

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
 8:30 am Worship Service
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service
Children's Church 8:30 am & 11:00 am
 6:00 pm Evening Worship Service

STAFF

Neal Thornton
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Jimmy Newkirk
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Jonathan Waggett
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 Admin. Assistant

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Greetings Church!

One year ago my family pulled onto the parking lot of Coats Baptist for our first official Sunday with you (May 28, 2017). I knew then, and I know now, that God had called me to be your pastor. My family knew it, you knew it, and most of all – the Lord knew it.

The last year has been absolutely *fabulous*. I want to go on record (in print!) and say, "The last twelve months have been the most rewarding, and most fruitful year of my ministry." Without a doubt, there has been more victory in the church, more peace in our hearts, and more excitement in the Lord's work than I have ever experienced before. I say that with my family's blessing. They could not agree more, and could not be more delighted to serve Christ along side you.

God is blessing Coats Baptist Church. Let's be honest, the Lord blesses a church zealous to know His Word and to do His will (Philippians 1:3-8). I'm thankful for you and to serve as your pastor. Over the last year, I've journaled a few reasons I'm glad the Lord put us together.

You received us with open arms. Many of you know our story. Ministry can be difficult, and that's okay. When we landed in Coats, our family needed to love a people, and be loved by them. That's exactly what God gave us. Thank you for making us feel like family from the start. We believe God has supernaturally worked (just talk to Ashley) to make Coats feel like home. "When are you going home, Neal?" someone may ask. "I am home," I say, "It's like we were raised here, or something!"

You love Christ more. Like you, we try to teach this lesson to our kids. Mommy and Daddy love each other more than we love Emma, Matthew, or John. And, we love Jesus even more than that. Is it hard? Yes. Do we fail in the love department? Absolutely. We try to set a graduated scale of love in our family (and it brings such security to children). Coats Baptist Church is the same. King Jesus rules this church, the pastor does not. You know it, and you show it. There is a great joy and liberty that a pastor feels, when he knows the church loves Jesus more than they love him.

Your potential is off the chart. This is something to be excited about, but something that far too many churches overlook – *the future*. God only knows the ministry Coats Baptist can have in the days ahead. It is no secret that our surrounding community is growing and the fields are white for harvest (John 4:35). I look for us to make strong advances in key areas of ministry: Students, (middle, high, and college), missions, discipleship, facilities, children, and perhaps a few more. Think strategically, serve intentionally, and be prayerful Coats Baptist Church. As Paul prayed for the Ephesians, "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Speaking of potential.... don't forget – VBS is June 24 – 28. It is always an exciting time of year, and a great opportunity to invite guests, and share the gospel. Take advantage of this opportunity. Also, if you'd like to serve, please contact the children and families committee – they have a place for you! We always have a spot available to love on children.

God bless you Coats Baptist. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Pastor Neal
 Psalm 124:8

P.S. Thank you for the new bible!

JUNE

- 2 Fishing Tournament (6:00 am)
 Fish Fry (6:00 pm)
- 8 Leave for Beach Reach Weekend
- 10 Business Meeting (6:00 pm)
- 13 Grocery Assist (5:30 pm)
- 17 Father's Day
 Missions Luncheon Fundraiser (noon)
 No afternoon activities or evening service
- 21 Men's Ministry Meeting (7:00 pm)
- 24 VBS (6:00-8:00 pm)
- 25 VBS (6:00-8:00 pm)
- 26 VBS (6:00-8:00 pm)
- 27 VBS (6:00-8:00 pm)
- 28 VBS (6:00-8:00 pm)

ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT & FRY

Everyone is welcome to participate in the fishing tournament on Saturday, June 2nd.



The pond draw will be at 6 am.

The fish fry will be at 6 pm.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday, June 24—Thursday, June 28
 6—8 pm nightly



MUSIC • NOTES

I'll go ahead and start out this article with the song suggestions list: Do It Again (Elevation Worship), More Than Anything (Natalie Grant), Even Unto Death (Audrey Assad)

Father's Day is coming up so below is an article written by LifeWay Worship Director, Mike Harland...

When Dad sings, everyone in the family sings. The converse is true as well – when Dad doesn't sing, more than likely, no one else in the family will sing. Of course, there are exceptions to this, especially if Mom is a singer. But, almost 100% of the time, if Dad doesn't sing, his sons (and maybe daughters) will not sing either. So what?

Well, we are still learning all the reasons singing is a point of emphasis in scripture. Paul would command it in two different letters. God would include a book in the scriptural canon that captured the song texts of his covenant people. Practically speaking, we know that music opens up the mind and the soul to information. And, what more important information could be attained than truth about God as we sing about Him? We know that music moves us emotionally and intellectually and is a powerful tool of expression. Perhaps better than any other single expression, singing combines our spirit with our mind while pronouncing truth.

Every parent wants their children to flourish – in academics, athletics, social skills. Certainly, a Christian parent would desire their children to flourish spiritually and to excel in the spiritual discipline of worship. If that's true for you, Dad – you need to sing. Open your mouth, move your lips, and take part in the singing in worship. I'm not asking you to audition for the worship team or join the choir. I'm asking you to help your children engage in worship before they don't care to any longer. For the sake of your family and the future of your church – put away your personal comfort and preference. Be willing to get beyond yourself.

