

# KOINONIA



S U M M E R 2 0 1 5

St. Catherine  
Institution

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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!*

# Table of Contents

Schedule of Events .....	3
A Word from the Pastor .....	4
VBS .....	5
Music Ministry Recap .....	6
A Word from the Growth Pastor .....	8
Life Together Fund Raiser .....	9
GA's in 2015 .....	10
Becoming Doers of the Word .....	12
NM Baptist Childrens Home .....	14

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 24 – Youth Sunday & Church Picnic  
(It will be “B” schedule with S.S. @ 9 and Joint Worship at 10:15 followed by the picnic)

May 31 – Business Meeting @ 5pm & Torn Curtain begins

June 8 thru 12 – Vacation Bible School (9am to noon)

June 14 – Church-wide Fellowship and Concert

June 17 – Fun in the Son @ the Zoo

June 17 – Texas Youth Choir Concert

June 28 thru July 5 – Youth Mission Trip to Eagle Nest

July 1 – Fun in the Son @ the aquarium

July 6 thru 10 – Worship-4-Life & Children’s Music Camp

July 13 thru 17 – Children’s Mission Camp

July 22 – Fun in the Son @ the Rio Grande Nature Center

August 5 – Fun in the Son @ the Natural History Museum

August 7/8 – Preteen Retreat

August 8 – Transform – Teacher training at Hoffmantown

August 9 – Promotion Sunday

August 16 – Sunday Evening Activities Resume

September 4 thru 7 – Labor Day Camp-Out

September 6 – Labor Day Camp-In

September 9 – Wednesday night children/youth activities resume



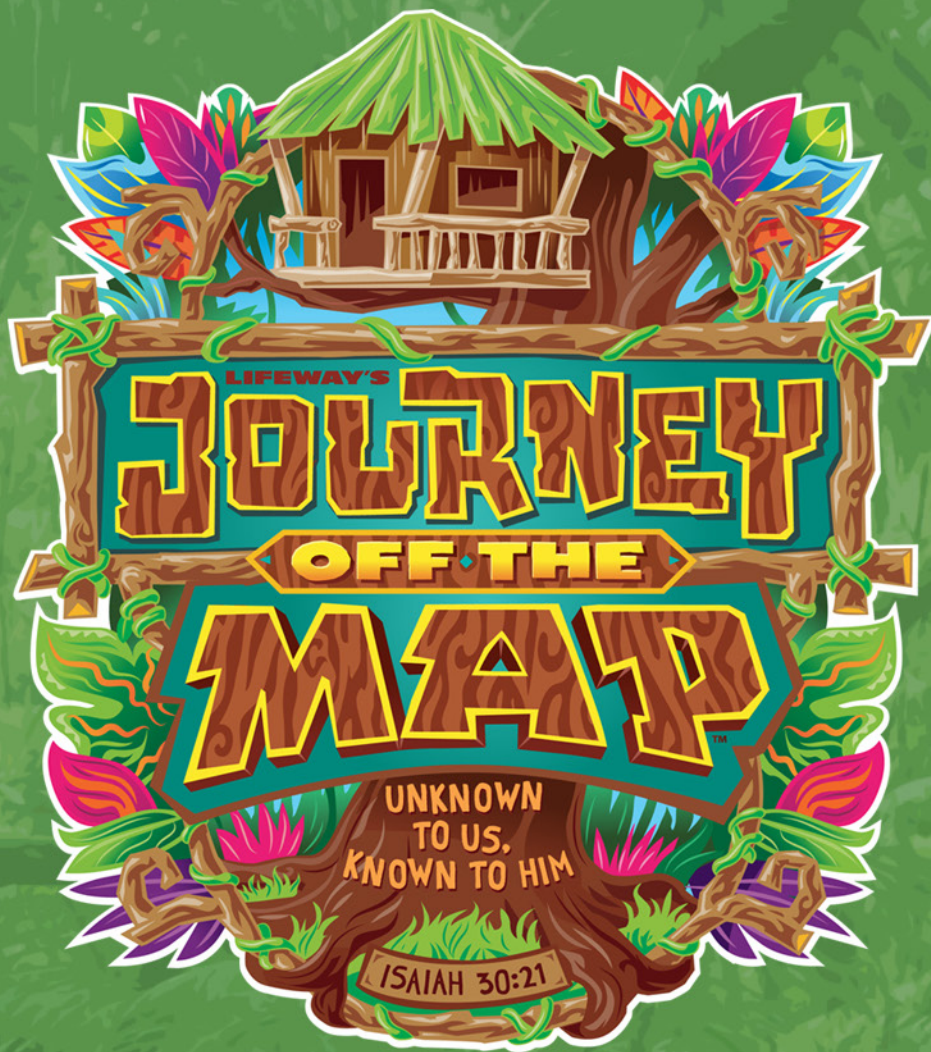
## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

