



A House of Prayer
for All Nations

The Ram's Horn

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THE SHEPHERD'S CORNER

By Pastor Dan Switzer, ED. D.

Your Investment Is Worth It!

Recently I shared with the church the multiple testimonies of how God is changing our lives at Northgate Community Church. I wanted you to know that we as an eldership appreciate your investment into the ministry and for you to understand that your investment is resulting in Christ Changing Lives.

In Matthew 13:8, Jesus spoke about the seed falling on good soil: "Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown" (NIV). Truly the seed you are sowing into the ministry of Northgate is falling on good soil; it is being used by the Lord to produce an abundant crop of changed lives. Let me share a few of those testimonies of Christ Changing Lives at Northgate.

Of utmost importance, we see Christ redeeming whole families. Marriages are being strengthened. Our children are growing through actively praising and serving the Lord. It's such a joy to see our children entering into praise and worship on Sunday mornings. Moreover, we see them participating in the service as well as serving in other areas such as Kids Church. We were truly blessed to see how God used our children on "Kids Sunday"—it was very exciting for our children to see how God can minister his life through them. In the process our children are changed! (By the way, we're looking forward to another "Kids Sunday" at the end of this month.)

Speaking of families, we've seen more and more people become part of "Spiritual Families" through the Flock Group Ministry. In these "house-to-house" gatherings, lives are being changed as we share our lives, receive relevant teaching from God's Word, grow as disciples of Christ, and receive prayer at our point of need. People are growing in Christ and that growth is changed lives—change moving us closer to the full stature of Christ. This kind of change is occurring in the flock groups. Recently, two new flock groups began:

one focusing on young adults and the other focusing on ladies undergirding the church with prayer.

At Vacation Bible School we saw God redeem many children to himself. One middle school girl was led to the Lord by Wilhelmina Woode and Gwen Degraffinreid. Through the gospel message being shared, a young lady saw her need and sincerely came to the Lord—her life was changed forever! In addition to many children coming to the Lord, we were able to send an offering for a school in Liberia to help change lives there.

Speaking of missions, we must not forget the many changed lives that are taking place through our supported missions. Locally, we support the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center which provides support to mothers and saves unborn babies. We also support Young Life which encourages high school students in their personal relationship with the Lord.

Around the world, lives are being changed—particularly the lives of children and orphans—in places such as South Africa and Ghana. We also recently decided to support Diane Oliver in her ministry to orphans in China. We support the translation of the Bible into tribal languages through Wycliffe Bible Translators, and in the Middle East, we support Tikkun and its Messianic influence there.

Speaking of the Middle East, a boy living in that region came to Camp Courage this summer. He shared with a caregiver about learning at Camp Courage to stand up against negative peer pressure. Campers are being changed as they embrace the call to be champions who stand and provide positive Biblical leadership to their peers.

At Living Grace Christian School, lives of families are being changed as we partner with parents to raise up champions of God. An eighth grade boy who desired to come into the school convinced me during his interview that he wanted to come to the school because he realized he needed help in standing up against negative peer pressure. When I saw his attitude and desire to come to the school for the right reasons, I realized that his life could be changed by the opportunity to partner with his parents to help him in his walk with the Lord.

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News from the Nations

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, Rockville, MD – A mother of twins was having financial difficulties making ends meet. Her husband was a college student and she worked part-time. She had heard that we could help . . . and through our Material Assistance Program we could. We were able to provide diapers and formula.

Branch Ministries, Botswana, Rob and Mary Grindley – The following reports are from Pastor Scott Jennings and his recent ministry trip to Botswana with missionaries Rob and Mary Grindley: He ministered at a powerful joint meeting with the three churches that the Grindleys have started. He taught in their Bible school on Monday and Thursday. He witnessed the progress of the two new orphan homes in Sofophe. Each home will hold 12 children and a set of house parents as well as a director's house.

Young Life, Montgomery County – Doug was a shy high school sophomore when a Young Life leader invited him to club. "No thanks," Doug said and the leader replied, "Great! When can I pick you up?" The leader dragged him to club and pulled him up front that first night to be in a game in front of 100 classmates. Doug was traumatized and . . . he attended every club for the rest of the year and signed up for camp. It was at summer camp where his life was changed forever when he understood what it means to have a relationship with the Creator of the universe. Doug's Young Life leader and his camp cabin mates remain his good friends for life.

