

# Northgate Baptist Church

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# Northgate

Seek. God. First.

## Thoughts from our Pastor

I miss my church family!! I can't wait to come back together, but I don't want to go back to where we were. I want better. I want to be stronger. I want to be more effective. I want to be more surrendered to Christ. And I'm not alone!

From what I hear, nearly every Christian says the same thing. But how we will be after the coronavirus has settled down largely depends upon what we do now. Now is the time to break some bad habits and start some new, healthy ones. In fact, "Time" is the key word. Most of us have more free time than we've had in a long while. The question is, "What are we doing with it?"

Some of us are facing some giants in our lives. Some of us were even before this virus hit us. Giants come in all shapes and sizes, but the point is the same, they seem insurmountable. And while, "The giant may be bigger than us, but it is not bigger than God" is true, there are some things we can do to contribute to success over the giants in our lives.

Did you know that the average American spends about three hours a day watching television? Instead, we can use some of that time to invest in our relationship with Jesus Christ. We can read the Bible more. We can read through the Gospel of John in about two hours. As a matter of fact, if we could read without interruption, we can read through the Old Testament in about 60 hours and the New Testament in about 20 hours. The point is, we need discipline to achieve success. That is true in every area of life: financial, physical, emotional, and spiritual. Personally, I think Christians read too many books about the Bible or books to improve their spiritual lives rather than simply reading the Bible. Hey, there are 66 really good books in that book! I hope you will spend more time reading the Bible.

I am reminded of the contest between two lumberjacks: One guy was big and strong and the other was small and scrawny. The winner would be the one who cut down the most trees in a days' time. So, at 8:00 am, at the opening whistle, the big guy started chopping and trees started coming down! By 10:00 am, he was way ahead of his opponent. He took a moment to look over, and to his shock his opponent was sitting on a log eating an apple and drinking some water. The big guy just kept on chopping. At noon, he looked over and again, his opponent was taking another break. The big guy thought to himself, "This is going to be like taking candy from a baby." But he wasn't going to let up. He kept chopping. At 3:00 pm, the smaller guy was taking his third break of the day.

At 5:00 pm, the whistle blew, and the contest was over. The judges called the lumberjacks together while they counted the downed trees. By 5:30, it was clear that the winner was the smaller guy! Well, the big lumberjack was furious, alleging that someone must have cheated! He began to argue his case, "Wait a minute! As soon as the opening whistle blew, I started cutting down trees and didn't stop until the final whistle. And three times I looked over and Shorty was taking a break!" The judges assured him that the count was accurate – the smaller guy was the winner. It was then that the smaller guy spoke, "When you looked over and saw me taking a break, not only was I resting and eating a snack. I was sharpening my axe. Every lumberjack knows you use a sharp axe to fell more trees."

*In our current coronavirus shelter-in-place-stay-at-home-order crisis, get some rest. You probably need it. But don't just rest. Sharpen your axe. Be ready to be better when this is over.*

*I love you and I miss you.*



# The Gate Post

### Pastoral Staff

Dr. Barry Jimmerson  
(864) 320-9076  
Pastor

Rev. Barry Agnew, Jr.  
Minister of Students  
and Education

Mrs. Teresa Green  
Interim Minister of  
Preschoolers and their Families

Mr. Dennis Page  
Worship Leader

# M

# A

# Y


### Deacons of the Month

Barry Agnew, Sr.  
Walt Green  
John Fok

*Moving? Please notify the church office of your address change*



The church office will be closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of **Memorial Day.**

 On **Sunday, May 10** we honor our mothers. Again this year, Northgate will make a donation to Shepherd's Gate in honor of all of our mothers.



### Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Northgate's goal is \$2,500  
Received to date \$2,133  
Thank you for your faithful giving to missions.

**Basketball Camp** scheduled for **June 8-12** has been canceled. After talking with Coach Wimphrie, we felt it was best to cancel this year. We will schedule the camp for June 2021.



## A Message from Barry Agnew, Jr., Minister of Students and Education

Every Wednesday now when I get home I start to get set up. I grab a chair from the breakfast room table and set it just in front of the couch. I don't sit in the chair though. That's where my laptop goes. With my Bible on my right, and Mandy on my left I pull up the video chat app on my computer and center the camera squarely on both of us. After texting the students one last reminder I watch as one by one by one their heads begin to pop up on screen as they join our online Bible study.

