

STAFF

Neal Thornton
Senior Pastor
pastomeal@coatsbapist.com

Jimmy Newkirk
Associate Pastor
jimmy@coatbaptist.com

Jonathan Waggett
Worship Pastor
jonathan@coatsbaptist.com

Teresa McDaniel
Admin. Assistant

Armida Avery
Admin. Assistant

Mark Langdon
Facility Coordinator

Inside this issue:

Life Of Worship	2
Life On Mission	2
Senior Adults	2
Student Ministry	3
Equipped	3
Bible Studies	3
January Calendar	4
Connect with CBC	4
Newsletter Emailed	4
Altar Flowers	4

Happy New Year church family!

We prayed, we promoted, God moved, and you GAVE! Wow, did you ever give!

Our 2018 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal was \$37,000 and you far exceeded it. I want to thank you for your generous giving to the total of \$45,178.69 on a single Sunday, December 16!! Our LMCO total now sits at **\$50,082.34**. If you would still like to give, you can do so through Sunday, January 13.

Your generosity was in response to the Spirit's impression on your hearts. The Bible teaches that generosity towards God is a supernatural action. (Philippians 4:18-19) Such generosity towards missions is ultimately founded in theological conviction. You believe 1) the globe needs the gospel (Acts 4:12); 2) Jesus saves sinners (1 Tim. 1:15); 3) the gospel is the only means by which a dying world meets a gracious Savior. (Rm.10:14-15) You understand the spiritual reality of our world, and you gave because of it.

The International Mission Board leads a global initiative to take the gospel to every tribe and tongue. You support their mission, as we together as Southern Baptists, support God's mission. Every dollar of the LMCO dollars goes directly in support of missionaries on the field. The LMCO helps deploy some for the first time, while keeping others fully funded on the field to continue in their labor. The gospel is sent and shared through your generous giving. Your financial gift is rooted in what you believe about God and your belief in the work of the IMB. I can't thank you enough, and we can't praise the Lord too much! Coats Baptist is a generous giving and going church!

For more information on the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the work of the International Mission Board visit imb.org. For more information on global statistics of unreached people groups, joshuaproject.net.

In other news... it is a *new year*. With each new year come new challenges, new goals and new opportunities for growth. I hope you're looking forward to what God has planned for your life this coming new year (Ephesians 3:20). Part of growing in Christ means growing in prayer. I want to ask you to pick a 2019 focus verse to claim for the 2019 year. A focus verse represents your prayer for a specific need and/or area in your life. For example, perhaps you are starting a new business, or a new job and you need wisdom. You could select James 1:5 as your verse. Memorize it, pray it, and apply it.

As a means of encouragement to you and blessing to us, I want to ask you to please send your 2019 verses to prayer@coatsbaptist.com. Your pastoral staff would love to know how to specifically pray for you and with you throughout 2019.

Blessings to you church. Have a happy New Year!

Pastor Neal

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

At this time of year, we often find ourselves looking back and looking forward. As I look back, my most recent reflection is on Christmas at Coats. If you missed this evening of worship on December 16, I implore you to watch it online at coatsbaptist.com/watch! The worship ministry team and myself have received an overwhelming number of compliments related to this event. We've heard comments like "it's the best I've ever seen" and "you need to do it again" and "it sounded amazing." While we are thankful for comments like these, it is even more encouraging when we hear comments such as "you helped me truly worship" or "the name of Jesus was lifted high" or "I couldn't help but sing and rejoice because God is good."

The primary goal of our worship ministry team as we lead every Sunday is that you respond in worship to the revelation of Jesus - who He is, what He has done for you, and what He has promised He will do. I believe that happens every time we gather together and it was certainly the case during Christmas at Coats. As we enter into another year in the life of our church, my prayer is that you are eager to worship Him and sing joyfully together in our corporate worship gatherings. You know this, but I want to remind you that worship is far more than singing at church on Sunday. What happens during one hour on a Sunday morning or evening should be a reflection of a life of worship all week. Here's a simple plan to help you with that: Monday: Worship. Tuesday: Worship. Wednesday: Worship. Thursday: Worship. Friday: Worship. Saturday: Worship. Sunday: Worship.

Why? Because He is worthy. Always. Period.

MUSIC CORNER

**Peace Be Still
You're Not Finished Yet
Fall Afresh**

The Belonging Co.

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

Last month, we discussed having a plan for bible study. Let me remind you of this formula: Consistency plus Quality plus Accountability is greater than quantity (Consistency + Quality + Accountability > quantity). Let's build on that by outlining a few specific ideas for bible study:

- Beginning to End: 3-4 chapters a day will complete the bible in a year.
- Book by Book studies: emphasize a single book by reading it repetitively. How does it relate to the rest of the bible? What is its message? What does it tell us about Jesus?
- Famous Chapters of the Bible: repetitively read key chapters/sections, e.g., Gen 1-3; Gen 12; Ex 20; Josh 24; Ps 23; Ps 51; Is 53; Matt 5-7; Jn 17; Acts 2; Acts 15; Rom 8; 1 Cor 13; Heb 11; Rev 7. What does this teach us? How do these connect with other texts?
- Word Studies: using a concordance, look up and read how special words are used in the bible, e.g., faith, hope, love, grace, mercy, repent. A word of caution: don't develop an entire theology based on how a word is used once.
- Biographical Studies: study biblical persons, e.g., Joseph, Ester, Ruth, David, Saul, Simon Peter, Paul, Timothy. Consider how God used them. Remember, they were not perfect.
- Doctrinal Studies: what does the bible teach about, e.g., Christ, grace, church. I would limit this to a few weeks at a time.
- Spiritual practices studies: review specific spiritual disciplines or topics, e.g., prayer, fasting, scripture itself.
- Devotional studies: use a devotional book but don't substitute this for bible reading. Consider using a devotional book in the morning and a longer bible reading in the evening.

