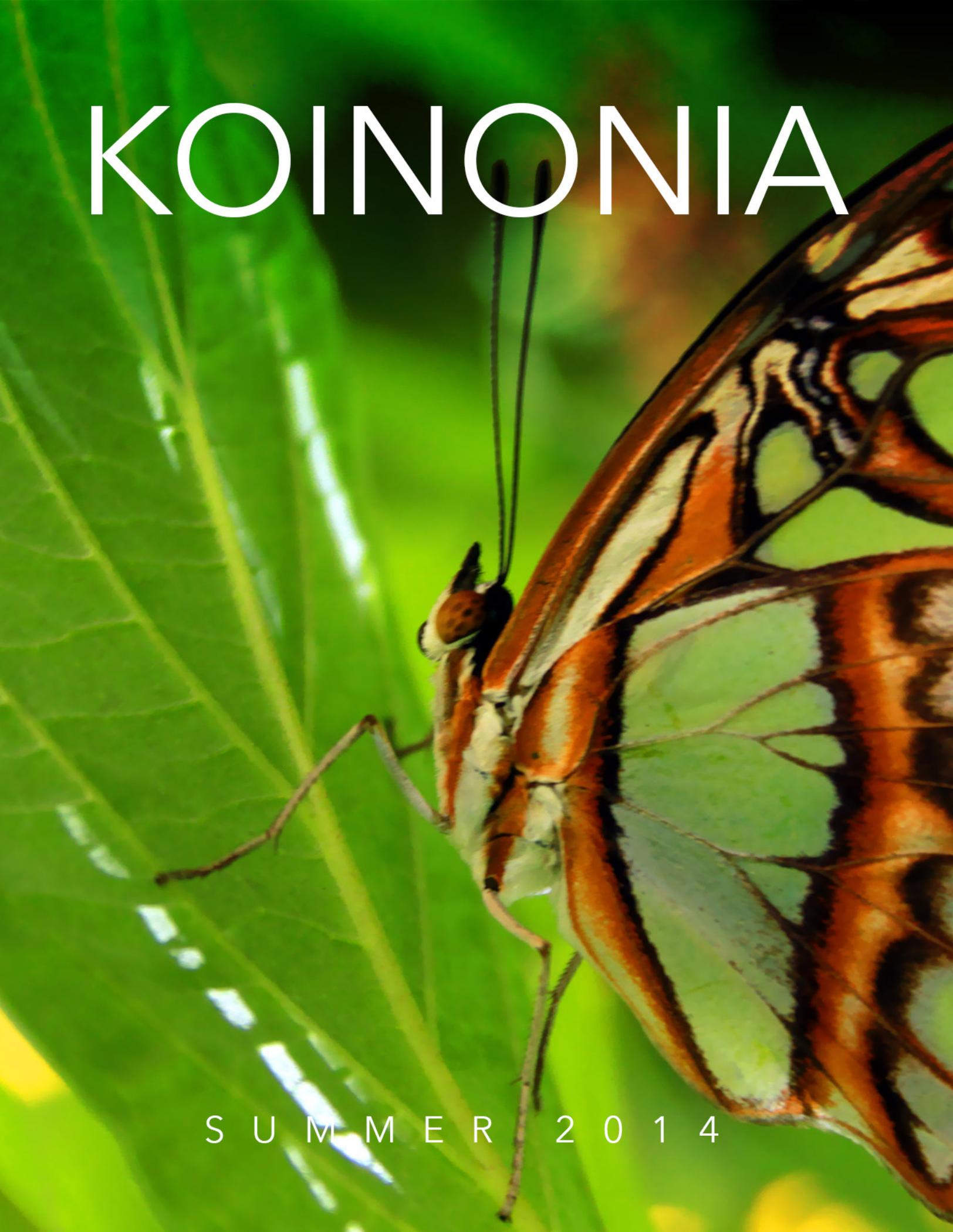


KOINONIA



S U M M E R 2 0 1 4

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

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 9 thru 13 – Vacation Bible School