It is so hard to believe that in just a couple of months that my family will have lived in New Mexico for a year. I must say that it has been quite an experience to say the least. Things here are very much different than back home in the upstate hills of South Carolina. We have sure loved every minute of it. Getting to know the area and people has been a great blessing to us. New Mexico is a beautiful state with wonderful people.

The greatest experience so far has most certainly been our new family here at Del Norte Baptist Church! Your love, prayers, encouragement, and support have only helped us in our transition to our new state, city, and community. The wonderful help we received when we moved from our tiny apartment to our new home was so much appreciated and heart moving. That night Toni and I sat pondering as to how blessed we are to have such a wonderful church family.

As you look through this edition of KOINONIA, you will see that there is much going on over the next few months at DNBC. I love how blessed we are to be able to reach and serve so many in the surrounding community. My prayer is that you would search your heart as to how you can take part and serve in all that DNBC is a part of. I am looking forward to a bright and exciting future; all the while enjoying the journey with my family here at DNBC.

Continually praying and loving you all, your servant:  
**Pastor Brad**



Vacation Bible School

June 8-12

9am to Noon

Totally Free

Online Registration is Open

# Music Ministry Recap

Our Worship and Music Ministries have completed another great, eventful, Spring semester. Below are some highlights.

The Celebration Choir presented a musical entitled “Known By the Scars” on Sunday, March 29, in both the 8:30 and 11:00 morning worship services. All the other Sundays the Celebration Choir and Orchestra did an excellent job leading the 8:30 service participants in God-focused worship. Likewise, our Praise Team, has provided the worship leadership for our 11:00 service.

Our Mosaic (primarily 7th-12th Grade) groups have once again inspired and encouraged us to develop our relationship with God through worship. Specifically our Bailamos (“We Dance”) girls, under the capable leadership of Toni Warner, have presented amazing dance interpretations to some deeply moving music. Also, this spring, the Mosaic Vocal Ensemble has assisted our Praise Team in teaching 6 new congregational songs to our 11 o'clock service participants.

Del Norte Baptist Church hosted a Handbell Festival called “The New Mexico Spring Ring” on Saturday, April 25 in our Worship Center. There were 11 handbell choirs in attendance and we played five musical selections together and 6 of the choirs played individual songs.

Our three Children's Choirs combined for a wonderful presentation on Sunday evening, May 3. Our directors are: Caryn Coppedge – Joyful Musicians (age 3-Kindergarten), Sonja Nelson – Sonshine Music Makers (1st-3rd Grade), and Jennifer Pinkston – King's Kids (4th-6th Grade). The Joyful Musicians sang 5 songs during the 6:30 PM experience. All the awards were announced for all the choirs and then the Sonshine Music Makers and King's Kids presented the musical “Hans Bronson's Gold Medal Mission.” It offered a clear explanation of the plan of salvation through drama and music.





# FROM THE GROWTH PASTOR

## NEWS! For Sunday School Teachers

Our Next Teachers' Meeting:

Sunday, August 2, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Room 118 (Adult 7 Dept.)

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## TRANSFORM: Teaching That Changes Lives

This highly focused conference will concentrate on the specific age-group you teach.

You will receive step-by-step guidance on how to teach in ways that genuinely transform lives, and you'll leave with practical ideas you can put to work immediately.

Saturday, August 8, 2015 at Hoffmantown Church

8:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Rally with David Francis (Featured Speaker)

9:30 a.m. Age-Group Conference Sessions

11:45 a.m. Lunch provided

12:30 a.m. Age-Group Conference Sessions

3:00 p.m. Dismiss

I hope all Sunday School Teachers (and those interested in becoming a teacher) will attend.

Give me a \$5 deposit to hold your spot and we will pay your Registration Fee of \$35.

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## VOLUNTEERS' BANQUET

Friday, August 21, 2015. Meal served at 6:30 p.m. at the Del Norte Conference Center.

