

KOINONIA

S U M M E R 2 0 1 6

Table of Contents

Schedule of Events	3
A Word From the Pastor	4
Worship & Service	5
VBS	6
Children's Ministry Events	7
Right Now Media	8
Israel Trip	9
A Letter From Steph	10
The Upside of Loneliness	12
Hello From Hungary	14

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 email koinonia@dnbc.org. We would love to have you join us!



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 7: State Bible Drill @ 8:00am

May 15: Children's Choir Program @ 6:30

May 29: Youth Sunday and Church Picnic

June 1-8: Nicaragua Mission Trip

June 3-11: Alaska Mission Trip

June 13-17: VBS

June 19: VBS Spectator Show

June 22: W.A.K. Putt Putt.

July 2-8: Eagle Nest Mission Trip

July 11-15: Children's Music Camp

July 27: W.A.K. Explora

Aug 10: W.A.K Hoots

Sept 2-5: Labor Day Campout



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

DNBC is a family that is truly all about missions. I'm so encouraged to work with a staff and church family that has such a huge heart to Join God where he is working. In just a few weeks our church will embark upon 3 mission endeavors.

Anchorage, Alaska, June 3-11. This is a team comprised of youth, college, and adults alike. We will be working with Rabbit Creek Baptist church to reach the outlying community in the area. We will be facilitating Soccer Sports camps led by Tom Coppedge as well as construction led by Adam Bergstrasser. We'll also be conducting prayer walking, door hanger distribution, block parties, and Bible studies. We are actually partnering with 3 other churches to do a month of missions in Anchorage. DNBC is spearheading this effort and leading the way.

Managua, Nicaragua June 1-8. We are continuing our partnership with the House of Hope. On this venture we have men remodeling the campus kitchen, which is greatly needed. Also, some of our women will be leading bible studies, craft times, and children's ministry activities. House of Hope is a ministry that pulls young women out of Human trafficking, some as young as 8 and 9 years old.

Eagle Nest, New Mexico July 2-8. Once again our student and college ministries will be heading up to Eagles Nest New Mexico to work with Eagle Nest Baptist church. This year we will continue to do VBS for the church, work with the school to set up and tear down its 4th of July festival, as well as other mission and ministry efforts.

I would ask that you please keep these mission efforts in your prayers as we do our best to live out Acts 1:8 before the world.

Acts 1:8 (ESV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

I would ask that you also keep our Student Pastor Search team in your prayers as well. They have been given a wonderful and exciting task; but one that also comes with much responsibility. DNBC has a long and wonderful legacy with our students here, and we seek to find the individual that will continue this great work. Be in prayer that whoever God sends, that the heart is already being conditioned to receive our church family as well as our hearts to be receptive as well. I am so excited to see where God is going to take this ministry.

Your servant,
Brad



WORSHIP

&

SERVICE

AS

I began to write an article about the Worship Ministries and the Helping Hands Ministry at Del Norte Baptist Church it dawned on me that the Helping Hands Ministry is part of our Worship Ministry. Let me attempt to explain my thinking.

When God created mankind it was for the sole purpose of mankind worshipping Him. Humans have free will, and each chooses “what” they will worship, not “if” they will worship. The things to which we “ascribe worth” are the things we worship. Some of the things we tend to worship include money, fame, and acceptance; nice things like houses, cars, clothes, fancy mobile phones, and dessert; and of course, God.

So, when we ascribe worth to things that glorify God, we worship Him with those things. Obvious examples are: praying, reading God’s Word, singing praises, listening to biblically sound messages about God and applying them to our lives. Less obvious examples of worship include: walking, cooking, sewing, talking, exercising, going to Spanish class, cutting down a tree, surfing the internet, driving a car.

You may be thinking: “he has lost his mind.” Hear me out. When you drive your car, do you drive in such a way that God receives glory? Are the people near you affected in a negative way because of the way you drive? While driving do you spend time with God? Do you listen to appropriate radio stations or music? Do you talk with God about life and offer prayers of thanksgiving, adoration, confession, and praise to Him (if so, please keep your eyes open)?

