

N.A.P.P.



Volume 60

December 2023

No. 3

*President's column*

# Spiritual checklist for Advent is similar to making wise piloting decisions ... before it's too late

By Fr. Phil Gibbs  
*President*

Dear brother priests, pilots, faithful ones and friends of NAPP,

Pilot error remains a significant issue in the general aviation industry, with most accidents being attributed to mistakes



made by pilots. In 2020, 69.1% of all general aviation accidents were caused by pilot error. This means that the pilot was directly responsible for the incidents through a lack of knowledge or proper training, misjudgment or poor decision-making.

There should be no excuse for these types of accidents. Proper planning is an essential duty of

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# NAPP 2024 Convention set for Fredericksburg, Texas, in September

Mark your calendars for the 2024 NAPP Convention, which will be held in Fredericksburg, Texas. Arrivals will be Monday, September 16, with convention activities on Tuesday and Wednesday and departures on Thursday, September 19.

Fr. Phil Gibbs, NAPP president, has been busy working on plans for our annual gathering. He is grateful for the planning assistance offered by his brother and sister-in-law who live in Texas.

Lodging and convention headquarters will be at the [Inn on Barons Creek](#), a boutique hotel at 308 S. Washington St. (We originally were hoping to stay at the Hangar Hotel, but it is booked during our intended stay.)

During our stay, enjoy all the Hill Country of Texas has to offer in a



relaxing, small-town atmosphere. The Inn on Barons Creek is conveniently located two blocks from historic Main Street, within walking distance to dining, shopping and other attractions. Picturesque Barons Creek flows through the back of the property and provides a tranquil and serene setting.

The hotel has 90 luxuriously fur-

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The Inn on Barons Creek is conveniently located in the heart of Fredericksburg.



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any pilot. These accident statistics show there remains a significant number of pilots who do not maintain this individual responsibility. And, now that I said all this, I most likely jinxed myself.

Truth be known, there is a proven set of regrets that a pilot tries to avoid in his or her flying career. We strive to develop good habits that help us avoid these regrets. Nevertheless, these regrets remain, and we can certainly learn from them.

*Set your sights high and fly above the pattern altitude of the world's expectations to the greater heights of the Lord's expectations of you.*

The first regret is the amount of runway left behind on takeoffs and landings. The second regret is the amount of altitude or airspace that remains above you in case your engine quits for whatever reason. The third regret is the amount of Avgas you left in the fuel truck back at the airport when what little is left in your tanks is about to run out while in flight.

The season of Advent is a season of preparation and expectation, proper planning and adequate decision-making. It is imperative that we light our lamps and be wise servants who await their master's return. How does this translate into our lives? Perhaps we can use the metaphors of avoiding the regrets of aviation as a guide for our life of holiness and develop good habits.

First, use your life, all of it, the entire length of it from the threshold of its beginning at birth to the threshold of its end at death. Use it to your advantage of first

getting off the ground with Jesus Christ as your co-pilot and then finally coming into the end stages of life's landing with him as well. Avoid the regrets we have commonly come to know as "I could've," "I should've" and "I would've." Start now in cultivating your relationship to Jesus Christ and do not delay.


Secondly, fly beyond that of the minimum altitude. Don't be a minimalist when it comes to living your faith. Set your sights high and fly above the pattern altitude of the world's expectations to the greater heights of the Lord's expectations of you. Don't settle into the status quo but soar above

all the earthly things that weigh us down. Fly higher with your heart and your mind in communion with the heart and mind of Jesus so your glide slope may lead to a soft and safe ending.

Thirdly and finally, don't subject yourself to the error of fuel starvation. Spiritual fuel is readily available in steady and abundant supply every time we gather for Holy Mass. In the Eucharistic feast, when the Word is spoken and the Bread is broken, Jesus makes himself present for our consumption to fill our tanks so that when it comes to welcoming him back, we may be prepared to greet him. To quote one of my favorite fighter pilot lines from the movie "Independence Day," as we anticipate his ultimate return, may we be ready to "kick the tires and light the fires" in order to meet him when he comes again in his glory.



*Happy Advent and Merry Christmas.*



The National Association of Priest Pilots newsletter is published online six times per year (August, October, December, February, April, June). Fiscal year begins July 1. Website: [priestpilots.org](http://priestpilots.org)

Articles, news notes and photos can be sent to Tom Enwright, [napp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com). Deadline for the February edition is January 31.

**NAPP Leadership Team**  
 President: Fr. Phil Gibbs  
 1st VP: Fr. Nick Radloff 2nd VP: Fr. Bill Menzel  
 Secretary: Fr. Alex Nevitt  
 Treasurer & Newsletter Editor: Tom Enwright

**Regional Directors**  
 East: Fr. Al Ruschman Midwest: Fr. Gene Murray

**Correction**

The NAPP financial report presented at the September 2023 convention incorrectly stated the financial outcome of the 2022 convention in Branson, Missouri. The convention actually generated a profit of \$665 instead of a slight loss. The financial report, which is posted in the members-only section on the NAPP website, has been amended to reflect the correct number. I apologize for misinterpreting the financial documents prepared by the host committee and I commend the parishioners of Fr. John Schmitz for their fundraising efforts to reduce the lodging and convention fees paid by NAPP members.