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The life cycle of living organisms, at least all the ones of which I am aware, involve growth. If there is no growth then something is wrong, something is abnormal. The growth of a mighty oak tree is so slow it can go unnoticed for years. On the other hand, the growing pattern of field corn is so rapid that I have been in a field that was recently watered and actually heard the corn- stalk squeak as it grew.

Are you growing? That question is aimed at your spiritual growth, not your physical stature. If we are not growing in the Lord or in His word, then something is wrong. If we are not growing as Christians then we are abnormal--not healthy. That applies to brand new believers as well as life-long disciples of Jesus. There is a challenge that comes with abnormal Christian growth. It can be difficult to detect. Spiritual malnutrition is not so evident as that of a small, hungry child in a poverty-stricken country.

How then do we grow in the Lord? I've come to believe it happens most often during the hard times of life. Lasting growth comes at a cost to the follower of Jesus. But I hope you have found that the cost is worth it. Please consider the following quote:

*"Growth demands a temporary surrender of security.  
It may mean giving up familiar but limiting patterns,  
safe but unrewarding work, values no longer believed  
in, and relationships that have lost their meaning."  
- John C. Maxwell*

May God bless us with growth as we walk through the tough seasons.

Kevin Warner





On May 9th we had our first ever Life Together Fundraiser.

There were games for the kids.

A Mexican Train dominoes tournament.

Lots & lots of food.

Silent auctions for our students to come and do housework, yardwork & babysit.

And our big main event, a pie auction where people bid for the right to put a pie in the face of our staff and some of our members.

It was a great time and we were able to raise over \$2500 to help send our students to Eagle Nest this summer for a mission trip.

Congratulations to Wayne Hughes for being our Life Together Mexican Train Champion.

Thank to everyone who came out and helped make it such a great time.

P.S. – start saving up now....the pies will be back again next year.





# GA's 2015



What an awesome year we had with the girls in GAs this year!! Girls in Action (GAs) is a missions focused class where girls ages 1st thru 6th grade come together to learn about missionaries all over the world, their work, their families, the struggles they face, and about how they can learn to be a missionary in their areas of influence whether it be home, school, church, wherever they find themselves.

Each month we have a focus Bible story and a verse from the scripture passage we learn about that repeat and discuss throughout the month.

This year we talked about Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life from John 11, we learned about how Isaiah was called by God and drew out the description of a seraph from Isaiah 6:1-8 (WOW), and about Jonah's reluctance to go to Nineveh and tell them about God's expectations for them and how they needed to mend their ways before they ran out of time. Each of these stories prompted discussions about how God can do anything, how He equips us to live for Him, and how we need to be ready to make good decisions based on His word.

This year we also focused on different ways we can pray. We prayed as a group aloud and silently. We took written prayer requests, exchanged them and prayed for each other. We even wrote our requests on the window when we talked about how Daniel prayed three times a day in front of his window that was opened up toward Jerusalem even though it was against the law (Daniel 6).

Along with the Bible events we also learn about missionaries serving all over, from Atlanta, Georgia to Russia; Canada to Korea. We learn about these people and their families. We learn how they work in their community to share the gospel and teach about God and Jesus. This year we even learned about a man who talked to people about Jesus while selling ice cream from a Kona Ice Truck!

The activity that the girls seem to look forward to most each month is our cooking week. In January we made Peach Cobbler when we learned about missionaries in Atlanta. We made Pisang Goreng (Indonesian Banana Fritters) in October, and ice cream in a bag in recognition of the Kona Ice truck driver.

All and all it has been a great year with some amazing girls!

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve you,

Hannah





# BECOMING **DOERS** OF THE WORD

By Richelle Gilsdorf

Last year, the College and Career Sunday school class read Henry Blackaby's *Experiencing God*. It was a study that required us to read scripture daily, and as a result, I developed a habit of setting aside time every morning to complete the questions and read the verses for the study. When we'd finished the book, I found myself wishing I had something else to read, something that could teach me about God each morning as I started my day. Long story short, I decided to carve out time every morning to read my Bible and pray.

