



Dear Friends and Dental Family,

I'd like to start by thanking those of you who have prayed for my wife Tabitha and our Family over the last almost 18 months. As many of you know, last Year, in March of 2022, Tabitha was diagnosed with breast cancer. Tabitha and I are both grateful for the encouragement and support shown by so many of you. We are Blessed that GOD has done an amazing thing in bringing Tabitha through active cancer treatment. She's doing great now, and we are trusting GOD to continue to Bless her.

As our family has faced this battle, it caused us to reevaluate our priorities. We have learned that we are not promised tomorrow. This demonstrated our need to simplify life and slow down by finding the right Doctor to take over the Biltmore Avenue Practice.

In January of 2023, Dr. Ashley Gates joined our TEAM and we quickly found her to be a shining example of both kindness and clinical skill. Her being there to care for all of you wonderful patients has taken stress off of myself and our family and lightened our load. After some time, it became apparent that Dr. Gates was just the right person to take the mantle of leadership in caring for your Oral Healthcare needs. Therefore, as of September 6th, 2023, Dr. Gates will assume ownership of our Biltmore Ave. Location practice and continue providing you excellent Dental Care.

Tabitha and I will continue to work with Dr. Gates to allow for a smooth transition. Nothing substantial about your Dental Visits will change, and you can rest easy knowing that the Biltmore TEAM you know and trust will continue to be there helping Dr. Gates take care of you.

Dr. Ashley Gates is a native of Western North Carolina, being born and raised in Sylva. She attended North Carolina State University and received a bachelor of science degree in Biological Sciences with a focus on human biology. She earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Gates prides herself on being a lifelong learner, and loves to spend her free time learning new procedures and techniques to benefit her patients. During dental school, Dr. Gates was part of the Uganda Project where she spent two weeks in rural Uganda providing dental care. When she isn't in the office, Dr. Gates can usually be found reading, hiking, traveling, or working with her husband on their mini farm.

Allow me to thank you for the Trust and Confidence that each of you and your families have placed in myself and our Upwards Dental TEAM over the last 20 years. I wish you all the best, and I know you will be in Great Hands with Dr. Gates.

~GodSpeed~

Dr. J. Eric Dollinger

