

COUPLAND HERALD



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January 31 Meeting of the Coupland Civic Organization To Be Held at New School Facilities

There will be something new and different for the January 31 meeting of the Coupland Civic Organization. Attendees will be treated to a tour of the new and renovated school facilities by Superintendent Tammy Brinkman. Of special interest will be the new regulation size gym which Coupland has needed for many years.

Meet at the school at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 31, for the tour.



What's Happening in the City?

By Mayor Jack Piper and Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Piper

As has been previously stated, the City Council meetings are held the second Thursday of each month beginning at 6 p.m. at the Coupland Volunteer Fire Department's Meeting Room. Copies of the Agendas and Minutes from all Council Meetings can be found on the City's website, http://www.cityofcouplandtx.us.

The City Council reviewed and ratified the November 2, 2021, election results for Mayor (Jack Piper), and two Alderwomen (Susan Garry and Karen Marosko). All of the aforementioned were subsequently sworn in by LaVerne Rohlack, City Secretary.

Patching potholes has been an ongoing and will be an ongoing subject for the future. Some of the problem areas in "old town" Coupland were patched: Taylor, Elliott, Hoxie, Austin. CR 458 continues to have many problems; the contractor who has previously done work for the city has been contacted.

The Muery/South Broad project continues to be "on hold" until Manville WSC completes replacing old pipes on South Broad (being done to bring the line



Re-elected incumbents--Alderman Karen Marosko, Mayor Jack Piper, and Alderman Susan Garry--being sworn in by City Secretary LaVerne Rohlack. Photo by Buz Garry

up to current standards). It is the City's understanding that Manville's project is to begin in February. This of course means that the city's much anticipated road project has once again been delayed. We have learned that the start date has now been pushed to May, 2022.

(Continued on page 2)

President's Message

By Susan Schmidt, CCO President

Happy New Year to all!

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. I must admit I really loved the weather in December. January has been a different story—not fond of the cold, the damp, and the cloudy days we've been having.

I am really excited about our next CCO meeting. If you have not heard, we will be meeting at the Coupland School and touring the new addition and the renovated older part of the school. This school has been such an important part of the community for so many years. My dad, C. W. Pfluger, Jr. (Bill) always said, "If the school goes, so does the community." I have so many fond memories of Coupland School. My whole family attended school there. Both my parents were students in the 1920's and '30's. My dad told a story about riding his pony to school. They had stables in the back of the school property for students who rode horses to school. His pony was so well trained that he would get off the pony at the front of the school and loosen the girth. The pony would then make its way by himself to the stables. At the end of the school day, the pony would walk to the front of the school where my dad would tighten the girth and head home. He always claimed he never had muddy feet at school.

All my siblings and I attended Coupland School. I graduated from eighth grade with a grand total of four students in my class. One of those students happened to be the father of Kyle Rinderknecht, present coach at the school. Unfortunately, of the four students, I am the only surviving member. I have so many good memories. I only had three teachers during my eight years at Coupland School. Mrs. Gretchen Pfluger (also my godmother) was my 1st and 2nd grade teacher. Camilla Dalton was my 3rd and 4th grade teacher and decided to move up to the next grades; so, she was also my 5th

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

The City Council discussed and approved the formation of a Strategic Planning Committee to discuss and plan for anticipated growth for our area. John Roulston-Bates has volunteered to chair the committee. The committee will be made up of volunteers who are Coupland residents. John has scheduled the first meeting for Tuesday, January 18, at 6 p.m. at the Coupland Fire Hall.

Firecrackers in the city??? Surrounding cities have ordinances prohibiting the popping of firecrackers within their city limits. Surrounding cities prohibit firecracker stands being placed within their city limits. This topic will be on the City's Agenda for the January meeting.

Please feel free to contact me or one of your council members for any questions that may arise. Last but not least, here's wishing all a healthy and prosperous New Year!



Depot and caboose beautifully decorated by Jonathan Jones. For custom decorations for next Christmas, Jonathan may be reached at gigemaggies33@gmail.com. Drone photo by Max Marosko III, RaptAir.

