

Northgate Baptist Church

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

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Northgate

Seek. God. First.



Thoughts from our Pastor

As we study biblical and church history, we see that there have been many, many times in history when the light of Christ shined dimly through the lens of the church. I think back to my camping days when my lantern lens would become covered by soot and inhibit the effectiveness and the purpose of the lantern – the shining of light and the illumination of the darkness. Of course, soot on a lantern lens is a simile for sin in the life of a Christian (or a church). The way to fix a soot-covered lantern is to take it apart and clean the glass. Then it shines like new. Spiritual maintenance is vital for anyone who follows Christ and is also vital for a healthy church. This spiritual maintenance is best understood as the spiritual disciplines. As I write this, I am listening to *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald S. Whitney. I recommend this book to you. I strive to keep my lantern lens clean, so the light of Christ might shine through me! But that requires disciplined work. We must be intentional and proactive. Confession, repentance, forgiveness and renewal requires constant attention and effort. While we must be proactive, intentional and disciplined in our individual lives, we must do the same in the life of the church. Remember any local church is simply a corporate collection of individual Christians. If my lantern lens isn't clean, the church's lantern lens isn't going to be clean either. We are only as strong as our weakest member.

It doesn't take long for a lantern lens to become covered by soot. Keeping an effective lantern requires consistent work and discipline. This principle not only applies to the individual Christian but also to any church. Where do we begin? We begin with confession; but confession without repentance is empty. A good way to think about repentance is to consider the four "R's" of repentance – Responsibility, Regret, Resolve and Repair. The first step is to take responsibility for our sin. No one can experience conversion to Christ or renewal in Christ without first taking responsibility for one's sins. In VBS, we teach the ABC's of salvation. "A" is for "Admit," that is taking responsibility for our sin. Without taking responsibility for our sin, we cannot move forward in Christ. Second, regret is to genuinely experience and express remorse and guilt for our sins. Without genuine regret, there can be no healing. Third, resolve is to determine to change one's behavior and to cease to repeat sinful, hurtful or harmful behavior. We often think of resolve as being at the heart of repentance. We define repentance as a legitimate change of direction in a person's life. When we have successfully worked and grown through taking responsibility for our sin, experiencing and expressing a genuine regret of our sin and resolutely resolve not to return to our sin, only then can we hope for repair of the damage that sin causes. Sin separates. It separates us from God and from one another. It is the cancer of the Christian and of the church.

I long for revival and renewal, but first there must be confession, repentance and forgiveness. When is the last time you inspected the lens on your lantern? It might be there is no fruit because the soot is so bad the light simply can't shine. Remember, we must be careful not to ignore the log in our own eye while trying to remove the speck in our brother or sister's eye.

Let's start with confession of sin followed by the four "R's" of repentance.

I'm praying for revival and I'm praying for you,

Barry

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

M
A
R
C
H

Deacons of the Month

Barry Agnew, Sr.
Steve Todd
Joel Warren

Moving? Please notify the church office of your address change

Worship and Prayer Service will be held
Sunday, March 30 from 4:00-5:00pm in the
sanctuary. Come join us for this
special service.



Youth Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, March 2 at 9am in the
fellowship hall. Everyone is invited.
Come and support this fundraiser
for our youth.

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.



If you would like to order a t-shirt for
VBS, scan this QR code to order. The
deadline to order is Friday, March 7.



"MAGNIFIED" VBS AT NORTHGATE WILL BE JUNE 8-12, 2025
from 6:00-8:30pm

The Gate Post



MATTHEW WINTERS, ASSISTANT PASTOR AND WORSHIP LEADER

Ever since Sunday, February 16, I haven't been able to get that service out of my mind. We sang like we normally do, gave announcements like normal, and took up the offering like normal. Pastor Barry got up to preach like normal...until! When he came to the conclusion of the message, he shared his heart with us. He made mention of three things: his desire to baptize someone again soon, the cross in front of the baptistry, and how it thrills his heart when someone walks forward for prayer or salvation during the invitation. God's Spirit began moving! Someone came forward for prayer, and another came forward to join the church after finishing our Discovery Class. That wasn't all that happened!

As we were singing the final stanza of our hymn of invitation, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus", the curtain in front of the baptistry began to move. Before we knew it, the gold cross was knocked upside down by this wind that moved through the baptistry. Pastor Barry so calmly yet authoritatively picks up the cross and lifts it high. When this wind moved through, it reminded me of the symbolism of the Holy Spirit as wind in Acts 2. All through that day and the days to come, I cried out for the wind of God's Spirit to move in each and every ministry of Northgate. I began to cry out for individuals who either attend or are affiliated with Northgate, asking the wind of God to move and radically transform and empower their lives. I don't know about you, but I want a fresh move of God's Spirit to move through His church here at Northgate, bringing the lost to Himself, restoring the backslidden, and calling people to His service.

Almost three years ago, I heard the song "Fire" by CeCe Winans. It has become the cry of my heart since I heard it. As I close with these lyrics, I pray that it will become the cry of your heart too.

Fire fire
Fall on us
Start a new revival
Fire fall on us.

Like it did on the day of pentecost
Rushing in like a mighty wind
Fill us up with your presence and your power
Lord do it again.

We are here crying out on one accord
Let the heavens touch the earth
Come and light a passion in our hearts
And lord let it burn.

PICKLEBALL AT NORTHGATE!



Sundays 4:00-6:00pm Northgate and Friends

Thursdays 5:30-7:30pm Community Pickleball—Open Gym—Northgate members welcome

Saturdays 9-11am and 11am-1pm Learn to play pickleball! Clinics for the community, \$45/person

Visit www.upstatepickleballclinics.com to register

Northgate Greeters are needed for these clinics

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.

March menus:

March 5—Beef tips, lima beans, rice and gravy, apple pie, rolls and tea

March 12—BBQ boneless chicken, baked potatoes, slaw, pound cake, rolls and tea

March 19—Baked pork chops, rice casserole, green beans almondine, carrot cake, rolls and tea

March 26—Chick-fil-A



Cynthia Masters

929 Rutherford Road, Greenville, SC 29609



TIME IS CHANGING
SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Move clocks forward 1
hour on Saturday evening.

Discipleship Opportunities for March

March 16—Spiritual gifts workshop from 4-5pm. We will meet in the fellowship hall.

March 23—Learn how to share your faith workshop from 4-6pm in the fellowship hall.

Both of these workshops will be led by Pastor Barry.

Discipleship
Workshops



The Season of Prayer for North American Missions Board and the Annie Armstrong offering will be March 9-16.

The SBC National goal for 2025 is \$70 Million. Northgate has set a goal of \$3,000. All of this offering will go to Purpose Church.

A prayer guide and offering envelope will be inserted in your bulletin on Sunday, March 9. Pray about what the Lord would have you give to missions.



Rev. Blue Bryan, pastor of Purpose Church, will be speaking at Northgate on Sunday, March 30. Join us for this very special service.



March 17 Joy Club
Joy Club will meet Monday, March 17 at 10:45am in the fellowship hall. Our special guest will be Jack Roper. The deadline to sign up is Tuesday, March 11. Sign up in your Sunday School class or call the church office.



Let's Gather

will be held on Saturday, March 29 from 2:00-4:00pm on the front lawn, weather permitting.

Bagged candy is needed for this event. Boxes are located throughout the church.

These will be times to foster unity and fellowship within our church body. Please plan now to attend this special time and invite your friends, neighbors, relatives, and all you can.