

# KOINONIA



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*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.

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*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](mailto:koinonia@dnbc.org). We would love to have you join us!*

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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sept. 24 – Family Movie Night @ CC

Oct. 2 – Central Association Annual Meeting

Oct. 9/10 – Youth Fall Break Trip

Oct. 20-22 – State Convention

Nov. 9 – Wills & Estate Planning

Nov. 15 – SAM Thanksgiving Banquet

Nov. 25 – Life Together Thanksgiving Dinner

Nov. 30 – Lottie Moon Week of Prayer

Dec. 6 – Sole-2-Soul

Dec. 7 – Children’s Choir Christmas Program

Dec. 12 – Christmas Camp

Dec. 21 – Celebration Choir Christmas Program

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service

Deacon’s Meetings are the first Sunday of every month

Be sure to watch the church calendar around the holidays because the office will be closed.



## A WORD FROM PASTOR BRAD

Hello DNBC Family.

I wanted to take a moment and say thank you so much for all your love and support bestowed to my family. Your words of love and encouragement have been a great help in our transitioning to a new home in New Mexico. Your gifts of love and generosity have enriched our hearts in a great way. Our church family has gone above and beyond in showing the depths of your hearts toward us.

As I sit here seeking the next chapter in the life of DNBC, I cannot help but take notice of the great legacy that already exist. The outpouring of your efforts toward discipleship, evangelism, and missions has blessed this church family with a great testimony. When I called around to find out more information about DNBC; not one negative comment was ever uttered toward or about you. All I heard was of your great love for God and each other. All I heard was of all the great works you had already been a part of. In the short time I have been here with you, I can most certainly say that you truly do live up to your worthy testimony.

I pray the next chapter of DNBC would live up to the previous chapters. I see us continuing to be a lighthouse to the lost and hopeless. A place where all feel welcomed and desired. A caring family that desires to love one another in unity and loyalty.

I earnestly look forward to our season together. I anticipate our Father in Heaven doing great and mighty works in the efforts of our ministries. I love you greatly and am humbled to be your servant.

Enjoying the Journey  
Brad

Family Movie Night  
September 24th  
6:30pm

Del Norte Conference Center  
We will be showing "God's Not Dead"

Bring your friends and family.  
Bring a comfy chair or use one of ours.  
Popcorn and drinks will be provided.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry has cranked up again for fall with Choir, TeamKid, Missions Classes, Bible Drill and Children's Church back in full swing! We closed out the summer by giving 71 backpacks to Governor Bent Elementary School students and 3 boxes of additional supplies to Cleveland Middle School for them to hand out.

We are coming into a busy and exciting season with tons of opportunities for anyone interested in getting plugged in with our kids. In September (the 26th & 27th) there is an opportunity for all those, experienced and newbies, to hone their teaching skills at the Baptist Convention of New Mexico's New Mexico Kid's Conference for Teachers. If you are interested in learning more about this check out the BCNM website or contact me, Hannah, at 881-9711, or by email at [hannah@dnbc.org](mailto:hannah@dnbc.org)



**TRUNK  
OR  
TREAT**

In October to give our community some Halloween options we will be hosting our first annual "Trunk or Treat". You will be hearing more details about this as we put our plan together so if you have or know kids who live in the area put our church parking lot on your trick or treating map!



## SOLE 2 SOUL AND CHRISTMAS CAMP

We will be having our 4th annual Sole 2 Soul shoe give away on Saturday December 6th. This is an opportunity to provide shoes to some very grateful children and parents!! We will need plenty of volunteers, goodies to give out and you can give to help cover the cost of the shoes that will be given away.

Christmas Camp is the following Friday December 12th. This is our yearly evening to reach out to the families of our community providing a night of food, fun, and games to kids from babies through 6th grade while giving the parents a night off.

Both of these events have been extremely successful in the past and we hope they will be again this year!



