

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 Adam Nash, or email koinonia@dnbc.org. We would love to have you join us!

#### Table of Contents

Schedule of Events3
Word From Pastor Brad4
Children's Ministry Update5
Where's My Flying Car6
Looking Back7
Run For God7
Hispanic Ministry Update7
Men's Ministry Retreat8
Israel Trip9
Rio de Janeiro Trip10
Women's Conference11
Changing The Question12
Bailamos: In Focus14
Youth Ministry Update15



March 3-4: Men's Retreat

March 4: Women's Retreat & Marriage Enrichment

March 11-12: Youth Discipleship Now

March 22: Children's Game Day

March 30: VBS Training

April 2: Mission Lunch

April 5: Children's Ministry Meeting

April 9: Easter Choir Musical

April 16: Easter

April 22: Young Lives Ablaze (3rd-6th Grade)

April 23: Regular worship at 8:30, Down Home Family Concert at 11:00

April 30: Night of Praise

May 7: Children's Choir Performance at 6:30

May 28: 9:00 Bible Study, Youth Sunday Worship at 10:15, Picnic at 11:30

June 5-9: VBS

June 10-16: College & Career Alaska Trip

June 24-28: Youth Centrifuge Camps



#### A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

What a year 2016 was for DNBC. So many lives were touched and changed for the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Missions took place both here in our own backyard and around the world. Ministry through discipleship has been a strong movement in our church as well. Sunday School was strong along with all the many classes that were offered throughout the year. DNBC is truly becoming a church of Movers as well. I see many in our church desiring to impact the lives of those around them. This is one reason our church is in such a strong unified spirit right now. We honestly understand that it's about impacting others and not ourselves.

As 2017 has now started my desire as your pastor is to see that our church continues on the path of us being a church of Ministry, Missions, and Movers. A church that is not actively seeking out to reach and minister to the needs of the world is a church that is dying. My heart soars knowing that our church strives to reach the world! Opportunities abound in our church for all ages and interest at DNBC. You won't have to look far to find something that you and your family can be a part of. Here are just some of the numerous opportunities that lie ahead.

Our Men's Retreat is just around the corner (March 3-4). I do hope that every man in our church will do his best to come and be a part of this special weekend. Last year so many men's lives were challenged and changed. There will also be a Women's Conference that same weekend (March 4). My heart is richly blessed to see how so many women are taking part in our women's ministry. If you've not yet been a part of it, do your best to do so. You'll see why so many women are making friends, coming together, and serving the Lord. There is more information about both of these events in this issue of the Koinonia.

Missions are abounding this year at DNBC. We have trips planned to Glorieta (youth), Alaska (College & Young adults), Rio de Janeiro (church wide); not to mention all the other local and in-state efforts. I pray you would consider these opportunities to reach out. Missions are always a life changing effort that helps hearts refocus on God's plan and purpose for our lives. Do your best to go along with and take part in the many efforts that are before you. I promise you won't be disappointed. There is more information about both of these events in this issue of the Koinonia.

I'd like to end by saying what a privilege it is to serve with you here at DNBC. Our family honestly feels loved and welcomed. The past 2 ½ years have been some of the greatest times in our family's life. Thank you all for the many words of encouragement and gifts of appreciation. They touch our hearts deeply. We have never been so blessed with such a church family, we LOVE you GREATLY!!!!!

In His grip, by His grace

**Pastor Brad** 



As I embark on the third year of having the privilege to serve as your Children's Minister, I am humbled and so incredibly thankful for all I have had the opportunity to see the Lord do here at Del Norte!

Looking forward fills me with excitement and no small amount of hope!

