

# Northgate Baptist Church

633 Summit Drive  
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# Northgate

Seek. God. First.

## Thoughts from our Pastor



The start of a new church year is always an opportunity for renewal and reflection. We know and believe God's promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us! **Joshua 1:9** – "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

As we embark on the start of a new church year, on September 1, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for what God has for us! We are blessed to have Matthew Winters as our new Assistant Pastor (and Worship Leader)! This fresh beginning offers us an opportunity to set new goals for the year ahead. We aim to deepen our faith and extend our love within our church family, into our community and even to the ends of the earth.

I encourage each of you to make a fresh commitment to your own personal growth in your relationship with Jesus Christ and to His church at Northgate. I encourage you to read more Scripture, pray more, share your faith at every opportunity, and remember that serving the Lord's church and doing missions in our community is a cherished freedom that we all enjoy. Let's commit to be better stewards of our freedoms. Let's commit to make this year one of spiritual harmony, service in the church and missions in the community.

One of the things we will be doing more as a church is prayer. Prayer is where the power is!! Leaders who will make plans for the coming year, please bathe those plans in prayer. **We want one thing: for God to accomplish His will in and through His church at Northgate.** We will have monthly prayer meetings where we will come to the church and have the opportunity to pray privately and corporately in the span of one hour. **Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 29, at 5:00 pm. We will gather in the sanctuary for worship as we begin this hour of power!!**

I want to share with you some of the things that I have learned throughout my life about prayer. It is necessary for health and growth. Prayer fosters a deeper connection with God, allowing us to feel His presence, peace and guidance in our lives. Through prayer, we can release our burdens, find God's comfort and experience emotional healing. Spending more time in prayer can lead to greater mental clarity which can lead to better decision making. Studies have shown that prayer can reduce stress and improve overall health. **But there is a caveat - we must pray by faith in Jesus name. James 1:6-7 - "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord."**

Finally, pray like Jesus taught us in the Model Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13. The Model Prayer is an outline for prayer that I use and have used for decades. It includes: Praise to the Father, prayer for the salvation of unbelievers, prayers for all needs and requests, thanksgiving for God's provision, prayer for forgiveness and the humble grace needed to forgive others, prayer for protection from temptation and deliverance from evil. All to be wrapped up in a final benediction of worship and praise for our Father's greatness.

I'm praying for you!

# The Gate Post

### Pastoral Staff

**Dr. Barry Jimmerson**  
(864) 320-9076  
Pastor

**Rev. Matthew Winters**  
Assistant Pastor and  
Worship Leader

**Mrs. Beth Todd**  
Minister of Preschoolers  
and their Families

**Mrs. Tina Jimmerson**  
Minister of Children  
and their families

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Deacons of the Month

Gene Grant  
Mike Shaw  
Dean Waters

Moving? Please notify the church office of your address change

Planning Packets will be ready for pick-up at the bottom of the stairs by the elevator on Sunday, September 8. Please see your bulletin insert on September 8.



The church office will be closed on Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day.



The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper will be Sunday, September 29.

A fellowship meal will follow. The church provides the meat for our meal. Please bring side dishes that would feed your family with some to share. And don't forget about the dessert! **There will be no Kids Worship on September 29.**

**Worship and Prayer service Sunday, September 29 in the sanctuary from 5:00-6:00pm.**

*Thank You*

Northgate Family, I want to tell you all how very much I love and appreciate you. Your prayers during my dad's years of illness meant so much to he and I. Your concern, cards, calls and expressions of love as I cope with the loss of this precious man has touched my heart greatly.

With heartfelt love, Tina Speakman



**MATTHEW WINTERS, ASSISTANT PASTOR AND WORSHIP**

The month of September is well known for a holiday we call “Labor Day”, or as I jokingly call “Laborless Day” for those who don’t have to work that day. Labor is something that is often applauded, but it can also possess a negative connotation. As I reflect on labor, I would like to take a minute to reflect on a story found in Luke 10:38-42.

