please contact Doreen Streit at [dkstreit@ymail.com](mailto:dkstreit@ymail.com) or 512/659-3625.



Luke 1:30-31 NRSV

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.



**Glory to the Newborn King!**  
Join us as we celebrate the  
birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sunday December 3rd	First Day of Advent
Sunday December 10	Brown Bag Christmas Pageant
Sunday December 17	Lessons and Carols
Sunday December 24	6:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions. Not only does Christmas connect us to past traditions and family members no longer with us, it connects us to those who experienced the first Christmas, with all its wonder and mystery. For our Advent sermon series, we'll be looking at the ways the birth of Christ reminds us of our call to be the family of God. Join us this Advent as we remember that Christmas is first and foremost about the gift of the Christ child to his family of faith - to Mary and Joseph, to the shepherds, to the saints of the past, and to you and me.

### ***Dec. 3rd Hanging of the Greens***

Pastor Scott will preach a sermon titled "Concerto of Hope" from the prophet Isaiah. What hopes do we have for ourselves, our family, and our community this Christmas?

### ***Dec. 10 Brown Bag Christmas Pageant***

Crystal Wasdin will direct and narrate a fun and interactive nativity pageant that everyone gets to play a role! Pastor Scott will share from Matthew 1:18-25 - Joseph is blindsided with the news his fiancée is pregnant. His family plan is out the window, but God gives him an even greater opportunity to be part of Jesus' story.

***Dec. 17 Lessons and Carols*** - Our Minister of Music David will bless us with a service of Lessons and Carols as we prepare to welcome Jesus once again into our world and our hearts.

***Dec. 24th*** Our congregation will celebrate the arrival of our Lord with a memorable candlelight service at 6:30 pm on Christmas Eve filled with reflective readings and beloved Christmas songs.



Fellowship is a crucial and relational element of our life as a congregational family. The Wasdin family invites all of you to enjoy Advent baked treats and holiday beverages in the fellowship hall after worship December 3rd, 10th, and 17th.



There will be adult coffee and conversations each Sunday morning in December (Except the 24th) in the conference room at 9:00 am.

Crystal Wasdin will be leading a new preteen Sunday School class, beginning January 7th at 9:00 am. Location and more details will be announced later in December.



May each of your families have a blessed and memorable Christmas season.

***Pastor Scott Wasdin***



## Senior Lunch

The Annual Thanksgiving Senior Citizens Luncheon was held on November 14<sup>th</sup> and was a big success with 56 Seniors and helpers in attendance. The turkey and dressing was catered from Meyer's bbq, and the sides and dessert were prepared by the LIFT ladies and other volunteers.

Bingo and 42 Dominoes were played after the meal. Thanks to all the workers who helped make this event a success and to the LIFT group for sponsoring this community service.

Mark your calendar for our January 2024 luncheon on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.  
Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## Christmas Party

Ted & Cynthia Wittliff have graciously offered to host our Christmas Party on Saturday December 9th at 6:00pm. If you plan on attending, please sign up. Sign up sheet is in the back of the church.



## Church Council

Council will meet on Sunday, December 17th at 11:30am.



## Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry

Every year, St. Peter's Church provides assistance with the distribution of food at the food pantry. Look for details in the upcoming newsletter as to when the church is needed.

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated



## Diners

Diners will return starting January 2024. Look for the sign up sheet in the back of the church. If you would like to coordinate, please sign up.



**November 2023 Income**

**Total Regular Giving for November \$16,720**

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

**Total Regular Giving January thru November \$135,079**

**Budgeted Amount January thru November \$138,347**

**\*Regular Offering Only\***

*\*Memorial given by Rhonda Potts for Elton F. and Alvera M. Zulauf*

Thank You  
FOR  
**GIVING**  
...  
GENEROUSLY

**December Worship Schedule**

<b>December 3</b> Liturgist: Judy Downing Ushers: Becky Sutton	<b>December 10</b> Liturgist: Laurie Morris Ushers: Roy Morris
<b>December 17</b> Liturgist: Michele Dupy Ushers: Bill Dupy	<b>December 31</b> Liturgist: Becky Sutton Ushers: Danny & Dany Smith