Coming in 2017 your kids, grades 3rd-6th, will have the opportunity to attend Young Lives Ablaze (YLA), an evangelistic celebration on April 29th with Josh Denhart and The Amazing Chemistry Show, music and a kid-friendly Gospel message with Kolby King. This day will focus on sharing

the gospel with kids in a way they can understand. The Sunday following YLA we will have a special class during the Sunday school hour called "What It Means to Be a Christian" to follow up with kids who may have questions about what they heard at the conference as well as for those kids who aren't able to go but want to know more about Jesus and what being a Christian is. (This will be for the 3rd-6th grade kids as well)

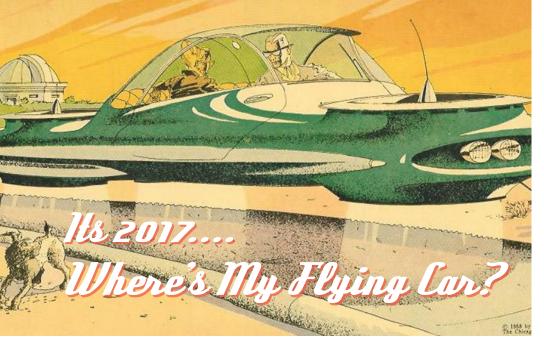
In anticipation of Vacation Bible School 2017 coming June 5-9, 2017, Del Norte will host a training event on March 20th. Those who attend will get a sneak peek at what this year's VBS theme, "Galactic Starveyors," is all about and how Colossians 1:15-16 can change a life!

Finally, our annual summer program, WAK, (Wednesday AM Kids), will not only be fun outings but this year, we will also have one event focused solely on outreach here in our community. As families we will work together to show our children what it means to serve others. (More details coming soon)

Join in the amazing work God is doing in the lives of DNBC families and have the blessing of giving God the glory!

#### Hannah Bergstrasser

Children's Minister



remember thinking, as a child, that I would be 34 years old when we opened our year 2000 calendars. I also remember thinking, "my dad is 32 years old now, and he is pretty old." Ha! I thought for sure that by 2000 I would have discovered a cure for cancer, flown to Mars, become President, or at least become someone very important.

Well, somewhere down the line I discovered that it does not make any "real" difference how long I live, whether I become famous, or do something miraculous; what matters is how I live my life. What makes a "real" difference is seen in at least two things: my relationship with God and my relationship with His people (all humankind).

When my daughter Joy was young, like 3, she sang a song in "big church" entitled "God Has a Plan for My Life." God clearly has a plan for each of us. Some of us will be doctors, others plumbers, artists, astronauts, teachers, satellite technicians, or any other thing. It does not matter what you do, it is how you do it and for whom you do it that makes the difference.

God desires a personal relationship with you and me. A daily, hourly, moment by moment relationship. He seeks to be an important part of our everyday lives. He cares for us and wants the best for us. He loves each of us unconditionally. So, you are probably wondering how this applies to worship ministry.

Worship is not just what happens in the church building on Sunday morning. God wishes for, and honestly expects, you to worship Him at all times and through all things. We worship, or don't worship, God while we are at work, school, the gym. We worship, or don't worship, God while we are driving, riding, eating, or watching TV. Everything we do should be done as part of our relationship with Him. The Bible teaches that our God is a jealous God. He created you and me so that we might have a close relationship with Him, and He hates when we put other things before our relationship with Him

For most of us God does not expect, or want, us to go "into the ministry," but He requires that each of us "Do" ministry. What I mean is this: as we live our lives, moment by moment, we are to do, and think, the things that develop our relationship with Him. We are to "put on our new selves" and "bury our old selves" (that is, our sinful nature).

Everything we do (thoughts and

actions) should be done "in tune" with the Lord's will. The Scriptures teach that we should "pray continually." I love the thought that prayer should more than just a few sentences starting with "Dear Father" and ending in "Amen" while our heads are bowed. Prayer is so much more than that. Prayer is our continual communication with God and our relationship with Him.

I can appreciate this best while I am driving. I find that my time alone with God, while I am driving, cannot include bowing my head, closing my eyes, getting on my knees, or falling prostrate. My physical posture could appear to be total connectivity with the vehicle and the road, and at the same time I can "commune" (pray/communicate/be present) with my Lord and Savior.

This continual relationship I am talking about has some similarities to my relationship with my wife. My wife wants me to come to her and share my life as well as my concerns, desires, fears, and needs. She wants me to think about her all day long. She wants me to think of things I can do for her, and then do them. Sometimes she needs me to just listen. Sometimes just being in the same space with her is all she needs. Other times she just needs to be told that she is important and that I desire a close relationship with her.

