

KOINONIA



WINTER 2017

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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.

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!



For more issues of *koinonia*, scan the code or visit dnbc.org/koinonia



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 15-16:	Youth 12 Hours of Christmas
December 17:	Adult Christmas concert
December 20:	No evening activities
December 24:	Christmas Eve service (5:00pm)
December 27:	No evening activities
December 31:	No evening activities
January 12:	Family Lego Night
February 8-10:	Melodrama
February 15-17:	Melodrama
March 14-23:	Israel Trip
March 16-17:	Youth Disciple Now
March 25:	Easter Musical

A big thank you to all of the people that make Koinonia possible:

Mike DuBerry
Jason Kerby
Tanner Shelton
Andrew Clark

Richelle Gilsdorf
Marilyn Little
Amber Nash
Michael Hickman



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

It's that season where lights are going up, stores are packed, holiday music is on all over the radio stations, and my belt seems to stretch out more and more. Yes, I'm talking about Christmas! For many, including myself, this is one of the most exciting and joyous times of the year. A time we spend with family and friends enjoying all that we have together.

It is also the time of year that I look back to reflect on all that we as a church family have done and also as to where we are headed. 2017 has been a tremendous year for Del Norte Baptist Church. We have seen many new faces, new ministries, and now even the start of a new facelift to our church campus. We have seen people saved, baptized, and numerous lives restored through the loving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Financially, we are most likely going to end above budget. This only goes to show the faithful hearts of those that honor God in their monetary gifts.

As your brother, pastor, and friend, I want to thank each and every one of you for all you have done to help support the numerous ministry endeavors of our church family. From feeding the hungry, sheltering the orphans, helping the widows, and sharing the gospel; you have all stepped up and been a part of God's purpose for DNBC. What a true honor and blessing it is to serve next to each of you.

2018 looks to be another year filled with much opportunity to serve our Lord. With DNBC being a church of Ministry, Missions, and Movers; I can only see the kingdom of God growing abundantly. My prayer is that each of you would either continue on or pray about getting involved in a ministry. There is so much opportunity for anyone with a willing, serving heart.

Over the next few weeks you will hear of many opportunities to get involved. So, I ask that you please read the bulletin, follow and listen to the announcements, and check us out on Facebook. These are the ways we get information out to you as quickly as possible.

How blessed we are to be in a season where our Lord is doing so much in our midst. I praise our Father in Heaven for all these opportunities and for all of you that I get to journey with along the way!

Enjoying the journey,
Brad



World's Largest Christmas Store

When I was in Europe, on a Singing Men of Texas mission trip in 2007, I was enticed by the sign claiming "Word's Largest Christmas Store." So, I went in hoping to find a beautiful nativity for Jennifer, my beautiful bride. I spent quite a while looking through the entire store, which included three or four floors of "Christmas" stuff. Yet, among all the Santas, reindeer, Coca-Cola polar bears, and Christmas trees, I could not find one mention of the baby from which Christmas gets its name.

So, on my way out, I stopped by the cashier's desk and asked if there might be any nativities that I just missed. The cashier didn't know what a nativity was, so I asked about the baby Jesus, and apparently that didn't ring a bell either. Of course, the cashier's native language was most likely German, so that could have been part of the problem. Finally, the manager became involved in the conversation, and she was able to show me two nativities. One was a little key ring and the other, a stand-alone, was less than two inches wide and unattractive.

I was shocked to know that, in Europe, Christmas didn't necessarily have anything to do with Jesus. Then, later that same year, I was in Albuquerque's Old Town, at the "Christmas Store," and discovered that Albuquerque

merchants were exactly the same. After searching high and low I found that there were only two small nativities and one "Joy to the World" sign. Not a single mention, or acknowledgment of, the baby Jesus.

As we go through this Christmas season, and the coming year, I hope we will look for and find the missing Jesus. I know that Jesus desires to be known among the nations, so that every single person will have a personal relationship with Him. As Christians, it is our job and honorable responsibility to share the Good News that Jesus Christ truly was who He said He was: the Savior of the World. He was born into this world to live a sinless life and to take on all the sins, and the penalty associated with them, of all humans upon Himself. He offers eternal life to any and all who ask.

Let's make Jesus the "Reason for the Season" and follow through by making every moment of every day the "Season" of Christ.