**No Morning Service on Christmas Eve**

**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:** Autumn Leaves of Georgetown  
3600 Williams Drive Georgetown, TX 78628

**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

**December Birthdays**

- 3rd Jacob Doss, Tessa Streit
- 5th Sophia Rae Eiben, Amber Ging
- 7th Reagan Fischer
- 8th Irene Florida
- 12th Jeff Stork
- 15th Cameron Dupy
- 16th Sydney Snell Payne
- 17th Bradley Nelson, Johnathan Dupy
- 18th Craig Albert
- 20th Michael Wellings
- 21st Gene Henze
- 22nd Cody Cox
- 23rd Teddy Wittliff
- 24th Carrie Townsend
- 29th Dakota Brown
- 30th Brittney Brown
- 31st Kimber Finn





### Open Spots on Committees

This year instead of going directly to Nominating Committee, we decided to give the attendees of St. Peter's the opportunity to volunteer for or express interest in a committee position. Please prayerfully consider your involvement in any of these committees and contact a continuing committee member or Church Councilperson if you have questions or would like to be involved.

**Any spots not filled by 12/31/23 will go to Nominating Committee.**

### Church Council - 3 open spots (elected)

The Church Council shall transact the business of the church and make provision for the preparation and funding of the budget for the congregation, as well as other benevolent purposes. The Council should periodically review the Constitution and Bylaws and propose needed amendments. The council's work will include reviewing, modifying and approving the budget of the church, setting annual mission direction and goals for the congregation, reviewing the work of all committees through the chairperson's reports, and serving as events coordinators for each month of the year. Each council member will be provided with a contact list and will contact those on their list when there is news of the death of a member. The Treasurer and Financial Secretary are responsible for accounting the weekly offering and ensuring its proper deposit. The Treasurer serves as chair of the Budget Committee. The President and Pastor are ex-officio members of all committees of the Congregation. The current Council is 10 members, but an amendment will be proposed in January to change that to 8.

Continuing Members: Cindy Alexander, Anita Holubec, Laurie Morris, Tammy Sane, Rex Snell

### Board of Christian Education - 2 open spots (elected)

The Board of Christian Education coordinates adult and children's Sunday School and all other education materials. They coordinate Vacation Bible School in the summer. VBS coordination can include partnering with other churches. The Board should meet and report to Council at least quarterly.

Continuing Members: Stephanie Ochoa, Crystal Wasdin

### Altar Guild - 2 open spots

This is a volunteer appointment approved by Church Council. They are in charge of changing paraments (hangings) to the correct color. The color guide of the church year is posted in the Sacristy. They also help with Hanging of the Greens and Flowering of the Cross at Easter. They work with the Church Flowers person (currently Jo Ann Ging) and the Pastor for these events.

Continuing Members: Anita Holubec

### Budget Committee - 2 open spots (and Council Treasurer)

This committee is appointed by the new Church Council each year for the purpose of preparing the budget for the next year. The Church Treasurer serves as the Chair of this committee and all other committee chairs are members. The Church Bookkeeper is also a member of this committee. They are expected to present a proposed budget for the following year at the December Council meeting.

Continuing Members - Jennifer Tatrow (church bookkeeper), Carolyn Haverland, Ted Whittliff

### Kitchen Committee - 3 open spots

This committee maintains an inventory of kitchen supplies. They are responsible for setup at monthly potluck meals, including making tea. This committee helps coordinate the meal for Kirchenfest and Church Picnic. (Kirchenfest is a specified committee in the Constitution, suggested amendment to combine with Kitchen). Kitchen Committee may be asked to help coordinate with Funeral Committee for meals after funeral services.

Continuing Members: Anita Holubec, Peter Wabbel

### Landscaping Committee - 2 open spots

This committee is responsible for coordinating maintenance of the flowerbeds on the south and west sides of the church. Maintenance includes removal of weeds and ants, planting new annuals, pruning of trees and perennials and watering when needed. This committee may arrange for contract labor paid for by the Church with approval of Church Council.

