



The Voice on the Hill

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

July, 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 Dupy

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



Community Senior Luncheon July 15

The luncheon at 11:30 am on Tuesday, July 15th, will feature chicken salad sandwiches, chips, and root beer floats. Attendees enjoy dominoes and bingo afterward. Invite your friends and neighbors to this free event! Volunteers are always needed to serve and clean up.

Summer Program July 16-18

Children in K - 5th grade are invited to the Summer Program from 9 am to Noon on July 16-18, featuring activities, crafts, music, and lunch. **Please register children in advance** using the form [here](#) or at the back of the church. This **free** program is open to the community, so spread the word! Contact **Prissy Rumel** with questions or to volunteer. Details on page 2.

Ice Cream Social July 20

Our Ice Cream Social will be at 7 pm on Sunday, July 20th. The Ladies' Circle and Men's Brotherhood will provide ice cream and toppings.

Tables and chairs will be available outside on the patio and inside the fellowship hall (for those who appreciate air conditioning!)

This is a free community event, so invite your friends and neighbors!

Social Sunday July 27

Bring a dish to share at the Potluck Lunch immediately after Worship Service on Sunday, July 27th. If you forget to bring something, come anyway! There's always plenty of food.



I'm happy to be writing my first column for *The Voice on the Hill*. It's a perfect name for our newsletter, isn't it?

I've learned in the last few weeks that the reality is that there are "Voices on the Hill." The people of St. Peter's speak up and do so in a wonderfully helpful way, which has been a kindness to me and to Julie.

As I said in my first sermon, "moving is SOOOOOOOO hard" and we're looking forward to having all the boxes unloaded and all the pictures hung.

Moving has not been all bad. To recount what we've experienced:

- The yard gets magically cut and with the rain you all have (I'm assuming it's always like this) and it's just beautiful.
- In addition to the rain, we've enjoyed the breeze morning and night. It's so cool (and I mean that both ways)
- People invite you to go fishing (4 invites), and
- The Coupland community is so hospitable, wise, hardworking, and fun. That's the top of my list, just so you know . . . what a great community.

These are exciting days and I pray that we're able to return the kindness and love that you all have extended to us.

Back to the "Voice on the Hill," we have a great gift, you know. It's that voice, elevated and amplified, that really sends and shares good news. There's a lot of bad news most any day in this world, so we have an important job and I'm glad to join you in it.

- *Burt Burlleson*



Dance Fitness Class



Prissy Rumel is leading a dance fitness class on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm at the church. They have had an average attendance of 7 and there's room for more! This is a free class and everyone in the community is invited. Come in through the center door of the church and head up to the large room at the top of the stairs.

Council Report

June 2, 2025

COUNCIL PRESENT: Michele Dupy, Prissy Rumel, Danny Smith, Ruby Wabbel, Judy Downing, and Kay Hart. **GUESTS:** Charlotte Albert, Dana Smith, Ted Wittliff and Burt Burleson. **ABSENT:** Bill Albert and Kandice Samuelson.

REPORTS: Ted presented Financial Reports and there was discussion of expenses that are paid by ACH. Charlotte presented the Pastoral Care Report and discussed altar flowers.

WORSHIP: Reviewed suggestions made by the Worship & Music Team. Pastor Burt to join the team.

TECHNOLOGY: A new laptop computer was ordered for Pastor Burt, and Charles Stark will set it up. Dana has asked Barbara to check the Sanctuary laptop for Windows updates at least once a month. Dana is compiling a master list of all church passwords and Kay will look into setting up a password manager.

NEW PASTOR EMAIL: Pastor Burt can be reached at CouplandPastor@gmail.com

COMMUNION: Changed to 2nd and 4th Sundays for June, due to timing of Confirmation Sunday.

SECURITY: Danny will make a lock up and lights list for all to use.

KID'S SUMMER PROGRAM: It will be led by Rebecca Muery, Prissy, and Burt on July 16-18.

VISITOR FOLLOW UP: Prissy and Burt will work out procedures to follow up with visitors.

MARKETING: Prissy is ordering signs for the metal sign holder to be placed on the corner of our property.