Revive Israel, Tikkun, Asher & Betty Intrater – We are in the month of Elul preceding The Days of Awe. In congregations the trumpets are already blowing, calling us to get

ready for the holidays. We respond by examining our hearts and tenderizing them with repentance to receive God's instruction. We allow God to draw us toward Him so we will stay close to His side and rest in the safety of His arms regardless of the raging seas of uncertainty around us.

Living Grace Christian School – The school is off to a great start this fall. The students are focusing in September on the character quality of "being poor in spirit" from Jesus' teachings in Matthew 5.

Wycliffe Bible Translators, Matt and Rosemary Ulrich, Paraguay – Happy 400th Anniversary – No, it isn't our 400th anniversary as Bible translators, but it is the 400th anniversary of the English King James Bible translation. "Lest we forget . . . By 1611 Bibles in English were legal. Prior to the 16th century, it was illegal to translate the Bible into English. The King and Church considered themselves sole authorities of faith and worship. In defiance, John Wycliffe (1320-1384) and his followers translated the entire Bible from Latin into English giving hand-copied Scriptures to the common people. For years, being caught with an English Bible was punishable by death. William Tyndale (1495-1536), working in Europe, translated the New Testament and part of the Old Testament into English. Copies were printed and smuggled into England. Tyndale was betrayed by a "friend," thrown into prison, and seven months later he was burned at the stake in Belgium. Such was the quality of his translation and his wording that some was retained in the King James Version. Some of his phrasing is still a part of our everyday English such as, "Eat, drink and be merry," "salt of the earth," and "skin of my teeth."

Living Grace Ministries, Thurlow and Lynda Switzer –Thurlow is invited to preach at the Bethany Bible conference in upstate New York in November. Pray for the LGM *Faith Arise!* Women's Conference on November 4-6. Pray for healing for Thurlow, diagnosed with polymyalgia and a fluttering heart beat.

Pray Also for:

Adwoa Yeboah-Marfo, Marfo Children's Village, Ghana

D. Oliver – Northern Asia, Orphan Outreach **Jesus Is Alive Ministries**, Apostle William Tetey, Lome, Togo

Stanley and Karen Redwood, Jamaica.

Karen is expecting their new baby in January. **Crossroads Valley Chapel, Fred., MD**, Pray for Pastor Jon and Carol as they minister in Israel and Palestine on October 27th – November 7th.

Or Ha Olam, Light of the World Congregation



Fall Pathway Classes

Two New Pathway Classes Are Beginning on Sunday, October 9th, at 9:00 a.m.

- 1. Gateway Class** for everyone beginning to identify with our congregation
- 2. Jesus' View of the Future** - A study of Matthew 24 and 25

Monthly Flock Group for Young Adults, (post high school to age 35) will meet on the 2nd Friday of this month at 7:30 pm, October 14th. Tim and Deborah Switzer are the leaders of this monthly Flock Group that meets in their home, 11015 Haney Terrace in Damascus, MD 20872.

Eyes on God

The move to our new home was very stressful on our puppy. As we sold our furniture and boxed up our belongings, he became increasingly anxious. When the big day came and the truck was packed, we took one last walk through the empty house. Unable to comprehend what was happening, our anxious dog stayed right at our feet. He could make no sense of his circumstances but trusted us to take care of him. During that traumatic time, he never let us out of his sight. That reminds me of King Jehoshaphat's prayer when a mighty enemy advanced against him and the situation was desperate. Jehoshaphat prayed, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you" (2 Chronicles 20:12, NRSV). God came through. When all seems lost, just stick close to God and keep your eyes on him. By Kari Myers

Northgate Community Church

Reaching People from All Nations for Christ!