Each of us has a godly mandate to participate in continuous worship. Worship Him continuously! Find more opportunities to experience God and find new ways to share with others the relationship you have with your God. Together we can have/make a huge impact on our community.

Ira Pinkston
Worship Pastor



Del Norte Baptist Church begins 2017 coming off a wonderful 2016 in which we were blessed in so many ways. I am grateful for what God has done:

- People came to know the Lord Jesus as their Savior and joined our church
- Our Spanish-speaking congregation is growing
- Adam Nash joined our staff as Pastor to Students
- We met our 2016 financial budget
- Ministering to our community and other parts of the world
- The last 3 months of 2016 our Sunday School/Bible Study average attendance set records for that year. December's average was 288. Hopefully, we can see some months in 2017 average over 300.

It is a joy to serve here at Del Norte Baptist Church.

**Kevin Warner** *Growth Pastor* 



Run for God is a 12 week guide to training & running with a Christian focus. The workout plans, discussion questions, and Bible verses make it a practical resource for all levels of runners, even those who have never run. This class begins on or about Sunday, March 5th and should finish in early June, 2017.

The Leader/Facilitator for the class will be Joy Hocker.
The textbook for the class will cost: \$22

#### **An Update From Roy**

Last year was a great year for the Hispanic ministry. We saw growth, both in number and spiritually. The exciting thing about all this is that I can clearly see how God is using each and every leader of our ministry. This really motivates me to continue and carry on with the work that we're called to do. I'm looking forward to what God has in store for not only the Hispanic ministry, but all of Del Norte! Love to be part of this awesome group of believers! Many blessings!!

Your servant, **Roy Rosales** Hispanic Pastor

## MENS MINISTRY RETREAT

God richly blessed the Del Norte Men's Ministry in 2016, which was the first year for the group. Led by Wade Peck and a leadership team of Eric Dawson, Mike DuBerry, Adam Bergstrasser, and Larry Marshall, our mission is to serve the Lord by being a resource for men. We encourage each other through small groups and through big events. The ministry kicked off last February with a Super Bowl Sunday event followed by a retreat at Inlow in March, a campout in May, and a dinner in October where our new Youth Pastor, Adam Nash, spoke. We had tremendous participation with a number of men coming to the Lord as a result. And all of us grew in our relationships with the Lord, our wives, and each other!

This year, our first gathering will be March 3rd and 4th at either the Glorieta Retreat Center in Glorieta, NM or Inlow. The speaker for this year's retreat is Mark Bagwell. We were introduced to Mark when he led a group from Del Norte on a trip to Israel.

Mark Bagwell graduated from Anderson Baptist College in 1981. He worked in his family owned tour business, The World Tours, for many years where he led groups across the United States, Canada, Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East – especially Israel.

Mark was raised in a pastor's home and then married Sheila in 1981. He accepted the call to full time ministry in 1990 and then three years later Mark was sponsored by the South Carolina Baptist Convention to plant one of the state's first contemporary churches. He served as pastor of Golden Corner Church for 22 years.

In 2014, Mark and Sheila felt the call to begin a ministry of rest, rejuvenation, encouragement and prayer



for pastors and wives, ministry staff, plus Christian community and educational leaders.

Very soon after, they received their 501(c)3 nonprofit status and Shade Tree Ministries was born.

Mark and Sheila are now hosting ministry leaders in their home and traveling across the U.S and abroad taking Shade Tree to missionaries. The Bagwells host one or more Holy Land Tours each year with 2016 being Mark's 15th Israel tour.

Mark and Sheila are now missionaries with God's vision to use them to encourage Christians with God's unconditional love. Mark's personal philosophy has become Shade Tree Ministries' Mission Statement: Shade Tree's mission is to reach thousands of people for the cause of Christ. We will accomplish this by providing care, rest, mentoring and leadership for ministry, community, educational, and business leaders; therefore renewing their spirit and body so that they may in turn express a new sense of vision, joy and love towards those they lead. Mark is excited to be presenting to us and will be sure we all have a great time!

