

KOINONIA

A close-up photograph of a white flower with a bright yellow center, set against a blurred green background. The flower has five large, white petals and a dense cluster of yellow stamens in the center. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural setting.

S U M M E R 2 0 1 3

Koinonia is a Greek word whose primary meaning is “fellowship or sharing in common.” It means that we are in agreement with one another, united in a common purpose, and serving alongside each other. It is the ideal state of fellowship, community and family that should exist within a body of believers. It is this ideal state, this *koinonia*, that we hope to encourage through this publication. Our hope is that it would be far more than just a fancy listing of events, but that people would get a greater sense of who we are as a church, that they would see our heart, not just our hands and feet.

This magazine is a collaboration of a large group of people of all ages and ranges of talents and abilities. If you are interested in becoming a part of this Media Arts Team, please contact Michael Hickman, or Andy Byers, or email koinonia@dnbc.org. We would love to have you join us!

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 3-7 – VBS

June 9 – Missions Luncheon

June 14-15 – Quilt-In

June 29-July 5 – Youth Mission Trip to Eagle Nest

July 8-12 – Music Camp

July 15-19 – Mission Camp & Boys Camp

July 28 – World Hunger Emphasis

August 3-10 – Peru Mission Trip

August 16-17 – Preteen Retreat

August 25 – Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

August 30-Sept 2 – Camp Out

Sept 1 – Camp In



VBS & CAMPS

Vacation Bible School

The theme for this year is "Colossal Coaster World, Facing Fear, Trusting God." Because children (and adults) enjoy visiting amusement parks, this will be a fun time for all. In this exciting setting, kids will be challenged to tap into God's promise to give them courage to face their fears by trusting Him. Whether the sense of fearfulness comes from changing the familiar for the unknown, speaking up when it's right to do so, or making the ultimate decision to believe in Jesus and trust Him as Savior, they can trust God for the spirit of power, love, and sound judgement. VBS is for children of all ages through 6th grade. It is June 3-7, everyday from 9am to noon, and it is absolutely free. Register online at dnbc.org or come a little early on Monday and sign up in person.

Music Camp

Camp this year will be especially exciting since the Children's Music Camp (just completed 4th-6th grade) and the Worship 4 Life Youth Music Camp (completed 7th-12th grade) will both take place during the same week, at Inlow Baptist Camp. The dates are July 8-12. Registration is due June 8. Contact Sharon Williams, Ira Pinkston, or Andy Byers if you know someone who should attend one of those camps. The church provides scholarships (ask for specifics) for both of these camps.

Boys Camp

Boys Camp is for boys who have completed the 3rd through 12th grade. It's held at Sivells Baptist Camp just south of Cloudcroft. The boys will be involved in Bible Study, worship, recreational activities like archery, crafts and hiking. The dates are July 15-19, please call the office if you are interested in going. Scholarships are available.

Children's Mission Camp

Children's Mission Camp
Children's Mission Camp is an exciting camp for children who have completed 3rd -7th grade. Teaching our children to look beyond themselves and to see the world and all the opportunities for ministry is one of the key elements of Children's Mission Camp. This camp is held at Inlow Baptist Camp. The camp schedule includes Bible Studies, Crafts, Fellowship, Fun, Missionaries and more. Children can enjoy this camp experience, July 15th - July 19th, 2013, scholarships are available, contact the office for more details.

Summer Abroad

This summer our student ministry is all about the "Summer Abroad".

For starters, you will see students in many of your adult Sunday School classes. The students have been split up into groups of 4 or 5, and as a group they will attend a different Sunday School class every month this summer. So be on the look out for our students on Sunday mornings the next few months and welcome them into your bible study.

Also this summer, we would like to invite everyone to join our students for a couple of different weekly activities. On Sunday nights, starting at 6pm, we will meet at Montgomery Park on Comanche for a time of worship, teaching and fellowship. And on Friday nights, we will continue to have Manna. This is our downtown outreach, where we pass out food and water to people. The summer months are always the biggest, and as of this writing we are already up to 12 loaves of bread, which makes a little over 130 sandwiches. To deal with making so many sandwiches, we have started to meet at 6pm to make sandwiches and then head downtown by about 6:45. We would love to have more people come downtown and

pass out food with us, but we also need people to come at 6 and help us make sandwiches. So please consider coming to make sandwiches, to go with us to pass them out, or even better come and do both. This summer we will also be trying out a new weekly gathering – Tuesdays at the Movies. Every Tuesday afternoon, we'll head to the dollar theater and check out a movie together.

