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Greetings Coats Baptist friends and family,

In his book *Thoughts for Young Men* J.C. Ryle wrote, "Young men, consider your responsibilities. Think of the privilege and luxury of doing good. Resolve this day to be useful. At once, give your hearts to Christ." Ryle's words are both timeless and timely. The church needs these kinds of men, who have made Christ the priority of their life, who pursue usefulness in His kingdom, and display a desire to live a holy, exemplary life before a watching world.

It is my joy to say that God is raising up such men for ministry at Coats Baptist Church. On Sunday night, October 7, we will ordain two men to serve as deacons. The church chose "men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom" (Acts 6:3) who model a lifestyle in accordance with 1 Timothy 3:8-13. These men are Brad Abate and Jordan Womick.

Deacons are the backbone of the church. They are lead servants who labor in the trenches of ministry. They are the glue that holds the church together both physically and spiritually. The diaconate is filled with men who go to bat for the ministry, who take the first shots because they serve on the front-line. We thank God for those called into this sacred office.

Deacons are also men who model an exemplary lifestyle of godliness for others to follow. Bottom line – deacons are men of godly *character*. In verse 8, Paul gives Timothy four points of character that every deacon is called to model, and every Christian is called to pursue.

Deacons are men of personal dignity. "must be dignified"

We have a tremendous group of deacons serving at Coats Baptist. We are pleased to see Brad and Jordan numbered among them. These are men worthy of our respect, who have proven themselves before God. The deacon is a man with a certain seriousness of life about him, who knows how to lead himself and others in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24)

Deacons are men of social integrity. "not double tongued"

God has called the deacon to a life of integrity – the ability to behave oneself in private. Such a life will show itself to be pure in public settings, where deacons are called to serve. From the home to the hospital, may our deacons continue serving well with private strength. (Mark 1:35)

Deacons are men of material sobriety. "not addicted to much wine"

It's not simply about alcohol, it's about addictions. The deacon models a life that is not given over to carnal comforts and worldly pleasures. He is a man who is in control of his senses, his body, and his life at all times – a Spirit-filled man of self-control (Gal 5:22-23)

Deacons are men of financial honesty. "not greedy for dishonest gain"

Coats Baptist Church is blessed with deacons they can *trust*. Without trust there is little ministry. The deacon has a certain credibility that is not common among the congregation in general. He is above board, there are few like him but many who seek to emulate his example. He is to be above reproach in the stewardship of his life, and that of course starts with money. (Luke 16:13)

Join us Sunday evening, October 7 for a special deacon ordination service. Oh, and one more thing – pray for Andrea Abate and Stephanie Womick, the precious wives of these two new deacons. (Genesis 2:24-25) God bless you church!

Pastor Neal

LIFE OF WORSHIP | Pastor Jonathan [Psalm 34:3]

I am thankful for our Sundays together. One of my favorite verses regarding corporate worship is Psalm 34:3. "Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!" There is an incredible beauty in unified corporate worship gatherings. I love hearing your voices and seeing you posture yourselves in awe before the Lord. But let's be careful to not credit ourselves for this unity. Our gatherings aren't simply unified because we're all together in one room at the same time or that we're singing songs that we don't normally sing. It's unified because of the work of the Spirit in our individual hearts. Unity in the Spirit isn't something we can produce on our own. As a Body, we seek to preserve unity (Ephesians 4:3), but we can't create it. We're too sinful for that to be effective.

Let's make sure we know what unity isn't. Unity isn't a general spirit of friendliness or camaraderie. Anyone can be (or even fake) friendly or rally behind a cause. Real unity is a product of God working through Christ on the cross and a gift of the Spirit to every believer.

What does this have to do with worship? As your worship pastor, I want to remind you worship is so much more than singing. (Don't stop singing! Going back to Psalm 34, verse one says "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth." So keep singing!) Worship is responding to God's undeserved goodness and grace displayed in Christ Jesus by living in a way that glorifies and credits Him for this and every good gift. Further, it's acknowledging God in the valleys of life; He is still good and always in control. So as you live your life, humbly allow the Spirit to work in your heart to produce a unity that leads you to worship with all of your life.

Serve in unity. Sing in unity. Love in unity.

This is so much greater than ourselves. The Gospel calls us to selflessness. This, and the unity we have in Christ and through the Spirit, is part of a grand design by God to advance His Kingdom. Read what Paul has to say about this in Ephesians 4:1-6 and pray for your life of worship to reflect this calling.

NEW • MUSIC • CORNER

Weep with Me

Rend Collective

Cover the Earth

Kari Jobe + Cody Carnes

Never Alone

Tori Kelly ft. Kirk Franklin

LIFE ON MISSION: DISCIPLESHIP | Pastor Jimmy [Phil 3:10]

A few weeks ago, a group from our church spent the morning prayer walking at Campbell University. At one point, we were standing with our heads down in prayer, when an unfamiliar, but rather excited voice from over my shoulder asked, "What are you guys looking at?" We explained that we were praying for students, their families, faculty and staff and then invited the gentleman to join us. He gave a quick, "no, thank you" and a made a hasty exit.

Perhaps he didn't want to interrupt our time in prayer, or perhaps he was disappointed to learn we hadn't made a great, scientific discovery. Regardless of motivation, he was far more willing to join us in observing creation than in spending time with the Creator.