The details and location for the retreat will be provided in the bulletin and in special announcements. Please sign up for this retreat – God will bless you! And you will grow closer to your brothers in Christ!

Since I have returned back from Israel this past November there has been much interest in others wanting to go from our church as well as your family and friends. I am contemplating leading another trip in the Spring of 2018 sometime in March and April. Mark Bagwell will be sharing about this trip on March 5, 2017 at 5pm that afternoon. Taking this trip for the first time changed everything in the way I study, read, and understand the Bible. If you are interested in the Life Adventure Trip, please see me or come to our meeting. You will never regret taking this trip of a life time.

#### **Pastor Brad**





# Special Blessings

Women's Conference Saturday March 4, 2017 9:00 Am to 3:00 PM DNBC Conference Center

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT SERVING THE LORD?

WHAT GIFT HAS GOD GIVEN YOU?

### ARE YOU A LIGHT SHINING IN THE DARKNESS?

Sheila Bagwell is first and foremost a wife, mother and grandmother. Her full time mission for the past 35 years is to provide a loving, caring environment for family and friends to enjoy and discover their own place of service in God's Kingdom.



With a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Wesleyan University, Sheila has worked in the travel industry and early childhood education. Along with her husband, Mark Bagwell, Sheila helped start a contemporary church and then led the Preschool within that church for 14 years. Most recently, the two of them have begun Shade Tree ministries, where other ministry leaders are welcomed into the Bagwell home for a time of retreat.

Sheila enjoys travel and encouraging others as they experience other lands and cultures. The Bagwells have hosted many tours to Israel and the Middle East. Last year two trips to Africa were added to their list as they participated in conferences to encourage and minister to missionaries in Kenya and Zambia.

As a former pastor's wife and community leader with adult children and now grandchildren, Sheila hopes to share some tidbits of wisdom and insight as you continue your spiritual journey.

# CHANCE TION. COURSTION NOTWAY BUT WHO

BY RICHELLE GILSDORF

ne of the central ideas behind New Year's is the celebration of another year's accomplishments and the ushering in of another year's possibilities. Enmeshed in this tradition is reflection and processing of all the prior year's triverable and triple, the achievements and the

triumphs and trials—the achievements and the disappointments. Such reflection, it turns out, is a powerful weapon in a life of faith as well.

In all of this reflecting and remembering that follows New Year's, I want to take a moment to highlight an important reminder God gave me a number of weeks back, when I was engulfed in personal pain and disappointment unlike any I'd experienced in a long time. I'd just gotten out of a long-term relationship, the many problems of which had been at the center of my prayers for almost three years. Over time I saw the impossibilities of the relationship mounting, but I kept praying that God would just sweep in and fix it all. I believed He could do it—I just wasn't confident that He would, and I prayed all the more fervently that the relationship would work out. Yet

all the while I had a sense that God was not going to sweep in and fix the mess like some kind of fairy godmother. I knew the resolution would be much more complicated, because let's be honest—God's not afraid to get messy with us.

In October the relationship finally came to its end, and I was devastated. For the first time in my life, I found myself daring to be angry with God. How could He do this to me? How could He let this happen when I had faithfully prayed for things to work out? I wanted a God-honoring relationship—how could He say no to that?! And yet in that moment it seemed that He had.

Thankfully (and undoubtedly by the grace of God), I recognized quickly that my anger at Him was unfounded. It wasn't God's fault I'd gotten myself into that mess of a relationship, and it wasn't His job to bail me out. Furthermore, I knew being angry at God was a wedge Satan was not above using, and so I repented of my anger and instead laid my pain bare before God. I admitted my prayers had been exceedingly self-centered, accepted responsibility for the mess I'd chosen,

and then began to seek comfort and healing.

In that search, God led me to Psalm 77. In this passage, the psalmist is expressing bitterness towards God, almost a disbelief in the goodness of God given the unnamed pain or misfortune the writer is experiencing. The psalmist wonders, "Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" (v. 7-9 ESV).