Ideally, worship is a 24/7 activity. Everything we do can be an act of worship. That is, if everything we do is for the purpose of living in a right relationship with God. Each action and thought either brings us closer to, or further away from, God.

So, finally, back to my first thought. When our Helping Hands Ministry builds a wall, cuts down a tree, moves a household, or repairs a leaky faucet, it can/could/should be an act of worship. If we do those things as part of our relationship with God, then it is an act of worship.

I hope that you will consider all the things you do and whether they are, or could be, acts of worship. Seek new ways to worship God every day.

I also hope you will consider how you might be involved in one or more of the many ministries here at Del Norte Baptist Church. I would be happy to speak with you about how you can get involved.

Ira Pinkston, Worship Pastor

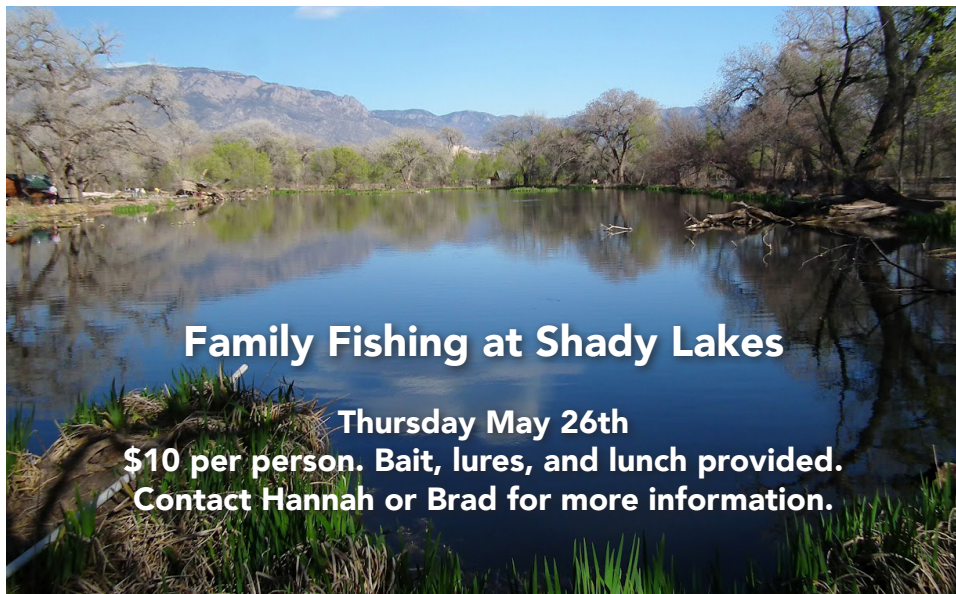


VBS IS COMING SOON!

Monday June 13th - Friday June 17th

Register at dnbc.org

DEL NORTE KIDS SUMMER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:



Family Fishing at Shady Lakes

Thursday May 26th
\$10 per person. Bait, lures, and lunch provided.
Contact Hannah or Brad for more information.

WAK (Wednesday AM Kids) Dates:

Times and all other details to be determined (check the website for updates!)
All 3 events \$12 per person. Tickets available NOW!!



Putt-Putt
June 22nd



Explora
July 27th



Hoots
August 10th

All New Children's Ministry website up
and running now!

delnortekids.weebly.com

Keep up on events, check the children's calendar, and find out
detailed information about upcoming events.

PICTURE BOOKS & MOVIES
FOR THOSE "JUST A LITTLE TO
HOT TO GO OUTSIDE" DAYS:



TEN THANK-YOU LETTERS
Daniel Kirk

NELLY GNU AND DADDY TOO
Anna Dewdney

ALWAYS DADDY'S PRINCESS
Karen Kingsbury

AUDREY BUNNY
Angie Smith

IT'S TRUE!
Mercer Mayer



Miracles from Heaven PG

Zootopia PG

The Jungle Book PG

God's Not Dead 2 PG

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Road
Chip PG

Kung Fu Panda 3 PG



Do you remember that our church has a FREE library of "on-line" studies and videos through Right Now Media? The variety is staggering and the seminar speakers are excellent. Allow me to introduce you to an author/speaker/leader who is one of my very favorites; Ed Stetzer. He is the Lead Pastor of Grace Church in Sumner County, TN, and is President of Lifeway Research. I lovingly refer to Dr. Ed as "The Conscience of Southern Baptists" because he looks at our denomination through the lens of reality rather than tradition. He urges us to see ourselves as "we are" not as "we once were."