Your fellow Christ follower,
Ira Pinkston

AN UPDATE FROM ROY

Wow! I can't believe we are approaching the end of 2017! Where did it go? As it's been said "time flies when you're having fun"! That's exactly what it's been this year, a lot of fun and joy serving alongside God's people. There's nothing like being where you're supposed to be and doing what you're supposed to be doing. That describes how I feel about DNBC. The Hispanic Ministry is moving forward, stronger in unity, love and compassion. Those are the comments I often hear from visitors. I love it because it gives me a sense of confirmation that we are on the right track. PRAISE GOD FOR THAT!

I am looking forward to 2018 and all the wonderful things that the Lord has in store for us at DNBC!

To God be The Glory!
Your servant,
Roy Rosales

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

December is the most exciting time of the year for children. The five Sundays of December tell the true Christmas story; beginning with the prophets, Isaiah and Micah, telling about Jesus; the angels speaking to Mary and Joseph; Mary's visit with Elizabeth; Jesus' miraculous birth and finally the wise men's visit to Jesus.

Friday, December 8th, 6:00-9:00, was our Children's Christmas Camp. The camp is for babies to 6th grade. We had food, crafts, games, and the telling of the Christmas story from Luke 2. This was a great opportunity for all children to come to a fun activity where they were able to make friends and hear God's word.

We had the privilege of showing God's love in a very tangible way on Saturday, December 2nd at the 8th annual Sole-2-Soul. What a blessing it was to begin to build relationships with so many children and families. We were able to give away around 450 pairs of shoes! There is nothing like the smile on the face of a child with a new pair of tennis shoes.

The first "Family Lego Night" will be held on Friday, January 19th. Everyone is encouraged to come and bring their Legos or we have plenty to share. If you don't have a child, come and we will partner you with a family. There will be a light supper and plenty of build, build, building.

We are partnering with Governor Bent Elementary School on a Reading Initiative Program. We will be reading with first and second graders on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. If you have any questions please give me a call. My cell phone number is 453-8121.

Enthusiastically Serving With You,
Lillian Moon





Training New Leaders

Things with the youth group have been going incredibly well. We've brought new youth into the church through our various outreaches, but more than that I am starting to see our youth step up and take on leadership roles within the youth group and the church. This not only makes me proud, but it also goes to show that, often times, our youth are capable of so much more than we give them credit for.

There are many different opportunities for youth to get involved in leadership roles. There is the youth praise band. The youth involved in this lead the youth group in worship every Sunday night. Each member of the praise band also has the opportunity, if they would like, to share a verse or short devotional with the youth group during the worship service. The youth worship service couldn't happen without the youth volunteers that work in the bridge. This is more of a behind the scenes type of leadership, but it is one that is pivotal to our ministry, both as a youth group and a church. Additional-

ly, we have been allowing youth to volunteer to lead the Bible study through the book of John that happens after the worship service on Sundays. So far, we have had two brave young men, Job Kelley and Tanner Shelton, step up to do this, and they set a fantastic example for others to follow.

Sunday nights are not the only opportunity for youth to get involved in leadership. We allow youth to volunteer to make the announcements and lead the games on Wednesday nights when we are able. Finally, we have some youth that meet with a group at the church called the "Techies" every other Monday night. This group publishes Koinonia, works on the church website, as well as orchestrates all social media platforms for the church. The youth are being trained in how to create Powerpoint backgrounds, work with Canva creating graphics for social media, and everything that goes into publishing the Koinonia magazine. These youth are choosing, on their own, Bible verses and Christian quotes that speak to them, and then creating the images to go with the verses and

quotes so that we can share them with the youth group on Facebook and Instagram. This is a social media ministry that these youth are pretty much sustaining themselves.

I say all this, not only to brag on our youth and let you know how amazing they are, but to prove a point. So many times as a youth minister, I am presented with requests for youth to help with ministries, and this is a wonderful blessing. However, most of the time, these requests center solely around helping with physical needs (yard work, cleaning, and other types of manual labor). While, yes, the youth are willing and able to help with these types of things, this should not be the only ministry we allow our youth to do. These youth will grow up to be the future ministers (both lay and clergy) within the church, but they should not have to wait until then to begin ministering. 1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity". This verse is quoted often within youth ministries, but it's not always backed up with opportunities for youth to serve and lead.