June 19 thru 21 – Quilt-In

June 28 thru July 5 – Youth Mission Trip

July 7 thru 11 – Youth and Children’s Music Camps

July 14 thru 18 – Missions Camp

July 21 thru 25 – Boys Camp

August 15 & 16 – Preteen Retreat

August 17 – Red Bible Day & Fall Kick-Off

August 23 – Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

August 29 thru Sept 1 – Labor Day Camp-Out

August 31 – Camp-In



A WORD FROM THE GROWTH PASTOR



Left to right: Charlie Ervin, owner of Two Wheel Drive; Kevin Warner; George Luna, recipient of the recumbent bicycle

On Friday May 9, 2014 a check in the amount of \$1,500.00 was given to George Luna of Rio Rancho to purchase a recumbent bicycle at Two Wheel Drive in Albuquerque. This money was part of the funds raised during the Melodrama dinner Theater last February. George is one of our paralyzed veterans from the Vietnam War.

George said: “I am excited about riding a cycle. I have wanted to ride for a long time but did not have the funds for this kind of opportunity. I want to thank Del Norte Baptist Church Melodrama group, the V.A. and Two Wheel Drive for this wonderful gift.

COMING EVENTS:



The College & Career Class will be going through the workbook *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby this Summer. This study was introduced to me in the early 1990’s. Other than the Bible, this material has had the greatest impact on my perspective of living the Christian walk. This book receives my highest recommendation.



Discipleship Training in the Fall will include a video series for women by Beth Moore called, “Children of the Day” a study on the epistles, 1 and 2 Thessalonians. This series covers a wide variety of topics, including family, prayer, ministering to others, and prophecy. This will be a 9-session study with 8 sessions of homework. The workbook will cost \$16.

CHURCH STATISTICS

There have been some people in our church who have asked how we are doing in the area of attendance since we have been without a Senior Pastor. We keep extensive records and I include some statistics here:

Year	Sunday School Average	Worship Attendance
2012	284	360 (last full year Bob Myers was pastor)
2013	261 down 8% from 2012	324 down 10% from 2012
2014 (Jan-May)	280 down 1% from 2012	332 down 8% from 2012

During the 11 years Bob Myers was pastor we averaged 11 baptisms per year.

During the 1 year and 3 months we have not had a Senior Pastor we have baptized 13 people.

As you can see, God has continued to bless us. We should not be content with these numbers but clearly God has not forsaken us. We should take to heart the words of the Apostle Paul: “I do not consider myself to have taken hold of the goal. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God’s heavenly call in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 3:13-14



Our Children's Choirs did a fabulous job during their end of the year program in May. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it a great night.





Memorial Day weekend was once again a great time at Del Norte. We worshipped together, celebrated the accomplishments of our graduates together, prayed together, and of course ate a whole lot of good life together. It was an awesome time and a good reminder of what an amazing church family we have.





Our children's ministry is off to an amazing start in 2014!

In April, five of our 3rd-6th graders joined about 700 other children and sponsors from across New Mexico for the Young Lives Ablaze Evangelical Conference that was held at Eastern Hills Baptist Church. It was a full, crazy day with music, muscles (Provided by Team Impact), and fun with a very direct and clear delivery of the Gospel.

At the beginning of May the church wide and state Bible Drills were held here at Del Norte. All 4 of the Drillers from Del Norte qualified and participated in the State competition; Congratulations to Amelia Nelson, Abby Bergstrasser, Audrey Peck and Whitney Peck!

Our Sunday afternoon activities have wrapped up for the summer with an end-of-the-year party for the Mission Friends, Girls in Action and Children in Action. The Children's Choirs ended with a wonderful evening of music that highlighted all of the talents of the children and the leaders who are so generous with their time!

We have also launched a Spanish Preschool Sunday School class headed up by Esther Martinez, wife of our interim Spanish Pastor Hiram Martinez. We will be cooperating with the Spanish congregation to lead our Vacation Bible School classes this summer as well.

