



# *The Voice on the Hill*

## St. Peter's Church of Coupland

### **January, 2026**

#### **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



### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

On **Sunday, January 18**, directly following our Worship Service, we will hold our Annual Called Congregational Meeting in the church Sanctuary. The main purpose of this meeting is to approve the Proposed 2026 Church Budget, but there will also be some other items on the agenda such as Voting for two open Church Council positions.

Please make plans to attend this important meeting as it drives the financial portion of the life of St Peter's Church. Only Voting Members will be allowed to cast a vote during this meeting.

### **Council Member Installation**

On **Sunday, January 25**, during our Worship Service, we will have a Ceremony to Install and Rededicate members who will be serving on St. Peter's Church Council for the next three years. Please plan to be in attendance as it is important that your Council Members understand your support and your appreciation of their dedication to our church, its members and the surrounding community.

### **Council Planning Retreat**

The Council Planning Retreat will be at Brett and Kay Hart's Farm from 9am-3pm on **Saturday, January 31**.

This annual event, held after Council Members have been installed or re-dedicated, is for discussion and planning on those elements in the coming year which are important to the life, leadership and spirituality of St. Peter's Church.

Church members are welcome to attend, however you are asked to confirm your attendance with Michele Dupy so that seating and luncheon preparations are accurate. Thank you for your support of this dedicated group!

## Ladies' Circle News

The Ladies' Circle held their annual Christmas Party and ornament exchange on December 10th. Thank you to Cynthia Wittliff for hosting the event, including the wonderful meal. Fifteen ladies attended and we had a wonderful time. The ornament exchange was great fun, and many thanks to Charlotte Albert for leading this event.

Please save **February 14th, Valentine's Day**, on your calendar. We are planning another tea with Charlotte Albert leading the activities. More details will be shared in the future. Hope you will attend and bring a friend.

We had a busy year organizing the Senior Luncheons, Social Tea, Ice Cream Social, and sponsoring a child for the Angel Tree. Our goal for 2026 is to be involved in more activities to include everyone in our community.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year!

—Cindy Alexander

## Men's Brotherhood News

It was a good year for the Men's Brotherhood. We had a great Classic Car Show and it helped bring a lot of good people together and to raise money for us. We were able to pay for the flower bed renovation, and everyone seems pleased with the results.

I would like to invite all men in the Church or in the community to participate in our outings. Our next meeting will be held on **January 14, 2026**, at 6:30 pm at Julio's Mexican Restaurant in Hutto. I can't wait to see everyone, and not just Bill Albert (ha-ha)!!!!

—Jim Alexander

## Ladies' Christmas Party



## Council Report

### December 1, 2025

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

Ted Wittliff and Council Members went through the 2026 Proposed Budget “Line by Line” making money allocation corrections and category combinations in order to streamline. Unanimous approval to return to the Budget Committee with suggested revisions to then be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for January 18, 2026.

Council discussed the need for all invoices given to Jennifer to be designated as to which Budget Line Category they should be charged against.

Council Member Installation/Rededication is scheduled for January 25, 2026. Rev Burt Burleson Installation Ceremony is scheduled for February 15, 2026.

**MOTION:** Selection of Church Council Planning Retreat date of Saturday, January 31, 2026 (beginning at 9am) at the Hart’s Family Farm

Council member 2026 Nominations – Different rotation dates were discussed and 2 open seats will be sent to the Congregation for 3 year Terms each. Must be a Voting Member of St Peter’s and must have been a member for a minimum of 1 year, to be eligible.

— Ruby Wabbel, Council Secretary



## Advent Music



## Adult Christmas Party



We had another successful year with the Angel Tree Project. I would like to thank everyone for your help with shopping and wrapping the gifts.

It is truly a blessing for us to help some children in our community have a bright and Merry Christmas! We provided 3 gifts each for 20 “angels” this year!

Happy New Year!

— Doreen Streit



## Special Music



Thank you to David Cappolino and Emma Leigh Maciazek for the beautiful music!



As part of the Children’s Moments during Advent, Julie Burleson read a tender, illustrated story about an angel named Paz, written by Pastor Burt.”

## Horseback Caroling



Thank you everyone who made our annual Horseback Christmas Caroling a success!

We had 14 horses plus an e-bike. Our kids knocked on doors, giving out candy canes. There are many new people in the area and so many happy families sang with us.

Thanks to Julie Burleson for making chili for all of us to enjoy afterwards and Danny Smith for serving and cleaning up. We had a great time and are happy to be able to share this special tradition with the Coupland Community!

— Prissy Rumel

## Wheelchair and Crutches Available for Loan

A wheelchair and a pair of crutches are available in the storage closet in the cry room at the back of the Sanctuary. Feel free to borrow them if you have a need—just let the office know so we can keep track.