First Annual Trail of Lights

Jonathan Jones, Coupland Civic Organization (CCO) board member, organized Coupland's first annual Christmas Trail of Lights. Jonathan envisioned a winter wonderland of white lights bordering every property. As a Trail of Lights centerpiece, he decorated the historic Depot and caboose.

Jonathan says, "We asked for white lights on every property that faces a street or road. The goal was to create a holiday Trail of Lights through the city with as much participation of community members as we could get."

He adds, "The Trail of Lights seemed to be a success. A lot of people around Coupland participated, and we had a little extra traffic on the weekends. I assume they were here to look at the lights." He received compliments for the Depot, and the city of Coupland was well lit for Christmas. Jonathan concludes, "I am really looking forward to this being an annual tradition that garners more and more participation each year."



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Historic Manda School Vandalized

The restoration of the historic 1915 two-room Manda schoolhouse west of Coupland on Manda Carlson Road has been disrupted by vandalism that destroyed several of the historic window frames and 106-year-old wavy glass panes.

Vandals came twice: first, the windows were destroyed and paint was thrown on the walls that were prepared for repainting. A few days later, the vandals returned and removed the plywood covering the previously destroyed windows and stole tools. They pushed over the antique upright piano, splintering the wood. Manda School is owned by a non-profit foundation, and all the work on it is through donations and by volunteers. It is heartbreaking that their efforts have been sabotaged.

Footprints found at the crime scene indicate youthful intruders who might have white paint on the bottoms of their tennis shoes. A four-wheeler was driven onto the porch, leaving identifying tire tracks there, and also in the parking area.

(Continued from page 2)

and 6th grade teacher. Beth Hairston, principal, was my 7th and 8th grade teacher. My class skipped part of seventh grade and just did lessons with the eighth graders. When we were in eighth grade, we got an introduction to Shakespeare and other famous authors, playwrights, and poets. Some highlights of my years at Coupland School were the field trips. We always went to Longhorn Caverns. At the end of eighth grade, we had an overnight trip to San Antonio where we visited the missions, the San Antonio Zoo, and went to a movie at the historic movie theater in downtown San Antonio. It was called the Majestic. We also stayed at the historic Menger Hotel. It was an exciting trip!

With all the growth going on around Coupland and all the proposed subdivisions being planned, I feel this will only be the start of expansion for the Coupland School. With its great reputation, there are going to be many families who will want their children to attend this school. I am looking forward to remarkable things happening at the school.

I hope to see many of you at our regular CCO meetings, which are held on the last Monday of each month. Stay safe and stay well.

A donor has volunteered to generously reward anyone providing information leading to the identification or arrest of the vandals. The Travis County Sheriff's Department is investigating the crime. To offer or receive information concerning the vandalism, please call 512-413-6027 or the Travis County Sheriff.

You can't predict the future, so plan for it.

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Financial Advisor

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St. Peter's Church News -- By Interim Pastor Charles Stark

As we begin the new year of 2022, there are a lot of folks talking about the future with the typical New Year's Resolutions. Their focus is on what can be better in the future. At the same time, there are those who are complaining about how much longer we will be dealing with this pandemic. These folks are focused on bringing back the "normal life" we used to have. Their focus is on the past.