Speaking of VBS.....our theme is "Agency D3: Discover, Decide, Defend" and the focus verse is 1 Peter 3:15:

But honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. HCSB

This year's VBS week will be June 9-13. We are fully staffed and will be ready for an exciting week of teaching and loving every child the Lord brings our way. Please help us get the word out by inviting nieces, nephews, co-workers kids, neighbors, anyone else you can who you know could benefit from hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Finally, advance notice that coming Tuesday mornings in July our library will be hosting Storytimes for ages 3-6! We will have 2 separate sessions to allow us to appeal to the interests and understanding of the different aged children. If you would be interested in getting further information please don't hesitate to ask!

I continue to be blessed by the opportunity to serve the Lord through Del Norte Baptist Church!

Hannah B.

YOUTH SUMMER

Summer is a great time during student ministry. There's no homework, no tests, no studying, and a lot more time to enjoy Life Together, and we would love for you to join us as we do just that throughout the next few months.

As we do throughout most of the year, there is Manna on Friday nights. This simple time of making PB&J's and then heading downtown to pass them out continues to be a great time for our students. Although they are the ones going to pass out the food, they often come back feeling like they were the ones who were given something as they interact with the people they encounter. Whether you just want to make sandwiches, or you want the full experience, we'd love for you to join us on Friday nights at 6pm.

On Sunday nights you'll find our students out at Montgomery Park on Comanche. They'll do some singing and have a time of worship, they'll spend some time in the Word, and they'll play some Frisbee. Things get started at about 6pm on Sunday nights, and everyone is welcome to join in, although diving for the Frisbee is optional.

Last summer we started a new Tuesday tradition during the summer, and we go and take advantage of the movie theater on San Mateo only charging \$1 to go see a movie. It meant we got to see a couple of pretty good movies, a few that were ok, and some that were really bad – but hey we only had to pay \$1. Check the announcements, Facebook or see Andy every week for which movie we'll be going to see.





Tables of Grace

The 2nd annual Tables of Grace was a great time for all the ladies that attended, and they raised \$1600 for our missions fund.





WHY
WE
"GOT
TO
KILL"
OUR
MINDS



by Richelle Gilsdorf

On May 19th, six of our college students and two freshly-graduated high school students joined Andy and Joni (and the kiddos) on a three-day retreat to Joni's family cabin in Ruidoso. This location was a last-minute change in venue—the trip was originally to Eagle Nest, to pass out flyers and spread the word about VBS coming up the first week of July. Due to a family emergency of the pastor in Eagle Nest, we couldn't go. Thus, just over a day before we were set to leave, we were told our destination would be Ruidoso instead.

The trip was amazing. Hiking, cooking and living together, watching Disney movies, stargazing, late nights playing Phase-Gin... it was another awesome experience of the Life Together. I didn't want to leave when it was time to go. But the retreat did remind me of something so important that our busy, American Christian culture tends to overlook: we absolutely have to give ourselves time to rest.

In the church, when we hear the word "retreat" we generally expect rest and time to spend with God. If we define the "rest" of a retreat as being time spent sleeping, then the first night of this trip hardly qualified as a retreat. Few of us got more than four hours of sleep that night. Both Jeremiah and Alyssa got sick, certain siblings stole covers, a bed broke, and a pack of coyotes serenaded us around 3:30 a.m. with yipping and howling. Although most of the group managed to nap for a few hours the next afternoon, Andy and Joni were awake trying to comfort a sick baby, Steph was keeping Alyssa busy, and I was just sort of wandering around, thinking.

The first day of the trip, we had taken a short hike to a waterfall—or where a waterfall should have been (thank you drought). The whole way up, everyone was chatting and laughing, but I felt really out of touch with them. I couldn't get into the fun, couldn't relax. I had been so looking forward to this time with my church family, the people I love and trust most in the world, and yet I just felt disconnected and uncomfortable. I kept thinking, "What do I need to do when I get home? I know I'm forgetting something." I was thinking of a thousand different things, my mind jumping between topics like a bouncy ball. I was getting a headache. I

wasn't enjoying anything.

