

## Meet the Member

### Jonathan and Micheal Sickert

Jonathan's spiritual journey started with his father who was born in Brazil and emigrated to the US in 1952. His dad had a calling to church ministry and became a pastor and served in the Presbyterian Church of America for over 40 years. With that environment Jonathan was introduced to the gospel at a very early age that led him to make a profession of faith at the age of six. Like many who have early faith experiences, there can be times of testing and doubt. Jonathan went through his own wayward lifestyle during his college years at the University of South Carolina. He came back to faith and openly confesses today that he is still "learning to walk with Jesus".



Micheal's spiritual journey was very different. She was raised by her mom in Elverson, PA until she passed away in 1988 when Micheal was only 14 years old. Since her parents were divorced, she went to live with her dad in Charlotte and had to endure the pain of his death in 2003. Micheal was a young adult by then and started her spiritual journey through the witness of a friend and co-worker, Flora Leath. Flora took her to church where she heard the gospel for the first time. Through Flora's testimony, the church and an online course on "Prayer", her faith grew. Even Veggie Tales had a hand in Micheal's spiritual growth.

In 2005, through one of Jonathan's co-workers' prodding, she went on a blind date with Jonathan. There was resistance on both sides (especially Jonathan), but there was a mutual attraction and in February of 2006, he proposed. In a romantic gesture, Jonathan proposed on top of a mountain in Park City, Utah. In July of that same year, they were married.

Micheal worked in the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's office from 1994 – 2004. In between the Sheriff's Office and getting married, Micheal ran her own pet sitting business. Today she is a preschool teacher at West End Baptist Church in Rock Hill and works part time at YMCA front desk. Jonathan had several jobs that moved him from Alabama to Atlanta, but eventually he took a position at Siemens in Charlotte where he has worked for the past 22 years.

They have two young girls. Samantha was born in 2008. Stephanie was born in 2016 and has special needs. Both are a delight to their parents.

Jonathan attended Westminster Church in Rock Hill and became good friends with Skip Macmillan. Skip married Jonathan and Micheal, baptized Samantha and was the founding pastor of Eternal. Jonathan's loyalty to Skip continued as he became part of the planting team for Eternal and was one of its first Elders. Jonathan is an Elder today, over 20 years later.

Michael enjoys reading spy novels, bowling, and art. Her love for animals can be seen in her art. If you visit their Rock Hill home, you will see her paintings on the walls. Jonathan plays golf, tennis and loves everything outdoors. They have one dog, Jonah, and three cats: Twist, Luna, and Midnight.

One of Jonathan's favorite verses in Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV). *"The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."*

Eternal is grateful for Jonathan's leadership. Through times of growth or transition, he has been loyal to the church. In fact, if you sit near Jonathan in worship, you will hear him singing with gusto. Their enthusiasm for life is infectious and when you get to know them, you will understand more fully their passion and love for Jesus.