

# KOINONIA

WINTER 2012



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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

A Word from the Pastor .....	3
Upcoming Events .....	4
Easter Service .....	5
Discipleship Training .....	6
Melodrama .....	7
Soul-2-Sole .....	8
It’s a Family Thing .....	10
VBS Preview .....	11
Christmas Music .....	12
Free to Fail .....	14

# A Word From The Pastor

## **BIBLE IN A NUTSHELL (written as a book report)**

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti.

Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother. One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies.

After Joshua came David He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot.

Any way's, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

In His Service, and Yours,  
**Pastor Bob**

# Upcoming Events

January 12 - Celebration Choir Retreat

January 20 - Missions Luncheon

February 8,9,15,16 - Melodrama

March 1-2 - Girls Retreat

March 3-4 - Spanish Evangelism Conference

March 4-6 - State Evangelism Conference

March 31 - Easter and Praize & Graize

April 19-20 - Marriage Retreat

April 24 - Church Bible Drill

April 26-27 - Handbell Clinic



Join Us March 31st As We Celebrate

# EASTER

Presentation by the Celebration Choir

Praze and Graze Fellowship

# Discipleship Training Classes:

As we begin the new year, 2013, here are some opportunities of Study and Entertainment:

A new video series by Kelly Minter will be offered for Ladies beginning in January.

## Nehemiah: A Heart That Can Break

Nehemiah's heart was so broken for those in need that he left the comfort of his

Persian palace to help them. This study challenges believers to let God break hearts for a hurting, lost world and move them in compassion to lead people to Jesus

Members' Workbook cost is \$15. Separate classes will be offered on Sundays and Wednesday

Faye Murray has offered to teach the Fundamentals of Greek. This class will teach the basics of using tools to understand the language in which the New Testament was written.

The workbook/text will cost \$13. The class will begin January 13th.

Essentials is our New Members class that is also open to anyone who would like to know more about Del Norte Baptist Church and what we believe and how we try to live out our faith. There is no cost to attend this study and everyone will receive a free workbook. The class meets on two consecutive Sunday evenings. To receive credit for the class you must attend both classes. Next class meets : January 6th and 13th from 4:00 - 6:15 p.m.

Melodrama tickets go on sale Wednesday, January 2nd.  
This year's production is:

The  
  
**Oddfather**

or

**"The Spaghetti Wars of Little Italy.  
A Case Elliot Mess Could Really Sink His Teeth Into."**

The dates for the Dinner Show are February:

**8<sup>th</sup>**

**9<sup>th</sup>**

**15<sup>th</sup>**

**16<sup>th</sup>**

Get your tickets early as they seem to go faster every year.

*“A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the Great.”*

Proverbs 18:16

Sole-2-Soul gave us an opportunity to be ushered into the presence of the Great. As we gave to the families in our community we received the blessings. I arrived at church at 7am and people were already waiting in the parking lot. By 8:15 we knew we needed to open the doors. Immediately we began to pair up families and church members. Instead of strangers, people began to laugh and share. We wanted them to see the love of Jesus in our kind and caring attitudes.

By noon we had given away 340 pairs of shoes and made new friends in our neighborhood. Many of the children wore their new socks and shoes home. And everyone left with a full stomach thanks to all of the “goodies” that were brought and the generous donations from Len Spadoni at our neighborhood Chik-fil-a.

Our volunteers were also able to promote Christmas Camp to the children. They had a flyer given to them and were also told about all of the fun things we do each year during Christmas Camp. Because of this, we had one of our largest turnouts for camp. 108 preschoolers and children attended camp with 28 volunteers busily working to make a fun evening for everyone.

By the end of the night cookies and Christmas ornaments had been decorated, animals from the nativity scene were painted, gingerbread houses built, beaded candy canes and necklaces designed, duct tape wallets constructed, and games like Cheetos head and Organized Mass Chaos had been played. We ended the evening with the Christmas story from the book of Luke and shared some birthday cake in honor of Jesus.

It was a wonderful way to begin the Christmas season.  
I am truly blessed to be able to enthusiastically serve with such wonderful people.

Lillian



# its a family thing

by Richelle Gilsdorf

Some of you may be familiar with the phrase “Grow like a fro.” It was the motto of the Del Norte Youth Group up until about four years ago. We even had sweatshirts and a giant head with a fro taped to the wall of the youth room. The idea behind it was that as a church, we should be growing up, out, and together, just like an afro hairdo: up towards God, out to the community, and together as a family.

