

KOINONIA



FALL 2015

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

October 1 – Central Association Annual Meeting @ Eastern Hills

October 8/9 – Youth Fall Retreat

October 11 – World Hunger Day

October 16/17 – Women's Ministry Retreat

October 19-21 – State Convention in Ruidoso

October 31 – Trunk or Treat

November 14 – Senior Adult Banquet

November 24 – Life Together Thanksgiving

December 3 – C.A.S.A. Christmas @ Highland Baptist Church

December 5 – Sole 2 Soul

December 6 – Children's Choir Christmas Program

December 18 – Children's Christmas Camp & Youth 12 Hours of Christmas

December 20 – Adult Choir Christmas Program

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

First, I want to thank everyone that took part in our Ministry Fair this past August. It was a huge success. We had over 100+ people sign up for ministries that they were either interested in or would like to take part in. What a wonderful shoot of encouragement for our church family. Thank you for all that helped put this together and helped to make it such a success. A special "THANK YOU" goes out to the staff and our amazing deacon ministry for all your hard work.

I am looking over my calendar for the next year, and WOW there is so much going on. Once again I see many opportunities for our family to do missions all over the state, nation, and world. Please be in much prayer as to what the Lord would have you join Him to do. Your heart is desired and greatly needed to accomplish all the Lord has laid before us.

Something new this next year is our first mission endeavor to Anchorage, Alaska. I will be making a pre-site visit later this month, so more information is to come. I also plan on leading a trip to Israel next fall in the later part of October or first part of November. We need at least 9 to 10 people to go. If you're interested, or have family and friends interested, please let me know as soon as possible. There is more information in this copy of Koinonia.

Finally, I am so blessed to be able to sit down and do my first staff reviews for DNBC. I must share what a blessing it was to do so. We are richly blessed to have the staff that our Father in Heaven has blessed us with. Working with Kevin, Judi, Andy, Ira, Hannah, and Roy is a real pleasure to say the least. I pray that you will find a way to show your hearts to each of them in the coming days. I know as your Pastor, I personally could not ask for a better staff family.

In His grip, by His grace
Pastor Brad



GRADES

When we were in school the way to measure what a student had learned was by a written test. Occasionally, there might be an oral test (i.e. spelling bees). Please don't attempt to engage me in the debate of what is wrong with academic testing, as I'm merely stating the way things were and in some ways, the way things still are when it comes to measuring learning in a student.

Think with me for a moment on how we measure learning at church when it comes to students of the Bible. Have you given that any thought? What have you come up with? As for me, the answer is we do NOT measure learning in our church members on any level.

You can be a church member in good standing just by showing up and attending worship services and Bible study classes. The dirty, little secret is you never really have to learn much of anything. If you are ever called upon to answer a question, simply say the name of Jesus and no one would dare say you are wrong even if it is not the answer the teacher was hoping to find.

Did God the Father or Jesus ever say anything about how to measure the level of learning in disciples? Yes, He did, in more than one place in the Bible. Rather than do an exhaustive Bible study on all the verses that are connected to this idea, I just want to point you toward one passage.

Before I share that verse let me ask you these questions: When would a farmer know for certain that his own child has learned how to plant a crop? When would a rancher know for certain that his child knows how to doctor (medically treat) one of the sick cows in the herd? When does a parent know for certain that his child can safely drive an automobile?

All three of those questions are really the same question and the answer is the same in each of those settings. When the child can perform the task at hand, it is then that the parent knows the child can DO the work. It is not what we KNOW, it is what we DO that is the real measure of learning.

If you KNOW much of anything about the Bible you will know the "proof is in the putting." Simply put, you will be involved in ministering to others.

"...if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

Matthew 10:42

Please consider getting involved in a Christian ministry. The people you minister to will be blessed, God will be blessed, and you will be blessed. It's a win, win, win situation.

Kevin Warner

NEWS! For Sunday School Teachers
Our Next Teachers' Meeting: Sunday, September 27, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.
Room 118 (Adult 7 Dept.)



GOD IS IN THE NURSERY

Mark 9:36-37 says *“And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.’*” ESV

Is working in the nursery an important service to the church or just a glorified babysitting gig? Jesus seemed to think welcoming children in His name was a worthy endeavor. By serving our children we are serving the future leaders of the church.

