



# NORTH ATLANTA CHURCH OF CHRIST



#### **North Atlanta Church of Christ**

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#### **Phone**

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#### **Online**

[lovefirst.org](http://lovefirst.org)  
[facebook.com/nacofc](https://facebook.com/nacofc)  
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# 01

## THREE COMMITMENTS FROM NORTH ATLANTA FAMILY MEMBERS

02



### COMMITMENT FROM THE LEADERS OF NORTH ATLANTA:

The North Atlanta elders, ministers and church body will provide family members with tools, resources, relationships, shepherding, support, and guidance to help each one grow to know God and surrender to him daily. The North Atlanta leadership believes discipleship is reciprocal, meaning the North Atlanta family can be assured that North Atlanta leaders are called to the same commitments and are accountable to equipping and caring for each North Atlanta Family member.

*love first*

# 01

## ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE YOURSELF FULLY TO GOD?

North Atlanta family members believe that discipleship is a direction, not a destination. Committing to give oneself fully to God **is not a statement that North Atlanta Family members expect to be perfect** or that they can achieve perfection. No, it is simply a statement that North Atlanta Family members **want to know God more** and move towards him (Philippians 3:10-14).

## ARE YOU WILLING TO SUPPORT THE LOVE FIRST VISION?

North Atlanta family members believe our Love First vision for life is rooted in the nature of God. *“God is love, and we love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:16, 19)* This means that North Atlanta Family members commit to **loving God** and **loving others** before and **above everything else**; and it is the measure of all North Atlanta Family members do and say. From this Love First truth emerged the North Atlanta Love First Vision (refer to love first vision document). North Atlanta family members have committed to support this vision with their **time, finances, and spiritual gifts**. North Atlanta family members have **not committed to give a certain amount** of time, percent of income or use a specific spiritual gift within the family. However, they have committed to be a resource for God at North Atlanta.

# 02

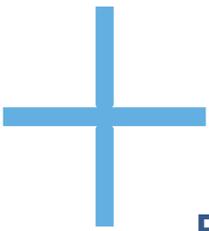
## ARE YOU WILLING TO COMMIT TO THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY AT NORTH ATLANTA?

North Atlanta family members believe that committing to the discipleship pathway will help all North Atlanta family members grow to be more like Jesus.

# 03

# 02

## THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



### FOUR ONGOING STEPS IN THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

We recognize that simply "doing" these activities and taking these steps will not transform us into the likeness of God. We do believe, however, that taking these steps with the intention of giving ourselves more fully to God will create space for God to do what only God can do: ***Transform us into the image of Jesus.***

*love first*

01

## ATTEND SUNDAY WORSHIP CONSISTENTLY

In the busyness of life, **we must be intentional with our time.** Setting aside Sunday morning to hear God's word, fellowship, and encourage each other in Christ must be primary in our weekly schedule.

## JOIN A SMALL GROUP OR PARTICIPATE IN A BIBLE CLASS:

The Christian life is designed to be lived out in community. Joining a group or participating consistently in a Bible class is how we experience scripture's many references to "one another" (e.g. love one another).

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03

## SERVE WITH NORTH ATLANTA:

Jesus came to serve, not to be served. Because of this, our primary posture as followers of Jesus should be that of serving, rather than being served. We do this within our own church community at North Atlanta and outside of our church community in the name of Christ.

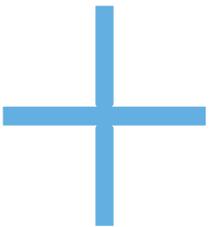
## PRAY AND READ YOUR BIBLE:

Being a disciple is all about relationship, and this means listening to God and talking with God. God gave us his word so that we would know who he is, whose we are and the purpose for our lives. Reading scripture and praying daily allow us to know God, His truths and the abundant life he promises us.

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# 03

## NEXT STEPS



### NEXT STEPS

Next steps are choices North Atlanta family members and/or guests may make to help them grow as disciples of Christ.

*love first*

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## SPIRITUAL MENTORING

Having a mentor to discuss life with, study scripture with, and serve with can help you experience being fully known and fully loved while growing in your knowledge of God. If you would like a spiritual mentor, please contact Adam Paa (Discipleship Minister) at [adam.paa@nacofc.org](mailto:adam.paa@nacofc.org)

# //03

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## MISSION TRIPS

Every year, North Atlanta offers mission trip opportunities, both local and abroad, for all ages. Mission trips are designed to help us fulfill the great commission, but also serve as a step to mature us in Christ.

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## RETREATS

North Atlanta offers retreats for all ages to provide a time to rest in God and to focus on the mission to which God has called us.