If you have already signed up for Right Now Media through the church office just log in and type in the following website to see a short video as Dr. Ed speaks on the subject of, "Raise Kids Who Love God." There are several other videos by him but this one captured my attention as it reminds us what is important in the heritage we will leave with our children.

<https://www.rightnow.org/Training/Post/View/78808>

Far too many parents will say the following words, "Where did I go wrong?" And they usually come to that conclusion too late because they "showed" their children what they really loved were things that took time away from worshipping, serving, and following the Lord. By their actions, the children understood that their parents believed that God and the church would always be there but right now we need to spend some time doing other things.

Those "other things" are not necessarily BAD in and of themselves but when they became the priority, it is then that God has to take the backseat. And no one needs to tell you how wrong that picture is.

If you have not signed up for access to Right Now Media, just call our office Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (505) 881-9711 and give us your email address. This is a FREE service. By the way, there are hundreds of videos for ALL ages.

Let me encourage you, as we all look forward the Summer months with plans of vacation time, to take God along. He is going to be there...wherever you are planning to go anyway, just openly acknowledge Him in front of your family and friends.

Kevin Warner



www.rightnowmedia.org

Call the office to get signed up for free!

W

hen I had a longing of going to Israel many years ago, I had no idea that I'd be leading a trip with a church that I served in. Many years later, that dream is becoming a reality. DNBC will be going to Israel October 24 through November 2, 2016. To date, we have 18 signed up. At first I was hoping to take at least 10, but we have far surpassed that. I'm so excited.

Here is the really great news, there is still room. If our church can get 25 people to go, we will have our own bus while we are there. This is good, in that our schedule will not have to be quite as stringent if it's just our group; seeing that we would not be holding up another group. This Life Time Adventure is open to all DNBC family, their families, and friends. You do not have to be a member of DNBC to go; even if your family and friends live in another state, we can work it out for them to meet us and travel together with us as well. The price of \$3,849.00 includes everything; including your flights out and to Albuquerque New Mexico. There are no extra fees. This includes most meals, except for a just a few in the airports and the like.

If you have always had a yearning to go to the home land of your Lord and Savior, this is the time to go. You'd be traveling with family and friends that are just as excited to go as you are. Please see me, Pastor Brad, if you are interested in going.

Your servant,
Brad



قِيْلَعَتْ تَا فَا ضِإْمِ قَالِ اسْر

A LETTER FROM STEPH

Steph is currently on mission in the Persian Gulf with a fellow student, Elena.





Dear Family,

I have been living with in another country for just over three months now and there has been a ton of exciting things happening! We have been having deep conversations with many people here, our schedule is packed with classes that we are teaching, and we have even given out two books of the good news! Just as I anticipated, Father has been working in hearts and drawing them closer to Himself. However, my pride was blasted to pieces when He showed me that my heart needed to be worked on just as much as everyone else's.