FACILITIES AGREEMENT: Michele will recommend adjustments to the length of time the building is accessible to rental clients, due to the utility costs.

PROCEDURES MANUAL: Dana has begun a draft and will share an outline with the Council.

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING: Rescheduled to September 8 due to Labor Day holiday.

JULY FACILITIES COORDINATOR: Judy Downing



Welcome Julie Burleson

Pastor Burt's wife, Julie, was born and raised in Dallas, where she enjoyed gymnastics, church fast pitch softball, drill team, art and church youth group.

She and Burt attended the same schools in the Lake Highlands area, but she says they were never in the same school at the same time because Burt was 'so much older.'

At age 20 she became a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines and worked there until she married Burt and moved to Houston.

In Houston, Julie worked with Burt's youth even after they had their two kids, Abby and Brandt. She was very active in the PTA and took college classes in photography.

When they moved to Waco, Julie immersed herself in DaySpring Baptist Church, teaching children's Sunday School and decorating for church seasons.

She went back to school, graduating from Mary Hardin Baylor with a degree in Elementary Education with a specialization in art. Julie taught first and third grades for a couple of years until she started her wedding and portrait photography business, which she had for a decade.

After managing a retail store for five years, she became a grandmother (her greatest joy) and retired to help with Collins as often as she could. With a second granddaughter on the way, her heart is just exploding with joy!

At St. Peter's, Julie is looking forward to working with children, creating fellowships, dinners, tea for two, book clubs and pulling weeds. She's also looking for a pickleball tutor in the fall!



Confirmation Sunday

On June 8 we celebrated the Confirmation of **Brynley Finn, Kaydence Epperson,** and **Krista Poldrack.** They spent nearly a year studying with **Charlotte Albert** to learn more about the church and explore their faith, and they also did community service. We're proud of them and grateful for Charlotte's dedication.



Julie Burleson's Tea

Thanks so much to **Cynthia Wittliff** and her daughter, **Elizabeth**, for hosting the tea in the Wittliff's beautiful home and for making the delicious treats! And thanks to **Charlotte Albert** for decorating. There was much laughter as the 22 ladies in attendance enjoyed visiting and getting to know Julie.



Visit from the Nickel Family of Germany



Annett, Reiner, Larry, Lance, Chloe, and Sarah Nickel

In researching his family, Reiner Nickel of Germany learned that his great-great-grandfather, Gottlieb Nickel, had a brother named Christoph. Along with his wife and children, Christoph moved from Dessau, Germany, around 1895 and settled in Coupland.

Some of you may remember the Nickel family who lived and farmed just east of Coupland, and a number of Nickels are buried in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Reiner was able to initially find Christoph and his family using the web site [FindAGrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com), which lists millions of graves including all the graves in St. Peter's Cemetery. After Reiner contacted St. Peter's, Ted Wittliff put Reiner in contact with Larry Nickel, who grew up here and now lives in La Grange.

Larry is the great-grandson of Christoph Franz "Frank" Nickel, Sr. (1842-1912) who, along with his wife Henrietta, is buried in our cemetery. Larry is the son of Elton and Ruth (Beyer) Nickel, who are also buried here.

On May 30, Reiner and his wife, Annett, traveled from Germany and visited Coupland. They met for coffee at the church with **Ted Wittliff, Danny Smith and Mick Lemp**, along with **Larry Nickel** and his family, then went to the cemetery to see the family graves.

What an amazing story and such fun to meet the European branch of our St. Peter's family!

Ladies' Circle July 9

The Ladies' Circle will meet at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, July 9th, at Plowman's Kitchen in Taylor to discuss the July 15th senior luncheon.



After the pastor's **Children's Moment** during Sunday Worship Services, children may leave the sanctuary to participate in supervised activities such as art projects, music and games. Coloring sheets are also available at the back of the Sanctuary.

St. Peter's Singers



Thanks so much to our choir, accompanied by **David Cappolino**, for providing beautiful music on June 22.

Pictured are **Doreen Streit, Burt Burleson, Emma Leigh Maciazek, Charlotte Albert, Daniel Muery, Martha Poldrack, Adam Muery, Susan Johnson, Prissy Rumel, and Judy Downing**. If you would like to join in making joyful music, please speak to David or Prissy.

