

Northgate Baptist Church

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Greenville, SC 29609
www.northgatebaptist.com

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Northgate
Seek. God. First.

Thoughts from our Pastor

According to the Gallup organization, the question, “**Did you, yourself, happen to attend church, synagogue, mosque or temple in the last seven days or not?**” has been asked of Americans on January 1, since 1940. The highest percentage of “Yes” answers came in 1955 and 1958 with 49% respectively. The lowest percentage of “Yes” answers came in 2021 with 29%. As of January 1, 2023, 31% answered “Yes” to that question.



I’m unsure about polls. Statistics can be manipulated. Samples can be complicated.

In 2007, when I was diagnosed with colon cancer, I asked my oncologist for a prognosis. He told me that I had a 67% chance of surviving for five years; but the really good news was that if I made it to that five-year mark, then my “chances” of surviving the cancer went up considerably to the point that I would likely eventually die from some cause other than colon cancer. I distinctly remember the chastisement that I received from the Lord for seeking the counsel of a man rather than trusting my future to the Lord. **It was then that God led me to Psalm 31:15 – “My times are in Your hand.”**

One of our greatest motivators is hope; but we have to be careful where we look for hope. If we have financial troubles and we buy a lottery ticket, then our hope is in the luck of the lottery, not in the will of God. The mistake is not made at the point of the sale of the unlucky ticket with the unlucky numbers, but in misplaced hope. And since attitude precedes action, as Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, sin begins in the mind – with a sinful thought. **Matthew 5:27-28 – “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”**

Attitude precedes action. In secular psychology, that is often referred to as TRA (theory of reasoned action). In psychology, TRA is a complicated and sophisticated matrix of ideas that may result in predicted behavior. TRA is another feeble attempt to reach the given conclusions of the teachings of the Bible. Attitude precedes action is defined in the Bible. James helps us in the first chapter of his epistle. **James 1:14-16 – “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”** James summed up the whole matter in one concise verse: **James 1:22 – “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”**

Beware of misplaced hope. Hope is found in the Word of God as it reveals the person of God’s Son and our only hope, Jesus Christ. I encourage you to join me in a quest not to know more, but to know God better through the disciplines of our faith in Jesus Christ.

My times are in Your hand.

Blessings, *Barry*

Pastoral Staff

Dr. Barry Jimmerson
(864) 320-9076
Pastor

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

Mr. Dennis Page
Worship Leader

Mrs. Beth Todd
Interim Minister of
Preschoolers and their Families

Mrs. Tina Jimmerson
Interim Minister of
Children and their families

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Deacons of the Month

Josh Capps
Will Hunt

Moving? Please notify the church office of your address change

thank you Thank you to everyone that donated to Kids Camp and Youth camp. You made it possible for many to attend these special summer events.

VBS was a great success! We could not do it without each and every volunteer. Thank you for making a difference in so many lives and sharing God’s love.

Week of Prayer

The Week of Prayer for Northgate is August 20-27, 2023. Special Prayer Guides will be available in your bulletin on Sunday, August 20.

BACK to SCHOOL

School starts back on August 8. Please pray for our children, principals, administrators, teachers and all of those involved in our schools and the lives of our children.

Help to keep our children safe and observe all school zone speed limits.



We are collecting items for 2023 Operation Christmas Child. In the month of August we are collecting school supplies. There is a collection box in the Sunday School hallway. If you are unable to shop, we will do it for you. See Linda Smith for details.

Week of Prayer

August 20-27

The Gate Post

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

It's funny how you're feeling about school change as you get older. For young kids school is often exciting. It's new things, new experiences, and new friends. As kids get older it's common for school to begin to lose its luster. Kids begin to live for summer and Winter break and eventually for graduation itself. Now once adults become parents perceptions can shift again. You love your kids but summer can be exhausting when they're home all day. The beginning of the school year is often a relief for everyone. However for adults of non-school aged kids also feel differently. Depending on where you live and/or work the return of school traffic can be a significant pain point.

When it comes to church, the school year represents opportunity. When students heads back to the routine of school it often helps families to get back into the routines of church. Summer on the other hand is filled with opportunities to reach a lot of new students. Between camp, VBS, and other special events we have had lots of new faces hanging around in our student ministry. Our prayer is that the fall will give us the opportunity to get these new and visiting students plugged in, saved, and disciplined here at God's church at Northgate.