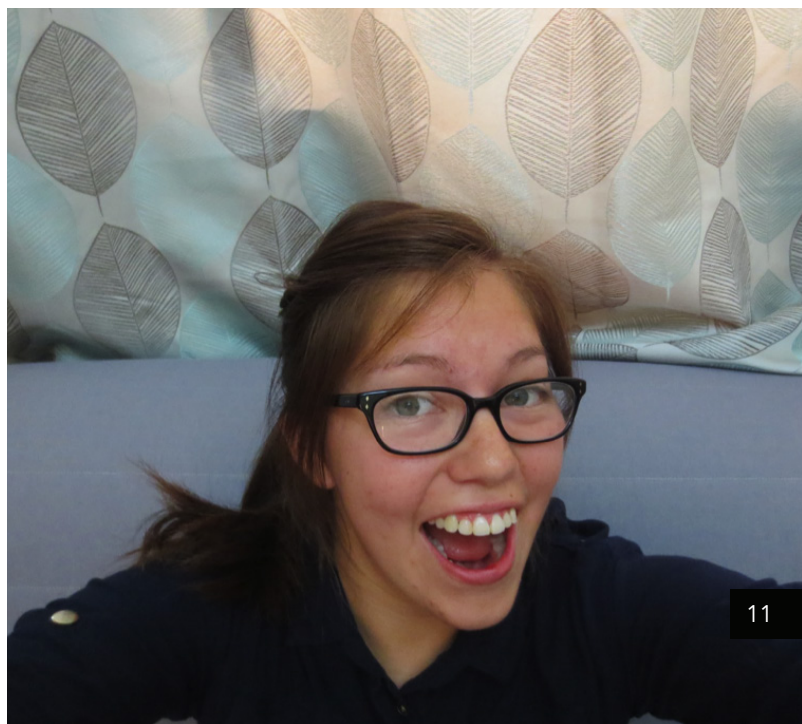
Stress and chaos brought about living in a different culture can really expose the sinful side of a person. One of my friends puts it like this: going overseas is like putting a fire underneath a stinking garbage can. When I attempt to do things on my own, the condition of my prideful heart is like a collection of garbage and there is a terrible stench outwardly visible produced by it: maybe having a bad attitude, mistreating others, not willing to submit myself to Christ...etc.(Jeremiah 17:9). Back home, it was easy to compare myself to others and feel good about what I did in my own strength and take pride in myself. If I did something wrong, I could quickly cover it up by admiring my good intentions or finding something else to blame for my misconduct. It's like trying to feebreeze away the problem. Even though the refuse is not removed it's possible to make it seem like it's not such a big problem. I have found as I live here, when heat and pressure are added to the messy condition of my heart, everything is

uncovered and exposed, I never realized how easy it was back home to deceive myself with a facade of false humility. Father has shown me how much I need to depend on Him for everything and no matter what I do, I cannot please Him on my own (Romans 8:6-8,).

These lessons have definitely been painful, yet invaluable. I know that Father loves me and wants to make me more like Himself for His glory. As believers, Father is constantly working on our hearts toward sanctification. I'm so happy that Father does not simply give up on us and is so gracious to us when we've made mistakes (Psalm 103). Even though we are weak and often rob Him of His glory, He forgives and uses us to share His truth with others. From the beginning, He knew the condition of our hearts and promised a way to reconcile us to Himself (Genesis 3, Isaiah 53, Romans 5, Hebrews-yup the whole book!). It's been really helpful to be reminded of the grand list of things that are given to us when we trust Father, listen to His Spirit, and submit ourselves to Him: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). The best thing ever is we get to experience a deeper relationship with Him!!!

I'm sure that when I return I will be a wee bit more mature in my faith, but I know there's still a plethora of things for me to learn, relearn, and grow in, through the Spirit. I miss you and love you bunches!

Steph =)





THE UPSIDE OF LONELINESS

BY RICHELLE GILSDORF

This spring semester has been perhaps one of the hardest seasons of my life. I guarantee I will have harder—that's just life. But God has taught me so much as I make this awkward, stumbling, keeping-my-head-above-water (barely) transition into whatever's next.

One of the greatest difficulties I've faced this semester is a new and unfamiliar idea of loneliness. When we think of loneliness, we often think of isolation, solitude—the kid sitting by himself at the cafeteria table, the woman who's replaced human company with that of cats, the unpopulated wasteland of the desert or the vast, rolling ocean. But I've come to understand that loneliness can happen in a sea of loving, well-intentioned people. Loneliness can be a condition of the heart and soul, not merely one's physical environment or the result of social isolation. Loneliness can come just as much from within as it can be imposed from without.



