

KOINONIA

A scenic mountain landscape featuring a turquoise lake in the middle ground, surrounded by green meadows and rocky peaks with patches of snow. The foreground is filled with vibrant green grass and colorful wildflowers, including red and yellow blooms. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

S P R I N G 2 0 1 8

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!

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 25th	Easter Musical (No Evening activities)
March 28th	No Evening Activities
April 1st	Easter Sunday (No Evening activities)
April 6th-7th	Men's Retreat
April 20th	This Hope Concert
April 29th	Sumer Missions Meal & Youth Ministry S.O.S.
May 13th	Mother's Day (No Evening Activities)
May 27th	Student Lead Worship and Picnic at Montgomery Park (No Evening Activities)
June 11th-15th	Young Lives Ablaze
June 17th	Father's Day
June 18th-22nd	Youth M-Fuge Camp
June 25th-29th	VBS



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

AS the Pastor of DNBC, I'm so excited to see all that is taking place. Our construction is coming to an end and is looking great. These contractors and workers have worked really hard to do such a fine job. To show our appreciation to all those involved we had a lunch for them all. Our Deacon Ministry prepared, served, and cleaned up. It was just a small gesture to show them how much we appreciate their hard and dedicated efforts. This is what blesses my heart to serve at DNBC. Every time I turn around our church is reaching out to those outside the walls.

Over the next few months we will continue this by reaching out to local apartment complexes in our community. We will be having nights where we will teach how to prepare healthy, nutritious meals on a tiny budget. Our students will be working at Joy Junction; as well as going back to Centrifuge, doing numerous mission efforts there as well. Our church will be taking days where we hit the streets and knock on doors to pray and encourage our neighbors. Not to mention VBS, day and night adventures, and lots of fellowship sprinkled in along the way.

The life at DNBC is just that **"LIFE!"** What a blessing to be a part of a church family that sees it's greatest need is to be reaching out to those around us. In doing so we are becoming a church that is focused on **Ministry, Missions, and Movers**. Not forgetting that we are also a church that is living out *Acts 1:8* and *James 1:27*. Stay focused and strong DNBC! God is allowing us to make impacts around the world and right here in our own backyard.

In His grip, by His grace,

Brad



A-HA!

Recently, the Praise Team that leads worship during our 11 AM Sunday Worship Services had the privilege and honor of leading worship at our New Mexico Baptist Annual Evangelism Conference. This event provided several “A-ha” moments for me, and I would like to share three of them with you.

First, I was amazed at the response of the people in the congregation. I noticed, immediately, that the Praise Team and the attendees “connected” as we worshiped God together. Then, throughout the rest of the day, and for several more days, I received glowing remarks from the people who worshiped with us.

So, what was the “A-ha” moment? In my mind, when people told me how wonderful the music presentation was, I continued to think “well, duh, of course our praise team is really amazing;” but hopefully my response was more gracious than that. I just assumed every church had a fabulous worship team. I also assumed everyone knew that Del Norte Baptist had such a great team. So, at this time, I would like to thank the team for faithfully leading us each and every Sunday.

Thank you to the “praise team”: Kevin & Toni Warner, Cameron & Joy Hocker, Jennifer Pinkston, Jason Kerby, and Henry Acton. Thank you to the people who control the sound, lights, and video projection software and other tech equipment during the 11 AM service: Adam Nash, Jason Kerby, Tessa DuBerry, Job Kelley, Bryan Johnston, Brianna Martin, Andrew Clark.

Second, during the worship time I made a statement that I believe to be very true, and I want to share it with you. I said something like, “Three of the people on this platform are actual members of my family, the other three people on this platform are “honorary” members of my family. Then, those who are part of Del Norte Baptist Church are part of my extended family. And finally, each and every person who knows Jesus as Lord and Savior is a part of my eternal family”.

So, “A-ha?” Del Norte Baptist Church is my family. I have been around Del Norte Baptist long enough to have seen so many of you during joyous times and sad times. We have done things together that I will remember forever. We have had our disagreements (very few) and struggles, but we have come through them still loving each other and ready for the next adventure. I know you “have my back” and I want you to know that I “have your back.” Please call on me any time I might be of assistance to you.

Third, I was asked, that same week, whether I regretted doing what I do by one person and asked if I liked my job by another person. I did not hesitate to answer “I have never regretted my decision to go into ‘full-time’ vocational ministry” and “I love my job, I can’t imagine doing anything else with my life.” “A-ha?” I truly love the fact that if I could have any job, anywhere in the world, I would choose to work here at Del Norte Baptist Church among God’s children.

Thank you for allowing me, and providing me the necessary finances, to have this job: serving my Lord, with my family and with my church family.

