

# Northgate Baptist Church

633 Summit Drive  
Greenville, SC 29609  
www.northgatebaptist.com

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## 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

# Northgate

Seek. God. First.

## Thoughts from our Pastor



During the Christmas season, we typically watch the 1946 classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life." No doubt, you have seen the film. In case, you haven't yet had the opportunity, the setting is the fictitious town, "Bedford Falls, New York," on Christmas Eve, 1945. The main character is George Bailey (played by Jimmy Stewart). The story is about George Bailey's contemplation of suicide (even wishing that he had never been born) brought about by a financial crisis in his life. George Bailey's chosen manner of suicide was to jump off of a bridge into the icy waters of a river when an angel (Clarence) jumped into the river first only to be rescued by George. At that point (emphasizing George's desire that he had never been born), Clarence provided a timeline in a world where George Bailey never existed. The film goes on to tell the story of the impact upon the community where George Bailey never lived. The ending of the film is a joyful reminder that every life has purpose and is indeed a "Wonderful Life." This classic film is very much a "Pro-Life" film; arguably, one of the most impactful pro-life films ever made. George Bailey learned the greatest thing he would lose (had he never been born) was his purpose in life.

If you are not a student of this film, you should be. Frank Capra, the director of the film, said it was the greatest film he ever made. Capra made thirty-six full length films in addition to many WW2 documentaries to raise morale and awareness for the war effort. As a director, Frank Capra won 14 Academy Awards (interestingly *It's a Wonderful Life* was nominated for five and won none).

Frank Capra, wasn't a follower of Christ in his younger years. But according to his own testimony, he tells the story of the courage of an unidentified man and how that man confronted Capra sometime during the 1930s. Quoting the words the man told him that day, Capra wrote:

*The talents you have, Mr. Capra, are not your own, not self-acquired. God gave you those talents; they are His gifts to you, to use for His purpose. And when you don't use the gifts God blessed you with, you are an offense to God and to humanity.*

That confrontation led to Frank Capra's conversion (his new birth) in Jesus Christ. Capra later developed his testimony into the film, *It's a Wonderful Life*. In fact, the scene in the film when George Bailey broke down in Martini's Bar was Capra's way of communicating Capra's own moral and spiritual bankruptcy.

Frank Capra wrote: "I'm a Christian; one who firmly believes that the anti-moral, the intellectual bigots and the mafias of ill-will may destroy religion, but they will never conquer the cross."

As we begin a New Year, remember God has given to each of us a wonderful life, filled with purpose and opportunity. There will never be another you and there will never be another me. We are unique, valuable and greatly loved. In 2025, make your life count for the cause of Christ!

Happy New Year! *Barry*

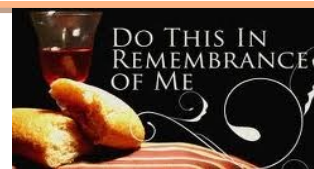
# The Gate Post

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## Deacons of the Month

Gene Grant  
Mike Shaw  
Dean Waters

Moving? Please notify the church office of your address change



*The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper will be Sunday, January 26.*

*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 January 26.*



*The staff would like to thank you for your many and generous expressions of kindness and love this Christmas season. It is our joy to serve the Lord with you. Have a wonderful New Year! We love you all!*



*The church office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025. Wishing each one of you a blessed and Happy 2025!*

SAVE THE DATE FOR **VBS AT NORTHGATE**  
**WILL BE JUNE 8-12,**  
**2025 from 6:00-8:30pm**



## MATTHEW WINTERS, ASSISTANT PASTOR AND WORSHIP LEADER

It's hard to believe we are entering the year 2025. Twenty-five years ago, people were panicking about the turn of the century and millennium. It may be that you filled your basement full of canned goods in anticipation for Y2K because you heard computers weren't ready for the change and the world would shut down, yet here we are. We survived it!

Let's pause a moment and think about the word "survival." Some of us only seek to survive. If only we can survive our children being at each other's throats for a few more years. If only we can survive this financial mess. If only we can survive until our kids graduate high school. If only we can survive.

