

# Northgate Baptist Church

633 Summit Drive  
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# Northgate

Seek. God. First.

## Thoughts from our Pastor

Dick McMullen wrote: "Real authority is the power to serve."



Jesus Christ captured this attitude in His life. As we read the gospels, we are reminded of His genuine desire to serve. Nowhere is that better captured than in the central verse of the Gospel of Mark. **Mark 10:45** – "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Real authority cannot be separated from service. When Jesus was arrested in the garden and would be crucified a short time later, He said the following according to the Gospel of Matthew: **Matthew 26:52-54** – "But Jesus said to him [Peter], "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup>Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup>How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" An attitude of service and the voluntary submission of authority is a concept that often escapes us; yet it is truly the way of Christ.

When I was in my thirties I went to the theater to see Stephen Spielberg's classic film, *Schindler's List*, a true story about a man who rescued the lives of at least 1,200 Jews during WWII. One scene in particular stood out to me. Unfortunately, I cannot recommend this film to you for its many needless sinful scenes; however, there is a powerful moment when a Nazi officer was indiscriminately shooting and killing Jews for some kind of perverted sport, when Schindler challenged his thinking. The Nazi officer said to Schindler, "Power is the ability to control." To which, Schindler responded, "Power is when we have every justification to kill and we don't." Mercy and compassion is a decision to do good. A decision to serve.

How do we serve? Service can be as simple as picking up a filthy piece of trash in a restaurant left by some unknown person so that a paid employ doesn't have to do that demeaning job. Or it can be as much as voluntarily cleaning public restrooms in a city as a service to the community. Service can be leaving a gratuity for the housekeeper than cleans up after us in the hotel. Whatever the scope, we are never more like Christ than when we are serving and giving. Service is washing the feet of others – even the feet of the one that you know is your enemy. Remember the scene in John 13, when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples – even the feet of Judas? **John 13:1** – "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." He loved them to the end. Wouldn't that be a beautiful epitaph on anyone's tombstone?

Let's all look for ways to serve like Christ at home, at church, and in our community. When we have the ability, capability and opportunity, we must serve. **James 4:17** – "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

In His service.

# 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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John Folk

Randy Mott

Matthew Vaughn

Moving? Please notify the church office of your address change



Planning Packets are due to be turned in by October 20.



Boxes are ready to be picked up and filled for 2024 Operation Christmas Child. Please take one or two to fill and return them by the first week of November. You may also give toward the postage for the boxes. Just note in the memo line "OCC postage."



Daylight Saving Time ends on November 3. Reset your clock before retiring on November 2.



Northgate's Men's Prayer Breakfast is meeting every Tuesday morning at 7:30am. This is a special time for sharing the needs of God's people at Northgate and to pray for our nation. All men are welcome to join us.

### October is Minister Appreciation Month

Please pray for our Northgate Ministers: Barry, Matthew, Beth and Tina. Let them know how much you appreciate their ministry in God's church at Northgate.





**MATTHEW WINTERS, ASSISTANT PASTOR AND WORSHIP**

Prepare. This is a word that is often used in Scripture right before a major move of God. John the Baptist used it as he prepared the people for the coming Messiah. Why would God through prophets and other spokesmen tell His people to prepare for these major events? Why didn't God just let the people be surprised? Here is the reality - We are not ready for things for which we never prepare. Lack of preparation subsequently leads to missed opportunities.

Imagine being one of the Israelites who went through a 3 ½ year drought. Go a month without rain, and you tend to dismiss the fact that you have had no rain for a month. Go without rain for three months, you begin to miss it and hold out hope that it will rain any day now. Six months in, you're frustrated. One year in, you've likely gotten used to the dry conditions. Three years in, you've given up hope that it will rain again.

Imagine with me a little more that you are in the context of I Kings 18. After 3 ½ years, Elijah is now telling wicked King Ahab to get ready very soon because rain is on its way. Then he sends his servant who saw nothing the first time to go seven times until he finally reports seeing a cloud the size of a man's hand. Elijah sends word to Ahab to prepare his chariot before the rain stops him. Then the heavy rain came.

Why would I write about such a thing for this October 2024 edition of the Gate Post? It's rather simple - God is calling Northgate to prepare for a spiritual rain. What does this preparation look like? It looks like expectation. Expectation for first time guests to walk through the doors each and every Sunday and us greeting them well and connecting with them. Expectation that there will be a movement of the Spirit of God in each and every service to convict unbelievers of their need for Christ and believers of their need to walk in God's will in all things. Expectation that unbelievers will be saved, baptized, and discipled in their faith. Expectation that God will call pastors, missionaries, and other vocational Christian servants from Northgate. Expectation that we will get excited about being on mission and reaching our community in new and fresh ways. This preparation and expectation will require us to have systems in place so that we will be fully equipped to do all that God is calling us to do in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Northgate, prepare for spiritual rain. The sound of abundance of rain is in the not-so-far distance. It's time to get ready to receive and embrace the refreshing rain from Heaven! May our prayer be that of the songwriter who wrote, "Open the flood gates of Heaven! Let it rain!"

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## **PICKLEBALL IS COMING TO NORTHGATE!**

John Moore, a Pickleball instructor in the upstate (www.upstatepickleball.com) will offer clinics to the community on **Saturdays beginning October 12**. Look for more information soon about Northgate's Pickleball ministry to our community.



**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.**

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



## **WEDNESDAY SUPPER MENU FOR OCTOBER**

**\$8 FOR ADULTS, \$4 FOR  
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER**

**Sign up in your Sunday School Class to be placed on  
the Standing List or call the church office no later  
than Monday at noon to be placed  
on the weekly list.**

**October 2—Chick-fil-A**

**October 9—Beef tips, mashed potatoes, broccoli  
casserole, rolls, cheesecake with topping and tea**

**October 16—BBQ boneless chicken, baked beans,  
potato salad, rolls, brownies, tea.**

**October 23—Hotdogs from the Clock**

**October 30—Country style steak, macaroni and  
cheese, rice and gravy, rolls, banana pudding, and tea**

**Leadership Council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 8 at 6:30pm  
Church Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30pm**

## **Joy Club**



Joy Club will meet Monday, October 21 at 10:45am. Our special guest will be Beth Todd, MHS, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist. All are invited. Sign up in your Sunday School class or call the church for a reservation.

**Deadline to sign up is Tuesday, October 15.**



**Thank You for Your  
Service Sonya Ledwell**

**A drop-in retirement  
celebration for 22 years in the National Guard  
will be held for Sonya on Sunday, October 26  
from 5-7pm in the fellowship hall.**

**Sonya retired as an E6 Staff Sergeant. In 2007  
she was in Operation Jump start in Yuma, AZ.**

**In 2011 she served in Saudi Arabia in  
Operation Friendship helping with training  
and in 2020 she was deployed to Washington,  
DC following the January 6 storming of the  
capital building. Come wish her well and  
thank her for her service to our country.**

**Congratulations on your retirement,  
Sonya.**

## **WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday nights at 6:30pm in the sanctuary we have begun 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!