

# Northgate Baptist Church

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Greenville, SC 29609  
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# Northgate

Seek. God. First.

## Thoughts from our Pastor



In August, 2023, my wife, Tina, and I visited our daughter, Laura, and her husband (Pierre) and his family in France. We visited the regions of Normandy, Brittany and Paris.

I am a bit of a nerd in my endeavors. I typically read exhaustively about every little thing that I might possibly expect to experience on a trip like the one to France. For instance, before our trip, I read several travel blogs on how to beat jet lag (with success). I tried (without success) to learn some basic French words. I worked hard not to be surprised, but of course I was.

Before I went, I already knew that France is the least evangelized nation in Europe. In preparation for any spiritual impact that I might have, I researched and located Baptist churches in the areas where we would be on the two Sundays that we were there. The first Sunday, August 27, we attended a Baptist church in Caen. The service was 1 ½ hours long and very good. We had a great time of worship. The second Sunday, September 3, we worshipped in a Baptist church in Paris (Bible Baptist Church). The service was two hours long and it was wonderful. We met many new friends in Christ.

I prepared to guard against pick-pocket thieves, which led me to read and discover that in the USA, there are 5 violent crimes for every 100,000 people. In France, there is 1 violent crime for every 100,000 people. I knew that, but I didn't "feel" it until I arrived. There are too many examples to give and too many stories to tell than space allows here. Suffice it to say, I felt safer in France than I typically do in America. And that led me to begin to meditate and pray about how that could be.

The answer is moralism. Moralism is a very dangerous threat to biblical Christianity. A person can be moral and not go to Heaven. Good works doesn't save us from our sins – only Jesus Christ can do that. A great article about the dangers of moralism was written by Al Mohler in 2009 - <https://albertmohler.com/2009/09/03/why-moralism-is-not-the-gospel-and-why-so-many-christians-think-it-is>.

France is a moral nation, but it is not a Christian nation. Moralism led to the secularization and eventually the post-Christian culture of Western Europe. The same thing is happening in America, except that we are less moral in many ways.

Many Americans are moral but unsaved. Good but not born again. Good is not good enough! **Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3: "Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3).**

People are people. We all share the same need – the forgiveness of our sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that the world would see Jesus Christ, not as a religious and historical personality, but that we would see Him as John the Baptist saw Him. **"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).**

Jesus Christ is our only hope.

### 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

Will Kirby  
Randy Mott  
Matthew Vaughn

Moving? Please notify the church office of your address change



**We are collecting items for 2023 Operation Christmas Child.** In the month of October we are collecting for 10-14 year old boys. Items needed are tools, duct tape and wallets. 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.



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS START OCTOBER 11 !!**

**Sign up by calling the church office by noon on Monday. Suppers are every Wednesday from 5:30-6:15pm**

**\$6 for adults \$3 for children under 12**

If you sign up and don't come or call to cancel, you will owe for the meal. You can sign-up to be on a standing list or you may sign up weekly by calling the church office by noon on Monday.

**Planning Packets are due to be turned in by October 8.**



### October is Minister Appreciation Month

*Please pray for our Northgate Ministers: Barry, Barry, Jr., Dennis, Beth and Tina. Let them know how much you appreciate their ministry in God's church at Northgate.*



# The Gate Post

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

**Believe it or not fall is finally here!** The air is finally cooling off and the leaves are poised to change. With this change comes new opportunities to serve the Lord here at Northgate. For instance, our Released Time ministry with League Academy has officially kicked off and our Fall Festival is coming up on October 15th. In fact, you may have notice a renewed effort to engage with our community as we have moved in the latter third of the year. In September, we had our first annual Block Party and are moving on to another community event just a month later. This falls in line with our desire to seriously connect with the community around us for the sake of the gospel. So let me ask, are you a part of what God is doing in His church at Northgate?