*Tom Enwright*

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nished two-room guest suites. Our convention room rate is \$139 per night, plus 6% state tax and 7% local tax, for a total of \$157.07 per night.

A deluxe hot breakfast bar is included each morning. There is complimentary wireless internet service throughout the hotel and a heated outdoor pool.

NAPP is renting the Van der Stucken room from 4 p.m. Monday through 11 a.m. Thursday for hospitality and meeting functions.

**Important notes from the hotel:**

- Individuals are responsible for making and guaranteeing their own reservation from the NAPP block of 20 rooms.
- To receive the group rate, call the hotel — **830-990-9202** — and make your reservation before August 16. Provide your arrival date (September 16) and request a room from the NAPP block.
- The group rate is not available online; the hotel will not honor the group rate for reservations made online.

*Fr. Phil and the convention team look forward to welcoming you to Texas for an enjoyable convention. Stay tuned for details on activities and dining plans.*

**General aviation arrivals will be at Gillespie County Airport (T82), three miles southwest of downtown Fredericksburg. It has a 5,000-foot runway. Fuel services provided by Fredericksburg FBO.**

The Texas Hill Country is home to more than 100 wineries and vineyards and Fredericksburg is the epicenter, with more than 60 wineries, vineyards and wine-tasting rooms in

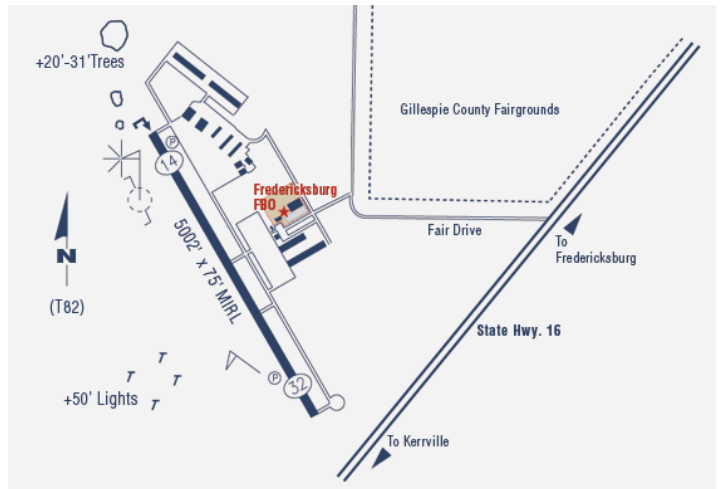


Gillespie County. Wine production in Fredericksburg dates back to the original settlers who used the native mustang grape to produce wines. (Credit: Photo above, map on Page 1 and wine information provided by the Fredericksburg Convention & Visitor Bureau)

**To learn more about the area, check out the Fredericksburg Convention & Visitor Bureau.**



Photo and airport map from the [Fredericksburg FBO](#) website.



**2024 NAPP Dues – U.S. \$25.00**

**Fiscal year began July 1, 2023**

Use this form or use PayPal (go to [priestpilots.org](http://priestpilots.org) and click **Pay Now**).

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CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

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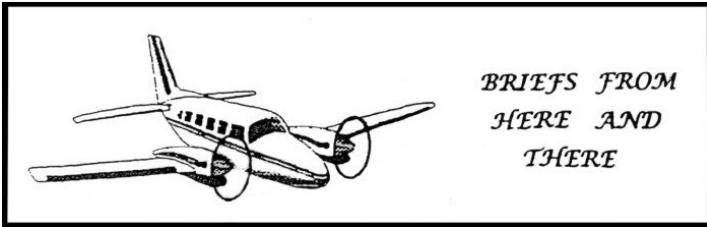
Member category: Charter Regular Associate

**Make check payable to NAPP and mail to: Tom Enwright, Treasurer, 419 Chestnut St., Sauk City, WI 53583**

In addition to the \$25 annual dues, we encourage members to make a separate donation to the **NAPP Missionary Gift Fund**, which will be used to support the organization's charitable grants. Donations can be sent to the same address or you can use PayPal. Go to [priestpilots.org](http://priestpilots.org) and click on the **Donate** button.







**The three wise men discussing their upcoming trip!**

*Wouldn't it be better to fly?*

*When did that camel have its last physical?*

*Where do you put the Garmin?*

*Won't that camel be over gross with the three of us and gold, frankincense and myrrh in his baggage compartment?*



Thanks to Fr. Gene Murray for brightening our day!

**Wings of Hope [Facebook](#) post from November 14**

“Our partner in Tanzania, [Flying Medical Service](#), is providing much needed preventative care to the Maa-sai people — especially moms and babies — through their fly-in medical clinics. This is our mission in action. Changing and saving lives through the power of aviation!”