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## SHORT-TERM SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

There are several short-term service opportunities available throughout the year. These opportunities are not meant to replace serving consistently at North Atlanta and in our communities. However, it does give you another avenue to serve, while meeting specific needs in the community with other North Atlanta family members.

# //02

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## JOIN THE NORTH ATLANTA MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

The Mission Support Team (MST) identifies and provides a pathway for those interested in going into long-term mission work. Individuals and families interested in this next step should contact Greg Williams (MST Chairman) at [greg.williams@nacofc.org](mailto:greg.williams@nacofc.org)

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## EQUIPPING SEMINARS

Several times during the year there are opportunities to attend a seminar or workshop on a relevant topic. We seek the wisdom of scripture which provides practical and skillful ways of living. This is a step that can help provide you with additional wisdom to navigate life.

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## COUNSELING

There are times in our lives where we need the support of a professional counselor. North Atlanta has a counseling center available for all family members, guests, and community members to help provide this support. You can call to set up an appointment at the Genesis Center for Christian Counseling – **770-399-6333**.

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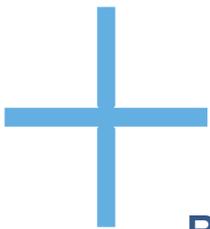
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## MINISTRY EVENTS

North Atlanta offers several ministries to meet you where you are. Each ministry has events designed to help you connect with others in the ministry and with God. This next step is a great way to invest in North Atlanta and for North Atlanta to invest in you.

# 04

## BAPTISM



## BAPTISM

At North Atlanta, we believe that baptism—being fully immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins—is an integral part of a believer’s commitment to become a follower of Christ. We seek to affirm baptism not as a symbol or ritual, but as a simple act of surrender by one who chooses to give themselves fully to God.

In the New Testament, after the resurrection of Jesus, most examples of people becoming followers of Christ include baptism in their response to His gift of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-10). We believe these examples are significant. (Acts 2:38-42; 8:38-39; 10:43-48; 16:29-34; 22:16).

*Love First*

# SCRIPTURAL METAPHORS FOR BAPTISM



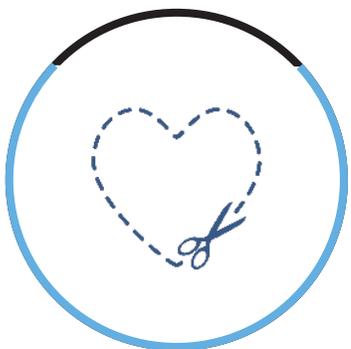
## BURIAL

In baptism, the follower of Jesus dies to their old life in baptism and is given new life by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 6:4)



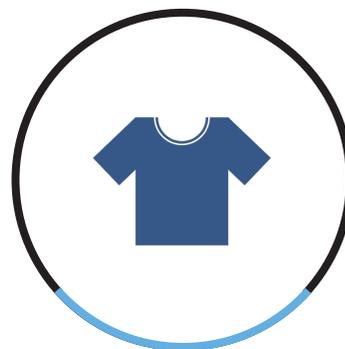
## CLEANSING

In baptism, the follower of Jesus responds to the gospel by submitting to God in baptism, and God washes away the follower's sins. (1 Peter 3:21)



## CIRCUMCISION

Circumcision was a sign for Israel that they were the people of God. In a similar way, when followers of Jesus are baptized their hearts are purified for God and they receive in their hearts the seal of a new covenant relationship with God. (Colossians 2:11-12)



## NEW CLOTHES

In baptism, the Spirit removes the old life like clothes we no longer want to wear, and we put on the new clothes of Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

We acknowledge that the act of baptism has been defined, discussed and debated in Christian theological circles for a few thousand years. Scholars have studied the Scriptures that reference baptism and have come to differing conclusions about its mode, its essentiality, and its place in the disciples' faithful response to the gospel.

If you have questions about baptism, contact one of the Shepherds or ministers, or sign up for the next Baptism Class.

## Baptism Class

This is a great resource for people who would like to learn more about Baptism and why we believe Baptism is integral to our faith. The next Baptism class date and time can be found at [lovefirst.org](http://lovefirst.org) and in the weekly connection bulletin.

# 05

*love first vision*



**WE LOVE BECAUSE  
HE FIRST LOVED US**

1 JOHN 4:19



## WE WILL TRANSLATE AND PLANT OUR LOVE FIRST DNA IN THE METRO ATLANTA AREA. BY 2030 WE WILL:

- Plant three Satellite Congregations Target for the First - 2023
- Establish 20 Community Projects in the Metro Area (Update Pending)

## WE WILL TRANSLATE AND PLANT OUR LOVE FIRST DNA IN NORTH AMERICAN MISSION AREAS TO WHICH GOD CALLS US. BY 2030 WE WILL:

- We launched our first Love First church in Sarnia, Ontario in 2015. In 2019, we will expand this church plant by adding a church planter to establish missional communities in Southwest Ontario.
- We will partner with the Church of Christ at Tuba City, Arizona to accomplish a similar mission as Sarnia, Canada. **Target: 2021**
- We will seek to identify and establish one more mission of this sort in North America.
- We will seek to develop families and individuals who will be our supported missionaries in these mission efforts.