**SOLE 2 SOUL**  
DECEMBER 6TH



**CHRISTMAS CAMP**  
DECEMBER 12TH

# FROM THE GROWTH PASTOR

## SEWING MACHINES FOR HOUSE OF HOPE



Many of you have heard about this up-coming Mission Project in Nicaragua. Sometime in the very near future I will be travelling to Nicaragua to purchase and install sewing machines at the House of Hope in Managua. This ministry rescues women who have been trapped in Human Trafficking and Prostitution. They are educated in a trade where they can make a living for themselves and their families. If anyone would like to contribute to this endeavor you can make your check out to Del Norte Baptist Church and on the memo line put the words, House of Hope.

## BIBLE STUDY / SUNDAY SCHOOL



It would be difficult to OVERSTATE the importance of our Sunday School/Bible Study classes at Del Norte Baptist Church. Many churches in America have departed from the design plan of Sunday School and have opted for “In-Home” groups. But for some reason, Sunday School still WORKS for us here at Del Norte Baptist. Besides teaching the Bible to all who attend, our Sunday School model is a well-organized Care Group that ministers to the class members.

Sunday School: For All Ages...for YOU! Get involved Today!

## DISCIPLESHIP STUDIES



Forgotten God is a Video Study by Francis Chan where he imparts a life-changing message on the power of the Holy Spirit and His desire to unleash Himself into our daily lives. Workbook cost: \$10.

This 7 session series reminds us of the true source of the church’s power: the Holy Spirit.

The class begins Sunday, September 21st at 5:00 pm. and is scheduled to conclude on November 2nd.

## MELODRAMA NEWS:



Our 12th Annual Dinner Theater will be presented on, February 6, 7, 13, and 14 at 6:30 nightly in the Del Norte Conference Center.

The title has not yet been released as of the writing of this article, but I will give you this “hint.” It is based on a senior adult retirement home and the antics of the unusual characters that live there. Tickets will go on sale Wednesday, December 31 at 8:30 a.m. in the Church Office.



# MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRIES



Our Celebration Choir and Orchestra have just begun working on the exciting Christmas Musical “There Is Peace in the World Tonight.” You will want to put this date on your calendar: Sunday morning, Dec. 21, 2014. We will present the musical in both morning worship services. Please invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers now, so they have no excuses later. If you do it now, you will see that it will be a low-pressure way to open doors with them about spiritual things. After they have considered coming to a musical in December they might be more open for you to invite them to other things between now and then.

Our Handbell Choir will begin preparing for Christmas in October.

Our Children’s choirs have begun meeting and

we are excited to see the Lord work in the lives of the children and adult workers, as they experience music and God together. They will be leading us in worship, occasionally on Sunday mornings, and then in a combined program on Sunday night, Dec. 7, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

Our Student ministries have also just begun their Mosaic experience and it always amazes me how creative Andy and his team of leaders are in teaching the students to worship God through many different activities. We will be hearing and seeing from them on Sunday mornings and other times this Fall.

But what about me, you ask? You are very welcome to be a part of our music and worship ministry. Simply call Ira Pinkston, 505-553-9354, or email him, [ira@dnbc.org](mailto:ira@dnbc.org) and we will find a place of service for you.

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## A NOTE FROM IRA

As I was writing this article it dawned on me that Jennifer, Joy, Melody, and I have been part of the Del Norte Baptist family for 7 years. I cannot begin to express the gratitude in my heart for each member of this wonderful church. This is the fifth church that I have been a member of the staff and it has been, by far, the most enjoyable time of my ministry. It is so awesome to be part of a church family that “plays together” so well. I have not observed the difficulties and stresses that many churches seem to possess. Thank you for working together so well to reach our community with the amazing message of Jesus Christ. We look forward to many, many more years of linking arms with you as we reach everyone we can with God’s amazing grace.



# WHO GOD SAYS WE ARE

BY RICHELLE GILSDORF

**F**or the fifth consecutive year, the Del Norte Baptist Youth group traveled to Eagle Nest, New Mexico to teach Vacation Bible School at the Eagle Nest Baptist Church. This year, our high school and middle school students had the opportunity to teach up to 15 children from the Eagle Nest area (including the two Byers kids we brought with us), and the college students who came along as sponsors cleaned and painted two of the cabins owned by the church. As always, we ventured up to Red River, hiked in Cimarron Canyon, participated in the fourth of July parade, and watched fireworks from our favorite fence. In total, 29 adults and students participated in this year's mission trip.