My life hasn't been the same since. Over a year later, I continue to make time every day to read the Bible, preferably in the morning, before the concerns and business of the day distracts me. I'm usually reading three books at a time—two from the Old Testament, and then a Gospel. I try to read a chapter from each every morning. I don't follow a devotional or any set plan; if God has laid something on my heart—a spiritual question in which I need direction—I will pray first that he lead me to a passage that can offer clarity. But most mornings I start with prayer and then ask God to speak to me through his Word, to deliver any message or tidbit of truth he has for me that day. Sometimes he speaks, sometimes he doesn't. But whether I hear from him or not, my time in his Word is precious to me.

I didn't always feel this way. For many years, I read my Bible out of obligation, like a textbook, because I thought a good Christian should. I didn't feel any particular motivation or desire to read my Bible. I didn't

understand when people said that God spoke to them through scripture. But as I worked through the *Experiencing God* study and began to feel God teaching me truths through scripture, it occurred to me that maybe I could hear from God by reading his Word.

As I spent more time in the Word, I learned more and more about the Holy Spirit. I began to feel convicted about flagrant sins in my life, and desiring change. I began to realize that although I was saved by grace through faith in Jesus, God wasn't done changing me. He began to teach me about sanctification, the fruits of the spirit, and purity. It became obvious to me that although my life seemed clean and tidy, my heart was not. I gave easily into temptations, lacked self-control, and struggled to want to love others, even though I knew Jesus commanded it. And perhaps the most powerful (and heartbreaking) realization of all was that God's spirit had been living within me for years, trying to guide and grow me, and I'd simply never paid attention. I had the very power of God living within me, and yet my life was not so different from any other twenty-something.

So I started to pay attention. When I read my Bible in the mornings, I asked the Holy Spirit to reveal to me the message I needed to hear for that day. For one span of months, he taught me about purity: how the things I did in my day-to-day life and the way I behaved were directly influenced by the state of my heart. He reinforced this teaching through a whole semester of learning about purity through the small group class

I taught with Aven Tirrel. I began to make earnest changes in my life, embracing the victory over every sin which I knew Jesus had achieved on the cross. I started to notice changes. I experienced freedom from a sin that had dogged me for years. For the first time in my life, I actually started to feel like the new creation of which Paul speaks (2 Corinthians 5:18).

Next, the Holy Spirit deepened my understanding of purity by teaching me about self-control. Coincidentally—although let's be honest, probably not, given how the Spirit works—our College Bible Study on Monday nights began to cover passages that kept drawing me back to a need for self-control in my life. I was still working to gain victory over the aforementioned sin, but now the Spirit was directing my attention to the role of my heart in the problem. He began to point out all of the areas in my everyday life in which I was not submitting to his wisdom.

That lack of submission was the lack of self-control. I had to change my entire way of thinking. Gaining self-control no longer became a game of always saying no to the “bad” things, the temptations, but rather saying yes to God's intentions. I started to realize that if I was striving for the things of God, if my heart was after the promises of scripture, self-control would develop naturally from that outlook. It wouldn't be as hard to say no to temptation, because I was more focused on what I was saying yes to: purity, sanctification, intimacy with God, obedience. It was by no means a lesson learned without stumbling—God blessed me with an accountability partner to help me on my way. But for the first time in my life, I could really feel the change.

This long-winded narration has all been to say that my life would never have changed without the Word of God, without his Holy Spirit guiding, correcting, and teaching me. I recently viewed a sermon online by a pastor named Doug Jones. He was preaching on the Holy Spirit's work within us (as opposed to through us), and one point he made was that as Christians, we must accept that we are lifelong learners. The minute we believe that we understand everything about our faith and our walk with God—and, even worse, God himself—we close our minds and our hearts off from growth and instruction. Sanctification—the being set apart for holy service to God—is a process that won't be finished until we reach heaven. There will always be room to grow.

Second Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV) says, “*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.*” Similarly, Joshua 1:8 (ESV) records God's words: “*This Book of the Law shall*

*not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all this is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*” To me, that sounds like a God-given manual for spiritual success and fulfillment.

But again, rather than viewing the Bible as a textbook, I'm starting to see it as a diary God's been writing to his people. Paul writes in Hebrews 4:12 (ESV), “*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*” This has been my experience with his Word over the past year. It cut me to the heart in a painfully beautiful way. Prior to investing time in and developing a craving for his Word, the wisdom of James 1:22-25 (ESV) described me perfectly (a hearer only): “*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks in the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*”

In other words, God's Word speaks to our true identity, the people we were made to be. By the power of his Spirit within us, we can become that new creation, we can finally achieve freedom and change and growth.