Your fellow servant,
Ira Pinkston

GEAR UP 2 PETER 1:3
GET READY
GAME ON

VBS
JUNE 25TH - 29TH
9:00 AM - 12:15 PM

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

We have truly been blessed this year partnering with Governor Bent Elementary School. Volunteers have been involved in a variety of activities: serving Thanksgiving Dinner to children and parents, preparing and delivering 30 bags of food for children to take home for the weekend, weekly tutoring, trophies and cupcakes used for attendance initiatives. What tangibles ways to show God's love to our neighborhood!

"Gear Up! Get Ready! Game On!" Vacation Bible School 2018. The dates for VBS this year are June 25th-29th, from 9:00-12:15. Grab your pom-poms, lace up your cleats, and tune up your horn. It's time to gear up for the big game! It's time to go! Last year, across the world, an average of 2.5 million people enrolled in VBS. 70,000 decisions to accept Christ as Savior were made. 1,300 people committed their lives to church-related vocations during VBS and 19,000 people enrolled in Sunday School as a result of attending VBS. Vacation Bible School is our largest annual evangelistic outreach.

Thursday, April 5th, is the Central Association- al VBS training. The training will be held at our church from 6:00-8:15 with a meal served in the Conference Center. Classes will be offered for each age level and all of the rotations.

Saturday, April 21st, is Young Lives Ablaze. It is a fun day of energetic music, a world famous juggler, inflatables, and interactive preaching for 3rd-6th graders. We will meet at the church at 8:00 AM and travel to Eastern Hills Baptist Church for a full day. The cost for children is \$20.00; which includes all activities, lunch, and a t-shirt.

This year the children will go to "Young Lives Ablaze Camp". The camp is for all children that have completed 2nd grade- 6th grade. It is at Inlow from June 11th-15th. The cost per camper is \$92.00. This is an incredible week of fun for kids but most importantly a week of spiritual growth. The focus of the week will be age appropriate, exciting worship services and interactive Bible Study to challenge kids to have a mountain top experi-

ence with God. The week will include loads of fun activities; a climbing wall, games, sports, crafts, archery tag, talent show, campfire with s'mores, and more!

Operation Oasis: Children's Ministry Mission Trip!! Have you always wanted to go on a mission trip? This is the mission trip for you! An adventure in which everyone can be involved. We will concentrate on the apartment complex, Casa Del Verde; west of the church on Montgomery. I am asking that everyone pray daily for the Lord to open the doors and hearts of the people that live and work at Casa Del Verde. We know that the Lord has opened prison doors, and He can open the doors of this apartment complex.

Our vision for Operation Oasis: Children's Ministry! The week of June 18th-23rd we will have a VBS kick-off at the apartment complex; with games, activities, and food. We will pass out information about VBS; inviting all of the children. We are also going to have adults that will volunteer to meet the children at the apartments and walk them to VBS.

Making lasting connections with these children and families is our goal. We are offering a "Cooking School" for the families; that will be taught by Tina Louise Carpenito, a Nutrition Educator with Bernalillo County Extension. The school will be held at the Conference Center at 6:00 on July 11th, 18th, 25th, and August 1st. She will teach how to make nutritious meals that are quick and economical.

We need cooking teams that will make the recipe she teaches to serve to the participants and their families. Greeters that help families know where each member of their family will go. Finally, people to help with activities for the children during the cooking school. I can hardly wait! On Sunday, April 29th, we will have an informational meeting in the Dining Hall right after the 11 o'clock service. Come and see how you can take the mission trip of a lifetime. If you have any questions please call Lillian Moon at 453-8121.



CASA DEL VERDE PRAYER WALKS

During this coming summer of 2018 we are making a focused outreach to the Casa Del Verde apartments located at 5328 Montgomery Blvd NE. This is less than a five minute walk west of our church property. Leading up to this outreach, we want to bath our efforts in prayer. Our first approach will be Prayer Walking on four (4) different dates. On each date we will gather at Del Norte Church and walk down to the Casa Del Verde Apartments, praying as we go. All participants will be given a guide to pray over as we walk. This time together will be held to a one hour time slot.

Prayer Walk Dates for Casa Del Verde:

Monday, March 12th @ 9:30a.m.
Tuesday, April 10th @ 9:30a.m.
Wednesday, May 9th @ 9:30a.m.
Thursday, June 21st @ 9:30a.m.

Activity Dates we hope to Secure with the Apartment's permission:

Monday, June 18th: Play Day Event for kids at Casa Del Verde @ 1:00pm
Vacation Bible School June 25 - 29: We will walk the kids to and from VBS.
Evening Cooking classes for Parents; July 11, 18, 25, and August 1.