Sound familiar? Well that’s because Life Together is a very similar principle. This December, Lewis Williams asked Mark Acton and me to teach his adult Sunday School class, and together with Michael Hickman, we presented a lesson on the role of the Holy Spirit in the church. When we were preparing the discussion questions the night before, the lesson evolved into a challenging call to evaluate not only how we perceive the Holy Spirit, but how sometimes, we get in His way. It was honestly as much a lesson to share as it was to learn.

When we presented the material the next morning, we launched the discussion from a video by Francis Chan, a former pastor and speaker which Andy and the youth have heard multiple times. It was part of his video series entitled the Basic Series. This specific video, called The Holy Spirit, really focused on a comparison between the early church and the church as we see it today, most noticeably the differences between the role of the Holy Spirit then versus now. Some of the questions we wrestled with were whether or not we still believe the Holy Spirit is the same powerful and intimate force now as it was then, when Peter and the disciples were first preaching the good news. Chan presented questions of the Holy Spirit versus programs in the church—not to say that structure or programs are an inherently bad thing, but rather questioning whether our traditions and programs within the church do not sometimes interfere with the Holy Spirit’s work.

The morning we presented to Lewis’s class, the discussion was fantastic. There were a wide variety of opinions and ideas. But the most incredible part of it was that here we were, three college-aged students sharing a message that had been jointly laid on our hearts, and sitting opposite us was a group of adults undoubtedly more learned and experienced than us, listening to what we had to say and engaging with us in conversation about it. This was, at the most fundamental level, a growing towards each other.

You see, I can write dozens of articles showing examples of Life Together, we can get up on stage as a youth and a college group and emphasize the importance of this principle, its Biblical foundation. We can talk about it until we’re blue in the face, but nothing will change, nothing will grow, until we exercise it as a church. Lewis Williams gave us that chance, and it proved hugely successful and informative not only, I hope, for his class, but for us as students presenting the message as well. Two different age groups met and discussed elements of our faith as fellow believers—as family. We didn’t know personally everyone to whom we were presenting, and not all of them knew us, but because the discussion was made possible, a growth towards each other occurred. It may not look like Life Together, but it is. Because in the end, we genuinely believe that Life Together is not a youth thing—it’s not a college thing or a student thing. It’s not even a church thing. It’s a family thing. But above all else, it’s a God thing. So I want to thank Lewis for giving us that opportunity, and his class for engaging with us in honest discourse. We love to see the family growing closer, and this opportunity has encouraged us to keep the “fro” growing.

To watch the Francis Chan Basic Series please visit [www.flannel.org](http://www.flannel.org) and search Basic Series.



VBS is coming June 3 thru 7

Online Registration opens March 1st  
First Teacher Training is March 21st  
See our Children's Pastor Lillian Moon to volunteer.



# Christmas Music Recap

The Christmas Season is amazingly wonderful in many ways. Consider that this is the perfect time of the year to share the “complete” story of Jesus to people who may not know who He really was. Jesus came to earth as a baby; and even though He lived a perfect life, He gave up His life for the sins of all mankind, so that we could have a genuine relationship with God. The music ministry of Del Norte Baptist Church provided many opportunities for worship centered on the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

On December 2 the Youth of our church led us in an incredible worship experience. Several people have mentioned that the service was one of the most meaningful worship services they have attended in years. The music, “interpretive moment” (the Baptist secret code phrase for dancing), videos, and a poignant message from our awesome Student Pastor provided for hearts to be touched and lives to be changed through the power of God.

Sunday night, December 9, during their Christmas Celebration, our children provided a strong statement of who Jesus is and why He came to the earth. As I have said before (but never often enough) we have the best Children’s choir directors in the state. Sharon Williams, Sonja Nelson, and Caryn Coppedge, along with their very capable helpers, provide top-notch leadership and training to the children in our church and community. If you see them make sure you thank them for giving of their time and talents.

Las Campanillas, our Handbell choir, has played in our services regularly and did an especially good job on Sunday morning, Dec. 16. And speaking of instruments, our Celebration Orchestra and our accompanists provided awesome musical accompaniment and “special music” throughout the Christmas season.

The Celebration Choir, Celebration Orchestra, and College Ensemble presented a musical entitled “The Splendor of Christmas on Sunday night, December 16. The variety of music provided “something for everyone.” We heard some of Handel’s Messiah, some “black gospel,” and lots of stuff in between. The soloists included Juli DuBerry, Kevin Warner, Eric Gray, Nathan Moses, Jennifer Pinkston, and Mike DuBerry.

