



The Voice on the Hill

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

March, 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

TREASURER

Ted Wittliff

TRANSITIONAL MINISTER

Rev. Linda McWhorter

LICENSED MINISTER

Charlotte Albert

MINISTER of MUSIC

David Cappolino

CHURCH SECRETARY

Barbara Coleman

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dana Smith



Join us for the **Ash Wednesday** service, including imposition of ashes, on **Wednesday, March 5, at 7 pm**. Prior to the service, there will be a **Soup Supper at 6 pm**. Look for sign-up sheets on the sanctuary foyer bulletin board to volunteer to bring soup, bread or dessert. There will be no other Lenten services this year.



As this newsletter goes to press, the **Pastoral Search Committee** reports that we may have a potential candidate for Settled Pastor. Please plan to attend a Meet and Greet on Saturday afternoon, **March 22**, and to be in church on **March 23** to hear the candidate preach. A Called Congregational Meeting and Vote would follow immediately after church. Watch the Thursday emails for more information!



Heart of Texas Association Meeting

The Heart of Texas Association of the UCC will hold their Spring Meeting at St. Peter's Church on **Saturday, April 5 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**. There will be worship in our Sanctuary, a brief business meeting, and lunch served in our Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve lunch. We're so grateful for all the support the Heart of Texas Association has shown to St. Peter's this past year — let's thank them with our hospitality! Please contact **Anita Holubec** if you can help with lunch.

Minister's Musings

Rev. Linda McWhorter

Someone made this comment to me recently, "I guess I'm not a good Christian because..." All manner of thoughts came to my mind upon hearing this. One was about judgement – in the end we will be judged by God whether we have lived a good life or not - so why do we feel the need to judge ourselves (or others) so harshly?

Another thought was about the qualities of a "good" Christian. Qualities that came to mind were honesty, integrity, generosity, thoughtfulness, compassion, loving kindness. Micah 6:8 says, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

This led me to reflect on the adage - *all that is of God is good* - and it reminded me of a little story titled, *A Donkey, a Rooster, and a Lamp*.

It goes like this: Rabbi Moshe took a trip to an unfamiliar land. He took a donkey, a rooster, and a lamp. Since he was a Jew, he was refused hospitality in the village inns, so he decided to sleep in the woods. He lit his lamp to study the holy books before sleep, but a fierce wind came up, knocked over the lamp and broke it. The rabbi decided to turn in saying, "All that God does, He does well." During the night some wild animals came along and drove away the rooster, and thieves stole the donkey. Moshe woke up, saw the loss, but still proclaimed easily, "All that God does, He does well."

The rabbi then went back to the village where he had been refused lodging, only to learn that soldiers had invaded the village during the night and killed most of the inhabitants. He also learned that these soldiers had traveled through the same part of the woods where he lay asleep. Had his lamp not been broken, he would have been discovered by the soldiers. Had the rooster not been chased, it would have crowed, giving him away. Had the donkey not been stolen, it would have brayed. So once more, Rabbi Moshe declared, "All that God does, He does well."

The moral of this little tale – we are all children of God, created in God's image of Love. My friends, God created us, God loves us, God has a plan for us – and "all that God does, He does well." Amen!

Men's Brotherhood



The Men's Brotherhood met for fellowship at El Corral Lozano on February 12. If you have suggestions or questions, or would like to be added to the contact list for Men's Brotherhood, call or text **Jim Alexander** at 512-514-5951.



Rev. Linda's Contact Information and Hours

Our part-time Transitional Minister, **Rev. Linda McWhorter**, is in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm and on non-communion Sundays after Worship until 4:00 pm. On Communion Sundays, Rev. Linda brings communion to members who are homebound and living in facilities

For pastoral care, contact Rev. Linda at 209-401-6739 or MinisterStPetersCoupland@gmail.com (note new email address).

And if you happen to need anything notarized, Rev. Linda is a Notary Public, and will provide notary services to church members free of charge!

Council Report

February 3, 2025

PRESENT: Michele Dupy, Judy Downing, Bill Albert, Ruby Wabbel, Kandice Samuelson, Danny Smith (via phone), and Rev. Linda McWhorter.

ABSENT: Prissy Rumel

REPORTS: Financial and Investment reports were reviewed, along with reports from the Pastor, Mission Team, and Pastoral Search Team.