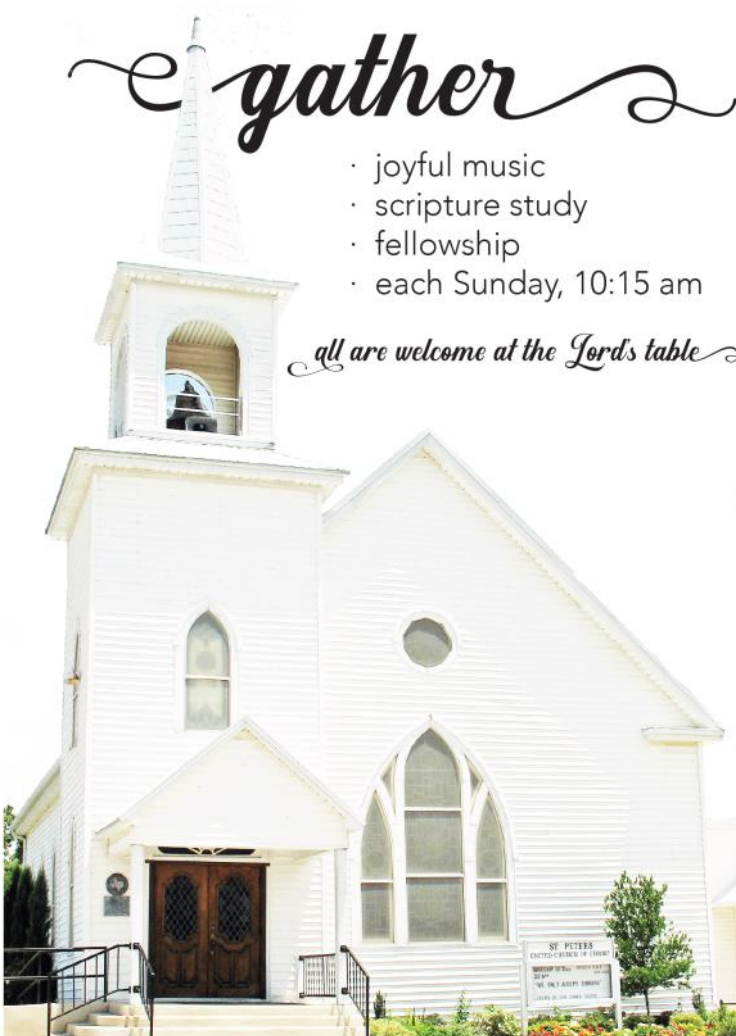
When I take time to focus on how Jesus would approach this time in which we live, I realize that Jesus did not live in the past. Jesus did not live in the future. Jesus was firmly and squarely centered on the present moment. Jesus' focus is a clear reminder that life only happens in the present moment. Life cannot be lived in the past for that time has come and gone. Life cannot be lived in the future for that time has yet to come. The only time that you and I have for living life is NOW.

One of the things that I like to do is to save various posts on Facebook that impart wisdom for our life together. I recently saw one that speaks to how we need to live our lives. *"Time is like a river. You cannot touch the same water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment in life."*

As I hear so many folks bemoaning what is happening to the church with the decline in worship and participation that seems to be so prevalent, I am reminded of something that the church consultant Lyle Schaller used to say. He said, *"Too many churches are looking forward to the church of yesterday."* He was lifting up those folks who want the church to return to the 1950s with pews and classrooms filled to capacity. Friends, we need to realize that just like the water in the river, that time has passed. We need to focus on the reality of ministry in the present moment.

The message of the Gospel is the same, even though how it is communicated may be different. That message is one that addresses the basic needs of human existence. It is a message of **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**. That is the eternal message of a God who loves us and wants the best for us. If we will focus on living that message in the everyday present moment of life, we will find a life filled with blessing in 2022.

Sign Up for Community Email List
If you would like to receive the *Herald* by email, ask Jennifer Dollins to put you on her list to receive notices of community events and the *Herald*. The email version shows the photos in color. Email Jennifer at jennifer@couplandtx.org.



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Above, St. Peter's Christmas Program.
Photo by Sharon Kreidel

Below, horseback carolers line up in front of St. Peter's.
Right, horseback carolers cast long shadows.
Photos by Prissy Rumel



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- * Texas Farmers' Market at Mueller, Sun. 10-2

Monthly Markets (beginning March):

- * 1st Sat., Round Rock Market Days, 10-4
- * 2nd Sat., Georgetown Market Days, 10-4

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Coupland School News -- By Assistant Principal Kate Knappek

Congratulations to the Coupland Students who participated in the UIL One Act Play on January 6 in Temple. They performed Oz by Don Zolidis, which is about a character named Beth who suddenly finds herself in the land of Oz following the death of her sister. The students rehearsed all semester and came in second place overall! Specific awards went to the following students.

Best Crew:

Jackson Havens and Ben Kanten

Honorable Mention:

Miranda Herring, Sara Herring, and Sofia Durrwachter

All Star Cast:

Adriana Sandoval, Maddie Moore, Kody Smith

Best Performer:

Jourden Violette

Congratulations to all the students who worked hard to make the production a success. Special thanks to Annie Violette for all of her hard work with our students!