The Lord has provided Del Norte Baptist Church so many people with amazing talents and I personally am honored to be the Worship Pastor here. 2013 will surely include many other opportunities for us to worship together. Consider whether you or someone you know should become active in our music ministry here at Del Norte.

I pray that we will become bolder in our witness for our Lord and Savior, Jesus, Christ, and that we will continually strive to become closer to, and more like, God every day.

# FREE TO FAIL

BY RICHELLE GILSDORF

A couple of months ago, I heard a phrase in passing on the radio, and it wasn't until I was praying a few nights later that this phrase came back and finally stuck with me.

We are free to fail.

What? The word 'failure' is a scary one for me—it's scary for all of us. We work so hard to do well at our jobs, to care for our families, to minister to those who need it, and to please God. We work and we struggle and we strive. And no matter what, no matter how hard we pray, we fall down. We drop the ball. We let people down, we sin, we mess up—we disappoint God. And in those moments, we sometimes feel like throwing up our hands and saying, "God, I can't do this! This is too hard!"

But maybe in these struggles to please God and do what's right, we're missing the bigger picture. In Acts 13, verses 38-39, Paul is speaking to a group of Jews and Gentiles when he says, "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses" (NIV). As believers, I think we all know and understand that we have been forgiven for our past, present, and future sins. We know that when we mess up, we can pray to God for forgiveness, and He will grant it to us. But maybe there's another side to this gift of forgiveness that we're missing, and the last portion of Paul's statement makes it clear: there is a justification for our freedom from sins that we as believers have that we would not have had "under the law of Moses."

We have Jesus. We have grace. We are free to fail.

The David Crowder Band has a song that the youth praise team has played a few times for the church. It's called "Sometimes" and it in-

cludes a line that says "Just set your sail and risk the ocean—there's only grace." Risk the ocean. Step out onto those waters with faith, knowing that if you grow weary, if you start to doubt, yes you will sink—and in sinking, yes you have failed. But because of our faith in Jesus, the one who first walked on those same waves, we know that we are not left to drown. We cry out to Jesus, and He reaches down a hand to pull us up and set us straight again. We don't have to worry about burning a suitable sacrifice to ask for God's forgiveness, for his mercy. We already have it in Jesus.

For me, it is so encouraging to know that when I wake up in the morning, I don't have to worry about how I got frustrated in traffic yesterday and started speeding. I don't have to wonder if that behavior is a pattern that I can't escape, and that today, no matter how hard I try, I'm just going to end up doing it again. I can get in my car knowing that today is a new day, that Jesus has put that behavior of yesterday behind us both, and that I can try again. I don't have to worry that if I drive poorly one more day, God's going to get fed up with me and punish me—I don't have to hang my head in guilt. I can pull out onto the road praying that God would help me to be patient and respectful, and that if I do lose my cool, it's not the end of the world. The next moment is a new moment, and I'm free to start over. I don't have to be weighed down by the guilt of having failed—I am buoyed by the overwhelming, strange, and amazing sort of love that overlooks and forgets that failure as soon as I address it.

Jesus died to free us from bondage to our sins, from living guilty. We should not live in fear of failing because we are free to fail, because there are unlimited chances to start again. Instead, "let's risk the ocean."

# Sometimes

by David Crowder\* Band

Sometimes every one of us feels  
Like we'll never be healed  
Sometimes

Sometimes every one of us aches  
Like we'll never be saved  
Sometimes

When we've given up, let Your healing come  
When there's nothing left, let Your healing come  
'Til we're rising up, let Your healing come  
Where You go, we will follow  
Where You go, we will follow

It's Your love that we adore  
It's like a sea without a shore  
We're lost in You, we're lost in You

Sometimes it's like we'll never atone  
For all the love we've known  
Sometimes  
Like in a smile or a song, when you feel love come  
And that feeling's gone, it flies

It's Your love that we adore  
It's like a sea without a shore  
Don't be afraid - Don't be afraid  
Just set your sail  
And risk the ocean there's only grace  
Let's risk the ocean there's only grace



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

Office Phone: (505) 881-9711

Fax: (505) 881-7184

E-mail: [dnbc@dnbc.org](mailto:dNBC@dnbc.org)

### Worship Service Times

Traditional Service - 8:30 am, Sunday

Contemporary Service - 11:00am, Sunday

Spanish Service - 11:00am, Sunday

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

We are a united body of believers committed to grow  
in Christ and reach others for Christ