

The LCF Connection

March 2024

Couples Valentine's Date Night

by Joel Swain

My wife Lara and I attended the Valentine's Date Night hosted by LCF on February 16th. The event was paid for by a generous and anonymous donor, and the night was led by Laverne and Ronda Nissley, the Co-Directors of Compass Connection Center, based out of Springfield, OH.

Throughout the night the Nissleys shared various tools and strategies for couples to use in order to improve their communication with one another, and how to avoid some of the common pitfalls that can plague a marriage. One of the tools that was presented and passed on to the group was a tool called the RINGS chat. RINGS is an acronym that stands for Real – Information/Intentions – Needs – Grateful – Some Day. They encouraged us to use it routinely to help stay better connected with our spouse, even if it seems like things are crazy and you are like two ships passing in the night due to life's worries and responsibilities. It emphasizes the importance of communication, listening to your spouse, and kindness in order to maintain a healthy relationship.

The night included a very generous spread of desserts and delicious snacks! There were door prizes, and the setting was decorated wonderfully by those who helped put on the event. I would like to thank all that helped initiate, set up, and facilitate the event. It was a great way to fellowship with our church family and to emphasise marriage, which sometimes doesn't get the attention it deserves. Thank you! ■



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Connections

by Mike & Karen Baker

It is hard to believe that March is here. C4 continues to grow as students invite their friends. We average 15 students weekly, and many do not attend LCF, besides C4. We are super excited about our new room and hope to move in soon. We have been squeezing into our current space and have often run out of space.

On Saturday, January 27th, Austin Fox, Jeremy and Mandy Hisey took C4 to Winter Jam in Columbus to enjoy an evening of worship. It was a great time hanging out with the youth while a variety of entertainers performed including Crowder and Lacrae.

It will be weird to see Josiah and Derek graduate and move on after the summer. It will definitely be a transition, and we are excited to see what God has for them next. In our next Connection article, we will highlight both of them and their next steps this fall.

We are planning a parent meeting after church on Sunday, March 3rd, to discuss our spring mission trip. We hope you all can stay and attend the meeting.

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Five Flying Js

by Theresa Hennis

People seem to delight in what are referred to as coincidences or synchronicities.

I think God delights in them, too, and maybe it's no coincidence at all that he brought five men, all who are pilots having first names starting with the letter J, to our congregation. Here is a brief interview with each one of them to help you get a small glimpse of their passion for flying.

Josiah Baker

How did you get interested in aviation and when did you start flying?

Well, in 2018, while disembarking a plane in O'Hare, the pilot invited my brother and me into the cockpit. He proceeded to turn on the avionics and pointed out different flight controls; after this, I fell in love with aviation;

however, I did not start lessons until September of 2023. This was partly due to finances, seeing as I am the sole funder for my lessons, and with the advice of several other pilots to wait until I could start and finish without stalling due to money, I spent several years saving money.

What is one thing about being a pilot that you think is unusual or that people might be surprised to know?

The most surprising thing I have learned is not as drastic as it could be, but, to me, the most surprising thing is that almost every pilot I know owns an iPad. I don't know why I found that the most surprising, but I did.

How do you feel your faith plays a role, if any, in your decision to fly?

My faith did not play a significant role in my decision to fly but I know that the Lord is the one who protects me every flight. I have, in the back of my mind, considered flying for Mission Aviation Fellowship as a viable option.

Justin Scheffel

How did you come to be interested in flying?

I get asked this question quite a bit and, to be honest, I don't really know the answer. Flying was never something I dreamed about as a young kid and wouldn't have imagined myself doing it growing up. After high school I struggled for a number of years trying to find a career I was super interested in. All I can remember is seeing a helicopter flying over one day and wondering what it took to become a pilot. I bought a helicopter "discovery flight" in 2018 and was hooked.

When did you start, and what kind of flying do you do?

I didn't start flight training till 2019 and then got my first job flying as a flight instructor in 2021. Right now I work for a company in Alaska that does a variety of different things including tours, charter, utility, and contract work.