EVENT COORDINATORS UPDATED: February (Bill Albert) March (Prissy Rumel) April (Michele Dupy) May (Ruby Wabbel) June (Danny Smith) July (Judy Downing) August (open) September (Kandice Samuelson). Bill will distribute the Event Coordinator instructions.

CONTACT LIST: Updated member contact lists were distributed to Council members.

LITURGIST: Charlotte Albert has volunteered to be Liturgist the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

BULLETIN: Rev. Linda will ask Barbara Coleman to list names of the slideshow attendant in the bulletin for Sunday and the following week.

PERSONNEL: Staff salaries were discussed. New procedures were set for paying the children's church attendant each week.

SIGN: Barbara will add Rev. Linda's name as Transitional Minister to the sign outside.

PHOTOS: Council Members will take photos at church events and send them to Dana Smith for the newsletter.

KEYS: Church keys will be assigned to Ruby and Kandice.

CALENDAR: Rev. Linda will update the event calendar spreadsheet and make it available to Council members.

BOOKKEEPING: Ted Wittliff will be asked to get a report of ACH transactions from the bookkeeper and also look into how the bookkeeper salary is presented in the budget/financial reports.

PASTOR CALL PROCEDURE: Procedures for congregational voting on Settled Pastors were discussed.

Meet Your Council

Kandice Samuelson

Returning Church Council member **Kandice Samuelson** has been a member and a part of St. Peter's Church her entire life and served about 12 years previously on the Church Council. She was baptized as an infant, confirmed and married in this church, with all three events being performed by Rev. Jewel Johnson.

It was also Rev. Johnson that talked her into first serving on the Board of Christian Education for a number of years and then on the Council and as a Sunday School teacher.

For several years Kandice served on the Coupland ISD School Board at the same time as her Council service, and she continued her school board service for nearly 32 years before leaving the board in 2022.

She has one daughter, Tiffany who lives in Colorado with her fiancée, Alex.

Kandice is still working full-time as Executive Director of IT Governance and Compliance at a contract research organization that conducts drug studies on behalf of pharmaceutical companies across the globe. She has been with that company for almost 30 years, but she is fortunate enough to now be able to work from home so her commute time is about one minute on a slow day.

There's not much time outside of the job, but when she has some, she likes to travel especially with her daughter, work on puzzles, play games, and spend time with friends.

Ladies' Circle Social Tea

The Ladies' Circle hosted a Social Tea on February 15th and thirteen people attended from St. Peter's and Coupland. It was a great success—the food was delicious and the decorations were perfect!

Thank you to **Cynthia Wittliff** for her vision for the tea. She researched the recipes and presented them to **Charlotte Albert, Cindy Alexander** and **Janet Doss** for final decisions. **Cynthia, Charlotte** and **Janet** provided the teapots and teacups that made the tea special.

Special thanks to **Cynthia** and her daughters, **Alyson** and **Elizabeth**, for providing and setting up refreshments, decorating assistance, and bringing the classic hats that we all had fun trying on. Thanks also to **Cindy, Janet**, and **Kay** for providing food.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to everyone who made this a fun and memorable experience.

Contact **Cindy Alexander** at 512-699-7515 for more information about Ladies' Circle.



Kay Hart, Janet Doss, Carolyn Haverland.



Yummy treats!



Alyson Wittliff Richards



Cindy Wood, Kay Hart, Rev. Linda, Alyson Richards, Janet Doss, Anita Holubec.



Charming teapots added to the ambience!



SOCIAL TEA: Rev. Linda, Carolyn Haverland, Alyson Richards, Cynthia Wittliff, Cynthia Alexander, Anita Holubec, Cindy Wood, Ruby Wabbel, Linda Miller, Janet Doss, Kay Hart.



Lunch Out at Meyer's Elgin Smokehouse on February 23

MEET n EAT

Community Senior Luncheon

The next luncheon will be **Tuesday, March 18, at 11:30 am**. After lunch, attendees can play Bingo or 42 dominoes. The meal is free, but donations are appreciated. Please bring a \$10 bingo prize if you are able.

Many thanks to the members of our Ladies' Circle for organizing this important ministry, providing meals and social interaction for our seniors. **As always, we need volunteers to help with the food, serving and clean-up.** Contact **Cindy Alexander** at 512-699-7515 if you can help.