PRAYER list

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

We remember all those who are living **in care facilities** or are **homebound**. A card, call or visit really brightens their day!

Troy Watson is in St. David's Hospital, 919 E. 32nd in Austin. Continued prayers for **Robert Bland, Denney Poldrack, Gene Henze, and Terry Finn.**

We also pray for all those family members who are caregivers to their loved ones.

For pastoral concerns or prayer requests, contact **Pastor Burt** at CouplandPastor@gmail.com or **254-644-0944**.



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

Sign Up to Assist with Worship

Please remember to use the sign-up board in the foyer to volunteer to serve as **Liturgist, Usher** and **Projectionist** for Sunday Worship services. Don't worry if you have never done it before—training and written instructions are provided.



July Birthdays

1st	Charlotte Albert, Troy Watson
2nd	Allysa Marak, Kaydence Epperson
3rd	Dana Smith
4th	Keitha Niemtschk
10th	Michael Goetz, Zachary Krieg
11th	Virginia Callanan
12th	Robert Gebhardt
13th	Craig Matetzschk, Darien Clemons
14th	Harper Doss
16th	Bradley Haag
18th	Tessa Strider, Elizabeth Finn
19th	Blake Haverland, Delaney Webb
21st	Cindy Wood, Daniela Wabbel
27th	Matthew Kreidel
28th	Casin Finn



Regular Giving for June: \$14,389

Year-to-Date Regular Giving: \$67,167

Mission Offerings in June:

Heifer International: \$355

Other Income in June:

Noisy Offering \$156

Kids Programs \$200

OCWM \$50



July Mission Offering Coupland School

July's mission offering goes to **Coupland School**. They will use the funds to help students who need school supplies, special equipment or other items.

St. Peter's Church has long partnered with Coupland School for the benefit of the community.

School officials help coordinate our **Angel Tree** gift program at Christmas, and students assist with serving at the **Community Senior Luncheon**.

Join us in supporting students at this special school in our community! Just write "School" on your check.



Altar Flowers

It's so lovely to have fresh flowers or potted plants on the altar for Sunday Worship!

If you'd like to provide flowers, please check the Flower Calendar in the sanctuary foyer and also let Barbara in the office know. Vases are available if you need them.

You can dedicate flowers in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special occasion like a birthday or the anniversary of a marriage/baptism/confirmation, or just dedicate them to the Glory of God!

Venmo Donations



St. Peter's accepts donations through **Venmo**. Use this QR Code or search for "StPetersCoupland" on your Venmo app. Please use check, cash or bank transfer for Regular Offerings, if possible, due to the fees charged by Venmo.



Sunday Mornings

Adult Sunday School, 9 am
Worship Service and Children's Church, 10:15 am

Tuesday Mornings

Community Connections at 9:30 am

Monday, July 7

Council Meeting at 5 pm

Wednesday, July 9

Ladies' Circle lunch at Plowman's at 1 pm

Tuesday, July 15

Community Senior Luncheon at 11:30 am

Wednesday-Friday, July 16-18

Children's Summer Program, 9 am-Noon

Sunday, July 20

Community Ice Cream Social at 7 pm

Tuesday, July 22

Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, July 27

Social Sunday: Potluck Lunch at Church

Tuesday, July 29

Newsletter Distribution



Social Sunday at Southside Market on July 29

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



Our Website:

StPetersCoupland.org



Venmo Donations:

[StPetersCoupland](https://venmo.com/StPetersCoupland)



Our "Chief Technology Officer," **Charles Stark**, has spent MANY hours recently working on computer and internet issues. We appreciate his expertise and dedication.

Thank you to **Prissy Rumel** for working so hard to pull the weeds in the front flowerbed. She also created a sign to advertise the Summer Program and designed and mailed a postcard to area residents introducing Burt and inviting them to our July events.

And thank you to everyone else who dedicates their time and talents to St. Peter's!

Slumber Falls Scholarships

Funds are available to help pay registration fees for Slumber Falls Camp. See www.SlumberFalls.org/summer-camp for program information, and contact **Prissy Rumel** if you have a child or grandchild who would like to attend camp.