



## NORTHGATE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

BY JENNIFER AND BILL D'ALESSANDRO

*NorthGate's Mission: A Christian community of all ages mentoring students to change the world.*



It doesn't take long inside the doors to see NorthGate's mission statement in action. It truly is a church of all ages and they love the students that attend. NorthGate is a church with a big vision and an impact on the world!

NorthGate Christian Community is a church that is not easily defined. The congregation is about as diverse as they come. From students to retirees, newlyweds and couples celebrating decades together, young parents and grandparents; NorthGate is a church that embraces every age group. Additionally, there are many cultural backgrounds present. Students from many countries worship at NorthGate each Sunday.

My husband and I are middle-aged with a teenage son. While searching for a church home last year we decided to visit NorthGate. We were not sure of what to expect as we drove up to the small, quaint building. Inside, several warm faces welcomed our family and directed us toward a table boasting coffee, bagels, and pastries. Laughter and easy conversation flowed through the fellowship area as first

service attendees lingered, chatting with people who had arrived for the second service.

The worship team began to play, signaling an end to the social time. We tentatively took seats and started to sing along and started to feel more comfortable as the congregation entered into worship. The Spirit of God filled the place and the sweet presence made us feel at peace. Midway through the sermon with Pastor Jon Hasselbeck, we felt we had found our new home church.

Getting involved was easy. This church offers a surprising number of ministry opportunities with both internal church focus and outreach, community focus. Nursery, children's church and youth group are available for the children. For the adults, LifeNet small group meetings are an integral part of NorthGate. Each week

people gather together at one of the many locations where they discuss the previous week's service, worship, pray, and fellowship together.

We now coordinate the Transportation Ministry. Each week we interact with college students through Facebook and arrange for shuttles to bring them to service. My husband enjoys his Sundays as a driver saying, "The time in the shuttle provides time to have comfortable conversations. I've liked learning about the various cultural backgrounds and homelands."

I have made friends by helping out in the kitchen and working alongside women of all ages. There's something about cooking and cleaning up together. It's fun and we find lots of reasons to laugh together.

Our 15-year-old son, Elijah, is an usher

and an active member of the youth group. He doesn't mind getting up to attend church and that's a miracle in itself. Our family feels blessed to have found a church home because it offers so many places for them to serve within the body of Christ.

This past summer the church set a goal to raise enough money to build a well in Africa through the local ministry "Let Them LOL." After hosting a spaghetti dinner and a yard sale, they were thrilled when the total was enough to build two wells! I am so proud to be a part of a church that saw a need and stepped up to fulfill it in such a big way.

The church is nearing 80% capacity and it's clearly time to expand. We are currently raising money through our "Let the Walls Come Down" campaign. The plan includes expanding the sanctuary, the children's area, and adding on a mini-gym, complete with a rock-climbing wall. Pastor Jon laughs as he points out that with the number of newlywed couples in the church, a baby boom is on the way and declaring, "We've got to expand our nursery very soon."

NorthGate's mission statement reads, "A Christian community of all ages mentoring students to change the world." It doesn't take long inside the doors to see that the church is very sincere in this goal. It truly is a church of all ages and they love the students that attend. Most are only there for a few years because they are on their way to either another school or back to their homeland. It's with bittersweet tears that they are sent on to their next stop with prayers and a blessing from the congregation. We are so blessed to share a part of their journey with them.

NorthGate is a church with a big vision and an impact on the world! ☞



*The Mission of Kingdom Come is specifically focused on helping to ensure that every man, woman and child has repeated opportunities to hear, see and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ locally, regionally, nationally and globally where The Chapel has influence.*

– NEWS BRIEF –

LOCKPORT C.A.R.E.S.



By Marty Nagy

Lockport C.A.R.E.S, Inc. emergency homeless shelter in Eastern Niagara County served 274 individuals in 2013, this included men, women, and 25 families with children. We are thankful for the help The Chapel has supplied to meet these needs.

On October 6, 2013 Lockport CARES dedicated the Kahler House at 188 Genesee Street in Lockport, which provides transitional housing up to two years for six men. Currently, we have one young man in the program being housed at the emergency shelter. In order to move him to the Kahler house we are in need of a live in male residential assistant. This individual would need to be mature in his daily walk with the Lord, able to set a Christ like tone in the house, and include teaching the Word of God daily through devotions. He would be responsible for daily operations of the house and supervising the resident's individual program.

We also need a volunteer support staff for relief when the residential assistant is off, and allies or mentors (one for each resident) to help guide them in their walk with Christ.

The Kahler House mission is to empower willing and qualified homeless single men to be transformed by the power of Jesus Christ by providing them with: low cost, long term housing, life skills training, and biblical discipleship. Our vision is to develop Christ-centered men that are transitioning into contributing members of their community.

For more information about Lockport C.A.R.E.S, Inc. visit [lockportcares.org](http://lockportcares.org) or call 438-2273. ☞

– LOCAL CONNECTION –

Interested in getting involved with one of our local ministry partners? Here are some places for you to start serving!

DESTINATION LIFE FELLOWSHIP

22nd Street & Linwood Ave  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
716.297.7799

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Several local locations  
716.743.2020  
[heritagechristianservices.org](http://heritagechristianservices.org)

LOCKPORT CARENET

229 East Avenue  
Lockport, NY 14094  
716.434.1771  
[lockportcarenet.com](http://lockportcarenet.com)

NIAGARA GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION

PO Box 2657  
Niagara Falls, NY 14302  
[info@niagaramissions.com](mailto:info@niagaramissions.com)

SAVING GRACE MINISTRIES

PO Box 1013  
Williamsville, NY 14231  
716.893.1840  
[sgmworld.org](http://sgmworld.org)

XCEL LEADERSHIP CENTER

567 Hertel Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14207  
716.819.4100 x295  
[xcelleadershipcenter.com](http://xcelleadershipcenter.com)

For a complete list of ministry partners, visit [thechapel.com/kingdomcome](http://thechapel.com/kingdomcome).

– UPCOMING EVENTS –

MAY 22, AT 6:30PM (DOORS OPEN)  
NORTHTOWN PREGNANCY CENTER

Pastor Daryl Largis will be the keynote speaker at NPC's Annual Benefit Banquet that will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 120 Church Street, Buffalo, NY. There is no cost for the dinner—a freewill offering will be received. For more details, email [info.norhtownnpc@gmail.com](mailto:info.norhtownnpc@gmail.com).

MAY 1-3, 2014  
CHRISTIAN MUSICIAN SUMMIT

This is a great opportunity for worship leaders, musicians and tech people to learn and grow spiritually, and hone their skills. Evening concerts on Friday and Saturday will feature national artists and are open to the public. Visit [thechapel.com](http://thechapel.com) for more information or to purchase tickets.