Loneliness can also be a good thing, for a time.

We're not meant to be alone, cut off from the world and other people, buried in our selfish desires and needs. Adam was given Eve for a reason: God himself said, "It is not good that man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18 ESV). Furthermore, the church is made of people, not of person, singular: we need each other in order to fulfill God's will as the church. Last, God himself imprinted a need for relationship—particularly an everlasting relationship with him—on our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11 ESV).

This past semester, I have lost a number of people very dear to me—none of them dead, thank God, but they are far away, some just for a time, and all by the will of God. Three women in particular, whom I love, God has called to places outside this city, and so for a time I can't be with them. And I miss them dearly. There are times I want to ask advice or recount a funny thing my students said, and I turn and realize there's no one there to hear me. As a middle school student teacher, a small group leader, and a graduate student, I'm surrounded by people—good, loving people. I still live with my parents, whom I get to see and speak with every day, and I'm blessed with a boyfriend and other good friends.

But most days, I still feel completely alone.

Recently, these feelings of loneliness came to a head. I started to realize that my choice of career (teaching), my place of service in the church (student ministry), and my current academic life (graduate school) all ask a great deal of me. These are pursuits that surround me with people who need me to be present and engaged. And I give as much of myself to each area as I can, pouring out emotional, intellectual, and spiritual energy. I give and I give and I give, day in and week out, for months on end. I run myself ragged. And although the benefits of these endeavors far outweigh the costs, at times my fuel tank quickly drains empty and I grind to a halt. I shudder to a stop.

When such a burnout recently happened, I was suddenly overwhelmed by my loneliness, which had been present but ignorable in the midst of such busy-ness. I missed my friends. I missed going out with people who didn't need something from me. I found myself craving the presence of God, desperate for his comfort. And when I say comfort, I mean the let-me-crawl-into-your-lap-while-you-rock-me-to-sleep kind of comfort. I've

always heard people talk about being "refilled" or "refreshed" by God, but that metaphor never resonated until I was the empty cup needing filling.

And so I went to Scripture, seeking comfort, seeking the one who "leads me by still waters" and "restores my soul" (Psalm 23:2-3 ESV). My work this semester was not nearly over, and I needed to be strong even though my friends were not near to give emotional and spiritual support. I needed the One from whom all love flows, from whom strength and peace and patience abound. I needed my Father, but more importantly, I needed him as my friend.

He met me in his Word, leading me to verses of peace and comfort, reminding me that I am not alone even when I appear to be. He spoke to me through Psalm 25: "Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses" (ESV). Though written about issues and problems so much greater than my own, I found my comfort in this passage. And within a few more well-placed verses, I felt restored. God had spoken and reminded me that he was near, that he saw my loneliness and that his love was enough to fill even those holes. Just like that, I was refreshed.

All of this to say, I would never have sought my Father for comfort if I was not first lonely, if I did not keenly feel my emotional and psychological separation. God wanted me to know him in a new way, as friend. He's often been Teacher, Counselor, Savior, Father, and Helper, but I realized that I never see him as Friend.

Thus, though this has been a hard and trying season of my life, I'm starting to appreciate it as the blossoming (sorry!—Spring pun!) of a new facet to my relationship with God. I had to experience loneliness to appreciate his friendship, just as I had to recognize the filth of my sin to appreciate the purity of his love. So sometimes, loneliness can be a good thing. Maybe God allows us to experience loneliness so that we'll appreciate his companionship even more—and the companionship of others. I look forward to seeing my friends when they return. I look forward to continuing my teaching, my work with youth in the church, and earning my graduate degree... because I know the faithful friend I'll turn to when I need to be filled again, when I need a shoulder to lay my weary head on. Praise God that he—the king of heaven!—would want to be my friend.