Worship Schedule

Sundays, 9:45 am - Congregational Prayer
Sundays, 10:00 am – Worship Service
Midweek Flock Home Groups
*We are always ready to serve you –
Pastors Dan, Rick, Thurlow,
and Elders Vance and Devroy*

FLOCK HOME GROUPS

Germantown

Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Rick & Sue Brown, 301-972-2129

Germantown

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
Thurlow & Lynda Switzer
At Betty Money's, 301-540-7293

Rockville/Silver Spring

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, Devroy & Ruth
McFarlane, 240-242-4242

Montgomery Village

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, McRory Area; Alfred
and Jacky Johnson,
301-977-2220

Montgomery Village

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm,
Shawn & Mindy Swander, 240-631-0322
Assistant Leaders Tim & Deborah Switzer

Ladies Flock Group with a Purpose of
Praying for God's Work in the Church
Fridays, 7:30 pm, at the church; Gwen
Degraffinreid and Wilhelmina Woode

Young Adult Flock Group

Meeting monthly on the 2nd Friday, 7:30 pm,
at Tim & Deborah Switzer's home

Middle School Discipleship Club

For all 6th – 8th graders, October 21st
Dan and Silvia Switzer, 301-977-1121
Assistant leaders Ron and Kahlia Davis
Sisters of Faith Breakfast, Saturday,
October 8th, 8:30 am, at Bob Evans in the
Milestone Shopping Center
Sisters of Faith Craft Night, Saturday,
October 29th, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, at the church
Men Under God (MUG), breakfast, 8 am,
Saturday, October 1st, Gaithersburg Hilton

October Birthdays

Silvia Switzer, October 2
Mindy Swander, Oct 4
Felicia Assimpah, Oct 6
Lynda Switzer, Oct 6
Sonia Vaughn, Oct 6
Abi Sogunro, Oct 11
Ogo-Oluwa Alabi, Oct 12
Tess Perez, Oct 13
Koudjo Aziakonou, Oct 13
Damaris Diaz, October 14
Dena Windmueller, Oct 15
Joshua Switzer, Oct 20
Tachise Fernelis, Oct 26
Larry Reynolds, Oct 31

Praise and Prayer Requests

1. Pray for continuing grace and strength to
Gwen in her rehabilitation
2. Madeline Cooksey – recovering in the
Wilson Rehabilitation Center
3. Valerie Oliver – praise for healing
4. Ogo-Oluwa Alabi diagnosed with
galactosemia, pray for her healing
5. Lourdes Reynolds's niece's baby Richard,
microcephaly -- his life will be a testimony of
God's love and power to the glory of Jesus.
6. Karen O'Connor – provision and protection
7. Pray for our nation's leaders
8. Northgate pastors, elders, and families
9. Dan Doody's son-in-law Dave went to be
with the Lord on September 25. Pray for
comfort, grace and strength for family
10. Scott Shultz – healing from lung cancer
11. David Szymanski in AZ – prayer for
health and protection

Check out this blog spot: Living Grace

Ministries and leaders in friendship with
LGM, under the editorship of Pastor Jon
Switzer of Crossroads Valley Chapel in
Frederick, MD, set up this blog spot:
www.logsfortheire.blogspot.com.

Faith Arise!

Going deeper so we can stand stronger in God

November 4-6, 2011
Living Grace Women's Conference
Eisenhower Inn II & Conference Center,
Gettysburg, PA, 301-840-9830
For details, check www.LGMweb.org
Early bird registration by October 9th



Friendship

Life is a chronicle of friendship.

Friends create the world anew each day.

Without their loving care,

Courage would not suffice to keep hearts strong for life.

Helen Keller – submitted by Betty Money

"There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24b, NIV).

Excerpts from an Interview with VeggieTales Creator Phil Vischer

In a recent interview with Megan Basham of *World* magazine, Phil Vischer, the creator of *Veggie Tales* shares his heart. In 2003 *Big Idea* went bankrupt and Vischer lost ownership of Bob the Tomato, Larry the Cucumber, and the rest of the gang. Vischer says what he gained was something far more valuable. He said with *Big Idea Veggie Tales* he saw himself as a big studly barracuda saying, "All right God, here's what I'm going to do for you. Now you just stand back and bless it and watch me go!" Now Vischer sees that he spent ten years trying to convince kids to behave Christianly without actually teaching them Christianity. His bankruptcy and this realization led Vischer to a quest and the new vehicle – his new family series, *What's in the Bible*. Before, Vischer says, he was acting like the big barracuda. Now he identifies with the jellyfish – getting his form and direction when he stays in the current of God's will and allowing God to carry him where God wants him to be. That was a huge shift for Vischer from the American Christian ideal and a "gospel" of following your dreams and being good so God will make all your dreams come true.