Continuing Members: Bonnie Sladek

### Mission and Stewardship - 2 open spots

To secure necessary funds for the needs of the church, enlistment appeals by the Mission and Stewardship Committee are to be developed annually. The budget needs of the Congregation, as well as suggested ways for proportional giving are to be presented to each member through these appeals.. This committee is expected to meet and report to Council at least quarterly.

Continuing Members: Barbara Piper, Crystal Wasdin

### Worship and Music - 1 open spot

This committee oversees content of worship services and provides a sounding board for new ideas by the Pastor as to the Sunday morning and special services worship. This committee includes the Minister of Music. They help prepare special worship services, help plan special events and services for the seasons of Advent and Lent and to select new hymnals, praise and worship books and sheet music when needed. This committee is expected to meet and report to Council at least quarterly.

Continuing Members - David Cappalito (Minister of Music), Prissy Rumel



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

Members present: Laurie Morris, Cindy Alexander, Carolyn Haverland, Tammy Sane, Anita Holubec, Rex Snell, Linda Miller, Peter Wabbel

Members absent: Sharon Kreidel, Janet Doss

Meeting was called to order and Pastor Scott offered the opening prayer.

The agenda was approved.

Minutes for October 2023 were approved with correction. The following was removed from the minutes regarding the UCC Association Proposal: "to remove the Church's association with UCC".

**Financial Reports**

Monthly Financial Reports: Motion was made and approved to accept the reports with correction to Lift.

Investment Advisory Proposal: Ted Witliff presented the proposals from the Investment Advisory Committee Report to the council. The Council reviewed the proposals and a motion was made and approved to accept all of the proposals and to affirm Ted will be the liaison between Jay Sutton and the Council.

**Committees/Nominations:**

Council members reported on updates to Committees' List to determine what positions will be open for 2024.

Identify Openings on Committees and start advertising: Open positions will be posted by email and/or board to the Congregation to solicit volunteers.

Budget Committee meeting will be held on November 28, 2023.

**Pastor's report:**

Pastor Scott reported that tables at the playground were vandalized again and a basketball goal was overturned. The Security Committee will meet to evaluate if security cameras are needed.

Pastor Scott suggested to the Council that the only service on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> will be the Christmas Eve Service. The Council agreed. He also stated he would get with Stephanie Ochoa to coordinate Christmas programs.

He reported he will teach the Adult Bible Study class using a video curriculum based program. He also announced that Crystal will begin a children's Sunday School class beginning January 7, 2024, before church service.

Pastor Scott also requested if the Council would approved changing David Cappolino's title from Pianist to "Minister of Music" and increase his salary because David is really involved in improving the church's music services. A motion was made and approved by the Council to change his title and increase his salary by \$50 per Sunday.

**Old Business:**

Giving envelopes: Pastor Scott will research options to the giving envelopes and report these to the Council at the December Council meeting.

**New Business:**

Discussed Barbara Piper's email regarding using St. Peter's for voting location in 2024. A motion was made and approved by the Council to allow our Fellowship Hall as a voting location and to raise the fee paid by the County from \$300 to \$400.

**November and December calendars:**

**Sunday, November 26th at 9:00 AM:** Coffee and casual conversation regarding the compromise proposal.

**Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM:** Dessert and casual conversation regarding the compromise proposal.

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Hanging of the Greens service.

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM:** Adult Fellowship Christmas Party hosted by Ted and Cynthia Wittliff.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Alexander  
Council Secretary

# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship/ Communion <b>Hanging of the Greens</b>	4	5 Coffee Connections 9:30am	6	7	8	9 Adult Fellowship Christmas Party 6:00pm
10 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship <b>Brown Bag</b> <b>Christmas Pageant</b>	11	12 Coffee Connections 9:30am	13	14 Coupland City Council 6:00pm	15	16
17 9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship/ Communion  <b>Council</b> <b>11:30am</b>	18	19 Coffee Connections 9:30am Newsletter Assembly 10:30am	20	21	22	23
24  <b>No Morning Service</b>  6:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25  <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 Coffee Connections 9:30am	27	28	29	30
31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>  9:15am Adult Class 10:15am Worship  <b>Noisy Offering Sunday</b>						

# 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

**December 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*

*Minister of Music- 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"*