God has much more for His people than survival. God is looking for people with vision. People who want to thrive rather than simply survive. One preacher often said this during his sermons - "Great it is to dream the dream as you stand in youth by the starry stream, but a greater thing is to fight life through and say in the end, 'The dream is true!'" If we are going to do this, we need two things - God-given vision/dreams and perseverance to endure the attacks that will come from the enemy when we pursue the vision God gives.

The forward movement of God's army at Northgate is dependent upon people who have God's vision and determination to "fight life through". This means that God wants to shake things up, and He wants to use His brave servants to do it. That's us! I recently saw a post on Facebook that said most people hate two things: change and the way things are now. It's so true! Here's what I know from my years in church life. While predictability can breed a sense of comfort, no growth happens in the comfort zone. In fact, it has been said that "predictability breeds complacency." When this happens, people are so busy getting nothing done. They have meetings and activities to check off boxes while the status quo remains the result of the day.

I don't know about you, but I don't want to be like this. I want to be a godly man full of vision. I want God's vision, and I want His boldness flowing through me to execute it. I want to come alongside my brothers and sisters here at Northgate to accomplish great things for His glory. The clock is ticking, and much must be done while there is still time. **Will you join me?**

### WORSHIP AND PRAYER SERVICE

January 19 from 4:00-5:00pm

Come and join us for this monthly prayer and praise service!

## PICKLEBALL AT NORTHGATE!



**Northgate and friends Pickleball!** The gym will reopen on January 5, 2025 every Sunday afternoon from 4:00-6:00pm for pickleball. Come join the fun and bring your family and friends. The gym will be open for pickle ball every Sunday afternoon. Note that on a Sunday when we have our prayer and praise service at 4:00pm, the gym will be open from 5:00-6:00pm.

## WEDNESDAY SUPPER

Will resume on January 8 at 5:15pm. Sign up in your Sunday School class to be on the standing list or call weekly to be placed on the list for a particular week. You must call the church office by Monday at noon to be added or to cancel for that week. \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under.

Wednesday supper servers are needed. Please call the church office if you can help serve.

### January menus:

January 8—Beef tips, buttered potatoes, mixed vegetables, baked apples, roll and tea

January 15—Baked pork chops, mac & cheese, green beans, strawberry cake, rolls and tea.

January 22—Italian baked boneless chicken, broccoli casserole, candied yams, lemon bars, rolls and tea.

January 29—Chick-fil-A



**It's a girl!** A baby shower will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025 from 11am-1pm for Kelsey & Matthew Vaughn. Kelsey is registered at Target and on Amazon. Gift cards are welcome.



Marriage Retreat March 6-8, 2025 at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. The total cost is \$318 per couple, with the first half due by Sunday, January 5, and the second half due by Sunday, February 16. Pastor Jimmy Boggs from Ebenezer Baptist Church in West Union, SC and his wife, Barbara, will lead us that weekend. For more information, please see Matthew Winters.

Leadership Council meets Tuesday, January 7 at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall  
Church Conference will be Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30pm in the sanctuary



## January 20 Joy Club

Joy Club will meet Monday, January 20 at 10:45am in the fellowship hall. Our special guest will be Jonathan Bishop. He will speak about his work to help people of Yemen know Jesus. Deadline to sign up is Tuesday, January 14. Sign up in your Sunday School class or call the church office.



Tina Jimmerson  
Minister of Children  
and their families

AWANA will resume on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Kids invite your friends to AWANA.



Happy New Year!

## CENTRIFUGE

Youth Camp (CentriFuge) will be held on June 2-6, 2025 at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, SC. A \$75 non-refundable deposit is due by Sunday, February 2, 2025. The total cost is \$369 per person. Please see Matthew Winters if you have any questions.



Kids Camp (CentriKid) is coming up on June 20-22, 2025 at Gardner Webb University in Boiling Springs, NC. A non-refundable deposit is due by Sunday, February 9, 2025. Total cost is \$195 per child. Please see Matthew Winters for more information.