

Liberty
Church of Christ

Join us this Sunday for Bible Classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and stay for Worship at 10 a.m.

We meet Sunday night at 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

We meet at 3201 North Main Street and have a parking space just for you.

We'd love to see you soon. We've saved you a seat!

3201 N. Main St., Liberty • 936.336.2213 • libertycofc.org



MARKET AT THE CROSSROADS

DAYTON - Market at the Crossroads takes place this month on Sat., Jan. 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Crossroads Plaza, 111 N. Church Street. Here you will find vendors offering their locally sourced, individualized products that includes farm products, cottage foods, backyard garden produce, farm fresh eggs, artisan/crafts, local honey and more. For more information or to become a vendor, contact the Liberty County AgriLife Extension Office at 936-334-3230 or online at liberty.agrilife.org or contact the Dayton Planning Department at 936-258-2642, ext. 3, or planning@dayontx.org.

Frankly Speaking -

A Letter from a Magi's Son

by Frank Jordan



was amazing as they prostrated themselves before the small Christ Child and worshiped Him as King.

Our gifts included gold given in honor of His kingship and purity. Also, frankincense as a magnificent lemon fragrance greatly sought and signified divinity, together with myrrh often used for embalming, which represented the suffering and sacrificial death that would eventually engulf His magnificent life.

You probably know that Bethlehem in Hebrew means, "house of bread" and thus the appropriateness of the One who would be the "bread of life" to be born in that small village. Herod, the so-called King of the Jews, had heard there was a new king born that was associated with a star, which had appeared two years previous.

This madman had 20 babies, under two years old, needlessly killed in his attempt to eliminate any possible threats to his throne, even though he was on his death bed at the time of his horrible proclamation. The ancestors of my father, specifically the prophet Daniel, who long before was the chief Magi, had prophesied that a King of the Jews would come, sent by the one true God of all mankind.

Although few seem aware, in your times the Monastery of Theodosius, the largest in the Judean desert, has the main church directly over the cave in which we stayed that first night to avoid Herod. We were blessed when told the flight into Egypt by Joseph, Mary, and the young Jesus, was financed in part by our gifts to the royal babe in the manger.

The star no longer guides those seeking to recognize and honor the Christ Child; however, the light in your time is the illumination provided by the life of Christ as chronicled in the Bible and given to guide you into the presence of that same Son of God

we visited so long ago.

Follow the divine star in your life and know with confidence and faith that your God will deliver you through perils and hardships until you too arrive and enter forever the house of your Lord who offers peace on earth, good will to all men.

Note: The story of the Magi in Holy Scripture is found in Matthew 2:1-12. Frankly speaking, the original letter from Zoroas has never been found, nor the genealogy of his family confirmed. But then it has been more than 2,000 years since the Magi's visit to Bethlehem thought to be on January 6, representing the first appearance of the Christ Child to the Gentiles.

The event is celebrated today as the Epiphany and end of the 12 days of Christmas. We desperately need wise men and women today traveling toward a better tomorrow guided by His light and message. May you and those you know and love be so guided in the New Year.

—oo—

LIBERTY STREET RALLY

LIBERTY - On Sat., Jan. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. interesting cars, hot rods, classic, muscle, sports, exotic as well as motorcycles and other unique vehicles will be available for public viewing at the Liberty County Courthouse. All car enthusiasts are invited to this free event. For more Liberty Street Rally information, email: libertystreetrally@gmail.com or visit the Facebook page.

Dayton Rotarians get advice on making sound financial decisions

DAYTON - The Rotary Club of Dayton met with President Dr. Luke Chachere presiding, welcoming members and guests for an informative and service-focused meeting centered on community support and financial education.

The meeting's featured presentation was delivered by Bryan Reynolds, who was joined by Kaitlyn Shoemaker and Kyle Reynolds. He provided an engaging overview of financial planning and retirement readiness, covering topics such as emergency savings, budgeting, retirement strategies, employer matching benefits, beneficiary reviews, and long-term financial preparedness. The Rotarians gained valuable insights into planning for a successful financial future. Reynolds outlined a three-stage approach to financial planning throughout different life stages.

The first stage, Early Years (ages 20-30), included considerations such as retirement options, inheritance planning, establishing career income strategies, educational funding, reviewing student loans, and evaluating career and compensation prospects.

The next stage discussed was the Middle Years, targeted at individuals in their 40s and 50s. Reynolds recommended the following strategies for this stage: conducting insurance reviews, evaluating employee stock options, developing a distribution plan for educational funds, establishing a real estate portfolio, planning for healthcare liabilities, assessing elder care needs, and reviewing tax and trust strategies.

All of the tips and strategies were well received, as attendees of various ages participated in the presentation.