What is one thing about being a pilot that you think is unusual or that people might be surprised to know?

A pretty common thing I run into is a lot of people that think flying an airplane is similar to flying a helicopter. They're very different. At the moment I'm only licensed to fly a helicopter and would feel very out of my element flying an airplane. The types of "work" an airplane and helicopter do are also usually very different. Airplanes in most cases are much faster than helicopters and usually are used to move people/cargo long distances quickly. Helicopters, however, don't need a runway and are usually used for types of work in areas where runways/airports are impractical. A few common examples are oil rigs, hospital helipads, on top of mountains or hard to reach areas.

How do you feel your faith plays a role, if any, in your decision to fly?

God has definitely opened a lot of doors and continues to do so in my career as a pilot. Ten years ago I would have never imagined myself being at the point I am now. I was skeptical that I could be a successful pilot when I first started, but God answered a lot of prayers and has helped me along the way. I'm very thankful and consider it a huge blessing to have such a unique career that I love and am passionate about.



Justin Newswanger

How did you come to be interested in flying?

I grew up about a mile from a large crop dusting company who flew over our house daily during the summer. I always enjoyed watching them fly.

When did you start, and what kind of flying do you do?

I started flying in 2014. It wasn't till after Janae and I got married that I started pursuing a professional career in aviation.

Currently I have my own Flight Instructing where I teach people how to fly and also get other ratings to become safer pilots. I also fly private charter for Griffing Flying Service in Port Clinton, Ohio.

What is one thing about being a pilot that you think is unusual or that people might be surprised to know?

There are actually highways in the sky for traffic to control congestion at busy airports. If your engine dies the airplane won't just fall out of the sky.



Jeff Yoder

How did you come to be interested in flying?

I have been interested in aviation since I was a teenager. When I was younger I liked the idea of flying helicopters, but airplanes are where I ended up.

When did you start, and what kind of flying do you do?

I started flying in April, 2021, and after stopping for about six months while waiting to get my medical certificate, I got my private pilot license in May of 2023. I fly a Cessna 172.

What is one thing about being a pilot that you think is unusual or that people might be surprised to know?

Something unusual about aviation is the communication. It has its own specific way that you talk to the control tower and to other pilots that takes a while to get the hang of, but it comes easy when you do.

How do you feel your faith plays a role, in your decision to fly?

My faith didn't really play a role in my decision to start flying. Though it's nice to know that if the worst happens, I know where I'm going in the end.



Jim Jones

How did you come to be interested in flying?

I have always been fascinated with aircraft since I was four years old. When I was thirteen a military pilot took me up in his private airplane for a tour around Columbus. It was an amazing experience, seeing everything from the air; it changed my life. At that point I knew I wanted to be a military pilot.

How long have you flown and what kind of flying did you do?

I started my journey getting my private pilot's license, was accepted into Air Force Pilot Training and flew KC-135 Air Refuelers. The mission included worldwide in-flight refueling of other aircraft as well as cargo, medivac and passenger transport. My military career lasted 30 years. For 12 years, I also flew overnight freight, DC-8, and B-767 aircraft, for Airborne Express out of Wilmington, Ohio.

What is one thing about being a pilot that you think is unusual or that people might be surprised to know?

People think it requires a high degree of aptitude to fly, but actually, it's attitude that gets you through the journey to become a pilot.

How do you feel your faith plays a role, if any, in your decision to fly?

I believe God put that desire in my heart at a young age, and was faithful to see me through.





Spiritual Detours A Message from the Pastor

by Reuben Sairs

Spiritual detours. In these days of GPS it is not uncommon to be re-routed. Back in the 1900s all you got was an orange sign with an arrow and then the fun

began. You didn't know where you were going, where you were, or the reason for the detour. There was no, "Google has found a better way message" coming. Several times when out on one of these unplanned and undesired excursions either the sign that would lead you successfully to your original course was missing, or you missed it. Then what? Well, hopefully you realized something wasn't right before you went too far. Hopefully you had a map or could find a local gas station where someone could get you back on track.