Our students will also be going across the state and across the world. At the beginning of July they will be in Eagle Nest, NM to do VBS and participate in some community events. The first week of August, several of our college students and some leaders will be in Lima, Peru to work with some local missionaries there. And one of our college students, Brandon Key, is currently in Southeast Asia with a group from the BSU.

So be in prayer for our students as they spend this summer out and about, and come join them as they try and follow the words of Paul to "shine like stars" in the midst of the world as they take Jesus across the street and around the world.

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

It is an honor to be your Interim Preaching Pastor for this period of time during which the church is seeking the Senior Pastor that will lead us into the future. Thank you for the privilege.

A dictionary definition of the word interim is, “intervening time: a period of time between two occurrences.” Such a definition might be interpreted to mean a time during which little of significance happens...we just hold on, treading water while awaiting the next Big Event; in this case, the calling of our permanent pastor. Let me suggest we take a somewhat different approach. As the Pastor Search Committee does its prayerful duty over the next months, let us aggressively work together so we can hand over to the new pastor’s leadership a church that is already moving forward. Some of the areas I see that bear consideration:

- Focusing on individual member responsibility for evangelism and discipleship
- Staff evaluation of the various ministries of the church for effectiveness, making or recommending changes as appropriate
- Reviewing and updating the church’s constitution and by-laws
- Formalizing our relationship with the Spanish Language congregation
- Numerical growth in worship services and Sunday School

Following the departure of a loved pastor, it takes time and prayerful effort for a church to “move on.” I ask you to join me in prayer and effort as we move positively toward the tasks to which God has called us as a church of Christ Jesus.

Your Brother in Christ,
Joe Long

Pastor Search Team Update

Your Pastor Search Team has already been hard at work. The first few weeks were largely about getting organized and training from Pastor Bob and Dr. Joe Bunce. We have since met several times praying for our Lord's leadership in conducting our business and seeking the right man for Del Norte.

A special thanks to all of you that responded to our survey. All of the information, suggestions, and comments are being taken into consideration as we search for our next Pastor.

We are beginning to receive resumes and are in the process of prayerfully reviewing them and looking forward to receiving more. Thank you for all of the prayers being lifted up for us. We cherish your continued prayers and ask that you pray specifically that God would clearly reveal to us His choice for the next Pastor of Del Norte Baptist church.

In His Service,
Henry Acton, Bill Bayes, Roy Crawford, Michael Hickman, Mary Frances Ingram,
Melissa Kerby, Kristy Peck, Judy Williams

Missions Groups

This year in missions the kids discovered God's work all over the world! Some of the places we "travelled" were; India, Cambodia and South Africa.

When we were in India we learned about the slums of Mumbai. The children saw firsthand how the people who lived there used the same water for cooking, cleaning AND drinking! The missionaries there help provide clean water for these people.

In Cambodia, we learned about a group of dentist missionaries who come and work for people who live on a lake. They use their skills and knowledge of dentistry to minister to hurting people. They also help provide clean water for the lake people.

One of the places that we "visited" that impacted the GAs the most was a place in South Africa called The Door of Hope. This ministry provides a place for moms who aren't able to care for their babies. The moms put their babies in a hole in a wall at the Door of Hope building. This triggers an alarm and a worker on the other side retrieves the baby. The baby is cared for and a "forever family" is found to adopt them.

We wrapped up the year with a play day! The GA's, Mission Friends and CIA came together to play games and feast on popcorn and cotton candy; thanks to Pastor Kevin!!!

GA's is for all girls in 1st -6th grade, CIA is for boys in 1st-6th grade, and Mission Friends is for children 3 years old up to kindergarten. We get together to learn more about God's love for the people throughout the world. We would love to have more children join us. Our Missions programs start back up September 8th.