The Late Years (60s-70s) were also relevant for several attendees at the meeting. Some of the strategies discussed included funding passion projects, reviewing Social Security and Medicare options, consolidating accounts for effective planning, engaging in philanthropic endeavors, considering ways to leave a lasting legacy, developing a wealth transfer plan, and reflecting on achieving life's purpose.

Bryan Reynolds concluded his presentation with an interactive Q&A session covering topics such as CDs, IRAs, cryptocurrency, estate planning considerations, and Social Security timing.

The meeting concluded with reminders about ongoing fundraising efforts and the recitation of Rotary's Four-Way Test, reaffirming the club's commitment to integrity, service, and goodwill.

Ely Air Lines -

A Wonderful Story to Start the New Year

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely



When someone finds out we're pilots, the first question is almost always the same: "What airline do you fly for?"

It's a fair question. For most people, aviation is airlines – big jets, busy terminals, boarding groups, peanuts. When we say we don't fly for an airline, there's usually a brief pause. You can practically hear the gears turning. Then comes that look: Wait... what else is there?

Quite a lot.

Long before aviation became synonymous with security lines and cancellations, airplanes were part of everyday work. Especially in agriculture. Back in the good ol' days in Dayton, Bob Jamison and other high school boys would stand at the ends of crop rows holding flags so the crop duster knew where to turn. That was their guidance system. No GPS. No apps. Just kids, flags, and an airplane skimming low.

Technology has changed, but the role hasn't. Airplanes have long been tools in agriculture, alongside tractors, irrigation systems, and muddy boots.

That same practical spirit is found today at The Wonderful Company, the agricultural group you know for products like Wonderful Pistachios, POM

Wonderful, and FIJI Water. Behind the scenes, they operate their own flight department. The mission is simple: get people where the work actually happens.

And that's not in boardrooms.

The work happens in orchards, research labs, supplier sites, and customer locations scattered across North America. A typical day for Wonderful Aviation starts early. King Air pilots plan several short flights, sometimes making ten or more stops a day up and down California's Central Valley.

Longer trips are flown in a Citation or Gulfstream. Different airplanes, different distances, same goal: get people into the field while it's still daylight. Agriculture doesn't run on airline schedules, and airliners don't serve tiny farming towns. They definitely don't land next to orchards.

Flying commercially means losing half a day to connections, delays, and rental cars. As Benny Rusk used to say, an airplane

adds one more day to the week – the difference between a quick hello and a full day walking rows, seeing conditions firsthand – dust, bugs, and all.

Passengers are scientists, agronomists, field crews, the people who notice when one block of trees looks a little off compared to the next. They test new growing methods, study plant health, and figure out problems before they get bigger. Each year, thousands of employees fly on the company's aircraft to do work that's practical, physical, and very tied to the ground.

Farming is unpredictable by nature. Weather changes. Pests threaten crops. Markets shift. Waiting for a commercial flight to a major hub, then hours more on the road, doesn't work. Being able to fly directly to the destination saves time.

Most consumers never see this side of aviation. But it shows up quietly in better decisions made sooner, fewer surprises at harvest, and food that arrives fresh.

So no, not every pilot flies for an airline. Some fly for farms. And sometimes, the shortest distance from field to table is through the sky.

ElyAirLines.substack.com



Photo by Alexander Karapetian

SHC Book Club first quarterly meeting to be Jan. 27

LIBERTY - The SHC Quarterly Book Club will meet January 27 at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center (SHC) in Liberty to discuss the novel *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn.

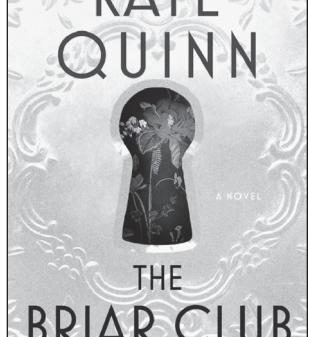
Quinn's work of historical fiction centers around a boarding house in 1950s Washington, D.C., and the various women renting rooms from the home's owner. Join the group for this fun, free and informal gathering of readers from 6-7 p.m. No membership or registration is required.

Featuring fictional works with a connection to the world of museums, archives and libraries, the

SHC book club is open to all and meets in the Center's main building at 650 FM 1011 in Liberty. Home to extensive archival holdings documenting Southeast Texas, a library collection and a museum, the Center offers an ideal setting for discussions about novels tied to these fields. Each meeting will be led by SHC staff.

Interested participants may obtain a copy of the novels through their local library or favorite bookstore to prepare for the conversation. For more information, contact SHC staff at (936) 336-8821 or via email at SamHoustonCenter@tsl.texas.gov.

The Sam Houston Center is a component of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and serves as the official regional historical re-



LIBERTY GAZETTE
936-336-6416



DAYTON ROTARIANS PLAN FOR A SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL FUTURE

Pictured (l-r): Dr. Luke Chachere, Bryan Reynolds, Kyle Reynolds, and Kaitlyn Shoemaker.