I'm only a year into my new journey of heeding the Holy Spirit's guidance and receiving truth from God's Word, but I'm already humbled by what he's taught me about myself and—more importantly—what he's revealed about his awesome, patient, gracious nature. Reading his Word and spending time hearing from his Spirit has become so essential to my day that if I skip that time for whatever reason, I can soon tell a difference in my attitude, outlook, and thus behavior.

So in sharing this experience I've had, I hope you will begin to devote yourself to the Word of God daily. Whether we are seeking guidance, help, comfort, truth, peace, or change, the Holy Spirit inside of us—the very power of God who raised Jesus from the grave—will speak to us. He will transform us, if only we will submit ourselves to his leading. And he is patient with us—if you don't believe me, read the Old Testament. He is a God of abundant patience with our rebel, wayward hearts. And his Word is a gift by which we can know him more. Whatever we are dealing with—*whatever we are seeking*—let's begin our search in the Word of God, led by the Holy Spirit within us.

# THANK YOU!

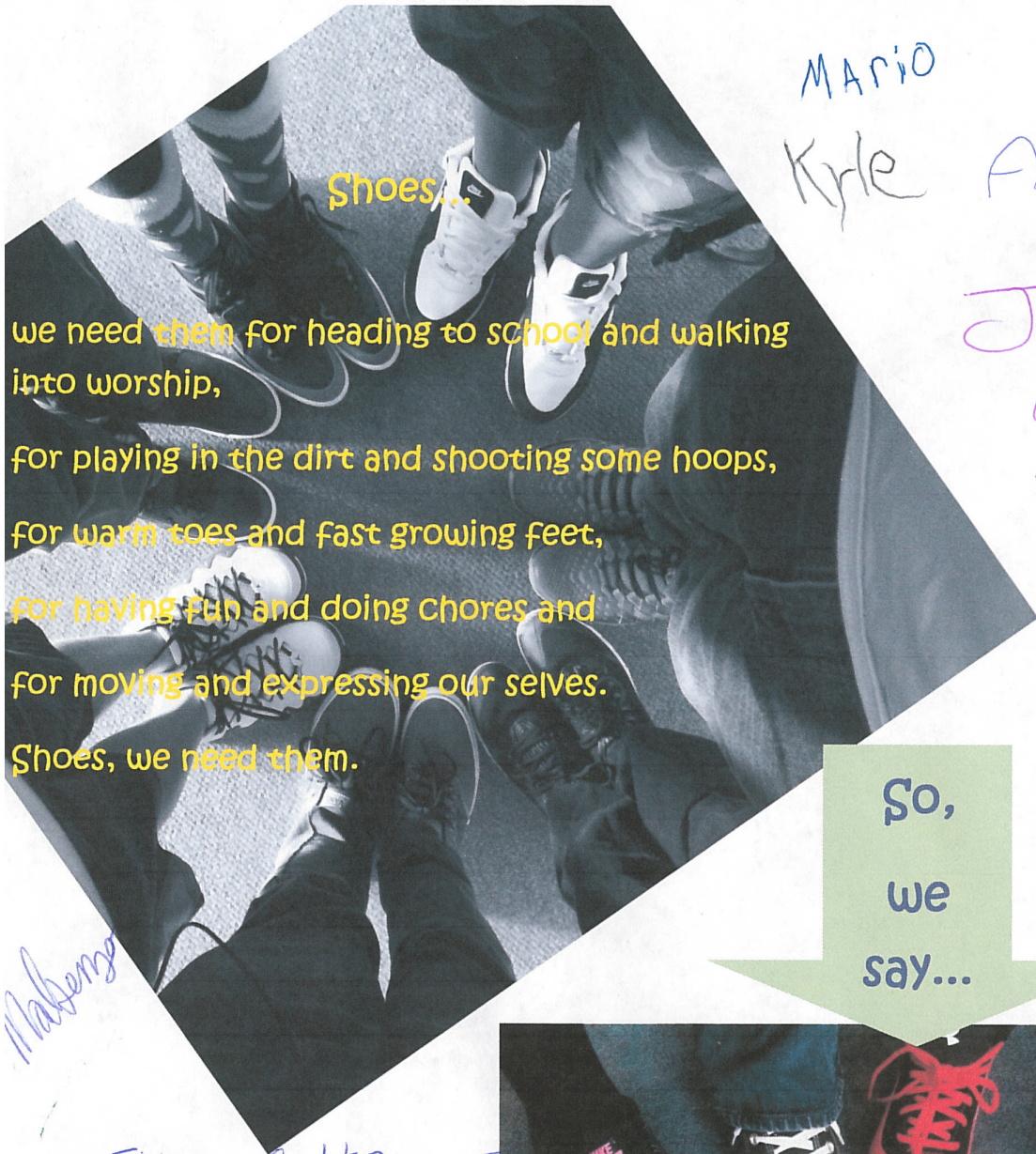
From the Baptist Childrens Home

Our church has begun a new partnership with the Baptist Children's Home in Portales, and we received this thank you from them for a recent donation we made to them.