What if every parent and child in your church could quickly find any reference in the Bible?

What if they could make a personal application of the verse or passage?

What if parents and children worked together learning verses and their meanings?

What if children and parents felt that the Bible was more than a book used at church?

What if parents and children used the Bible together every day?

What if the Bible was seen as easy to use?

What if you could make these "what ifs" come true for children and families? Bible Drill helps our church be intentional about developing Bible skills in the lives of children and families. It provides fun, keeps kids moving, and gives hands-on ideas for guiding children to locate, learn, and apply Scripture to daily living. This past year some of our children participated in Bible Drill and were able to compete in the State Bible Drill – one of them even earned a camp scholarship. Join us for Bible Drill on Wednesday nights at 5:30 when we start back up in September.

Also on Wednesday nights, stick around and join us for TeamKID. TeamKid is a fun, high-energy ministry that encourages kids to know Jesus Christ and to grow in a relationship with Him. All parts of TeamKID - Bible stories, Scripture memory, life application, missions, and recreation - connect to teach life lessons to kids. We just finished up another great year of TeamKID, and we hope you'll join us or send some kids you know our way when we start back up again this fall on Wednesday nights at 6:30.



Music Ministry Update

This spring has been full of incredible worship experiences. Let me take a moment to reflect on a few of them.

On Easter Sunday our Celebration Choir and Orchestra presented a beautiful musical worship expression of the last days in the life of Jesus Christ culminating in his glorious resurrection. The choir and orchestra were just outstanding.

On Saturday, April 29, Las Campanillas (our handbell choir) hosted and participated in the American Handbells Ringers "Spring Fling." We combined with several other churches and community handbell choirs to present an afternoon concert that was a gorgeous moment of musical pleasure. It was a special blessing to join with so many talented Christian musicians from so many different churches.

On May 19 our Children's choirs; Joyful Musicians, Sunshine Music Makers, and King's Kids joined together for a blessed time of worship. It is a wonderful thing to watch young people smile and sing about our Lord and Savior. As always our fabulous leadership; Caryn Coppedge, Sonja Nelson, and Sharron Williams led the choirs to present meaningful and worshipful music at such an extremely high level of presentation.

On May 26 our "youth" led the combined service; which included our regular 8:30 am service as well as both of our 11 am services. I cannot begin to tell you how encouraged I am to know that our middle school, high school, and college age students love the Lord and are willing to share their worship expressions with us.





YOUTH SUNDAY

Once again Memorial Day Weekend was a special time for Del Norte. Our Sunday morning schedule was shifted, and our students lead us in a combined worship service – which included all 3 of our services – and then everyone headed over to Montgomery Park for a great time at our annual church picnic.





ENSLAVED BY A DEBT OF LOVE

BY RICHELLE GILSDORF

I've never been in debt before—never owed money on a loan, or been hassled by a friend to pay back what was borrowed. I think debt is often a bad word, bringing to mind financial stress and worry. But I'm not sure that's the only connotation of debt.

I love to read Romans in *The Message*—Paul's writing is often so deep and rich in meaning that I feel I need everything broken down in simple sentences, just to make sure I catch it all. *The Message* does this well. In Romans 13:8, we read "Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along." This doesn't sound surprising on the surface: we often think of "the law" as the rules and regulations to follow as a believer. We see it as a list of obligations. We use it as a mirror by which to recognize sin (Romans 7:7), and work to correct our behavior. We feel responsible for our actions because the law specifically says what should and should not be done. These words—obligations, responsibility—seem very closely tied to debt, don't they? When we think of debt, we think of an obligation to someone, a financial responsibility. Debt is something that binds us, on whatever terms, to another individual until it is paid off. It's a type of slavery, really.

And yet Paul reminds us that we are indeed slaves: "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" (Romans 6:18 NIV). But again, I think this word "slavery" has adopted a negative connotation—we think of it as a burden, an imprisonment. It's a bondage out

of which we get nothing good in return. But Paul flips this perception on its head: "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life" (Romans 6:22 NIV). Here we're told that being a slave is a benefit (at least when we're slaves to an almighty, loving God), and that this benefit leads to holiness and eternal life. We were once slaves to sin and to the strict code of the law, "But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code" (Romans 7:6 NIV).