Social Sunday Potluck March 30

Don't miss our Potluck Lunch after Worship Services on Sunday, **March 30**. Please bring a main dish, salad, side dish or dessert if you are able.

Join us for lunch—this is a great way to visit and get to know each other better!

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.

Prayers for **Charlotte Albert**, who is recovering from the flu, **Lois Schmidt**, who was in the hospital but is now home, and for **Ruby Wabbel's** sister Christine, recovering from surgery. Continued prayers for **Calvin Ging**, **Gene Henze**, **Troy Watson**, **Robert Bland**, **Terry Finn**, **Betty Marosko**, **Fred Marosko**, and for our homebound and those in care facilities.

For pastoral concerns or prayer requests, please contact **Rev. Linda McWhorter** at 209-401-6739 or MinisterStPetersCoupland@gmail.com.

Children's CHURCH

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 available at the back of the Sanctuary, and kids up to 6th grade may choose one item from the Treasure Chest in the foyer.

IN LOVING Memory

Memorials for SR Moss

Robert & Jacilyn Walker
Katy Safarik
Bill & Janet Doss

Memorials Virginia Sims

Susan & Buz Garry

Thinking of you

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 #17, 19005 Pleasant Bay Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March Birthdays

- 3rd Gretchen Finn
- 4th Calvin Ging, Ryan Haverland
- 9th Krista Poldrack, Rev. Linda McWhorter
- 11th Cindy Krieg
- 13th Paul Sane, Mick Lemp
- 18th Alaina Gregory, Hailey Kuntschik
- 19th Dillon Kreidel
- 21st Lance Albert
- 22nd Jill Streit
- 26th Chad Watson, Glen Kreig



Regular Giving for thru February 16: \$6,860

Year-to-Date Regular Giving: \$15,767

Special Offerings:

Fire Relief: \$120

Memorials: \$175

Cemetery Operating Fund: \$500

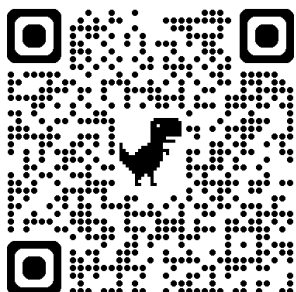
Building Rental : \$500



St. Peter's depends on regular contributions to fund our operations.

If you aren't able to be in church regularly, please consider using your bank's **automatic bill pay** service to send funds to the church on a weekly or monthly basis.

When writing checks, it's a big help if you **write on the memo line of your check what the money is for**. It's not necessary to use an envelope for checks.



St. Peter's also 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.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Our Mission Offering for March goes to **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**, a vital program of the United Church of Christ in conjunction with other Christian denominations.

This special offering funds disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment.

Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

Please note "OGHS" on your check or envelope.



Event Calendar

Sunday Mornings

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

Tuesday Mornings

Coffee Connections at 9:30 am

Monday, March 3

Council Meeting at 5 pm

Wednesday, March 5

Soup Supper at 6 pm
Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm

Sunday, March 9

Daylight Savings—clocks forward one hour!

Tuesday, March 18

Senior Luncheon at 11:30 am
Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, March 22

Meet and Greet Pastor Candidate

Sunday, March 23

Congregational Meeting and Pastor Call Vote

Sunday, March 30

Social Sunday: Potluck at Church
Noisy Offering

Saturday, April 5

Heart of Texas Association Meeting—St. Peter's



Donate Your Used Eyeglasses

For 100 years the Lions Club has been helping to combat vision impairment and blindness. Now you can help by donating used eyeglasses in the collection box in the foyer of our sanctuary.

Most of us have old glasses laying around. Please check your junk drawer and ask your family and friends. All types of glasses, including prescription, readers and sunglasses are accepted. Children's glasses are especially needed. The Lions Club distributes the glasses to people in need, especially in developing countries.

Let's all help give the gift of sight!



Attend St. Peter's Church Virtually

If you can't make it to worship services, you can watch the sermon live on Sunday morning or watch it any time later on St. Peter's Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/StPetersCoupland.

And be sure to follow us on Facebook to get photos and updates about the life of St. Peter's!

Connect With Us

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Coupland, TX 78615 * 512-856-2433

Office Hours:
Monday to Thursday, 8:00 am -12 noon

Email: StPetersCoupland@gmail.com

Facebook: St. Peter's Church of Coupland

or



Our Website:
StPetersCoupland.org

Venmo Donations:
StPetersCoupland