*Editor's note: Flying Medical Service (FMS) is a non-profit, volunteer organization that provides health care in remote areas of Tanzania. It offers air transportation for patients regardless of religious affiliation, ethnic background or ability to pay. NAPP is a financial supporter of FMS.*

**NAPP has a new member from Texas**

Bryan McAlister of Lindsay, Texas, is the newest associate member of the National Association of Priest Pilots. He shared this note about his background:

“Bryan is currently working as a first officer for the airlines. When he was 15, one of his dad’s friends let him fly a Beechcraft Bonanza which began a lifelong

love of flying. He has been greatly blessed by God with a wonderful wife and three lovely children. Choosing St. Michael the Archangel as his Confirmation saint has had a profound impact on his adult life. He is passionate about submitting all things, including aviation, to the service of Christ’s Kingdom on Earth. Viva Cristo Rey!”



**Memories of the Twin Beech at the Josephinum**

Msgr. Frank Mouch, one of NAPP’s charter members, sent this photo and a note in November: “My first plane (Taylorcraft) and the second (Twin Beech), before it was cleaned up, government-surplus, owned by the Josephinum Seminary (in Columbus, Ohio). It cost \$250.”



Observant readers of this newsletter may recall that Msgr. Frank fondly wrote about the Twin Beech in the [December 2019](#) edition:

*I soloed in 1957. In 1958, having joined the faculty of the Josephinum Seminary, I bought one-third of the Taylorcraft pictured on the school’s grass strip. In 1961, the seminary bought two C45 aircraft (Twin Beech) for \$250 each from government surplus, one to be used for spare parts for the one to be used. (Those are patches on the one to be parts; it had to be flown only once from Arizona to Ohio.) At 200 hours, I was cleared for multiengine and instruments and became the “corporate” pilot. I concluded my flying career in a Seneca II, which used half the fuel of the C45 and flew 30 mph faster.*

Msgr. Frank now is retired and living in Lutz, Florida, north of Tampa.

**One more story about Msgr. Frank Mouch**

The [Gulf Coast Catholic](#), published by the Diocese of St. Petersburg, has a remarkable story about an 84-year-old woman who was welcomed into the Catholic Church earlier this year.

Msgr. Frank Mouch, an NAPP charter member, celebrated the special Mass at the St. John XXIII Residence, which is on the third floor of [Angels Senior Living at The Reserves of Idlewild](#) in Lutz, Florida.

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# What's new at the Catholic Aviation Association?

By Terry Garrity  
Executive Vice President

**Website additions and refinements:** Check out the many refinements and additions to our [website](#).

**The duty to stay informed made easier:** The CAA website has a [CAA News Digest](#) page which strives to link to the best Catholic news sites we've found so far. It's meant to be one stop shop for popular news and columns sites that you can also share with confidence.

**Parish bulletin-friendly ad calls for new members:** We have also developed a parish bulletin-friendly ad for members if any NAPP member would like to help us with new member recruitment.

**Now forming new chapters:** Saving the best for last, can we form a chapter in your parish? Our evangeliza-



tion, apologetics and youth work are a great complement to your Knights of Columbus chapter. Our goal is to make things hassle-free! The national chapter meeting is online the first Tuesday of the month. Let me know if you'd like a meeting invitation.

Please remember that clergy join CAA for free. We would love to have NAPP members, all of you, as CAA members.

We strive to be always improving and to keep things simple. Please direct any questions or comments to me at [terry.garrity@catholicaviation.org](mailto:terry.garrity@catholicaviation.org)

*Editor's note: In addition to Terry, three other leaders of the CAA also are members of NAPP: Tom Beckenbauer, president; Ed Jozsa, chief financial officer; and Abe Khadivi, social media chairman.*

## A calendar note from our friends at EAA

Dates for the EAA Air-Venture fly-in convention at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, have been confirmed through 2027.



**2024:** July 22-28      **2025:** July 21-27  
**2026:** July 20-26      **2027:** July 26-August 1

**Reminder to pay your dues:** The new dues year (fiscal 2024) began July 1, 2023, so please be attentive to paying your \$25 dues. NAPP relies on the honor system to renew your membership; we don't issue invoices. Thanks to the 33 members who already paid for fiscal 2024 or beyond. **Note:** Members at the 2023 annual meeting voted to increase the dues to \$30, effective July 1, 2024. **See the form on Page 3.**

**Additional ways to support NAPP:** Please remember NAPP in your retirement and estate plans. Those who need to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from a qualified retirement account can designate NAPP for a financial gift. Also, please remember NAPP in your will. Email: [napp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com).

**Obituary planning:** Members who are making advance funeral arrangements are encouraged to include NAPP in the list to be notified by the family or funeral director. Email: [napp.editor@gmail.com](mailto:napp.editor@gmail.com).



*"It is with paternal satisfaction that the Holy Father views the efforts of the members of the National Association of Priest Pilots to encourage the use of air transportation to obtain ever more abundant spiritual fruits from their sacerdotal ministry and missionary apostolate."*

**The Vatican, September 29, 1964**

### Purpose:

1. To promote the use of private aircraft as a practical, safe, and efficient tool of the apostolic work of a priest.
2. To cooperate with other aviation and ecclesiastical groups wherever possible in order to promote aviation in the cause of the Church.
3. To insist on the safe and proficient use of the airplane by its members.
4. To encourage the use of private aircraft as worthy of the talents and dignity of priests.
5. To further the use of aircraft in the missions.