## WE WILL TRANSLATE AND PLANT THIS DNA IN INTERNATIONAL MISSION AREAS TO WHICH GOD CALLS US. BY 2030 WE WILL:

- Prepare, Fund and Send 100 Missionary Specialists around the world
- Prepare, Fund and Send 5 Missionary Families from North Atlanta
- Fund three chaplaincy positions with the international school efforts
- Prepare, Fund and Send 2,600 short-term Missionary workers

# 06

## GROUPS AND BIBLE CLASSES

### **CONNECTION AND SPECIALTY GROUPS**

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is hard, but it is doable. At North Atlanta, we believe that discipleship requires healthy community that encourages, cares, and keeps us accountable. Currently, we have more than 40 active groups. To find an open group in your area, visit our group finder at <https://nacofc.infellowship.com/groupsearch/index> Or, simply contact Adam Paa at [Adam.paa@nacofc.org](mailto:Adam.paa@nacofc.org) to help you find the right group.

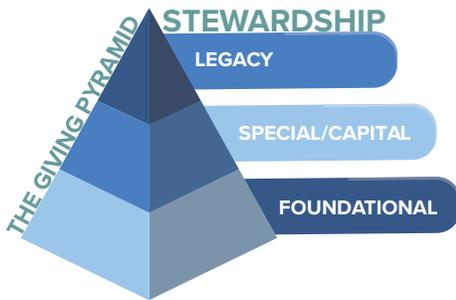
### **ADULT BIBLE CLASSES**

As His followers, we find strength, renewal and encouragement when we join others on this faith journey. Each Sunday we offer focused Bible studies and life-application classes where we can all learn together and equip and inspire each other to grow into the fullness of Christ. To find current Adult Bible classes, visit <http://www.nacofc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/2018-Bible-Classes-Fall.pdf>

# LOVE FIRST GIVING

**AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, WE COMMIT TO LOVE AND BLESS OTHERS IN THE SAME WAY THAT GOD LOVES AND BLESSES US.**

To this end, we invite people to join us in giving financially to the mission and vision of North Atlanta Church of Christ. We believe that as you hear stories and see the results of the mission being fulfilled by your investment, you will truly experience one of life's greatest blessings.



## **SPECIAL GIVING (ACTS 4:34-35 / JAMES 1: 27)**

At North Atlanta we recognize that there are sometimes special needs that call us to give above and beyond our foundational giving. One of these opportunities is our annual “Pure Religion” campaign intended to help widows and orphans, as well as others in need of loving, tangible support. Also, from time to time there are other special needs that we fund, from capital campaigns for improvement of ministry facilities, to offerings that help in the wake of natural disasters to food collected to help those in the local community.

## **FOUNDATIONAL GIVING (JOHN 3:16)**

Each Sunday during worship, we have a time to reflect on our blessings and give back to God monetarily. Pressure to give is never exerted; rather, with a cheerful heart and prayerful consideration, each person determines their own offering to God through their support of North Atlanta's mission. This is what we refer to as “foundational giving.”

North Atlanta Church of Christ encourages all who attend to participate in giving back to God through foundational giving. Gifts may be given through any of the following methods:

- The regular weekly collection during our worship assemblies
- Online giving (using [give.nacofc.org](http://give.nacofc.org) or set up through your bank's online bill pay)
- Text giving (text the amount to 770-285-1656)
- Mail delivered to the church office (5676 Roberts Dr., Atlanta, GA 30338)
- Stock transfer (contact [linda.lindsay@nacofc.org](mailto:linda.lindsay@nacofc.org) for details)

## **LEGACY GIVING**

**(ROMANS 11:35-36 / I CORINTHIANS 4:2 / MATTHEW 6:30-34 / MATTHEW 25:21,23 / II CORINTHIANS 9:11-12)**

Legacy giving provides the opportunity to continue support of North Atlanta's mission beyond one's lifetime. By providing in your will or trust a specific sum of money or a percentage of your estate, you can assure that the ministries of North Atlanta are blessed for years to come. Please contact Linda Lindsay ([linda.lindsay@nacofc.org](mailto:linda.lindsay@nacofc.org)) in the church office to discuss your interest in providing for North Atlanta through your estate.

# 07

## MINISTERS AND ELDERS

### ELDERS

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