Once again, *The Message* helps me to understand this idea of being free from "the law code" and being bound by the "way of the Spirit": "God went for the jugular when he sent his own Son. He didn't deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In his Son, Jesus, he personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all. The law code, weakened as it always was by fractured human nature, could never have done that. The law always ended up being used as a Band-Aid on sin instead of a deep healing of it. And now what the law code asked for but we couldn't deliver is accomplished as we, instead of redoubling our own efforts, simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us" (Romans 8:3-4 MSG). By "embracing what the Spirit is doing in us," we're giving Christ complete control of our lives—i.e., we're slaves to His good and perfect will. And in return for this chosen slavery—for of course we must choose to follow Christ—we're

MY COMMAND IS THIS:

Love each other as I have loved you.

given His hope and peace, and eternal life.

Well now that we understand ourselves to be slaves to the kindest, greatest master, we must ask, what are our duties of service? If we're no longer bound by the law, then what does our new way of obedience tell us to do? For that answer we should go straight to the source, to the words of Jesus himself: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34 NIV).

Love. That is our new commandment, the new law which we must follow. Yet, Paul maintains that this love was the point all along—this was what the old law was trying to accomplish in us, but which our sinful natures prevented us from fulfilling. Remember, "When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along" (Romans 13:8 MSG).

So our new duties to our new master—Christ—are summed up in one word: love. Every command ever given was in support of this ideal, was reaching towards this perfect goal. Christ lived a life enslaved in love—He lived a "debt of love" to everyone He encountered. And this wasn't a burden, an unsavory task (although that's not to say that loving people will always be easy)—but it was performed with the understanding that the debt was not a punishment or a responsibility in the painful sense, but rather a bond. Christ bonded with the disciples through love—He bonded with us through the ultimate demonstration of love, His death on the cross (John 15:13 NIV). Love is active, it is a verb requiring movement and intentionality. He made the decision to act.

And in the end He spelled out our "duties" to us, plain as day: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12 NIV). But Jesus, because He's awesome and amazing and the greatest lover you will ever know, didn't stop there. He didn't just tell us what we need to do, He said this: "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15 NIV). Although we are slaves, Christ sees us as friends. Yes, He was talking to

the disciples here, but what the disciples learned they taught to us, and so by translation, Christ is speaking to us—He is calling us "friends." You are a friend of God, of Jesus, of the One who holds the universe in His hands. He chooses to call you friend, though you are really servant, slave. He wants your obedience, but He also wants your friendship, your love. In fact, your obedience IS your love—to others, and to Him.

So you see, it IS a debt—it is a lifelong debt that we will never be able to pay off, because there is no bottom of the wallet—there is no end to the love we are given so long as we are living in Christ, the ultimate source of love, and so there is no limit to the love we can give. But we must cling to the source, hold fast to Jesus's hand, if we are to love for the rest of our lives—we cannot continue to pour out without being refilled. Paul alerts us to this constant need for "refueling": "Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder" (Romans 12:11-12 MSG).

My heart has been moved by what God showed me in this message—and it reminds me of how much I love our church, how bonded I feel to the people I know here, and how much I crave to see others joined to us in Christ. I find myself wanting to pay this debt, and it makes me ache for more of God's unending love. It isn't always easy to love, but when I think of what I've done, I can't imagine it was easy for Christ to die for me, to love me that much. But He—the master—chose to pay that debt to me—the wandering, wayward servant—out of some crazy sense of love I will probably never understand. But as love incarnate, He knew and knows what He is doing.

Brothers and sisters—my family—we owe a huge, insurmountable debt. Are we really paying it off? We'll never quite love like Jesus does, but are we trying, every moment of every day, to get closer? I hope so—I pray so. Let us always be mindful of Paul's words: "You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is love" (Romans 13:10 MSG).



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Worship Service Times

Traditional Service - 8:30 am, Sunday
Contemporary Service - 11:00am, Sunday
Spanish Service - 11:00am, Sunday

If you would like to contact us about this publication,
send an email to koinonia@dnbc.org

We are a united body of believers committed to grow
in Christ and reach others for Christ