During this year's trip, two important experiences were occurring aside from our VBS and painting work. First, we were experiencing the familiar Life Together. Eating, sleeping, working, playing, worshipping, and praying together for a week can bring people closer than they ever thought possible. It brings us back

to Acts 4:32, and how the early believers were "one in heart and mind" (NIV). We were experiencing time with the family of God, in all its odd and quirky parts.

Second, we were experiencing a little more of God with us. If you've ever been to Eagle Nest, the natural beauty is enough to remind you of how awesome our God is. Add to that some pretty spectacular thunderstorms and vast starry skies, and you have a recipe for humble pie. I never feel so small and yet so close to God as I do in that mountain valley.

Then, on Thursday night we had Lord's supper, but not in any way you would expect. Andy laid out some bread rolls, juice, and cups, and told us to come up as we felt led. He also encouraged us to read John 15-17, in which Jesus prays not only for his disciples, but for future believers like us. Last, Andy told us he would wash our feet and pray over us individually. I could never presume to know what God was doing in the hearts of the students around me, but I know what he was doing in mine: as I sat down after Andy had prayed over

me and I prepared to lift up my usual prayers, I felt this urging to pray for the students around me. Unsure of what would happen, I began to pray for them by name.

By the time I opened my eyes ten minutes or so later, there were tears all around the room. Girls, boys, adults... everyone seemed to be feeling something deeply personal, perhaps even painful. I and other sponsors had the opportunity to pray with and hold weeping students who were feeling God's presence. There was no denying that God was among us and his spirit was moving within us that night. It was one of the most beautiful and humbling things I have ever seen.

Aside from these experiences we were having during the week, we were also presented with a message from Andy each night during worship. This year he spoke about identity: who we are and how we define ourselves. Andy began the message in Matthew 3-4, in which Jesus is being baptized, noting what God says of his son at this start to his ministry: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (3:17 NIV).

Then Andy shared a truth with us that is so often repeated in church, but which can tend to fall on the deaf ears of students who have grown up hearing it every Sunday since they were born: we are God's children, and he loves us. But I think often our human nature seeks a reason for God's love, an explanation for why he could put up with so much failure and sin. We start to look at our morality, our "Christian" behavior, and reason that God loves us because we have committed ourselves to His work and are doing our best. But as Andy would reveal to us, God's love is much more beautiful than that—painfully beautiful. Something so simple and out of our control that it almost hurts to believe despite that it is the greatest news.

To put it in Andy's own words, we often perceive God's love to operate like this: "I love you because I am pleased with you" or "I love you because you're being a good Christian" or "I love you because..." (fill in the blank with whatever else you may feel God could love you for). But the painful truth is that none of those things make God love us—even though we should always strive to please him, it is not our ability to behave or capacity to please him that causes him to love us. Rather, as Andy noted, God's love operates outside of our control: he does not say "I love you because", but "I love you. Therefore..." We can please God by obeying him and accomplishing his will... but he will continue to love us, faithfully pursue our hearts, whether we please him or not. Jesus did not die on the cross for a crowd of God-pleasers, people who had done their best to please him. He died for people he loved.

For anyone living in our country at this time—but perhaps most especially for students and young people—it can be so hard to understand who we are and who we are meant to be. There is so much in the world telling us we're not good enough for this, or too good for that; we are very rarely certain of our place in life or what God has in store for us. We try to discern his will before we even understand who we are to him, or who he is to us. But knowing and having confidence in our identity—which is defined by God himself—is the key to growing closer to him and learning to trust him with our futures.

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*GOD'S LOVE OPERATES OUTSIDE OF OUR CONTROL: HE DOES NOT SAY "I LOVE YOU BECAUSE", BUT "I LOVE YOU. THEREFORE...."*

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Author Donald Miller, in his book *Searching for God Knows What*, connects our search for our identity all the way back to Eden, to that perfect relationship between man and God before man betrayed God. Miller writes, "If man was wired so that something outside himself told him who he was, and if God's presence was giving him a feeling of fulfillment, then when that relationship was broken, man would be pining for other people to tell him that he was good, right, okay with the world, and eternally secure... We all compare ourselves to others, and none of our emotions—like jealousy and envy and lust—could exist unless man was wired so that somebody else told him who he was, and that somebody else was gone."