I am thankful to be at church that encourages youth to do all types of ministries. Yes, we give them opportunity to help out with ministries involving meeting physical needs, but we also give them the opportunities to meet people's spiritual needs. We recognize the fact that just because they are young, doesn't mean they don't have anything to say. God speaks to and through them the same way he does other individuals in the church, and we give them a chance to share that with their fellow youth and the church. That is a rare, but beautiful blessing to be a part of.

God Bless,
Adam Nash

A SIMPLE “YES”



Lynn and Liz Boynton are well known names around DNBC. In fact, they are well known around the entire state of New Mexico! That's because God has used them, and their ministry, to impact the lives of thousands of people throughout the state. They were certified Mission Service Corps Volunteers through the North American Mission Board for over fifteen years. During that time, they traveled to various towns being the hands and feet of Jesus to fifty-four churches in need, most of which were in New Mexico.

While every church was meaningful in its own way, there were some that held a special place in their hearts. Lynn's favorite job, which might be well known to some of our members since many lent a hand, was in La Cueva. The church consisted of a small group of people meeting on Sundays at the local fire station. The pastor contacted Lynn about building a church on some land that they owned. Lynn and Liz, of course, obliged. They built a log church with a unique feature. The baptistry was built into the floor due to a big picture window that they added

to enhance the beauty of the church. The La Cueva church was so thankful for this immense blessing that they donated a tree in the National Forest as a thank you. This church, and its people, held such a special place for Lynn and Liz that, upon Lynn's passing, the church welcomed his family to plant a tree on his birthday in his name. It was there, under that tree, that they buried Lynn's ashes.

Fifty-four churches in fifteen years could tend to cause all the jobs to blur together, but not with the love and attention that the Boyntons gave to each and every person and church. They kept a scrapbook of sorts (newspaper clippings, pictures, and personal notes) of every church. However, one of these scrapbooks is a bit larger than all the others, and that is the Truth or Consequences church. This was their largest project. They began working on it in September of '02 and didn't finish until January of '04. The original church was built on top of a hot springs without enough support, so they completely tore down the sanctuary and rebuilt the church entirely.

Although they were affiliated with the New Mexico Baptist Convention, some of their projects reached outside the state. They weathered a snow storm on the way to Roy, UT in order to help a church there get the sanctuary dried in before the big winter storm hit the church. At another time, they led a mission trip to Greensburg, KS to help rebuild a church that had been totally wiped out by a tornado. Members of our church stayed and worked with the Boyntons for a week on this particular job, while Lynn and Liz stayed an additional five weeks.

The Gospel has been, and continues to be, presented in the churches they have helped,

As would be expected, their ministry wasn't solely construction related. Many times the churches had been through a traumatic experiences, and their ministry would involve helping them pick up the pieces spiritually, emotionally, and physically. One particular place where this was true was in Las Cruces. Iglesia Bautista Buenas Nuevas, a Spanish speaking church, was offered some land on which to build a church after a gang had burned their church to the ground. The Boyntons stayed there for almost a year and, not only rebuilt the church, but blessed them with a larger facility, allowing them room to grow.

Their work and ministry was truly amazing and has had an impact beyond what we can see or


comprehend. However, like most ministries, it didn't start with a dream of reaching fifty plus churches. It started with obedience...a simple "yes" to a simple request. Lynn and Liz had some friends that were missionaries out of Texas, and they were working on the Baptist Neighborhood Center in Carlsbad. They asked Lynn to help install some showers, and during the commencement ceremony following VBS, the president of the New Mexico Baptist Men mentioned to Lynn that the Texas missionaries were coming to New Mexico and receiving the blessings for their obedience to God. It was then and there that Lynn began to receive the calling to go and help others.



Again, though, they weren't immediately certified through NAMB. The next step for Lynn was meeting with the Pastor of DNBC at that time. They talked and prayed about what exactly the Boyntons' calling would look like. From there, they lead three DNBC mission trips: the Miracle of Mayhill, Sierra Vista Baptist in Belin, and Emmanuel Baptist Church in Estancia.

God used their ministry to bless so many throughout their fifteen plus years of service. However, He's not finished using their story. The Gospel has been, and continues to be, presented in the churches they have helped, and the individuals that Lynn and Liz worked with are still sharing His love with others. Not only that, but their story of a simple "yes" to God, repeated again and again, and the impact that can have for the Kingdom of God is still ministering to us reading this today. God has used this couple to touch tens of thousands over the course of their ministry, and DNBC is incredibly blessed to have been a small part of that.