In Christ,
Jonathan

LIFE • ON • MISSION: DISCIPLESHIP!

The spiritual discipline of silence and solitude with God can be difficult. Perhaps that's why we neglect it. But time alone with God is precious, and sometimes surprising. I recently spent the morning alone at the picnic shelter with just my bible, a notepad, and no phone. On this occasion, after literally hours of prayer, I did not *feel* God's presence. I admit my frustration: I was earnestly praying to know Him better but, I thought, how could that happen if He didn't "show up".

It seems silly now but in this perceived absence of God, I became very aware of nature around me. Pollen everywhere, half-dozen Bluebirds at the wood-line, dozens of Carpenter Bees zipping past, obviously focused on springtime rituals. Two Canadian Geese kept flying back and forth, apparently oblivious to the direction of any set migratory pattern.

My awareness of nature collided with my intended purpose, almost as an interruption to my dis-satisfaction with God's absence. Then I struck me that they are all 1) doing what God designed them to do, 2) in relationship. Even the pollen was God's creation, working to multiply the beauty of God's creation.

His creation showcase prompted me to turn to Genesis where God reminded me of some very basic, yet critical truths:

- God has provided for and sustains all creation which reveals His glory;
- God is far bigger and more present than I could ever imagine;
- Made from the most base material, I am weaker than I perceive, and my only value is in His grace;
- Sharing the gospel and making disciples reproduces image bearers who glorify Him (Gen 1:26-28, 2:15; Matt 28);
- We need to accurately know God's Word to defend against Satan's attacks (Gen 3:3-6);
- God seeks me, in spite of my sin, even when I do not perceive His presence. And, though I want to know God more than anything, my fear and shame often lead me to withdraw (Gen 3:9) and make excuses (3:12-13)
- We will experience challenges, even persecutions, yet will still be provided for (Gen 3:17-19, 21)

Now, as I write, God has shown up in a big way: I am overwhelmed by His presence, and His reminder to trust Him, even when I don't feel His presence. More important than answers to my questions, He has revealed Himself, showing me what I need, who He is, and how He works, even in my unawares. Take some time alone with God. You'll be glad you did.

Jimmy
Philippians 3:10

STUDENT • HAPPENINGS

An old cliché states, "If you want to hear God laugh, tell Him your plans." Now, clichés are, by definition, over-used sayings. I have often felt this is because the truth found in them is worth repeating. This one is no different.

The end of the school year is upon us. For some, this means a break before starting the next grade up. For others it means graduation and a whole new chapter of life. Be it high school, or college, graduation marks an end and a beginning. Life changes, and when we know life is going to change, we begin to make plans. If we are wise, we seek the counsel of God Himself as we make these plans.

Seeking God's guidance does not mean we make plans then ask Him to bless them. Seeking God's guidance means coming to Him empty and allowing Him to guide us one step at a time. Psalm 119:105 says, "your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path." In many ways I think this is a cliché verse. It is quoted over and over again. It finds its way into songs, t-shirts, artwork, and any number of other places.

I pray our familiarity with this verse will never dull the truth it illuminates. God's direction in our life only gives us a small glimpse of what's next. Nowhere in scripture, at least that I am aware of, does God lay out an entire plan in a step by step fashion. Being led by God is a constant exercise in living by faith. Faith demands that we be kept in the dark about many of the details of our own future, else it is not faith.

With this understanding I encourage you to pray for our graduates that they will look to God for guidance regarding the future. Rather than asking Him to bless their plans, pray they will come to Him to light the path of their next step, and after they take it, to illuminate the step after that, and so on until they reach the destination He has for them. Only by allowing God to guide our path can we reach His destination for us with as few mis-steps as possible.

GRADUATE • SUNDAY

Graduation recognition and commissioning will take place during the beginning of the 11:00 service on Sunday, June 10. Come support and congratulate these graduates:

Grace Gaines graduates from Triton High School on June 9, 2018.

Alex Jagers graduates from Western Harnett High School on June 9, 2018.

Corey Wilson graduates from Triton High School on June 9, 2018.

Dr. Jennifer Hill graduated from Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine on May 10, 2018, with a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine.

Justin Johnson graduated from Campbell University on May 12, 2018, with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education.

Nathan Langdon graduated from Campbell University on May 12, 2018, with a Master of Business, Bachelor in Accounting & a Minor in Finance.

Ashley Martin graduated from Campbell University on May 12, 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Courtney Smith graduated from Western Carolina University on May 12, 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Parks and Recreation Management with a Minor in Hospitality and Tourism.

Jonathan Waggett graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary on December 8, 2017, with a Master of Arts in Christian Studies.

Leslie Weaver graduated from Salem College on May 19, 2018 with a Master in Education School Counseling.

SENIOR • ADULTS

Senior Adults will visit Southeastern Baptist Seminary in Wake Forest on Wednesday, June 27. We plan to leave CBC at 9:00 am arriving in time for a tour of the campus and brief visits with Dr. Keathley and Dr. Whitfield before having lunch on campus. We will arrive back mid-afternoon. Please see Gail, Sherry, Kathy, or Bonnie to sign up.