We teach them to worship!

A simple way to think of this is we show them to acknowledge God and put Him first in everything. “Thank you God for my teachers”, “God, please help my dog’s leg to feel better”, “God please help my Daddy find a job”. These simple prayers show kids that they can come to God with everything, that He cares about all the details of their lives and that He wants to be part of their everyday. To live a life of worship is something believers of all ages need!

We teach them to learn!

They learn about God’s power, His love, His permanence, His compassion, even His disapproval. Living a life pleasing to God is how we will live an abundant life.(John 10:10b) How many times have we thought “If I had known then what I know now...” We have the amazing opportunity to teach our kids NOW!

We teach them to tell!

Here at Del Norte one of the definitions we have for ourselves is a church that focuses on missions. We want and are commanded to go and tell (Matthew 28:19-20). How early in a person’s life is too early to encourage them to talk to others about who they are learning God is? Humming “Jesus Loves Me” while playing with blocks at the babysitter/daycare could touch a heart we will never meet.

When you work in the nursery (or any of the kid’s classes) are you asked to change diapers, settle disputes over toy trucks, and provide a timely snacks? Yes, but it is so much more. We are entrusted with young, open hearts who will live better, fuller, and more blessed lives because of our influence.

God IS in the nursery!



2,288

That's approximately how many peanut butter and jelly sandwiches we have made at Manna so far this year. We've met lots of people doing it, people like Scott who is waiting to have eye surgery and talked to our students about staying in school and continuing to learn. People like Amber who actually used to come to SNL as a student years ago, and now lives with a group of people on the streets. People like Gene who is always excited to see Jeremiah come wobbling up the steps in the plaza. Every week there are new people, people we have never met before, and probably won't meet again. They are just passing through, on their way to somewhere else, but we come across them downtown on a Friday night. But every week there are also people we

see all the time. People that we have seen for months and years, and those people have come to expect us on Fridays. Almost every week we hear something along the lines of "yes, it's Friday, peanut butter and jelly time", and that's been really cool, but this year we started doing something else as well. We started asking their names and giving them ours. In 1 Timothy 2, Paul is talking about worship and he tells him that *"The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know."* We are trying to learn the names of these people we meet on Friday nights because we want to be able to pray for them. You can find those names on the bulletin board outside the student Sunday School classes upstairs on the west side of the building. We don't have them all, and there are plenty that we forget before they get written down, other times they don't want to give us their name, people like "don't call me sir guy" that you will see on our list. He doesn't want to share his name with us, but we know him, we pray for him. We want to be reminded that these are people we are meeting on Fridays, not just some vague, faceless entity that takes a sandwich, it is a person, created and wonderfully made by God. So stop by that bulletin board and pray for some of those people listed there, pray that God would show us how to love them, how to show them who He is. You can also come with us and meet those people. We love to have people come and join with us on Friday nights.

And lastly, thank you. Thank you for the support that you as a church family continually show to this ministry. You see I shared a pretty big number with you earlier, and now I want to share a much smaller one:

ZERO

That is how much we have had to spend from our budget on peanut butter and jelly. You all have provided the means for us to continue doing this week after week. My biggest problem when it comes to supplies for Manna is finding a way to store everything that you bring in. So thank you. Thank you for making it possible for us to go out on Friday nights and meet more people, learn some new names, and show people that Jesus loves them, cares about them, and remind them that He knows their name.

WORSHIP



Instead of specifically promoting the music ministry, I would like to share some thoughts about worship.

As I understand it, “worship” is not simply the Sunday morning service. Worship takes place as we live each day. We have no choice but to worship, it is embedded into our very being. The question is: what do we worship? Do we worship God with all our thoughts and actions or do we put other things ahead of Him? We can easily determine what we worship by analyzing the things to which we “ascribe worth,” the things that we continually place high value upon. Things that tend to pull our worship away from God include: possessions (money, houses, cars, clothes, etc.), family, our job, and all sorts of entertainment, etc.