Coupland competed in the UIL competitions on December 2, 6, and 8. We are so proud of our students for trying out, working hard, and representing Coupland ISD. Special thanks to our teachers who coached the events and helped our students feel confident and successful. For a list of specific awards, please see the Coupland Civic Organization website couplandtx.org. Click on Coupland *Herald* and scroll down to the bottom of the page. Thanks to Caitlyn Voelker for maintaining the website.



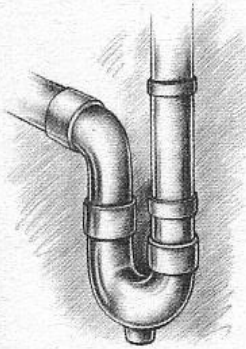
Left, Oz cast and crew. Photo by Annie Violette

Above, the volleyball team wrapped up their season. Drone picture by Crystal Ward

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Coupland Volunteer Fire Department News

By John Roulston-Bates,
Assistant Fire Chief

Williamson County Emergency Services District #10

Chili Supper – Saturday, February 26, from 5 p.m.

Coupland VFD will be holding our 43rd Annual Chili Supper fundraiser on Saturday, February 26, starting at 5 p.m. until we run out . . . donations only.

For a second year we'll be operating as a drive-through, to ensure we can still have this event that means so much to us, but safely.

As usual we'll be serving chili in mild, moderate, or hot, along with dessert. We very much hope you'll join us for this signature dish we've been serving since 1980. If this is your 43rd time it's always good to see you, if you are new to the area and this will be your first time we'd love to meet you and welcome you to a Coupland tradition.

(Continued on page 9)



This 3000-gallon tender is similar to the one we're having built. This one was built for the Lincoln, Texas, VFD.

Photo courtesy Fouts Brothers Inc.

Below, firefighters preparing chili at a previous chili supper.

Photo courtesy Coupland Volunteer Fire Department



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(Continued from page 8)
Changes Coming in 2022

As we all know, growth is coming to the area and things around here are likely to look quite different within just a few years. Seems like we'll see considerable development along US79, FM973, SH95 and within the surrounding communities. With the anticipated growth it is more important than ever that we in the fire department plan for the future.

With this in mind, towards the end of last year the memberships of Coupland and Thrall VFDs voted unanimously to request the ESD#10 board approve a move of fire service into a single ESD#10 fire department. We anticipate that within 2022 we'll merge into one department within Williamson County ESD#10, with Coupland and Thrall stations.

In 2005 voters in the Coupland fire district voted to create Williamson County ESD#10, and in 2017 the voters in Thrall voted to join ESD#10. Since then the ESD has had responsibility for fire based emergency services, with Coupland and Thrall VFDs contracted to provide that service. The two VFDs have developed a close working relationship, with combined training and regularly back each other up on calls.

By combining into a single fire department, we'll move from two separate teams of 15 volunteer firefighters, to a single team of 30 working under a unified command structure. We'll be able to better adapt to the increasing call volume and operate more effectively.

The Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Fire Departments have been serving our communities for generations, as we move forward we want to honor that heritage whilst ensuring we're providing a 21st century level of service. The two VFDs will continue as support organizations, spearheading community fire safety projects; and you can be sure we'll be continuing to cook that chili... after 43 years we think we've just about got it right.

We'll still be a volunteer department and you'll still see the Coupland and Thrall patches on the trucks, alongside the Williamson County ESD#10 name.

50,000 lb. Baby Girl Expected Late Summer

We're delighted to announce that the ESD#10 board has approved the budget for a new 3,000-gallon water tender, to be built here in Central Texas. This will be the first new truck purchased since 2009.

As a rural fire department one of our biggest challenges is getting the water we need to our fire scenes. Within the city we have hydrants, but most of our territory is out in the country where the nearest hydrant could be a mile or more away. Our rural engines are designed with this in mind, where a typical city fire engine might only carry 500 gallons of water, Coupland's Engine 1 has a 1,500 gallon tank, but this still only gives us 5 - 10 minutes of water for a typical structure fire. Getting "big water" to our scenes quickly is essential, and something this new tender will allow us to do. We'll keep you updated as the truck gets built out and we add this important capability to our fleet.