Vischer refers to the scripture, "For lack of vision the people perish" (Proverbs 28:18b). He says this really means "For lack of revelation the people throw off restraint." Vischer says we're called to be not a people of vision, but a people of revelation – God speaking and we following. He says there's something wrong in a culture that preaches nothing is more sacred than "your dream." We walk away from marriages to follow our dreams. We abandon children to follow our dreams. We hurt people to follow our dreams. Vischer says all this is preposterous. He said he realized he's not supposed to be pursuing impact. He's supposed to be pursuing God. When he pursues God he will have exactly as much impact as God wants him to have. He says, "The only thing I can't let go of is God. Everything else of my ideas should be held with an open hand."

Look for Vischer's new series, *What's in the Bible?* and watch it with your family.

From World, September 24, 2011

Northgate's Leadership Team

After several months of prayer and seeking the Lord together as a congregation and individuals, on September 11, 2011, Devroy McFarlane was received as a term elder in the ministry of Northgate Community Church. The pastors and elders joyously welcome Devroy and Ruth on the Northgate Leadership Team. God has blessed them with hearts to serve His purposes with their many spiritual giftings.



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In addition, last year we received a report about a kindergartner in the school. This kindergartner had previously had much trouble with being obedient, being self-controlled, and being pleasant. This kindergartner changed as the teacher worked with the parents to provide the child with godly discipline. In that kindergartner's church, a person recognized the change that was occurring in this child and marveled at the Lord's work. Children are being changed as they are able to be nurtured in an environment that fosters Christ-like character.

In addition, lives are being changed through various needs being cared for. The elders regularly pray for the congregants and are not only aware but also responsive to your needs. And we have truly seen God change lives. Full-time jobs have been prayed for and secured. Self-employed contractors have received more work. With one full-time job, it was exceedingly clear that God's hand was at work because of the steps that had to take place for the job to be offered. In one instance, a pastor received a job tip from a friend, and the pastor shared that tip with a congregant, resulting in a solid full-time position. If you don't have a job and desire one, the elders will pray until you receive a job.

Lives are being changed in many different ways such as Food Drives for the poor, prayer walks, sharing Christ with our neighbors, and helping with utility bills. At Northgate, we constantly hear testimonies of how God is changing our lives, such as the church brothers who prayed for Dan Doody's eyes and saw an irreversible eye condition of macular holes BE REVERSED!

We are all being changed by serving the Lord in many different ways; and as we serve, we are seeing ourselves grow more and more into the full stature of Christ. I could go on and on regarding the various ways we see Christ changing our lives at Northgate. We are careful to give God all of the glory. God's grace is in full operation—and God works through the church. You are the church of Jesus Christ, and your seed—your firstfruits—is falling on good soil, yielding an excellent crop of changed lives.

Our vision is to be a House of Prayer for All Nations. We are a true house—a true family. Christ uses his House—His church—to change lives. Together we're a habitation for God's Spirit. 1Timothy 3:15 says, "The house of God . . . is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." As people embrace the truth of Jesus Christ, they are being set free and Christ is changing lives. Please know that your investment in the ministry of Northgate Community Church is changing real people's lives and is worth it! May God's grace be yours in abundance!



						1 MUG Bkfast, 8:00 am
2 Worship, 10 am <i>Celebrating Rosh Hashanah</i>	3	4	5 Flock Group Leaders Equipping Mtng, 7:30 pm	6	7	8 Sisters of Faith Bkfst, 8:30 am
9 Pathway Classes, 9 am Worship, 10 am <i>Celebrating Yom Kippur</i>	10	11	12 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	13	14 Young Adult Flock Group @ T & D Switzer's	15 <i>Fall Clean-up Day of the Church Grounds 8 am – 12 noon</i>
16 Pathway, 9 am Worship, 10 am <i>Celebrating Feast of Tabernacles "Each One Bring One"</i>	17	18	19 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	20	21 Middle School Discipleship Club 7:30 pm	22
23/30 Pathway, 9 am Worship, 10 am <i>30th: Kids Church Sunday</i>	24/31 <i>31st: Children's Harvest Party 7-8:30 pm</i>	25	26 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	27	28	29 <i>Sisters of Faith Craft Night at Church, 4 – 7 pm</i>

Northgate Community Church - Reaching People from All Nations for Christ!