



The Voice on the Hill

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

December, 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



Christmas Events at St. Peter's Church

For well over 10 centuries, the Season of Advent has marked the beginning of the new liturgical year. It is a time for quiet reflection and preparation for the coming of the Christ, even as we enjoy our traditions with one another. Let's slow down a bit and contemplate, let's gather to pray and play, let's watch for the light in our lives.

First Week of Advent and Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 30 at 10:15 am

Our beginning of Advent will be a Sunday centered in the Hanging of the Greens.

Adult Christmas Party

Saturday, December 6 at 6:00 pm

Celebrate at the Wittliff's home. See details on page 4.

Second Week of Advent

December 7th

Communion Sunday

Third Week of Advent

December 14th - Angel Tree Gifts are due back to the Fellowship Hall.

Fourth Week of Advent

December 21st

Communion Sunday

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 pm

Celebrate the birth of the Christ child with special music by the Johnson family and an inspirational message. We sing favorite Christmas hymns, ending by singing Silent Night by candlelight.



Just over a year ago, as Julie and I began learning about St. Peter's, we were excited to see that you all were a congregation that appreciated a legacy of worship that was centered in the Church Calendar, which guides Christian worship around the world. It's a great historical gift to churches that takes us deeper and deeper into our experience with God. It gives us a rhythm to awaken the soul and a calling to walk with Jesus.

This rhythm begins year by year with the season we call Advent. It is a word and a practice (well over 10 centuries old) that invites us into quiet reflection and preparation. We reflect on our lives, our journey, our world, and we prepare, anticipating the coming of the Christ. The season of Advent can take us into repentance, awareness, rest, compassion, celebration, and a beauty that draws us into the Christ . . . again.

Year by year churches have their ways of expressing and living out Advent. Julie and I have been a part of several churches where I have led and each church had the familiar elements, Hanging the Greens, Advent Candles, the Chrismons, the music of the season, etc. But they also had "church specific" traditions, things dear to them. And they also change this and that, which can be a good thing . . . right . . . um right?

I share this because Advent is near and I want to share some things that have been meaningful to me. For instance, I have "worked to wait" (another word for Advent) and not get to the nativity right away, holding it for Christmas Eve . . . we wait and wait together. Another practice is for children to participate in various ways throughout the services, which is what I'm preparing to do. I like to have a song for the season that is sung while the next candle is lit. Julie and I have moved decorations sometimes or created something new. We're also going back in forth between blue and purple year to year (radical, huh).

So, here we go into this beautiful journey and season together.

~ Burt

Senior Luncheon

The Community Senior Luncheon was held on November 18th with 61 in attendance. Everyone enjoyed turkey and dressing, crunchy veggie casserole, sweet potato casserole, rolls, and pumpkin bars for dessert.

The turkey was prepared by Meyer's Elgin Smokehouse. Thanks to all who helped prepare the sides and dessert. Special thanks to Esther Smith for making the Crunch Veggie Casserole for everyone. We also want to thank the students from Coupland ISD for helping us serve and clean up. And last, but not least, thank you to Jim Alexander and Mick Lemp for helping in the kitchen.

The Ladies' Circle has voted to permanently discontinue the January lunch because we had to cancel the past two years due to weather. We will begin our regular schedule of every other month starting in March. The luncheon is held on the third Tuesday of March, May, July, September, and November.



Council Report November 3, 2025

Present: Michele Dupy, Ruby Wabbel, Kandice Samuelson, Judy Downing, Bill Albert, Kay Hart and Rev. Burt Burleson **Absent:** Danny Smith and Prissy Rumel

Memorial Fund: Fund reports by Ted and Michele were reviewed. Council agreed to identify items for usage of Memorial Funds, specifics to be discussed at Council Retreat. Ted will continue to work with Jennifer Tatrow (and Kandice) for more accurate Memorial reporting totals from year to year.

Council Member Nominations: Three open Council positions will be on the ballot at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 18. Anyone interested in serving on Council should contact Michele Dupy by January 11.

Insurance: Council approved the property and liability renewal quote from United Christian Insurance Group for \$16,364.48. Liability limits will be confirmed.

Pastor Benefits: Rev. Burt's catch-up reimbursement approved for July to October for health insurance contribution and cell phone, per the terms of his contract. Jennifer Tatrow to cut check and include reimbursements automatically moving forward.