This biblical account is one many of us know well. Jesus is invited into Martha’s house. Please allow me to reframe this into a context many of us would understand in 21st century America. I’m imagining a meal here within this context. The unfortunate thing that comes with every meal is cleanup. When you and I host someone in our home, we have likely spent the bulk of the day cleaning the house and getting everything ready. Any duty-driven person would think, “Let’s hurry up and clean up the kitchen so we can move on.” That was Martha’s thinking. Mary, however, found spending time with Jesus to be of more importance.

I have seen a lot of Martha-like tendencies in the church. Duty-driven people tend to check off boxes and often think, “I’m the only one who does anything around here. Why doesn’t someone else get off their laziness and teach this Sunday School class or help with AWANA or serve in whatever area?” Martha considered herself to be working hard while considering Mary to be lazy. Martha felt jealous and entitled while Mary was lost in the moment with Jesus.

There is an extremely important takeaway from this story. Jesus called Martha out for her distraction. Is it bad to be busy? Yes it is, especially when you’re so busy that you don’t make time to sit at the feet of Jesus and worship Him. Church growth culture has taught us that “Busier is better”. That is why churches are programmed to death. Am I condemning programs? Not at all! What am I saying? All the work we are so busy doing can only be fueled by our personal time at the feet of Jesus.

Let’s be real here for a minute. Some of you are experiencing burnout. You carry multiple responsibilities in the church, not to mention what you do at home and in the community. You’re probably thinking, “I don’t have time to be with Jesus.” That kind of thinking will put you in a dangerous place. It is your daily time with Jesus that fuels everything else. Neglecting that time will have you running on fumes at best and leave you only ministering in the flesh and not in God’s power.

As Pastor Barry and I sit together in staff meetings, I can tell you that our vision is to see the culture of Northgate fueled by prayer and worship of our Lord. Within this September 2024 edition of the Gate Post, you will see lots of new opportunities. These are exciting things, but they will be nothing more than activities if we take on the “do, do, do” mentality of Martha rather than the worshipful posture of Mary.

Let me challenge you. Carve out a time each day, if you don’t already, just to pour your love on the Lord. Start that time simply in praise and adoration. Save all the asking and petitioning for the end of your time with Him. Thank Him for saving you! Thank Him for loving you at your worst! Thank Him for keeping you! Thank Him for withholding His wrath from you and lavishing you with His mercy and grace! When you do, you will find yourself energized and revived to serve. Our first calling is to be with Him, then to serve (Mark 3:14-15).



**AWANA has begun on  
Wednesdays 6:16-7:30pm**

**Cubbies: 3-Pre K**

**Sparks: Kindergarten-2nd grade**

**T & T: 3rd-5th grade**

**You can register your children at  
[www.northgatebaptist.com](http://www.northgatebaptist.com).**

**Kids invite your friends to come to  
AWANA.**

**Janie Chapman 2024 State Goal**

**\$2,190,000**

*We Are Better Together*

*Acts 2:42-47*

The Janie Chapman Offering for SC State Missions will be received in September with the **Week of Prayer for State Missions being September 8-15**. ALL of Northgate's offering for this endeavor will go to support Barry Agnew Jr. 's coming church plant in South Greenville County. Please give generously.



**New Small Group for couples in their 20's and 30's  
will meet on Thursday, September 12 at 6:30pm in  
the fellowship hall.**

**WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday night, September 18 at 6:30pm in the sanctuary we begin the series “The Teacher I Want to Be: learning and sharing the Word of God” by Danny Akin. Come join us for this series. You don’t want to miss it!

**Joy Club**



Joy Club will meet Monday, September 16 at 10:45am. Our special guest will be Kate Few. All are invited. Sign up in your Sunday School class or call the church for a reservation.

**Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, September 11.**



There will be a Pickleball Clinic at 4pm on Sunday, September 8, where any Northgate member who would like to learn the fundamentals of the game can come and learn. These would also have the opportunity to partner with our recreation ministry team to help reach our community through this sport.

On September 22, at 4pm, we will launch this ministry to the church. There will be pickleball, food and fun as we learn about the pickleball ministry potential, play the game in the gym and enjoy a time of fellowship.



**Choir Practice**

Choir Practice will resume on Wednesday, September 11 at 5:45pm in the choir room. If you have any questions, contact **Matthew Winters** at

**[mwinters@northgatebaptist.com](mailto:mwinters@northgatebaptist.com)**