How can we learn to worship God in our everyday lives; so that when the Sunday morning “service” arrives we are better prepared to worship God, as a body of believers? It begins by yearning to give God priority at all times. If we continually consider His thoughts about what we do, eventually we will begin to do only things He would want us to do. God desires a deep relationship with each of His children, but He allows us to decide for ourselves how close we want to be with Him. So, consider this: if I want to have a close relationship with my wife, then I have to work on that relationship. I have to invest time, daily, and focus, constantly, on that relationship. If I want a close relationship with my Heavenly Father, I have to work on that relationship as well, maybe even harder.

As we develop our relationship with God, we will find that we want to do more things with other believers and we will want to place ourselves in situations where we can encourage each other as we worship together.

In our Music and Worship ministries, we strive to worship together when we lead others in worship. We desire to be “lead worshipers,” not just worship leaders.

Please consider if you should become involved in any of the ministries of our church. Find ways to utilize the skills and talents you already possess and use them to worship God. We have so many ministry opportunities that you can participate in, including the music and worship ministry. We have choirs and vocal ensembles for all ages (age 3-110). We have three instrumental groups: orchestra, praise band, and handbells. We plan to utilize more drama in the future and could use your help.

If making music is not your thing, we have dozens of other ministries that you can join. Helping Hands is an excellent example of a group that serves God in a physical ways. Helping Hands provides help to widows, single parents, and others who either cannot afford to hire the work done, or do not know who they can trust to do the work. We do things like yard work, help people move, and other minor “handyman” type things.

Let me know if I can assist you in developing a life of worship.
Ira Pinkston



WOMEN'S MINISTRY KICKOFF RETREAT

Join us for a retreat to mark the beginning of the “Special Blessing” Women’s Ministry. This will be a time of sharing, praying, fun, and fellowship. During this time you will help us define what this Ministry will be all about. We will seek the Lord’s direction and guidance as we develop this Ministry to meet your needs and to provide a safe place amongst like-minded women who want to serve the Lord together.

This retreat will be held Friday night, October 16 beginning at 3:00 and ending on Saturday afternoon, October 17 at 4:00 pm, at the Manzano Mountain Retreat near Torreon, NM. The cost is \$65 per person and the deadline to register is September 30. All you need to bring with you is bedding, warm clothes, toiletries and a great attitude. You will return feeling refreshed, reinvigorated, and renewed with a “Special Blessing” from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

If you have any questions or need any more information please talk to:

Kristy Peck – 505-379-7247

Lillian Moon – 505-453-8121

Renee Budagher-Marshall – 505-463-9669



I am so excited to be part of this amazing group of believers. My wife Barbara and I started praying about where God wanted us to go in early spring of 2014. We felt that the Lord wanted us to start a new ministry; little did we know that it would be here at Del Norte. I had heard about this church but didn't really know anything about it and as I look back it's just so amazing how God works everything out for His glory! It's like He gets all the pieces to the puzzle, brings them together and makes them fit perfectly right together. That's how I and my family feel about this church, that we just fit right in and it's because of all the love and support we have received from the very beginning.

It's been an amazing few months, getting to know the staff and members has been such a privilege for me. I look forward to getting to know more of the members and see who else God brings into my life!

As for the Hispanic Ministry, I pray that God would just do whatever He wants with it, for it is His and I want to see Him move in a mighty way and use it for His glory. I want us to be a light sitting on a hill that will shine bright, brighter than ever, and that we would reach this world with the love of Christ.

Your servant,
Roy Rosales

STAYING AWAKE

BY RICHELLE GILSDORF

I have been reading lately in the gospel of Luke, and there's one passage that's stood out to me: "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap" (Luke 21:34, ESV). I believe this verse struck me because I'm definitely one of those whom the "cares of this life" easily distract. I begin each day in Scripture to ensure that my attitude and focus start in the right place, and this helps tremendously. But I still find myself looking to the future and wondering about the choices I'm making.

Young adults, I think, are told most often that the cares of this world should be their primary focus. What degree will you pursue in college? How will that degree ensure you get a good job? Will you be able to afford a family? Will you ever get married? Will you marry the right person? And then the cares expand and grow: Are you saving enough for the unexpected in life? Are

you standing up for your values? (Do you even know what your values are?) Are you supporting the right political candidate? Are you following the diet of the latest health craze, wearing the most current fashions, and driving the safest, most eco-friendly vehicle? (No, I'm not bashing on environmentalists—I believe we have a responsibility to be good stewards of the earth God gave us). Are you meeting new people and traveling the world and keeping yourself educated and maintaining professional, spiritual, and personal relationships? Have you formed and internalized an opinion on every social issue, become tech-savvy, and invested in the latest trends?