HELLO

FROM

HUNGARY

Kaitlyn is serving in Nagykanizsa, Hungary with two other students: Megan, and Samantha

FROM KAITLYN

If you were to ask me what living in Hungary has been like I wouldn't quite know how to answer that question. I can tell you the food here is a little bit too delicious and that Hungarian is the most confusing language on the planet. But if I was to REALLY describe my experience here it would be hard. All I can say is that every day the Lord is giving me reasons to fall more deeply in love with Hungary, this city and these people. Matthew 18:3-4, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Living in Hungary, I'm constantly having to apply this verse in my daily walk. My needs spiritually, emotionally, and mentally are having to be handed over to Christ and oh how I'm discovering how faithful He is. My dependency can no longer be in the comforts of everything I've known; my home, my family or my friends. I'm constantly having to rely on Jesus. My dependency (and identity) are in Him, right where it belongs.

Now, going back to the question of what it's like living in Hungary. I guess my answer to that would be incredible, overwhelming, enjoyable, joyous, lonely, hard, unforgettable, life changing. My time here has been filled with many awesome adventures (and struggles) that have brought me to complete fear and awe of what God has and is allowing me to do. God is restoring my faith in Him. He has brought me here so that I can see and hear him again. So I could be near Him and so that I could fall in love with Him all over again! He's allowing me to have unforgettable experiences and He's given me peace that has surpassed all of my understanding. He's forming friendships that will have eternal value and special places in my heart



forever. He's restoring me and bringing me back close to His heart. That's just who He is.....pursuing all of us back to Him in order that He may be glorified!

"In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved." – Ephesians 1:5-6

FROM SAMANTHA

Psalm 73:25, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth I desire besides you." It is because of my relationship with Jesus Christ that I have moved to Hungary. God's desire is for all people to know Him. He has a plan for Hungarians, and we are reminded of his plan every time we see fellow believers step into house church on Sundays. Our city has a population of about 50,000 people, and not many know Jesus. Remnants of World War 2 and the communist regime affect this place deeply. Many buildings still stand as a daily reminder of the dark past and it can be sobering to live in a country with such a dark past. Yet, even through all of these atrocities, Hungarians are a kind-hearted people who are scarred by the past. Once you make a friend, he or she will love you deeply and care for you well.

To those of you who are reading this and do not know the LORD through a personal relationship, I urge you: turn to Jesus. He is the single best thing that will ever happen to you. I am a sinner, and yet my great and dear Savior holds me in His arms. He does this because his hands and feet were pierced for my disobedience. The entire weight of all my sin was placed on his shoulders, and GOD turned His face away from Him so that my transgressions would be paid for. The debt that was ever before me is now forever behind me. And it is only because of my dear Savior who willingly carried his cross up the hill in order to be crucified. Praise GOD He did not stay on that cross! No! He was buried, and three days later that tomb was empty. EMPTY, I say. (Look up 1 Corinthians 15:3-8). And before the LORD returned to heaven he showed himself to hundreds of people, and because of their obedience to tell others

about the incredible work of Jesus, I am sitting here writing this on my computer in a different country in order that more people may hear about Jesus Christ our Savior.

FROM MEGAN

Mission work isn't just going to orphanages and clothing the needy, it is a chance to get in on what God is doing anywhere He places you, even in your hometown. It is about allowing Christ to speak through your life so you can share the gospel with others who do not know Him. We have had a chance to show people the light of Christ and show them how they can walk in that light. Since we do not necessarily see the outward needs of the people, it is a lot harder to remember that we are on the mission field. I know I have to remind myself that it is not vacation, it is forming relationships with high schoolers for the sake of the gospel. I am here to share Jesus with these teens and show them what it means to be a Jesus follower.

"Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!" -Psalm 39:5

This makes me realize that I am just a small part of the plan that God has laid out for the world. We are but a breath in this world. Our life is nothing in comparison to the vastness of God. I have to use this time for His glory and not my own, as this is but a second in this life that I am here in Hungary. And as I am typing this I'm reminded of a song that says "God is on the move, Hallelujah! I see a generation that is standing on the truth. In each and every nation, God is on the move!"

Kaitlyn will be coming home this December. In the meantime, you can get updated on everything she is doing at lettersfromhungary.blogspot.com

From left to right: Samantha , Kaitlyn & Megan





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

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