Coupland Needs You

It's an exciting time for us in your local volunteer fire department, with a lot going on. If you're interested in joining us and volunteering your time to help the community we'll provide you with a welcoming environment and all the training you need. Email info@couplandfire.org for more information.



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Type Church's Renewal In the New Year

Work continues on the interior of Type Church. Installation of new carpet is complete. The side windows are new, the stage is now one level, and there is new flooring in the foyer and in the restrooms. The sanctuary has been painted, and new church chairs will replace the pews to increase seating and comfort.

All of this is to the Glory of God and to welcome a new church year. Everyone is welcome at Type Church, 1200 County Road 466. Services start at 10:30 on Sunday morning.

For more information, email Pastor Terrence Kennedy at twk3032@gmail.com or call him at (512) 599-7761.



Left, the three historic windows at Type Church. They are from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bremond and date from about 1909.

Above, work on the Type Church floors.

Photos by Pastor Terrence Kennedy.



For the history of the three beautiful windows and how they ended up in the Type Church, see the article on page 13.

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Arts Convergence--Get Well Soon, Letitia!

Editor's note: Art news contributor Letitia Eldredge is recovering from hip-replacement surgery, so we do not have as much art news as usual. Also, Letitia was not able to host the Artmageddon art displays that she had planned for last November and December. We hope that Letitia continues to recover well, and we look forward to the Artmageddon displays and other art projects in the future.

Greetings good friends and neighbors,

Happy New Year 2022!

I know we all hoped that the pandemic situation would have passed by now, and yet, it has not. This season's art news was scant although no less compelling. Statewide, the ceramic art exhibit installed at the Biblical Art Museum in Dallas has been extended through July 30, 2022! Wonderful! [Letitia is participating in this exhibit with four pieces.]

Locally, holiday pop-in visits to Coupland brought art collectors Kara and Dale Higginbotham and Jeff Hamrick to our gallery from Fort Worth. Also, frequent Arts Converger Colin Nelson dropped in from Houston.

On another, but sad note, our Texas Art World saw the loss of artist and great patron, Ann Robinson Harithas, originally from Victoria and then Houston. Ann gave Texas artists 50 years of gallery representation, development funding, and encouragement with her diverse artists' venues curated to benefit the most under-served creatives. She will be long remembered through her three established contemporary museums: The Art Car Museum and the Station Museum based in Houston. Then, most recently, her Five Points Museum opened in Victoria to magnify contemporary art rurally. All three institutions are well-reviewed nationally and internationally. Rest in Peace dear Lady Ann.

Covid continues to mount challenges. However, we will continue to hope for an early return for exhibits and ArtBook Reading Room to press on this Spring.

I wish you each the best and most fun fulfilling your good ideas . . . stay well and keep safe.

Yours truly,
 Letitia Eldredge, Artistic director
 Arts Convergence
 contact: artsconv@gmail.com



Art tiles 12x12 inches, ceramic, by Letitia. Collection of Dale and Kara Higginbotham, Fort Worth





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New Sweden Church News

By Barbara Carisalez

New Sweden Lutheran Church ended the year of 2021 feeling blessed that we were able to give back and pay it forward for our many blessings. We were able to continue to sponsor 4 families in need with our tradition of the "Angel Tree". Our youth continue to stay involved together after attending confirmation and being confirmed the previous year by volunteering to help serve and clean up for our 145th Congregation Anniversary lunch and also volunteering along with their mothers and Pastor Hans to help the Elgin Police Department wrapping gifts for the Blue Santa program.

We will continue the year 2022 with our 3 different Bible Study groups that are available to attend throughout every month. The ladies Bible Study is the first Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. and then the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. The 4th Sunday after worship service at 11:45 a.m. is our monthly fellowship pot-luck. The 1st Monday of the month the Swedish Interest Group meets at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. It's a pot-luck lunch with a short program that follows. Everyone is welcome.