Does this feel familiar? It does to me. The fact of the matter is that we will never feel whole or fulfilled if we cannot see ourselves as our Creator sees us, if we cannot understand and embrace the identity he has given us. We will seek identity and love in all the wrong places and from all the wrong people, striving to fill the empty space that God created in us, and which he alone can fill.

As always, we had a great week in Eagle Nest: VBS went well, we got a lot done on the cabins we worked on... but most importantly we came home with a better sense of who God is, and who we really are as well. With this renewed foundation, we can learn to walk and grow confidently in him.





## HELPING HANDS

We have a group of people in our church who participate in this group of “helpers.” We do things like: minor household and automotive repairs, tree trimming/removal, moving, and so many other things. We exist to help our church members with things that they cannot do by themselves, or that they cannot afford to do. If you have a desire to be a “helping hand” please contact Ira Pinkston, 505-553-9354 or [ira@dnbc.org](mailto:ira@dnbc.org), to get your name on the roll. If you find you need our services you may also contact Ira.

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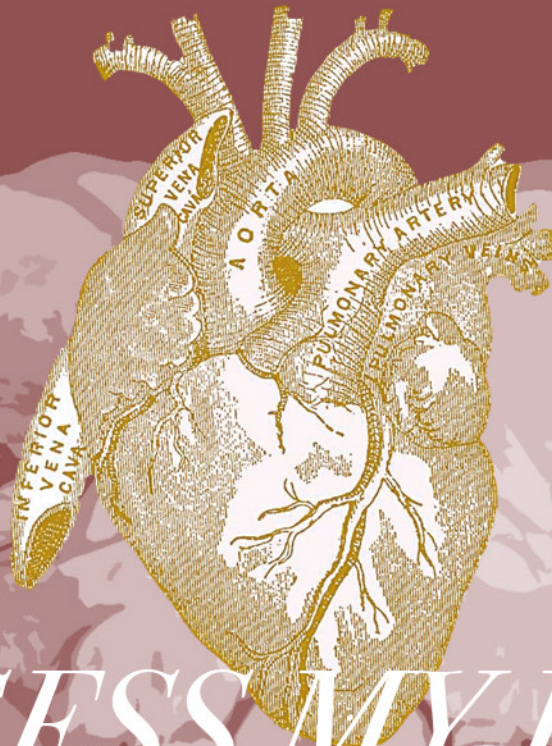


## KOINONIA SUBMISSIONS

Koinonia is a tri-yearly publication. We try to put an issue out at the beginning of the fall semester in September, the spring semester in January and at the beginning of the summer in June.

If you would like to submit something for Koinonia please have it turned in by the 24th of the month before it should come out.

On a similar note if you need something put into one of our weekly publications, such as the prayer guide, the bulletin or the on-screen announcements, please have those turned in to the office by 11am on Wednesdays.



# POSSESS MY HEART

BY RICHELLE GILSDORF

Death Cab for Cutie released a song back in 2008 called “I Will Possess Your Heart.” For weeks now, a line from that song has been repeating like a broken record in my thoughts:

*You gotta spend some time, Love.  
You gotta spend some time with me.  
And I know that you’ll find, Love—  
I will possess your heart.*

It’s not all that deep or complex a concept: if you love someone (and especially if you want him/her to love you back), you have to spend time with that person. When we’re in love, we can’t get enough of another person. We think of him or her nearly every waking hour, and we long to be with him/her when we’re apart. We’re always making plans for when we’re next together, and we seem driven to make that other person smile, to make him/her happy in any way we can. We go out of our way to show him/her that we care. We respect that person’s feelings, his/her wishes, and we learn as much as we can about his/her past and dreams for the future.

And all of this, obviously, takes time. We have to—no matter if it’s in person or via all of the creative and advanced technological options available to us in this day and age—stay in touch. We gotta spend some time together. So I have to ask—who possesses your heart?