I talk to people all the time that lament about the state of the United States, and for good reason. The question isn't about the moral and spiritual health of our nation. We know that it's not great. The question for us as followers of Christ is what are we doing about it? **Romans 10:13-14 says "for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?"** While we are putting a lot of effort into outreach events right now just remember that no event has ever reached a person for the gospel. Rather, God chooses to use people to reach people with the gospel. With this in mind I want to encourage you to be a part of the outreach opportunities here at Northgate. The only way we will reach our community is if we, as the body of Christ, come together and meet this community face to face. **If you put yourself out there, if you act on faith to serve the church to reach our community for Jesus, I promise you God will show up!**



## A Message from Dennis Page, Worship Leader



This cartoon strikes me as funny. Just in case you can't read the small print, I'll help you out. The pastoral search committee is informing the prospective pastor of its expectations. The chairperson says, "We're hoping you'll lead us on a journey of transformation without requiring any real changes."

We laugh but we all know there's a grain of truth there. In fact, if truth be told, it applies to all of us on several levels. On a macro level it may sound like this. "This new preacher comes in, next thing we know we're having more prayer meetings, there's new kinds of music, the choir's not singing every Sunday and when they do sing, they don't wear choir robes. "There's even talk about refurbishing my family's pew." I don't like it one bit.

But it also applies on a personal level. We come to Christ, letting Him transform our lives, but we may hold back, we don't want to change

everything, we don't really want to be a whole new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). I don't want anything that requires real change. We pray, "I love you Lord, I'll do anything, I'll go anywhere you ask me." "God, I want to be your man (or woman). You can count on me." But, when it really comes down to counting the cost, written way down deep in our heart, we may find there, in very small print, a caveat which states, as long as it's in my comfort zone, and on my terms. We can all be grateful the apostle Paul didn't have a caveat (read 2 Corinthians 11: 22-28).

Is your pocketbook surrendered? Have you considered being a greeter, helping in the children's ministry, youth, nursery, or singing with the choir? Why not? "I just don't have time", or "last year Bob hurt my feelings and I don't want to be around him". (We're beginning practice on our Christmas musical, talk with me after church)

So the tagline to the cartoon "We're hoping you'll lead us on a journey of transformation without requiring any real changes." Now, that's funny... or is it?

*In Him Who first loved us, Dennis*



## Friday and Saturday

October 20 & 21

9am-9pm each day

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

I hope you will make plans to join in the October 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**

**Fall Colors and Lunch:** The Northgate Fall Leaf Trip will go to Caesar's Head State Park Monday, October 30 to view God's Glory and to eat lunch. The bus will leave Northgate at 9:30am and return about 2:30pm. Call, text, email Carole Coker for a reservation at 864-320-2263 or [bryantcoker315@gmail.com](mailto:bryantcoker315@gmail.com).

**Breakfast and Baroque: Join your Northgate friends on Monday, October 2, 2023** for breakfast at Denny's and a viewing of some of the collection of the Bob Jones University's Baroque art at First Presbyterian Church. The bus will leave Northgate at 9:00, go to Denny's for breakfast, then to FPC at 11:00 for a tour and a program. We will return to Northgate by 1:30. Call, text, or email Carole Coker for reservation 864-320-2363 or [bryantcoker315@gmail.com](mailto:bryantcoker315@gmail.com).



**We share our sympathies** with Teresa Green and family on the passing of her father, Billy Rainey; Joan Hall on the passing of Ken, Joey Hall and Carol Dill and their families. Keep all of these families in your prayers.

**Leadership Council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 3 at 6:30pm**  
**Church Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 11 at 6:30pm**



## October Joy Club

**JOY Club will meet Monday, October 16 at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall.** Grace Notes Quartet will share their testimonies through song. Call the church office or sign up in your Sunday School class by **October 9** for your reservation. **The meal charge is \$8.00/ person and is payable at the door.**



## Fall Festival at Northgate

**Sunday, October 15 from 3:00-5:00pm**

**Join us for food, games, cake walk, face painting and activities for kids of all ages.**

**CANDY IS NEEDED!!**

**We need donations of candy..candy..candy! There are boxes all around the church to place the candy in. All donations are appreciated.**

## Northgate Discovery Class

**Discovery Class** will be held on Sunday, **October 1, 8 and 15 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.



## Sunday, October 22

is Friend Day at Northgate.

Invite a friend or two to come worship with you!