

# Northgate Baptist Church

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

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Northgate  
Seek. God. First.

## Thoughts from our Pastor

Someone has said that the Epistle of James is the Proverbs of the New Testament. Indeed, it is one of our favorite books. It is filled with much pragmatic wisdom and knowledge. It puts the practice of our faith into perspective like no other New Testament book. One of the many interesting verses in this epistle is James 1:17:



*“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*

The short verse (16) that immediately precedes the important reminder of verse 17, is an important reminder in itself: *Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.*

Emotions and worldly thinking can tempt us (see verses 12-15) into leaning upon our own understanding and going our own way. It is imperative that we cling to truth. In this crazy world in which we live, it is easy to slide into a “reason over faith” mentality. This becomes magnified in the midst of trials, when we are tempted to question the trustworthiness and even the reality of God. At a time when we struggle to find satisfaction and a reason for our circumstances, James challenges us to look beyond our circumstances. In verse 17, James urges us to reflect upon truth. The truth is, the Lord knows our circumstances even when we do not understand them. We do not have to understand every unanswered question in life, we simply need to trust the Lord. Life always comes down to our faith in Jesus Christ.

The Lord never changes. As the old Southern Gospel song says, *the God on the mountain is the God in the valley.* He doesn’t go from being a good God to a bad God when our circumstances change. He never changes.

We are all familiar with the phenomenon of a solar or lunar eclipse. A solar eclipse happens when the moon comes between the earth and the sun, casting a shadow on the earth. A lunar eclipse happens when the sun casts earth’s shadow on the moon. **The sun can never be in shadow.** That scientific fact is easy for us to understand. No one ever doubts if the sun is there in the midst of a solar eclipse. Rather, we understand that we are in the midst of a brief shadow that will soon pass. James was reminding us of the theological fact that the Son can never be in shadow either. He can’t but we can; and the shadow of our circumstances will soon pass.

So, when faced with challenging ordeals in life; when we find ourselves in the shadow, remember that the sun nor the Son can ever be in shadow. We may *feel* alone, abandoned, hopeless or helpless but *feelings* may be impaired by the shadow of difficult circumstances. Remember, shadows can deceive. “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.” When we can’t see the hand of God we can trust His heart – His Word. When hard times befall us, let’s remember to place our trust in the God of our circumstances and not in our circumstances. Fearing our circumstances leads to deception. Following our Savior leads to success. James wrapped it up in 2:26 – *Faith without works is dead.* Even when we can’t see the sunshine of life we can trust the Son and we can follow Him by faith. Ultimately, our behavior will reveal our faith.

Blessings,

### 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

Gene Grant  
Mike Shaw  
Dean Waters

Moving? Please notify the church office of your address change



A retirement reception will be held for Dennis & Peggy Page on Sunday, February 11 immediately following the worship service in the fellowship hall.

### Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Northgate’s goal \$4,000  
Offering received \$6,305

**Praise the Lord!**  
**Thank you for your faithful giving.**

### S.T.A.N.D.



Youth Worship Night will be February 18 from 5:00-7:00pm. Students are encouraged to invite friends.



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

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

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 each Tuesday.** The menu for February: February 7—Subs; February 14—Assorted sandwiches; February 21—Hotdogs; February 28—Chick-fil-A



**Contributions:** Contribution statements for 2023 have been mailed. If you do not receive your statement within 10 days, please contact Brenda in the financial office at 864-242-3805 ext. 15.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

**The Gate Post**

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

Last month I had a conversation with an up and coming church planter. This specific church planter is in the process of planting a church in a suburb outside of Boston and is about six months away from their official launch date. His testimony really resonated with me. He's from Georgia originally but lives with his wife and kids just outside of this community in Boston. There are absolutely no evangelical churches in the area in question and for years they would tell each other that if God would plant a church in that community that they would love to go support it. After some time it finally hit them. Maybe we're the ones who God is calling to plant this church? The rest is history.

Faith is easy when it's not us doing it. We love stories from the champions of the faith. We love to hear about God moving in people's lives in amazing and supernatural ways. However, we rarely see believers stepping out on faith. So the question is simple. Where is God calling you to step out of your comfort zone? Where is God calling you to do something that you would have never otherwise considered doing?