PUTTING THE PRAISE BACK IN PRAYER



BY RICHELLE GILSDORF

A few months ago in the college Sunday School class, Michael Hickman had us read the passage from the gospels traditionally known as the “Lord’s Prayer” (see Matthew 6:9-13). We spent a moment looking at one particular line—“hallowed be your name”—and although I’ve read that probably close to a hundred times, I suddenly realized there was nothing like it in almost any prayer I’d ever prayed. This thought stuck with me through the day and into the next morning, when I woke at 6 a.m. like always to read my Bible and pray before work.

That morning, I started my prayer similar to how Jesus had: “Father, hallowed be your name in all the Earth.” I paused and let those words really resonate in my heart and mind. I imagined people all across the Earth, many perhaps engaged in their morning prayers just like me, stating their desire for the name of God to be revered forever and everywhere. It humbled me to think of so many voices calling out to the same heavenly Father and desiring that the goodness and justness of his name be recognized for every day to come. This led me to recall psalms and passages of Scripture stating that all of creation and nature itself testify to the glory and wonder of the Creator.

Truly, God made a universe—universes!—that can do nothing but praise his awesome, glorious, good name.

And yet I realized that praise so rarely entered into my prayers, more an afterthought or tangled up in a statement of gratitude for the ongoing or most recent blessings in my life. I started to see that despite thanking God daily, I wasn’t truly praising his name; rather, I was saying true and good things about him only because I was happy about the things with which he’s blessed me.

Yet there is a distinction we must understand between gratitude and praise. One can absolutely lead to the other, but praise is also independent of gratitude. Praise is not

conditional on the good things God is doing in our lives or the blessings he daily pours out on us; in fact, God deserves our praise for the very fact that he exists.

As I discussed in my last article for Koinonia, our sole purpose in existing is to bring glory to God. I believe part of the way we do that is to praise him—not only by giving him credit for the blessings and miracles in our lives, but also daily recognizing our smallness in comparison to his greatness. And truly, it is only once we have meditated awhile on the difference between our holy, awesome, perfect Father and ourselves that we can marvel in the beauty that is Jesus, the cross, and what his death accomplished for us. This of course leads to acts of service in love born out of a deep gratitude for Jesus, but even before Jesus's sacrifice—even before Adam—there was God: perfect, holy, just, and purely good. He was these things before any creature existed to utter them. And he is all of these things still.

In the last three weeks, I have made a point of beginning my prayers with praise. It felt awkward at first—like a fourth grader reading Shakespeare—but that uncomfortable sense was all the more reason to press on. I say press on because when praise is not a habit of the mouth, it's likely not a habit of the heart, and I was determined that it should be. If Jesus—God incarnate—began his prayers with praise, I would get my heart to the place where praising God in my conversations with him came as naturally as complaining about Monday mornings seemed to come in chats with coworkers. “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34b ESV). I sought to meditate on the nature and goodness of God that was entirely independent of his relationship and interactions with me; from

the overflow of goodness I discovered, my mouth found the words.

If you don't include time for praise in your prayers, I encourage you to begin practicing. I know “practice” and “prayer” seem like opposed things—prayer is supposed to be natural and heartfelt, so why should we practice as if it is a chore to be perfected? Well, I would note that the Lord's Prayer was elicited by a request from the disciples to be taught how to pray: even they seemed to know that proper attitude in prayer does not always come naturally to us. It is something we need to learn.

Practicing authentic praise has, even in three weeks, given new life to my prayers. I feel more energized and enlivened when I've spent time telling God how good he is, how brilliant, and how expertly in control of everything. I've found that meditating on the praiseworthy nature of God has reduced my tendency to get anxious about the future, to overthink things that are outside my control, and to experience a deeper sense of trust.

If you feel that your prayers have grown mechanical, rehearsed, exhausted... try expending some mental energy each day on praise, particularly those that have nothing to do with your life (those things can be addressed in moments of thanksgiving in your prayers). Meditate on God's goodness regardless of you or your existence. Write the praises down if it helps you focus, or read some psalms. Look out a window at the rising sun, the twinkling stars, the stirring birds. If all of creation testifies to his magnificence, it won't take you long to remember reasons to praise him. May it enrich your prayers as fully as it has mine.