Things certainly look pretty different right now but I feel beyond blessed to be able to have access to the type of technology that allows us to still dig into the scriptures together just like we would if we were all together. In fact, when you study your history you begin to notice that God often uses what we consider to be bad circumstances for His glory. One of the early church fathers named Tertullian very famously said "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Tertullian wrote these words around 200 AD during a time when Christians were enduring devastating persecution. Yet the greater the persecution escalated, the faster the church seemed to grow! You see, God is in the business of bringing glory to Himself by working through what we see as bad circumstances, and I promise you He will work through these circumstances now! **As we all continue to adapt and grow through these tough times let's make sure to continue to pray and seek unique opportunities to see God move in unexpected and amazing ways!**

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## A Message from Dennis Page, Worship Leader



### Worshiping in Spirit "or" Truth

In John 4:24, Jesus makes the statement, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth". Oddly, it seems many in today's church, have taken out the word "and" and replaced it with the word "or".

Sam Storms is the "Lead pastor for preaching and vision" at Bridgeway Church in Oklahoma City. In an article written for the Gospel Coalition, Rev. Storms says our worship is not meant to be formed by what feels good, but by the light of what's true. Some prefer to worship only "in spirit" but couldn't care less about truth. In fact, they think focusing on truth has the potential to quench the Spirit. The standard by which they judge the success of worship is the thrills and chills they experience.

Conversely, he says others prefer to worship only "in truth" and are actually offended when they or others feel anything or experience heightened emotions. He knows of a pastor who wishes his church didn't have music, because he felt the emotions stirred by music cause distractions that take away from the message.

The correct response, of course, is that "those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth". Rev. Storms cites John Piper, who says it this way:

"Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy and a church full of artificial admirers. On the other hand, emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates shallow people who refuse the discipline of rigorous thought. But true worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship."

Rev. Storms concludes by talking about his own church: "Some will say we're too experiential in our worship, others contend we're too theological, but I don't think you can be too much of either, as long as both are embraced, and God is honored.

None of this means you have to worship the way other people at your church do. If the truth of God's Word moves you to lift your hands, dance, or shout aloud, God bless you. If the truth of God's Word leads you into solemn reverence, as you remain seated and immovable, God bless you.

But let's make certain that in either case we are worshiping in both spirit and truth. For it is just such people the Father is seeking."

**And all God's people said, Amen!**



### Prayer Vigil

Prayer matters and prayer works. It just does. In Mark 11:24 Jesus said "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Over the past two months we have held two separate 24 hour prayer emphases, and both times God has faithfully responded to the prayer of His people in many different ways. Knowing that God works through prayer, and knowing that we are commanded to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) we feel led to continue to plan a 24 hour prayer emphasis monthly. **This month we will be praying on Friday, May 15th and Saturday, May 16th. We will have 48, 30-minute time allotments of prayer. We will go from 9am to 9pm on Friday and 9am to 9pm on Saturday.** When you are done with your prayer time you will call the next person on the list and pray with then on the telephone. Our emphasis will continue to be in four areas:

- Our witness for Christ here at Northgate
- Our obedience to the Lord here at Northgate
- Our love for one another here at Northgate
- Lastly we will also pray not only for healing during the pandemic, but also that God would work through the circumstances surrounding Covid-19

You can sign up for a spot by calling into the church during business hours. As always we encourage EVERYONE to sign up and we are beyond excited about what God is already doing through the prayers of His church at Northgate!



We now have ONLINE GIVING! Just go to our website:

**Online Giving** [www.northgatebaptist.com](http://www.northgatebaptist.com) and click on the tab at the top that says "Online Giving."

This is a very quick, secure and easy way to give your tithes and offerings during this time we are not gathering on Sunday morning. You may also mail your offering to the church or use bill pay through your bank. Thank you for your continued faithful giving during these times.

## Grounds Committee Update

Your grounds committee has been busy the last several months. We have removed the excess growth around the property line as well as the "old playground area". **Our thanks to Tom Simon, Walt Green, Chasie Bearden, Richard Anderson, and Perry and Debby Folk.** Our sod survived the winter and is very pretty and green, azaleas are blooming and the Northgate Campus has every appearance of spring. During the stay at home order, our neighbors have been walking past our facility with their children and animals and have observed that Northgate Baptist is still alive and serving our Risen Christ.



We share our sympathies with Jack Nance and family on the passing of Patti, long time member and pianist at Northgate. Continue to remember Jack and the family in prayer.



Class633 would like to invite all preschool and children to join us for Sunday school from 9:30-10:00 ONLINE until meeting in person at Northgate resumes. The web link is below:

<https://libertyu.webex.com/meet/lshaler>

If you are unable to get online, you may also call in at 1-408-418-9388. When prompted, enter the following number: 792593329#.

From 10:00-10:30, Class633 will be discussing passages from the book of Colossians. Anyone is welcome to join us then too!

**Hope to see you all in person soon!**