These are all questions we've probably asked at one time or another in life, when it seems that anything and everything is going wrong: when you lose that job you believed God had blessed you with; when you get rejected by the college where you'd hoped to hone and grow the skills God gave you; when you lose a loved one to tragedy or disease despite praying fervently for safety and healing. Such suffering and disappointment in our lives can ignite an indignant response: WHY?! If God is so good and so powerful and if he hears our prayers and if "all things work together for good" for those who love God (Romans 8:28)... then WHY do we experience seasons in which the questions of this psalmist become acutely relevant?

I'm not going to open the proverbial can of worms that is the ongoing debate of suffering and its purpose, but through Psalm 77, I believe the writer discovers a guiding principle to help redirect our fears and insecurities towards a more accurate understanding of God's character and nature—a principle which, I feel, can be applied to any situation in which we find ourselves doubting the goodness of our God. The psalmist interrupts his string of bitter questions with a decision to act: "Then I said, 'I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High.' I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds" (v. 10-12 ESV). Notice the change of focus here: the psalmist has ceased to decry the "why" of his suffering, and instead is choosing to examine the "who."

The why of our suffering and disappointment becomes less important when we remember who remains in control and who it is that loves us enough to die for us. In essence, the psalmist—in his darkest moment of despair, when his depression was suffocating—chooses to go back to what

he himself knows to be truest of God. He will recall the mighty wonders and deeds he knows God has performed in ages past, particularly God's redemption of the Israelites and His faithfulness to them (v. 15, 20 ESV). And this principle makes sense: when we've gotten lost, our instinct is to turn around and retrace our steps back to where we last felt secure and familiar.

The same can be true of our walk with God. When we begin to doubt His goodness and compassion and mercy and grace, we must retrace our steps with Him back to the works He's already done in each of our lives. While I believe it can also be helpful to reread the miracles He performed in Scripture, I think it's equally important to remember how He's worked in our lives at a very personal level. God is nothing if not personal.

I will admit, this was not an instant cure to my pain and disappointment. And my first instinct was to doubt God's hand in everything I had previously credited to Him. But part of a life of faith is abiding in the truth of God being who He says He is. Therefore, recalling the good and gracious works He's done in our lives must be accompanied by a decision to believe He is still good. Faith is a choice, not something we catch, like a cold. A personal relationship with God—through Jesus Christ—involves the choice to believe that He is and always will be who He says He is.

It took weeks, but I made the deliberate decision to look back on the goodness and blessings of God every morning, every moment when I felt the despair and doubt and bitterness creeping back in, and it truly helped. When seasons of suffering or disappointment or pain come upon us, we must not doubt the goodness of our God. He has not abandoned us. He has not lied or misrepresented Himself or tricked us. God does not play games. We live wholly engulfed in the steadfast love and abundant grace of an unfathomably good and holy Father... but the setting of that life is a sinful, fallen world with broken, messy people. We must always be sure not to confuse the qualities of either. My hope is that you will take your pain and disappointment to God and ask Him to remind you of the many times in your life where He was faithful and steadfast. Let these—rather than the present suffering—color your perception of the God you seek and serve.



#### Q: Why did you start Bailamos and how long have you been doing it?

A: We have been doing Bailamos for about the past 10 years. I had seen interpretive movement or liturgical dance being used in worship, and I thought it was beautiful. It touched my heart in a very special way, and I realized that this is a very meaningful form of worship. It was another avenue to bring people together and allow them to have a worship experience. So I began praying that the Lord would allow me one day to be a part of an interpretive worship ministry.

#### Q: How long does it take to prepare for a performance?

A: It takes about six weeks to learn the choreography to a new song, depending on the difficulty. I tell the girls I don't expect perfection, but I do encourage excellence. What I mean by that is, whatever you do for the Lord give him your best. Our prayer is that God would be lifted up, and we would bring honor and glory to him with our lives. Our purpose is to magnify the name of the Lord through our dance, and our mission is to know Christ and to make him known, while helping to prepare an atmosphere of worship that brings honor and glory to Him.