## In Memory of Betty Marosko

Betty “Granny” Jean Marsh Marosko was born May 26, 1938, in Annona, Texas, and went to be with the Lord on November 19, 2025.

Born to Pearl Vancleave Marsh and Marvin “Bill” Austin Marsh, Betty grew up with five siblings in Fort Worth. In 1957, she settled in Houston, where she lived until 1987. In this time she met her life partner, Fred Marosko, and they married on December 18, 1965 at St. Peter’s Church of Coupland. They were married for just shy of 60 years.

Betty was the dedicated mother of three daughters: Cheryl, Monica, and Julie. She worked as a librarian at MD Anderson in Houston for a spell, where her charm and people skills made her many friends. Over the years, she enjoyed substitute teaching elementary school children. She was artistic, eventually turning her creativity into a small business, where she crafted and sold dough ornaments along with other unique creations.

Betty leaves behind her loving husband Fred, three daughters, ten grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, two siblings, and many long-time friends.

## Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who brought groceries for our holiday food drive. They will be shared with the food pantries in Taylor and Elgin



# PRAYER list

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

**The loved ones of James Brazell, who was a friend to St. Peter's passed away last week.**

**The family of Betty Marosko, Gene Henze, Robert Bland, and Terry Finn. Also Dennis Krieg, Bill Dupy and Michele Dupy who are recovering from surgery.**

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).



On Sunday, January 25, please bring a dish to share at the Potluck Lunch immediately after Worship: meat, casserole, salad, vegetables, fruit, bread, dessert, or whatever.

If you forget to bring something, come anyway—there's always plenty of food!



## Members in Care Facilities

**Lois Schmidt:** SPJST Skilled Nursing, 1810 Old Granger Rd, Room 101, Taylor, TX 76574

**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

## January Birthdays

3rd	Darren Streit, Elizabeth Pearson
4th	Dean Rumel, Jacob Reyes
7th	T.J. Wittliff, III
8th	Dennis Kreig
15th	Don Wernli, Mary Pfluger
16th	Becky Sutton, Scott Ging
17th	Danny Smith
19th	Cynthia Wittliff
20th	Julie Burleson, Lucy Pfluger
21st	Torsten Wabbel
22nd	Bonnie Stark, Wanda Walther
25th	Terry Poldrack
27th	Alyson Richards, Adalyn Muery
28th	Bill Albert, Kellie Marak
31st	Amanda Kreig





**Regular Giving Nov 23 - Dec 28 \$12,093**

**Year-to-Date Regular Giving \$127,717**

**Mission Offerings in December:**

UCC Christmas Fund \$439

**Other Income in December:**

Noisy Offering \$40

OCWM \$500

Strengthen the Church \$50

Memorials \$620

Cemetery Fund \$500



**In Memory of Betty Marosko**

Doreen Streit

Kandice Samuelson

Bill & Charlotte Albert

**In Memory of Irene Florida**

Kathy Burkholder



**End-of-year  
Giving  
Statements**

Giving statements for 2025 will be available for pick up on **Sunday, January 25**. Statements not picked up that Sunday will be mailed. If there are any discrepancies on your statement, please contact the church office.

# MISSIONS Offerings

## January Mission Project

### Taylor Senior Center Meals on Wheels

January's Mission Offering goes to the **Taylor Senior Center**, which runs the **Meals on Wheels** program serving the Taylor, Coupland, Granger, Bartlett and Hutto areas.

Meals on Wheels serves about 200 meals a day, Monday through Friday, with about 85% of those meals delivered to homebound seniors.

Seniors who are able to visit the Senior Center in Old Taylor High at 410 West 7th Street can eat a hot lunch at the center and participate in activities such as games, exercise classes and crafts.

Please consider supporting this very important program, providing meals, activities and contact for seniors in our area. Just write **Taylor Senior Center** on your check or offering envelope.

## 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 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!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday Mornings

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

### Tuesday Mornings

Community Connections at 9:30 am

### Thursday, January 1

Office Closed for New Year's Day

### Monday, January 5

Council Meeting 5 pm

### Wednesday, January 14

Men's Brotherhood, 6:30 pm at Julio's Mexican Restaurant in Hutto

### Sunday, January 18

Annual Called Congregational Meeting

### Monday, January 19

Office closed for Martin Luther King Day  
Newsletter Deadline

### Sunday January 25

Council Member Installation/Rededication  
Potluck Lunch

### Tuesday, January 27

Newsletter Distribution

### Saturday, January 31

Council Planning Retreat from 9 am to 3pm



Adalyn Muery helps with the readings during Advent.



Holy Communion

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/StPetersCoupland)



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

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

