

Northgate Baptist Church

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Greenville, SC 29609
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Thoughts from Baxter McGuirt

Spring is a time of busyness. Houses get cleaned. Gardens go in. Exams loom. We look forward to warmer weather and greener pastures. But Spring begins in March with ground left cold and barren by the Winter we struggle to leave behind. Our hearts are no different – we long for new growth and revived hearts, yet God’s first answer to prayer for revival is nearly always to show us our sin. Longing to grow, we find that our hearts are stubbornly cold and stony.

We can give up, turn away from Jesus, and remain just as we are. Faced with our sinful hearts and our lack of faith we may make a half-hearted effort to improve, but then quickly give up. We may go through the motions, may keep up appearances, but underneath we’re unchanged, unrepentant. Jesus denounced those who did the same in his day, those who, hearing his call, refused to draw near to him. Take a look at how he addresses this attitude in cities like Chorazin and Bethsaida in Matthew 11:20-24.

Or we can try to fix ourselves. Confronted with our problems we try to solve them with our own wisdom and strength. We embark on a religious self-improvement regimen. It can look good on the outside, but it leaves us exhausted, bitter, and no better off. This was the life of the Pharisees, who were furious at the hungry disciples of Jesus one afternoon for nothing more than plucking a few heads of grain as a snack on a Sabbath day. (Mt. 12:1-8)

Sandwiched between these stories in Matthew, Jesus shows us a better way. Jesus prays, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.” (Mt. 11:25-26). Between the unrepentant cities and the unrepentant Pharisees, Jesus was exhausted. Maybe that afternoon as he trudged toward another town filled with disbelief and unrepentance, some children passed by. They ran through the fields with the simple joy of childhood. They lifted his spirits. He turned and saw his exhausted followers, who were trudging along as well, beaten down by debates with the Pharisees and the hard hearts in the cities. He didn’t call them to harder labor or to greater effort, but encouraged them with the longing of their hearts. “Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

This is the way of Jesus, open to every tired and burdened soul. Not the doomed ignorance of Chorazin and Bethsaida. Not the cold, stern “wisdom” of the elder leaders in Jerusalem, or the tiresome demands of the Pharisees dogging their heels. Jesus offers us a better way. Trapped between those who demand we do better and our stubborn inability to change, Jesus says to us, “Come.” Faced with our cold and stony hearts, and lacking the strength to change them, Jesus offers to pull with us: “Take my yoke.” Battered by the holy but impossible demands of the religious, Jesus proclaims to us: “I am gentle and lowly in heart.” Exhausted by our sin and our futile attempts to conquer it, Jesus coaxes us to a place at his feet and whispers, “You will find rest for your souls.”

Don’t give up. Don’t go it alone. Come find rest in Jesus.

The Gate Post

Pastoral Staff

Dr. Barry Jimmerson
(864) 320-9076
Pastor

Mr. Baxter McGuirt
(864) 906-1906
Minister of Students
and Education

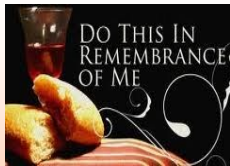
Mrs. Ruth Harrison
Minister of Children
and Their Families

Mrs. Maranda Williams
Minister of Preschool
and Their Families

Mr. Matthew Ellenburg
Supply Worship Leader

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Deacons of the Month
Robby Bannister
Don Durham
Ted Garner



**The Ordinance of the Lord’s Supper
will be Sunday, March 31.**

NO fellowship meal.

**There will be no Children’s Church
on March 31.**



The Season of Prayer for
North American Missions
Board and the Annie
Armstrong offering will be
March 3–10. The SBC

National goal for 2019 is \$70 Million.
Northgate has set a goal of \$2,500.

The 2019 theme is “Sending Hope”. The scripture
verse is “...He has given us a new birth into a living
hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the
dead.” (1 Peter 1:3 CSB).

A prayer guide will be inserted in your bulletin on
Sunday, March 3. Pray about what the Lord would
have you give to missions.