I'm exhausted just writing all of that.

Whenever I read the verse above in Luke and its variations in the other gospels, I'm reminded of another warning Jesus gives about his second coming: "For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were



eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:37-39, ESV).

I don’t know about you, but I don’t want to be one of those people who is caught unawares. I want to be wide awake when Jesus comes, ready to welcome my King. I hope he finds me doing his work, and that he is pleased with me. I hope he doesn’t find me at home on a Sunday morning, sleeping through service time because I stayed out too late the night before with friends. I hope he doesn’t find me so consumed with my career or my family that I forget to honor who gave me these blessings in the first place. I hope he finds me at my job with a cheerful, loving, generous spirit and not a bitter, resentful attitude. I hope he encounters me honoring my parents and showing love to those outside my circle of church friends and family. I hope that when we see each other face to face, there’s a sense of joyful recognition rather than startled surprise. I hope that when I finally see Jesus, he welcomes me as his “good and faithful servant” rather than his “wicked and slothful servant” (Matthew 25:21,26 ESV).

Notice how Jesus doesn’t just say “wicked” servant, but slothful. When we allow ourselves to be consumed and distracted by the cares of this life, we will be slow to think and act according to God’s will and leading. We’ll also be much more unwilling even if we do feel him pushing us, because we’re so set in the present, in the current troubles and concerns. I am often guilty of this. It is only in hindsight that I recognize God was directing me a certain way, but I was so distracted by other cares and making the best decision for me, that I didn’t listen to the urging of his spirit.

Perhaps the most startling and painful warning Jesus gives about being distracted and losing focus of the goal comes in Matthew 7:21 (ESV): “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” This makes total sense if you think about it. Why should we be allowed into heaven if we never concerned ourselves with its King? We can claim the name of

Jesus, but if we don’t commit our lives to following his word and his leading—understanding that it is only by his mercy and grace that we can even do so—what right do we have to enter into his kingdom? We are fools if we believe that we can say a specific prayer and get a golden ticket to heaven, and then go about our earthly business with confidence—committing ourselves to the cares of this world without a thought to the will of our Savior.

Do not mistake me—there are cares in this world that we must attend to. Scripture speaks at length about living righteously in all aspects of our lives: marriage, labor, parenting, stewardship. It would be wrong to focus no energy on these things. But at the end of time, at the end of your life, it comes down to priority. Who had the first and last say in the affairs of your life? Whose face and presence did you seek? Who were you trying to please? Whose authority did you submit yourself to? Are you a pawn of society and the world, or a servant of God?

This is a hard lesson to apply, and one which I believe is never truly finished in this life. There’s a reason it is mentioned so frequently in the gospels. Jesus knew we would be distracted by the troubles and cares of this life, so easily consumed by the present time. But he offers us advice: “But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36 ESV). The point is to be aware of our focus, even as it becomes harder to be a follower of Jesus in this world (and Scripture promises it will get harder). This means surrounding ourselves with believers who will help us to keep our eyes and hearts in the right place, and gently nudge us back to where we need to be when we look away.

And we should take comfort that we have a patient, merciful, compassionate, and understanding God. He knows why we get distracted. Jesus was human, after all. So let us turn to Jesus, and ask him every day to keep our hearts and minds on the things of heaven even as we attend to the responsibilities of this life.

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 31st
6-7:30



ISRAEL 2016

October 24 – November 2

We'll visit the Garden of Gethsemane, Mount of Olives, tour Jerusalem, worship on the Sea of Galilee and so much more.

Includes:

Roudtrip airfare

All Transfers

Accommodations in First Class Hotels

Transportation by Deluxe Modern Motor Coach

Baggage Handling

Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Daily

English Speaking Professional Tour Guides

Entrance Fees to all Tour Sites

Gratuities

And Much Much More

Just 25 spots available

\$3849 per person

\$300 deposits due October 1, 2015





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

Contact

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