Spiritual detours are like this last example. You're off course and getting further from your destination. You missed the sign, or a smart-aleck decided it would be a fun prank to take it down.

Spiritual detours: bad and wacky teaching, toxic churches, the bright and shiny lights of appealing sin; spiritual crusades, hobbyhorses, Christianized jihads. Spiritual detours: church dissatisfaction and grumbling, taking a dip in the toxic stew of the complaining cohort available in many churches. Spiritual detours: finding a special identity in some single belief or conviction. Spiritual detours: self-applauding super righteousness or super spirituality, special insight and wisdom, or super rigor in selected moral matters.

I've taken a few of these detours. I've watched others take them. My free pastoral advice is stop at the gas station, or pull out the map, and find your way back to the main road as soon as you can. Don't keep driving down the wrong road. You may never know why the detour was created, or the sign missing, or why you missed it. Don't keep driving in the wrong direction waiting for that answer to be immediately clear. There will be lots of time to think about it once you're back on the right path. I'm still considering a few of my spiritual detours.

There are three issues that point to trouble:

1. Distorted witness: somehow the message is about something other than Jesus and the new life he promises to all those who give their life to him.
2. Disrupted fellowship: your brothers and sisters in Christ and your love and harmonious relationship with them has to be pushed into the backseat and silenced while you insist that you know where you are going.
3. Poisoned personal spiritual life: the energy comes from whatever is luring you, not in seeking God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Your new identity on the detour is first, and all that other stuff about the fruit of the Spirit must be bent to serve its purpose.

I don't think there is ever a bad time to remember what Jesus said in Matthew 7:13:

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

I think there are some really good times to remember it, but especially when you examine yourself and see that your witness is not about Jesus, your fellowship with other believers has gone sour, and the normal routes of spiritual life have been neglected.

And if it's an election year. ■

Elders' Notes

by Jeremy Hisey

The elders met at the Swartz residence on Wednesday, February 7th. Those in attendance were Rob and Doris, Reuben and Vicki, Gideon, Abraham, and Jeremy. Gideon opened our time together with prayer.

We spent a good chunk of our time discussing the 2024 budget that was presented to us by the council. We made some suggestions for the council to add notes to specific lines that could be confusing for the congregation to understand as a result of budget cuts.

We also spent time discussing the search for someone to fill the role of Administrative Assistant. Doris created a list of all the responsibilities included for the position. We noted the possibility of finding others to assume some of the "nonessential" tasks to lighten the load for whoever assumes the position.

Some of the other topics that were discussed included:

- The need for a new Children's Ministry coordinator
- Future adult disciple classes
- The success of the new Band app
- How we can better focus on giving as an act of worship

Reuben closed our time with prayer. Our next elders meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6th. ■

Council Update

by Jim Jones

The Council met on February 19th by phone conference. We are grateful that for the month of January, our income exceeded expenses. In turn, we approved payments backdated for January to Rosedale International/the Masts and Rosedale Bible College. Rosedale Network is a quarterly payment so we will need to wait and see where things stand financially when it is due.

The Council discussed our church-use policy for members and regular attenders who use the facilities for non-church sponsored family events. We agreed that a modest fee should be assessed to help offset our high energy costs. More to follow later. Our next meeting will be on March 19th. ■

C4...continued

We are still looking for another couple to join our team. If you are interested in joining the youth team, please get in touch with Mike or Karen, and we will set up a taco night at our house to chat.

As we head into 2024, here are the dates for some of the events we are looking forward to:

- March 15—C4 Ice Skating Night
- April 5 & 6—30-Hour Famine
- April 12-14—Spring Retreat at Bethel Camp
- June 10-14—City Challenge Mission Trip

Please continue to pray for our youth that they will choose God in the midst of the noise of their world. Pray for them to grow in their faith and see Jesus every day. We hope and pray that each of us in C4 will choose to EMBRACE & PURSUE CHRIST in every season of life. ■

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A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at LCF

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