

# Northgate Baptist Church

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 108  
Taylors SC

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# Northgate

Seek. God. First.



## Thoughts from our Pastor

I've been thinking about hibernation. When I did a little study, I learned that nearly every kind of animal hibernates. That is some reptiles, amphibians, insects, mollusks and mammals. We all know that bears and snakes hibernate, but did you know that some snails hibernate up to three years and periodical cicadas hibernate up to seventeen years?! God's creative order in nature is a fascinating subject. Some animals do not breathe *at all* during hibernation yet God keeps them alive. Other animals (snakes) do not truly hibernate, they just slow down to a state called brumation. When you dig in and ask questions like *why* or *how long* and *how animals survive hibernation* the answers become all the more intriguing. The bottom line is God created some animals to hibernate and He sustains their lives.

So, why don't humans hibernate? The answer depends upon who you ask. If you ask a scientist, they might tell you that hibernation is evolutionary and humans haven't lived in cold climates long enough for our bodies to learn how to hibernate. Or, we may get the answer that human brains have evolved far enough to develop survival skills in harsh climates; therefore eliminating the need. Those answers raise more questions for me. Like, how did we develop space ships, automobiles, smart phones, the internet and HVAC?

This leads us to the inevitable and biblical conclusion that human beings are not animals. There is a God and we are created in His image. No animal is created in the image of God. Animals do not have souls. Humans do not hibernate because we are God's stewards on earth. We are responsible for His creation. We simply do not have the time to hibernate. We have limitations on this earth (limited breaths, limited heart beats, limited thoughts, and limited steps) and they are all controlled and providentially ordered by a Holy, Sovereign, and Mighty God. We are God's responsible stewards on earth and our greatest responsibility is reaching other humans with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Cold, short winter days and long, cold winter nights make for a good time to rest, nap and sleep; but under God, we simply don't have the time to hibernate! Christians never quit and we never retire. We are responsible (and accountable) for how we use our every breath until the time comes that we breathe our last.

Christians follow Christ and Christ came to serve. **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." Therefore, **we must serve!** Ministry is service to the church and missions to the world. Service is a part of every function of the church - evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship and worship. **Please find your place of service in the Lord's church and serve God and people with all of your heart, soul, strength and mind.**

We should enjoy winter. We should get some rest and take a nap. We should strive for 7-9 hours of sleep per night. But we simply don't have the time to hibernate in our service for Christ! **John 9:4** - "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."

Keep warm, stay busy and remain close to Christ,

*Barry*

# 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  
John Folk  
Randy Mott  
Matthew Vaughn

Moving? Please notify the church office of your address change

### Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Northgate's goal \$5,000

Offering received \$4,560

Thank you for your faithful giving.



### Youth Spaghetti Fundraiser

Sunday, February 2 immediately following morning worship.

Everyone is invited. Come and support this fundraiser for our youth.

Donations are welcomed!

Worship and Prayer Service will be held Sunday, February 23 from 4:00-5:00pm in the sanctuary. Come join us for this special service.

## Northgate Discovery Class

Discovery Class will be held on Sunday, February 2, 9 and 16 at 9:30am in Room 205. New members must take the class to complete membership and guests can attend to become more acquainted with Northgate.

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



## MATTHEW WINTERS, ASSISTANT PASTOR AND WORSHIP LEADER

I don't know about you, but I had a difficult time coming out of the holiday coma. Some of you know what I mean. You lived off anything but healthy food during the months of November and December. Add to that the fact that you may have had some vacation time when you completely unplugged from work. When you tried to plug back in, the electricity just wasn't there. You may have spent the first few weeks of January in a fog. I certainly did!

The reality is many people remain in a spiritual fog at best. This problem isn't new. The Apostle Paul addressed the early church for the same reasons. Apathy, complacency, and all their relatives set into the hearts of early Christians, and we fight the same struggles. The same inspired word that the Holy Spirit gave Paul in Romans 13:11-12 is just as applicable today. Paul penned these words: "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."

Christians today are asleep for many reasons. Some live on Burnout Boulevard. After years of doing too much activity, often in our own strength and outside our giftedness and calling, we are just plain fed up. If we never did another spiritual activity, we would be okay with that as we are comfortable with the fact that we are saved, on our way to Heaven, and that's good enough. Other Christians are oblivious to the seriousness of their calling, while there are some who feel like they have done their part and want to pass on the baton too soon.

Let me encourage you today! It's too soon to nap! It's too soon to go on spiritual vacation! The battle between good and evil is still raging, and the church of Jesus Christ cannot be asleep. Let me close with this message from Hebrews 10:24-25 which states the purpose of the church: "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Army of the Lord, let's wake up, unite, and do the work to which God has called us!

### MEN'S MINISTRY EVENT

with Dan Scott

Go to [www.grandslamministries.com](http://www.grandslamministries.com) to learn more about Dan Scott

Will be held on **Sunday, February 16 from 4:00-6:00pm** in the fellowship hall. A light supper will be served. All men are invited. Men please invite your male family members, friends and neighbors to this Men's Ministry special event.

### PICKLEBALL AT NORTHGATE!



*Northgate and friends Pickleball! The gym is open 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. Greeters are needed on Saturdays from 8:30am-1pm and 11am-1pm for pickleball clinics. If you can help, contact Savanna Andrews.*

### wednesday nights WEDNESDAY SUPPER

Supper is served at 5:15pm. Sign up by calling the church office 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 or see Carole Coker if you can help serve.

#### February menus:

February 5—Chicken pie, pinto beans, whole corn, chocolate cake, rolls and tea

February 12—Country style steak, buttered potatoes, green peas, pecan pie, rolls and tea.

February 19—Hamburger steak, mac & cheese, green beans, brownies, rolls and tea.

February 26—Chick-fil-A



#### Congratulations to:

Congratulations to Barry Jr. & Mandy Agnew on the birth of Noelle Kay Agnew. Gideon is the proud big brother and Barry Sr. & Denise Agnew are the grandparents and Betty Agnew the proud great-grandmother.



We share our sympathies with Judy Holland on the passing of her sister, Mavis Blackmon. Please remember Judy and her family in your prayers.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING will be held Sunday, February 23 at 5:00pm in the Faithful Followers classroom. Transportation help is needed. See Randy Mott.

**February 17 Joy Club**  
Joy Club will meet Monday, February 17 at 10:45am in the fellowship hall. Our special guest will be Randy Blackburn, organist at Earle Street. The deadline to sign up is Tuesday, February 11. Sign up in your Sunday School class or call the church office.



We are starting early to gather items for 2025 Operation Christmas Child. In February, we are collecting stuffed animals. A box is located in the Sunday School hallway. Thank you for helping us get an early start.



Pray for the volunteers and League Middle School students attending Released Time each Friday. Thank you for your prayers!



In case of inclement weather on a Sunday morning or Wednesday night, please check our website at [www.northgatebaptist.com](http://www.northgatebaptist.com), our Facebook page or tune into WYFF-4 OR Fox Carolina for information about services and activities.



Kids Camp (CentriKid) is coming up on June 20-22, 2025 at Gardner Webb University in Boiling Springs, NC. A non-refundable deposit of \$75 is due by Sunday, February 9, 2025. Total cost is \$195 per child. Please see Matthew Winters for more information.