#### Q: What are some of the highlight moments of Bailamos?

A: One of the highlights in Bailamos, for me, is walking along beside these girls as they grow spiritually in the Lord, seeing them grow into beautiful Christian young ladies that love the Lord and want to serve him. That is such a blessing for me. And it is always encouraging when people in our congregation express how they have been moved or uplifted by the presentation. Also, a few weeks ago the Bailamos ministry was blessed with the Kathy Loudat scholarship from the Baptist Foundation . This scholarship was set up by John Loudat, who was the editor for the Baptist New Mexican paper for many years. This was set up in honor of his first wife, Kathy Lodat and her love of music. I am not quite sure how we were chosen to be the recipient of the scholarship, but the girls were excited to receive this honor and gift.

#### Q: What are you hoping that God does for the church through Bailamos?

A: My hope is to see the girls go to a deeper level of commitment in their walk with the Lord, that they serve in a leadership position in trying to lead people in worship, and their devotion to the Lord also increases.

#### Q: What do you see, or hope to see, in the future of the Bailamos ministry?

A: In the future I hope that the church will expand its worship arts, that more people will see the opportunity to be involved in the Lord's work even if they don't sing or preach which tend to garner so much attention.

DISCIPLESHIP NOW

## 

MARCH 11-12

For those reading this article that do not know me, I am the new Student Pastor here at Del Norte. I have recently moved to Albuquerque from Kentucky, and in my first few months here in New Mexico I have learned quite a few things:

- 1. The assumption that the desert is always hot... is not true.
- 2. If you order food and someone asks, "Green or red?" the correct reply is "Christmas".
- 3. There are not enough restaurants in Albuquerque that serve sweet tea (much to the dismay of a southerner like myself).
- 4. If you are walking in sandals and someone tells you to watch out for "goat heads", they are not warning you about anything concerning an actual goat (this lesson was quite painful).
- 5. 2 hours in the Albuquerque sun is not the same as 2 hours in the Kentucky sun (We discovered this on our first day in Albuquerque).
- 6. There is a unique phenomenon in Albuquerque during rain or snow that affects the gravitational pull on the right foot of drivers... this is the only logical explanation for why people in Albuquerque drive faster in the rain or snow than when the roads are dry.
- 7. Albuquerque is divided in to four quadrants divided by the railroads... few people in the city know this. The assumption is that the city is divided by the intersection of the interstates, but this is inaccurate.
- 8. In Albuquerque, if you are craving pizza there should be no discussion about the correct restaurant the only discussion is which "Dion's" location is closest.
- 9. As someone that grew-up on the Ohio River, I can attest to the fact that people in Albuquerque have no idea what a real river looks like. In Kentucky it would be called the "Rio not-so-Grande Creek".
- 10. Lastly, because of the large mountain just to the east of the city everyone in Albuquerque gives directions in terms of North, South, East and West. This is completely acceptable as long as directions given are OUT DOORS! It does not help new people to the area to say, "go to the north end of the building" if you will not be able to see the mountains!

As for the student ministry, these first few months have been a whirlwind. Getting to know the area, the church and the people, these times have been filled with wonderful moments and quotes that will not be forgotten any time soon:

#### "John the Baptist - yeah he was like Jesus' hype man!"

#### "Love... is getting hit by a monkey wrench!"

As wonderful as the past few months have been, we are also really looking forward to the things we have planned in the upcoming months. The youth ministry will be helping out with the Melodrama during the month of February, and in March the student ministry will be having a Disciple Now event. A Disciple Now is an event when the youth group gathers at the church and spends an entire day learning about Christ, playing games, eating, and bonding as a group. The Disciple Now will be on March 11-12 the students will be dropped off at the church Saturday morning at 10 am and picked-up after the 11:00 am service on the 12th. Cost \$15.

Also, as a reminder, the youth group will be going to Centrifuge camp this summer. The \$50 deposit is due by the end of February.

Adam Nash Student Pastor



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

**Sunday Worship Service Times** 

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

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

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