So here's what I ask. When you see a face you don't recognize, smile and say hi. Many of our visitors have never really been in a church before and it can be a pretty intimidating experience. Make sure to show grace and love where it's needed. You never know what kind of an impact a small gesture of kindness can make for the kingdom of God. Also pray. Pray that God would move as we move into the new school year. **Pray that God would take students from death and sin to new life in Jesus Christ. Thank you all as always for all you do to support our student ministry and I can't wait to see what God is going to do as we move into the new school year!**



A Message from Dennis Page, Worship Leader

I'd like to share the lyrics to a song I wrote some time ago. The song is somewhat autobiographical, but it's also aspirational, a song for us all, as we press on toward the goal.

Come and Cleanse This Temple

Our body is God's temple and His Spirit lives within,

Yet we trifle with the worldly, and we yoke ourselves to sin.

Tell me, how can a pure fountain pour out bitter with the sweet?

Lord, take me to your mountain. Here I am, Lord wash me clean.

Chorus:

Come and cleanse this temple Lord, oh make me wholly pure.

Come and cleanse this temple Lord, till all I am is yours.

Come and cleanse this temple Lord, I give you everything.

Sweep away this heart and make me clean, a house fit for a King.

The potter's wheel is spinning as You mold this piece of clay.

Sometimes I may get frightened and sometimes I look away.

But Lord I know to Christ I'm sealed; You are my heart's desire.

And where I go, my life I'll yield to Your refining fire.

Chorus

Take me, make me, wholly Thine. May my life be pure and poured out wine.

Burn away the chaff, let your fire refine, till my life is tried and true.

Till there's nothing left, Lord but you.

Chorus



Friday and Saturday

August 18 & 19

9am-9pm each day

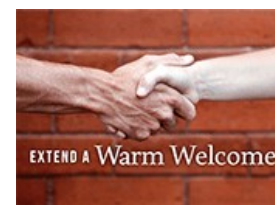
This month, our monthly prayer emphasis will be **Friday and Saturday, August 18 & 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. both days.**

I hope you will make plans to join in the August prayer vigil. You can sign up for a spot by calling the church office 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!

Church Office: 864-242-3805
Email: admin@northgatebaptist.com

We Need Kids Worship helpers!

Come be a part of kids worship on Sunday morning in the children's area. We need more volunteers to help during worship. If you desire to help our kids learn about Jesus contact Tina Jimmerson.



If you serve as an usher, greeter, security or in kids worship, please take note each week on the back of your bulletin so you will know you are serving in the upcoming week. Thank you for serving in these very important Northgate ministries. **Please arrive at church on Sunday mornings by 9am. AND please wear a nametag!**



Tina Jimmerson
Interim Minister of Children

School starts back soon!. Let's pray for our students as they return to school.

August Wonderful Wednesdays

6:30pm-7:30pm

August 2 Water Night- slip & slide
(for kids and preschoolers- bring a towel)

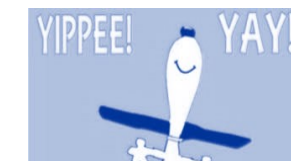
August 9 Critter Keeper

August 16 AWANA Kick-off

August 23 AWANA begins

Bring a friend to all August Wonderful Wednesdays and AWANA.

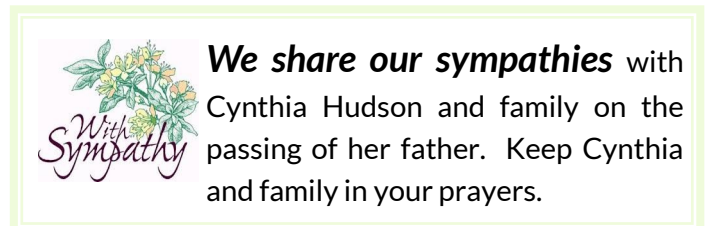
Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers that work with out children! We need another teacher for T & T (3-6 grades.) See Tina Jimmerson if you can help.



PLANNING PACKETS

Planning packets will be ready for pick-up on Sunday, September 3. They are located at the bottom of the stairs near the Sunday School office and should be returned there when completed. The packets must be completed and returned by **Sunday, October 8.**

Your Cluster Leader can assist you with your packet if you have any questions about completing it for 2024.



We share our sympathies with Cynthia Hudson and family on the passing of her father. Keep Cynthia and family in your prayers.