We wanted to share it with the whole church family. Be on the look-out for many more opportunities to be involved with the Children's Home.

Friends,

Thank you again for the generosity you have shown us. The shoes and socks will keep our kiddos' feet warm for some time (even at the alarming rate they are growing). Even more, however, is the encouragement your church family has given us. We look forward to the amazing things God has planned for the years ahead.

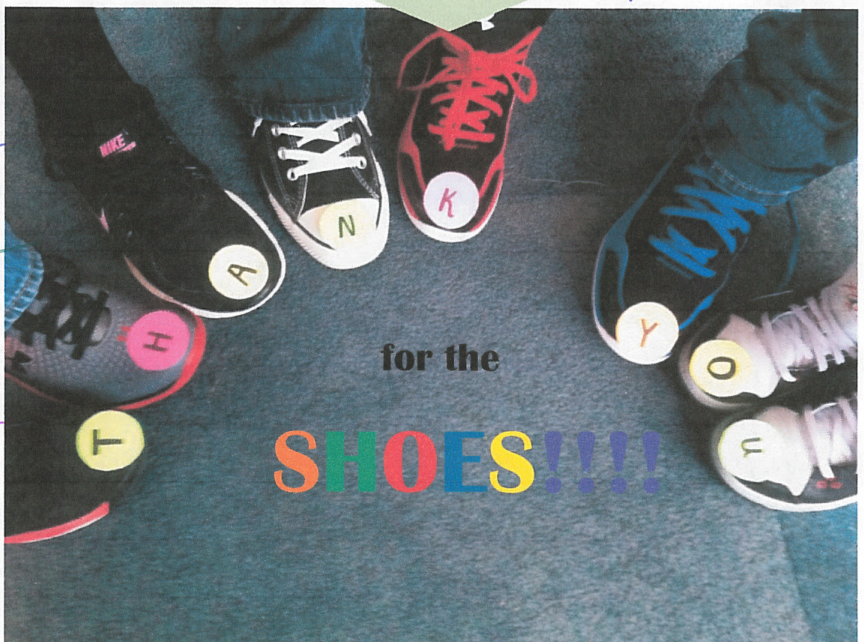
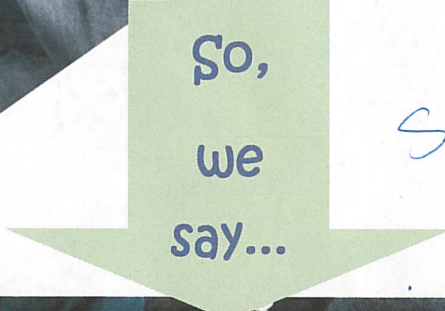


Shoes...

we need them for heading to school and walking into worship,  
 for playing in the dirt and shooting some hoops,  
 for warm toes and fast growing feet,  
 for having fun and doing chores and  
 for moving and expressing our selves.  
 Shoes, we need them.

Mario  
 Kyle Anthony  
 Jayla  
 Luoya  
 Treyton L.  
 Chris Tucker  
 Rylie

Samuel Blaney



Mabony

Ethan Saltz  
 Kasha Saltz  
 Brentleigh Hobbs  
 Jordan Bradywindraist

John  
 Murswindavis +  
 Kaia Quintana.  
 Karla

Ben Audrey Angel



# 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**

Office Phone: (505) 881-9711  
Fax: (505) 881-7184  
E-mail: [dnbc@dnbc.org](mailto:dnbc@dnbc.org)

If you would like to contact us about this publication, send an email to [koinonia@dnbc.org](mailto:koinonia@dnbc.org)