With the Easter season upon us we will have Easter Services beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 2, at 7 p.m. Then each Wednesday through Lent will be a Lenten Service with meal served at 6 p.m., service at 7 p.m. Good Friday service at 7 p.m., Easter Sunrise service at 7 a.m. at the cemetery, 9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for the children, then our Easter Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

The New Sweden Heritage Center will host Heritage Day on Saturday, April 23. Starting at 3 p.m. you can tour the New Sweden Heritage Center, join in the Maypole dance and

many other activities. A homemade Swedish meal will be served at 5 p.m.--Swedish meatballs, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, Swedish rye bread, ligo berry jam, and rice pudding. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$13.00 for children under 10. A short program will end the day at 7 p.m.

New Sweden Lutheran Church welcomes everyone to all of our Worship Services, Bible Studies, and events. We wish you peace, love, and health as we welcome and embrace the year 2022.

News from ESD#10 By Maranda Cummings

Board Meetings are held in person at the Coupland Fire Station each second Tuesday of the month. The meetings are also available via telephone conferencing. This information is available each month on the notice posted at the Coupland Fire Station, Coupland Post Office, Citizens National Bank in Coupland, Thrall Fire Station, and Thrall Post Office. The approved minutes, meeting notice/agenda, and audited financial report are also posted on the ESD's website at www.wcesd10.org.

The Commissioners have decided to start paying the volunteer firefighters from Coupland and Thrall \$5 per response in recognition of their service to the community. The Active911 for Coupland and Thrall VFDs has been combined. This allows members from each department to receive calls for Williamson County ESD #10 and respond based on priority and proximity to the calls. Coupland and Thrall VFDs have been integrating their training with the merging of Active911 being a priority.

The Coupland and Thrall Departments will soon operate under the name "Williamson County ESD #10" to better serve the citizens. The timeline to complete the consolidation is between the end of Budget Year 2022 and the beginning of Budget Year 2023. The fire chiefs and assistant fire chiefs of Coupland and Thrall have been working on rebranding the departments to show this consolidation while still maintaining their individual identities. T-shirt designs, vehicle designs, and patch designs have been discussed. The t-shirts will likely include a Coupland or Thrall VFD patch on the front and "WCESD #10 Fire Department" on the back. The vehicle designs have included the station patches on the sides of the vehicles, and "Williamson County ESD #10" prominent at the top. The WCESD #10 patch design will likely be a Maltese cross design and replace the two shield designs of the Coupland and Thrall patches. The Commissioners have approved the purchase of a new tender costing up to \$325,000 which will be one of the first vehicles showcasing the new vehicle design.

If any of our area residents are interested in supporting our firefighters, they can contact Jared Cummings (Coupland VFD Fire Chief) about joining the Volunteer Auxiliary Unit. This unit aids the firefighters (e.g., bringing bottled water to calls or helping with the annual chili supper). Jared can be contacted at jcumings@couplandfire.org.

If you are interested in joining the Coupland VFD or Thrall VFD, please contact Jared Cummings at the above email. Please check the Coupland and Thrall Departments' Facebook pages for updates and upcoming events.

As always, we extend our appreciation to our volunteer ESD Commissioners and volunteer firefighters. We would especially like to thank those volunteers who provide training to others. The ESD is proud to support the Coupland and Thrall Volunteer Firefighters as they serve our area residents. We hope everyone in our area has a happy, healthy, and safe 2022!

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Antique Stained-Glass Windows In an Unlikely Place