Let me know if you want more ideas but, most importantly, have a plan for bible study! We'll build on this again soon.

SENIOR ADULTS

On Friday, January 18 our Senior Adults will meet at the church at 11:30 am to go to Sanford to the Temple Theatre to see "Church Basement Ladies Part 2" for a cost \$15/per person. We will stop along the way and have lunch at Ron's Barn in Sanford (you pay). Please sign up ASAP with Gail, Sherry, Kathy, or Bonnie to reserve your ticket.

Coats Baptist Church
 PO Box 297
 Coats, NC 27521

Non-Profit Org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Coats, NC
 Permit No. 1

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

JANUARY PRAYER CARDS
 This month, remember to pray for
 Spiritual Growth

JANUARY	
January 14-18th	Disaster Relief Team (Wewahitchka, FL)
January 18th	Senior Adults (11:30) Leave for Temple Theatre
January 26th	Women's Ministry "Equipped" (8:30-Noon)

CONNECT WITH CBC
 Visiting? New member? Considering joining?
 You're invited to a discussion on Feb. 3rd, at
 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall, to discuss who we
 are as a church, where we're going, how we con-
 nect, and opportunities for service. Contact Pas-
 tor Jimmy for more details:
 jimmy@coatsbaptist.com

NEW YEAR NEWS
Newsletter Delivery | If you desire to receive the
 monthly church newsletter via email instead of a
 paper copy, notify the church office by emailing
 teresa@coatsbaptist.com.
Altar Flowers | Please contact the church office
 at (910) 897-5173 if you desire to have flowers
 placed on the altar on any given Sunday in 2019.

STUDENT MINISTRY | Anthony [Psalm 51:10-13]
 Has anyone ever asked you after celebrating a birthday if you feel older? I have never met anyone who replied with a positive answer to this question. Why is that? Because in reality very little has changed. Our birthday is simply the day after the one before it. We are not a year older, we are a day older. But birthdays give us the framework to evaluate our year. We can remember how we last celebrated it, and then think of all the things in between.
 New Year's is much like this. The year is only new on our calendars, but with it we have the framework to evaluate the last 12 months. On the other hand, it is a good starting point for setting goals we would like to achieve before the next 12 months become history. In a way, New Year's becomes a reset button of sorts; a second chance to do the next year better than the last.
 This idea reminds me that we serve a God of second chances. During the Sunday School hour, the High School class has been going through "The Whiteboard Bible". It is a video driven lesson that focuses on the high level story of the Bible. Most recently we looked at the building of the second temple, after the exile, by Zerubbabel. We also heard about Nehemiah coming to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall around the city, and that Jeremiah had prophesied before any of this happened that the Israelites would be in exile for 70 years before returning to Jerusalem. You may ask, "Why then were the Israelites exiled, only to return later"? Because they sinned against God.
 Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians because Israel left their first love and sought other gods. They sinned. God was patient with their sin, giving them many opportunities to repent. In the end, sin demanded a consequence and the consequence was severe. The city fell, the temple was burned, people died, and families were dislocated and separated. And yet, even in the midst of this, God had a plan of restoration. God had already set a time limit for the exile. God had already planned for a rebuilt, restored Jerusalem and a new temple.
 It is during the time of the exile that we have stories like Daniel and the lion's den and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace. We see God humble foreign kings during the exile and stand with His people, even in their punishment. Ultimately we see God restore His people to their promised land.
 With all this said, as we look back over 2018, and as we look forward to 2019, let us always remember that our God is in the business of restoration. Left to our own devices, 2019 will be filled with the same struggles and failures we experienced in 2018. At best we may trade an old struggle for a new struggle. But, if we commit to follow our God, no matter what He asks, no matter where He leads, then 2019 could be the greatest year ever.

EQUIPPED | A Scripture Memorization Event
"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:16-17)
 Is one of your goals to grow closer in your walk with the Lord? To better know Him and His Word? That's God's desire too! He wants us to seek Him, and He promises us we will find Him when we seek Him with our whole heart (Jeremiah 29:13). The Women's Ministry Team would like for you to join us on January 26, from 8:30 am—noon, as we gather verses to *EQUIP* us with scripture to memorize. We will receive God-breathed inspiration profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 Every participant will go home with an individualized scripture memory box, equipping us in areas such as prayer, humility, anxiety, perseverance, and self-control. We will also discover a scripture memorization method that will help commit these verses to memory, allowing God's Word to penetrate our heart and mind as we face the new year. If you would like to attend, a sign up table will be in the foyer by the fellowship hall starting January 6. Signups will be held between services and Sunday School.

NEW BIBLE STUDIES
Precept Bible Study | You are invited to a 14 week Precept Inductive Bible study on Isaiah Part I. The study starts on January 22 in the Fellowship Hall at 1 pm with an Introduction to the book of Isaiah. Workbooks may be picked up at that time or will be available in the church office anytime after the first week of January. Please contact Diane Allen at (910) 890-0679 or the church office at (910) 897-5173 to reserve a workbook, for more information, or if childcare is needed.
Marriage Small Group | A new small group bible study focused on marriage will begin Sunday, Jan. 13 at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Pastor Jimmy for more details at jimmy@coatsbaptist.com