A CALL TO CORPORATE PRAYER

**Church-wide prayer will be held on Sunday,
March 17 at 5:30pm in the Friendship classroom.
Come join us in prayer.**

March GROW @ 6:00pm

4 Team G
11 Team R
18 Team O
25 Team W



TIME IS CHANGING—MARCH 10
Move clocks up 1 hour



Go Wild at VBS Expo

When: Saturday, March 23

8 am to 12 Noon

Where: Fairview Baptist Church

Greer, South Carolina

What: Training for all VBS leaders

This training event, sponsored by the South Carolina Baptist Convention, will excite you about VBS and help you learn how to effectively teach and reach through VBS.

All VBS leaders, please make plans to attend this training event. Please contact Ruth Harrison at 864-380-7850 or email her at rharrison@northgatebaptist.com if you plan to attend. The deadline to register is Sunday, March 17.

Evangelical Institute Day

On Sunday, March 24, Northgate welcomes the Staff and Students of the Evangelical Institute as they join us in worship. Art Nuernberg, the Pastoral Director of the El Bible School, will preach the message for our worship service. Northgate is one of the trusted Greenville congregations where students may attend church, and this day is a special opportunity to express our thanks to the Lord, and our appreciation to the staff and students.

To learn more about The Evangelical Institute and their associated ministries visit the website: www.eibibleschool.org



Happy March Northgate! The Preschool Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds! We have had several parents/grandparents sign up to help in the nursery and during our Worship hour. Our Preschoolers are learning so much in the Old Testament right now during our Preschool church and we will continue to go through the Bible. If you have a calling to help with the Preschoolers please let us know. It is such a rewarding experience to see their little lives being touched by Jesus Christ. **The next parent/grandparent breakfast is planned for March 3, 2019. It is a drop in and will begin at 8:30 am in the Preschool wing.** Come and help us March Into Missions! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 430-3188 or you can email me at mwilliams@northgatebaptist.com. I love hearing from church members. Praying for each one of you to have a fabulous and Jesus filled March.

**Blessings,
Maranda Williams
Minister of Preschoolers and Their Families**

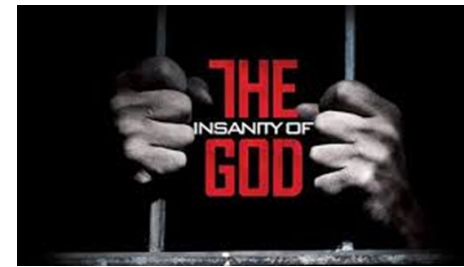


**2019 VBS WILL BE
SUNDAY-THURSDAY
JULY 21-25
5:45pm—8:30pm**

Welcome Back Pastor Barry

Pastor Barry will return to the pulpit on Sunday, March 3. Plan to be here to welcome him back from his sabbatical and let him know he was missed.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Warren Peden for filling the pulpit during Pastor Barry's absence.



At 5:30pm on March 3rd, Northgate will be showing **The Insanity of God** in the fellowship hall. Based on the book by Nik Ripken, this movie explores the persecuted church around the globe, and highlights the ways God has shown up again and again among his people. Due to the disturbing nature of some scenes, we will have childcare available for nursery through sixth grade. A trailer of the movie will be shown in the Sunday morning service of March 3.



Winterjam is this month! This year's concert will be on March 24, 2019 and will feature Newsboys, Danny Gokey, Mandisa, Rend Collective, and more. Greg Stier from Dare2Share will be speaking as well. Doors will open at 3:30pm; the church bus will leave the church by 3:00pm. Tickets are \$35, and if you'd like to attend **please RSVP as soon as possible to the church office or to Baxter McGuirt!**



**Saturday, April 6
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
For Kids: Birth-Grade 6**



WMU will meet on Tuesday, March 26 at 10:00am in the Crossties classroom. All ladies of the church are invited to join us. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Danciu at 884-4885.



If you are CPR trained and your training is up-to-date, please call the church office at 864-242-3805 or email Tina at admin@northgatebaptist.com.

We need to update our records, so please let us know.



Northgate's Men's Prayer Breakfast is now on **Tuesday mornings 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.**

Deacon Ministry

Please pray for our Deacons as they minister in so many important ways at Northgate.