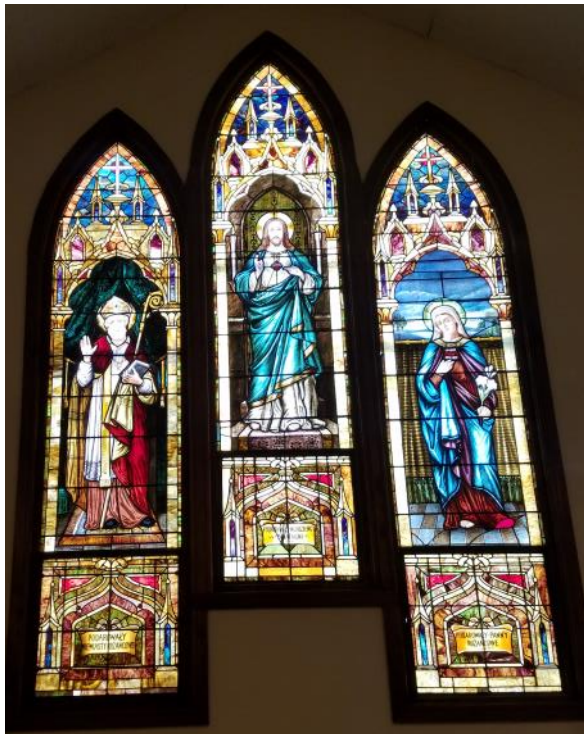
Back in 1909, St. Mary's Church in Bremond was being built. For their beautiful new church, the congregation bought some exquisite stained-glass windows. The history is not certain, but the windows possibly came from Germany, producer of some of the best stained-glass windows in the world.

The 1909 church was torn down in 1971. When a new church was built, unbelievably the precious windows were not placed in the new church. They ended up as architectural salvage with Eugene Wukasch in Austin. He placed them in storage until he decided to sell them in about 2000. We can trace nine of the windows. Coincidentally, at this time, the new church of St. John Vianney was being built in Round Rock. A parishioner learned of the windows, and enough donations were gathered to buy six of them.

Nina Nygard of the Type Community saw the ad for the windows. Members of the church at Type (then Yegua Creek Church) thought that perhaps they could acquire some of these windows for their little church. They hoped that they could possibly get three and had to vote on purchasing them. Charlene Hanson Jordan says, "I remember the windows cost \$1600 each. The extended Jordan-Hanson-Jarmon-Eberstein family purchased the Mary window. The Ebersteins live in Germany and my cousin, Robert Leslie Jarmon, Jr., lived in Boerne, Texas. Another congregation member purchased the second window, and the congregation shared the cost of the third."

Charlene adds, "My friend Eugene Wukasch was the architect who installed the beautiful windows at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Austin. Andre, my son, was working for him at that time. These St. Mary's windows were architectural salvage. Eugene sold them from the old Grove Drug Store in Austin."

St. Mary's in Bremond was a Polish congregation, and there are Polish words at the bottom of each of the three pictures. The pictures depict our Lord Jesus and the Blessed Virgin. The third picture seems to be a bishop and a saint because of his mitre and crozier and small pectoral cross. He hasn't been specifically identified.



So after a long trip, possibly from Germany, three of these vintage windows ended up lending their beauty to the Type Church. They are over 100 years old and are historic as well as beautiful. Unusual treasures for a small country church where they are loved and appreciated.

Bobby Haines, Beekeeper
Bee removal
512-789-4953, haines.rh@gmail.com

Bobby prepares to gently remove a bee swarm from a tree and lure it into a hive.

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Coupland Students Win at Livestock Show


Thanks to Jenny Slauson for reporting on the success of Coupland students at the Williamson County Livestock Show. Jenny notes, "The Taylor 4H group was very successful, and the Coupland families did well, too." Jenny's daughter Isabella won Best in Show for Photography, Division 2 and 3. She placed with rabbits and pigs.

Jenny said, "Coupland's Harper Doss received third with goats, rabbits, and turkey! She also had a grand champion in Youth Fair for her cookies." She adds, "Landon and Nolan Schiller from Coupland received many good ribbons with lambs, chickens, pigs, and turkeys."

Right. Bella Slauson and her two Best of Show awards.




Above, Nolan Schiller and his prize-winning lamb.
Below, Harper Doss and her prize-winning goat.
Photos courtesy of Jenny Slauson

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**Deadline for the next issue,
May 2022, is April 10.**

School's Annual Breakfast with Santa

Before Christmas, Coupland students enjoyed the annual Breakfast with Santa, always a fun event with a delicious breakfast and visiting with Santa.



Jaxson and Acelyn Herring enjoy their visit with Santa at Coupland School's Breakfast with Santa.

Photo by Megan Herring