“OUR FATHER IN
HEAVEN, HALLOWED
BE YOUR NAME. YOUR
KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IT IS
IN HEAVEN. GIVE US
THIS DAY OUR DAILY
BREAD, AND FORGIVE
US OUR DEBTS, AS
WE ALSO HAVE FOR-
GIVEN OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US NOT
INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US
FROM EVIL.

THE BODY OF CHRIST THROUGH THE AGES:

CELEBRATING 500 YEARS OF REFORMATION

This past Halloween you might have heard a few people referencing Reformation Day and the five hundredth anniversary of the Ninety-five Theses. If you're like most people, you might have wondered what exactly the significance of that specific event was.

I began talking about Martin Luther, this monumental event in church history, and its five hundredth anniversary last year, an entire year before the actual anniversary. Most of the youth and college students are glad that the five hundredth anniversary has come and gone, in hopes that it would silence the impromptu miniature church history lectures. However, this man is one of very few influential men that are responsible for the Protestant Reformation. On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, starting a movement and a tradition that we, as Baptists, are still a part of five hundred years later.

Martin Luther (not to be confused with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.) was a man that spoke out against the corruption in the church of the time. This was done at great personal risk since it led to

his excommunication (being kicked out of the Catholic Church). Additionally, Luther translated parts of the Bible into the common language (as opposed to the Latin only translations of the time), making it accessible for everyone to read. This was a part of his calling the people of Germany to a personal faith in Jesus. He believed in the priesthood of all believers, which is the belief that, through Christ, we have been given direct access to God. We are not dependent upon a priest. He reminded the people that scripture, not the church, is the supreme way that God makes himself known to His people, meaning that if scripture and the church contradict each other, scripture is correct.

There are three things that unite all Baptists: First, the centrality of the Bible to the church and to each individual believer. Second, the importance of each believer to personally seek God and seek His will for their lives and for the lives of the church. Finally, each church's ability to make their own decisions on how to best follow God's will for their church. None of these things would be possible if it wasn't for the work of Martin Luther stepping out in faith five hundred years ago.

WORD OF THE ISSUE:

Exegesis [ek-si-jee-sis]

noun, plural ex·e·ge·ses [ek-si-jee-seez]

1. critical explanation or interpretation of a text or portion of a text, especially of the Bible.

2 *Timothy 2:15 (ESV)*

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Believe and Receive

By Marilyn Little

Over our faults and shortcomings we must not grieve,
For Christ's sacrifice has given us a reprieve.
His resurrection gives all believers hope,
With trials and tribulations we can cope.

With God's help there's no limit to what we can achieve.
Forgiveness, mercy, and unending love we receive.
Comfort and guidance God will impart,
If we believe with all of our heart.

For all those who repent, accept, and believe,
We have a guarantee that God does not deceive.
There's no need for believers to have fear,
For God promises to always be near.

All our worries and fears He will relieve,
Joy and love beyond what we can conceive.
All this and much more we will all receive
Therefore, we must all believe and receive.

DNBC Youth Ministry's D-Now 2018

March 16th & 17th

Cost \$20

OUTCAST

finding our place in God's kingdom

MAJOR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

WHERE MEMORIAL IS MORE THAN A NAME, IT'S A
PREDICTION!

OR

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?
BECAUSE I WANT A SECOND OPINION

*This is a brand new comedy with zany characters
that take the typical Daytime Soap Opera
to bizarre but hilarious, new heights.
(or depths, as the case may be)*

FEBRUARY
9TH 10TH 16TH 17TH

Tickets go on Sale: Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in the Church Office.
Or Better Yet...Buy a Gift Certificate during the month of December and pick out your
tickets on December 27th, 28th and after the Worship Services on December 31st. To
buy a Gift Certificate, all you need know is how many tickets you want to purchase.
You will select the show date when you pick up the tickets at the end of December.

The Ticket Price for the Meal & the Melodrama is still a mere: \$17.50



CHRISTMAS

EVE

SERVICE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24TH
5:00PM

WORSHIP BY:
OUR PRAISE TEAM
BAILAMOS
ORCHESTRA
&
A POWERFUL, DRAMATIC
PRESENTATION





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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