Mine is possessed by a number of things: my family, my friends, the church, my boyfriend, my job. I invest in these people (or activities) because I care about them deeply, because I believe in them. I find happiness in these places. I draw strength and comfort and a sense of purpose. I strive to please these people because I truly want to. I spend almost all of my time with them, and they possess my heart.

And sometimes they tug it in vastly different directions, pulling me apart like silly putty. I'm investing myself in people and things that can't always give back what I want from them. I would do anything for these people, but only because serving them genuinely makes me happy.

But then I read the Bible and feel a sense of longing for the love that David had for God. What must it feel like to love someone so much you dance through the streets just to sing his/her praises (2 Samuel 6:14-15)? Or like Abraham, who was willing to sacrifice his long-awaited son in obedience to God (Genesis 22)? Or like Mary, who washed Jesus' feet with her hair (John 12:3)? These were people whose hearts were wholly possessed by God, who would do anything for Him, and likely wanted to spend as much time as possible with Him.

In John 14:15 (NIV), Jesus says "If you love me, you will obey what I command." Okay, so when we love God, we will obey Him. Later, in John 14:31 (NIV), Jesus even tells us how to express our love for God: "The world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me." We express our love to God through obedience.

So how do I get to that place of deep love? I'm quite aware of all of the wonderful and amazing things God has done for me—the blessings in my life, my salvation—and I am humbled and grateful for these. But I'm not sure they generate a sense of deep, long-lasting love within me. I know how to obey God's word, but I don't feel that I obey out of a sense of love; rather, I obey out of gratefulness

and a sense of responsibility.

When I think of learning to love God, I want a step-by-step plan, a formula I can follow. I want the Scriptural roadmap to a close, loving relationship with God. Tell me how to do it and I will do it. I'm good at following directions. Just tell me exactly how to accomplish the end goal and I will make it happen.

Scripture, however, leaves me sorely disappointed in this line of thinking. In Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV), Paul negates my belief that I should have any control in learning to love God: "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

....What? Could you be a little more specific about what "work out... with fear and trembling" means? No, Paul couldn't be more specific. Because there is no roadmap. There is no formula or step-by-step guide to learning to love God. Instead, God "works in [us] to will and to act according to his good purpose." Translation: God works in each of us individually to teach us how to love and trust Him, and then to obey Him (the outward expression of our love for Him). In other words, we have to let God do the teaching. We can't teach ourselves.

When I hear the lines of the Death Cab for Cutie song above, it resonates powerfully with me. I imagine God saying those words to me, frankly reminding me that I can't

love who I don't know, who I haven't experienced intimately. If I want to love God, if I want Him to possess my heart, I have to spend time with Him. The author of the song was telling the woman he loved, "I know if you would just spend some time with me, you'd fall in love with me. I know you well enough to know that. Now it's your turn to know and love me... so let's spend some time together."

I think very often in church we talk about loving God as if it is the most natural inclination of the human body and mind. I think it was meant to be, but then that thing with the snake and fruit happened, and we've been dealing with "unnatural" inclinations ever since. If I'm being honest, my first thought in the morning is often not about the God for whom I'm trying to live my life and deeply love; no, it's usually about what I have to do that day, who I'm going to see, and how I'm going to make the most of the day. But when I get around to meditating on Him and His word, I feel that longing for a deeper love, a closer bond. I want to love Him like I know I should, like I love and serve the other people who possess my heart.

So maybe the solution is very simple, if not crystal clear: if I want to love God even more than I love the other people in my life, I should start by spending even more time with Him, by getting to know Him intimately in the ways He chooses to reveal Himself. I'm not sure what that time will look like; I'm not even sure how I'll do it yet. But I know the one singing to me, the one who calls me "Love" and desires time with me—He will teach me how to love Him back.



# DEL NORTE

Del Norte Baptist Church  
5800 Montgomery Blvd. NE,  
Albuquerque, NM

## **Sunday Worship Service Times**

Traditional Service: 8:30 am  
Contemporary Service: 11:00am  
Spanish Service: 11:00am

## **Contact**

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