Events: December 2025 Christmas events schedule was discussed.

UCC Installation: Rev. Burt's UCC installation is scheduled for January 25, 2026.

Fellowship Hall Requests: A clock will be donated by Kay Hart. Larger chairs with arms have been requested, possibly funded by Memorial Fund.



Julie Burleson leads Children's Moment



Adam Muery preaching during Veteran's Appreciation Sunday on November 9



Adult Christmas Party

Join us on **Saturday, December 6, at 6:00 pm** as we celebrate the Christmas season at the home of **Cynthia and Ted Wittliff**.

Please bring a heavy appetizer (such as meatballs, pizza rolls, etc) or a dessert to share, beverages, and a gift under \$20 if you want to participate in the gift exchange.

The address is 17458 FM 1660 in Taylor, but GPS can be unreliable. From Highway 95 in Coupland, head West on FM 1660 for about one mile and you will see a lighted address sign on the left. Go down that driveway to the third house.

Ladies' Circle Christmas Party

The Ladies' Circle will hold their annual Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange at 11:30 am on Wednesday, December 10th, at the home of Cynthia Wittliff.

Please bring a wrapped Christmas ornament if you wish to participate in the exchange. **All ladies in the community are welcome and you can bring a friend.** More details regarding food and drink will be provided in the future. Please contact Cindy Alexander for more information.

The Wittliff's address is 17458 FM 1660 in Taylor, but GPS can be unreliable. From Highway 95 in Coupland, head West on FM 1660 for about one mile and you will see a lighted address sign on the left. Go down that driveway to the third house.



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.



Join us at 6 pm on December 24 for our traditional Christmas Eve service at St. Peter's Church.

Family Get Together

The first Family Get Together event was on November 8 at the Rumel Woods and great fellowship was had by all!

We had 12 kids (ages 4 to 14) plus 12 adults, including parents and grandparents. Everyone enjoyed the woods and creek, played games, cooked hot dogs and s'mores and had lots of other good food.

These events give our young members as well as their parents and grandparents an opportunity to fellowship and get to know each other better.

We are still looking for the right name for this group, but it is for kids of all ages and their grownup(s). Stay tuned for future get togethers!





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

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

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.



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

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

December Birthdays

3rd	Jacob Doss, Tessa Streit
5th	Sophia Rae Eiben, Amber Ging
15th	Cameron Dupy
16th	Sydney Snell Payne
17th	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





Regular Giving through November 16 \$7,953

Year-to-Date Regular Giving through November 16 \$115,624

Mission Offerings in November:
Strengthen the Church \$20

Other Income in November:
Building Rental \$300

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.

The world
and its desires
pass away.
but whoever
does the
will of God
lives forever.
1 John 2:17 (NIV)

MISSIONS Offerings

December Mission Project: UCC Christmas Fund

The **Christmas Fund** has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Please remember these folks in your December giving.



There's been a large increase in food needs at the Community Cupboard in Elgin and Shepherd's Heart in Taylor. Dry goods such as rice, beans, spaghetti, canned fruit, canned vegetables, oatmeal and peanut butter are needed.

You can help by making financial donations through the church, bringing food to put in the basket in the church foyer from now until Christmas, or dropping off donations at either food pantry.

The Community Cupboard accepts donations on Mondays from 9:30 am to 11 am in the Fellowship Hall, located behind First Presbyterian Church, 303 N Avenue C in Elgin.

Shepherd's Heart drop off hours are 9:00 am to 11:30 am, Monday thru Friday. They will be closed Tuesday November 25 through December 2.



Sunday Mornings

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

Tuesday Mornings

Community Connections at 9:30 am

Monday, December 1

Council Meeting at 5 pm

Saturday, December 6

Adult Christmas Party at 6 pm at Wittliff's

Wednesday, December 10

Ladies' Circle Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange at 11:30 am at Wittliff's

Sunday, December 14

Deadline to drop off Angel Tree gifts

Friday, December 19

Deadline for January newsletter

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day - Office Closed



St. Peter's members sing for Lois Schmidt and other residents at the SPJST in Taylor.



Jim Alexander, JoAnn Ging and Janet Doss serve at the Senior Luncheon on November 19.

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://www.venmo.com/StPetersCoupland)



Sunday Service November 23



Choir singing "For the Beauty of the Earth"



Michele Dupy leads Children's Moment