This coming June we're taking a mission trip back up to Boston to serve in one of the most unreached communities in the US. While this is hardly a difficult trip, I always enjoy taking people on mission trips that have never been on one before. It seems like every time someone steps out of their comfort zone and goes on a mission trip they almost always want to go back. In fact, every single member of our 2023 Boston mission team are going to be heading back to Boston in 2024 along with even more people! Even if you're unable to do something like go on a mission trip I do ask that you pray and ask if God is calling you to give sacrificially to support ministries like this. From youth camp, to children's camp, to our 2024 Boston mission trip these types of ministries depend on the financial giving of our members here at Northgate to happen. With this in mind, I want to personally thank everyone here for all that they have done, everything they are doing, and everything they will do to support these ministries here in God's church at Northgate, and I for one can't wait to see what God is going to do through faith here in 2024.



## A Message from Dennis Page, Worship Leader

Peggy and I been here almost 5 years. It's so hard to believe! As I had mentioned previously, it has been an honor and a privilege to lead worship at Northgate, and such a blessing to have been accepted as a part of the Northgate family. We love you so much.

Although I'm retiring, rest assured we've got plenty to keep ourselves busy. We're looking forward to spending more time visiting with our 3 kids and 11 grandkids. Our oldest son, John, works for Universal Studios (we do get free tickets.) Our daughter, Julia, lives in Charlotte, is a designer and stay-at-home mom. Our son, Chris, is a missionary who heads up a ministry rescuing, rehabilitating children off city streets in Kenya. They then share Jesus with them and reintegrate them with their families. (Last year 490 kids, family members and neighbors were saved.)

I also plan to spend more time on my creative endeavors. I have several patented inventions I hope to monetize (it's not so easy.)

For my friends in the Social Security benefits age group, if you haven't already done so, I suggest you check out "Classic His Radio" 91.1. There you'll find great songs of the past by artists such as Michael W. Smith, Amy Grant, Steve Green, Sandi Patty, and Steven Curtis Chapman. It will take you back and bless you along the way.

In closing, I want to remind you why we sing:

We don't sing because we need a warm-up before the sermon.

We don't sing so people have time to get to their seats.

We don't sing because we need to be entertained.

We sing because God is good!

We sing because God is worthy!

We sing because it's a communal act of unity in which we declare the glory of God, the gravity of sin and the grandeur of grace!

**We love you! May God be with you till we meet again,**

**Dennis and Peggy**



Friday and Saturday

February 16 & 17

9am-9pm each day

This month, our monthly prayer emphasis will be **Friday and Saturday, February 16 & 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. both days.**

I hope you will make plans to join in the February 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



Bill Cox's ART TO HEART presentations have been featured with great response for more than 40 years at regional, state, and national conferences as well as at hundreds of churches throughout the country and beyond. This unique and powerful worship experience has consistently received enthusiastic response from audiences of all ages, children through senior adults. **Bill will be with us on Sunday, March 3 in our worship service. Begin now inviting family and friends.**



## EASTER EGG HUNT—March 9

**Candy donations are needed for our egg hunt. Boxes are placed throughout the church for the donations. Thank you for the candy donations.**

## KIDSALT CAMP IS July 15-18, 2024

at Charleston Southern University (grades 3-5).

The cost is \$150. A \$50 deposit is due by **February 18.** Contact Tina Jimmerson.

## Joy Club



Joy Club will meet on Tuesday  
February 19 at 10:45.

Our guest will be Rachel Eernisse. Rachel will teach effective and efficient ways to memorize scripture and Barry Agnew, Jr. will explain the 2024 Mission Trip. Bring your Bible.

Meals are \$8/person. Remember, if you have a reservation and do not come, you must pay for your meal. **Sign up in your Sunday School class or call the church office by February 14.**



**Our 2024 Mission trip is officially set for Boston, MA from June 13-17 for Northgate members**

**ages 16 and up. Contact Barry Agnew, Jr. for more information.**

## PARENTS Night Out

**Parents Night Out—Saturday, February 3 from 5-7pm.**

This will be a time for parents to go out to eat together and fellowship while preschool and children's childcare will be provided at the church.



## Congratulations to:

Congratulations to Nick & Laurel Shaler on the birth of their baby girl, Mary Grace Shaler. The proud siblings are Anna Jean and Calhoun. Keep the Shaler family in your prayers.