If I'm honest with myself, not only am I being critical of this gentleman, I'm also guilty of the thing that I would accuse him of. I can get so busy doing things related to serving God and His people that I don't take time to be with God Himself. I can busy myself talking about God without spending time with God. And, while we can and should be amazed at the created - God has revealed Himself to all people through it (Rom 1:19-20) - if we marvel at creation without simultaneously worshiping the Creator, then we have missed the point.

So be honest with yourself. What are you looking for: the good or the godly? The created or the Creator? Knowledge of facts, or relationship with the Truth? Take time to pray for students, elementary through college. Their pursuit of knowledge is a good thing but Jesus reminded us that He is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Pray that students and their teachers seek to fill their minds with knowledge in support of a greater search for truth. Pray, also, for yourself, that you would take time to focus on the truly important, rather than the simply interesting things of life.

Coats Baptist Church
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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

OCTOBER PRAYER CARDS

During the month of October, remember to pray for **MISSIONS**.

OCTOBER

- 7th College Lunch @ The Langdon's
- 10th Grocery Assist
- 13th Farmer's Day
- 14th Pinewood Derby (3:00)
 Business Meeting (after 6:00 service)
 Deacons Meeting (7:00)
- 26th NC Mountains Hiking Weekend
- 26th Secret Sisters Reveal (6:30)
- 27th Trunk or Treat

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

We're on Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter!

@coatsbaptistnc



If you use Spotify as your go-to music streaming, follow our playlist:

Worship All Week with CBC



SENIOR ADULT NEWS

Senior Adults will travel to Albemarle on Thursday, October 11 leaving CBC at 8:00 am. We will visit a model train museum and eat lunch at Five Points Public House before returning to the church at approximately 5:00 pm. The cost of the trip is \$10 which includes lunch. Contact Gail, Sherry, Kathy, or Bonnie to sign up.

STUDENT MINISTRY | Anthony [Psalm 51:10-13]

I am sorry to report that I am a thief. It feels good to confess my crime, even though it happened when I was 7 years old. You see, my grandmother gave my brother (he was 6), my sister (she was 1), and me a copy of "The Picture Bible" for Christmas. This book is basically an 800 page comic book that tells the chronological story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. I promptly confiscated it and made it my own. It all worked out though because my grandmother then gave my brother and sister their own copy the next Christmas.

I still have the copy of that Bible my grandmother gave me. It is one of my most prized possessions. For the next 5 to 7 years I read three chapters out of that book every night. When I finished, I started over. To this day when there is a discussion regarding a story from the Bible I see the illustrations from that book in my head.

In recent years the idea of the story of the Bible has become a recurring theme. Not just reading the Bible, but understanding that there is a uniform story found in the 66 books that make up the Bible has become a topic of emphasis. I guess I've always found this to be the case because I read the story repeatedly in a comic book.

So, with that in mind, our high school Sunday School class has begun a study called, "The Whiteboard Bible". During part of the lesson, an illustrator draws pictures to emphasize key points in the story. This will be an 18 week journey from Genesis to Revelation. The point is not to cover every topic, or character, but to walk through the overarching story of the Bible.

The lesson includes a handout with that week's illustrations. When completed, these illustrations will form a time-line, with the pictures being prompts, to help remember the story. I ask that you pray for our high schoolers to diligently follow this lesson, and that God would grant them a hunger to know this story.

From my experience, knowing the story of the Bible is a treasure which cannot be measured. For example, there are two different 400 year periods in the Bible when His people suffer without a word from the Lord. At the end of the first period, Moses leads the people out of Egypt and a nation is established. At the end of the second, Jesus, our Savior, lives on this Earth, dies on the cross, is raised from the dead, and the new covenant is established. These events are completely separate, until you take the Bible as one story. May God grant us all the wisdom to know His story.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES | Wednesday Nights

Bible Study and Prayer with Pastor Neal | Men and women are welcome to attend a time of prayer and Bible study with Pastor Neal on Wednesday nights at 7 pm in the fellowship hall. He'll be leading a study on "Basic Christianity". Whether you're a new believer, new to the church or a long time member—this study is for you.

Men's Bible Study | Men are invited to open God's Word and discuss issues relevant to their spiritual growth. This Bible study meets in room 204. For more information, contact Pastor Jimmy at jimmy@coatsbaptist.com.

Women's Bible Study | Our fall study is "Creation and Covenant: Genesis 12-50." This Bible study meets in the conference room. For more information, contact Stephanie Womick at srwomick@gmail.com.

SECRET SISTERS REVEAL | October 26 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Please bring a final gift for your Secret Sister and a thank you note for the person who has served you this year. The Women's Committee is providing the meal so we need you to RSVP to Keely Hedrick by October 22.

2019 Secret Sisters Kicks off November 11. The Secret Sisters Ministry is a prayer and blessings ministry. Participants are assigned a secret sister who will commit to pray for her, encourage her with notes, cards, and small gifts throughout the year. Information and participant forms can be found in each Sunday School classroom, at the Secret Sister table in the education hall near the prayer garden exit, or in the church office. Return forms to Keely or place in the basket on the secret sister table by October 31.