The next day, as the boys snored away indoors, I sat on a bench on the porch and thought about what was wrong with me. Why couldn't I just enjoy myself? I was up in the mountains, I'd just graduated college, I had a job waiting for me in the fall, I'd just enjoyed one graduation party and was looking forward to another. I was with my friends, and we had no responsibilities or work for three days. No one was expecting anything of me. I was free to relax and rest.

At some point, the lyrics to a song by Twenty One Pilots called "Migraine" sort of popped into my head. I won't pretend to know exactly what the song is about, but I've always interpreted it as a guy trying to still the depressing and anxious thoughts that keep him from being functional. There's one line in the song that says "Sometimes to stay alive you got to kill your mind." That's the line that kept repeating in my head. I wanted to kill my mind so I could stop thinking for a while and just be. I finally had an opportunity to spend a lot of time with God. I wanted to feel Him close to me, but my thoughts were too restless to let me dwell on Him.

As I continued to sit and think, I realized I was in desperate need of rest.

Let's just ponder that. The God of the universe, the Almighty Creator of everything we've ever seen, known, or touched—the Author of timeless scripture and a beautiful, perfect story of crazy love... this wonderful God rested after He worked. He told us to do the same every Sabbath, once a week. I'm not sure what God's rest looked like. Did He lie down in a soft field of grass and soak in the sun He'd just made? I doubt He was tired, I don't think He slept... but yet He still rested.

You might be surprised to learn that Merriam Webster Dictionary does not include the word "sleep" in the specific definition of rest: "a bodily state characterized by minimal function and metabolic activities...freedom from activity and labor... a state of motionlessness or inactivity... peace of mind or spirit..." Nothing specifically about sleep. Yet so often, I think we define rest as sleep.



What if
resting isn't
about
recovery,
but about
preparation?

What if resting isn't about recovery, but about preparation? How are we to continue moving if we never stop to take a breath? American culture—and modern church culture as well, I think—views rest as optional. The real worker for Christ's kingdom will draw their strength from Him and not need to slow down and rest. That's bunk. Psalm 46:10 reads "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Notice that it doesn't read, "Work harder, keep going, and that way I will be exalted among the nations." What if our inability to rest is the result of pride, a belief that we don't need this thing that even God chose to do—the belief that there's too much work to do and not enough hands, so we just can't stop? I don't mean to imply that we should just sit back and let God do all the work—that's not Biblical in the slightest. But I think we underestimate the important role of rest.

In my mind, one of the greatest dangers of forsaking time for rest is that we miss God's voice. Elijah learned firsthand that sometimes God speaks in a whisper (1 Kings 19:12). This makes me wonder: if we're all running around busy and distracted, will we inadvertently numb and deafen ourselves to God's voice and the moving of His spirit? If we don't make time to rest and listen for God's direction, how can we be prepared to do His work? How can we be more like God if we don't rest as He did? How can we hope to be

like Jesus if we don't take ourselves away from the crowds—or the TV, school, work, the church, even sleep itself—like He did, and open ourselves to God's whisper?

Sadly, I think I couldn't fully engage with the "retreat" because I hadn't rested in so, so long. I couldn't still my mind because I hadn't had much practice within the past few months. I had prayed, but I hadn't made time to just sit and enjoy God's presence. I'd become habitually productive rather than spiritually awake and attuned.

It is evidence enough that "rest" is not the same as "sleep" in that we slept very little on the retreat, but I think we would all agree that it was a much-needed rest. We needed to get away from everything and enjoy time as a family with God. I know most people have an even busier life than mine, but after realizing what not resting had done to my ability to sit in God's presence quietly, I recognize more clearly the importance of peace and solitude. I hope we all learn to cherish that rest.



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

Office Phone: (505) 881-9711
Fax: (505) 881-7184
E-mail: 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

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