AN UPDATE FROM ROY

My wife and I continue to marvel at how wonderful the people of DNBC are. They are so loving, kind and generous. We love being a part of this great body of believers. The Hispanic Ministry moves forward in unity and strength, looking for opportunities to reach the Spanish speaking communities. We are looking forward to all the wonderful plans God has in store for us.

To God be the Glory!
Your servant,
Roy Rosales



Operation OASIS

While I was in college in Kentucky, I talked with countless people that asked me what I wanted to do after graduating from college. When I stated that I was going to seminary and that I was called to the ministry, I got the same cookie cutter response from almost everyone. These responses always started with a personal testimony of how the person came to Christ when they went to VBS. Even though they hadn't been to church in years, they complimented me and said they hoped the best for my future ministry.

While those encounters were wonderful, I couldn't help but think about Jesus' words in the Beatitudes:

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way

they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

I had never known that blessing. As a minister I have been called by God to have a heart for and reach the people that do not know God. In Kentucky, the culture struggles with a lukewarm understanding of God. You won't find that much animosity toward the Christian faith. However, as in the example above, most everyone has had some type of interaction with Church, but it doesn't always translate into a life-changing faith. Here in New Mexico, though, many people don't know enough about God to do little more than to use His name in vain. While this can be disconcerting as a Christian in this culture, it also provides us with a great opportunity. The contrast between those that do and do not know Jesus is all the more sharp, which means that HERE, in Albuquerque, Del Norte Baptist Church

has the opportunity to be the light in darkness in a way that it never could be elsewhere. I do not think that it is coincidence that the verses that immediately follow the ones quoted above is Jesus' call for us to be the salt and the light to the world.

It is in this way that I would love to see our church be known as an "Oasis" for the city. An oasis is usually a spring that comes up in the middle of the desert, and my hope is that the church will be seen as a place of relief from a spiritual desert. This is why we are doing a local missions focus this summer that we are calling "Operation Oasis". You will hear this term used throughout many of our ministries, and it simply refers to anything we are doing to reach our community, to become a spiritual oasis for people here in Albuquerque.

The Student Ministry will be participating in Operation Oasis: Youth by going to Joy Junction July 16-19 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. We will mainly be focused on helping improve their landscaping and setting up a garden that the guests of the facility can later work. However, we will be participating in a variety of ministries within Joy Junction throughout the week. We will also be doing some social activities after our time there throughout the week. In addition to this, we will continue our Torn Curtain ministry on Wednesday evenings, which focuses on reaching out to the people at Montgomery Park.

We, as the Student Ministry, are looking forward to our time participating in Operation Oasis. We encourage you to consider how you can be part of helping our church be an oasis to this city.

Thanks and God Bless,
Adam

DNBC Youth
Glorieta, NM

FUGE
CAMPS



June 18-22, 2018

Cost: \$130 (\$50 deposit plus another \$80)

WORD OF THE ISSUE:

Torah (תּוֹרָה)

[toh-ruh, tawr-uh; Sephardic Hebrew toh-rah; Ashkenazic Hebrew toh-ruh, toi-ruh]

noun,

Also known as Pentateuch or the Books of Moses. The first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. However, Torah is commonly used to describe the entirety of the Old Testament and God's laws.



THE LEGACY OF REV. BILLY GRAHAM

I recently watched Kathie Lee Gifford, an anchor on the Today Show, give an interview where she talked about the recently deceased Rev. Billy Graham. She was discussing the effect his ministry had on her. She explained that her entire family had come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through the Billy Graham Ministry. This wasn't that surprising, after all, many people's Christian testimonies have a similar beginning. However, surprisingly, she continued to accurately lay out the entire Gospel message with an invitation for people to have a relationship with Jesus on national television! I sat there with tears streaming down my face, praising God for placing her in that position,

at that moment, with that message. While that moment was extremely powerful and all too rare, I am struck by the realization that Kathie Lee is only one of a multitude whose lives were changed through the Gospel message that Rev. Billy Graham preached.

I thought about the man who led Rev. Graham to Christ years ago. His name was Mordecai Fowler Ham. He was a traveling evangelist passing through Billy Graham's hometown. Ham had a successful ministry of his own, leading hundreds of thousands to the Lord, but I don't think Mordecai Ham set out in his ministry to lead Billy Graham to the Lord. I'm sure that when the then fifteen year old Billy Graham surrendered his life to Jesus, Rev. Ham had no idea the reach that Graham would later have.

Similar to Ham, Rev. Billy Graham resisted his calling to be evangelists at first, but once he surrendered to his ministry his simple goal was to preach the Gospel to anyone and everyone God placed in his path. It's hard to fathom the effect that Billy Graham had, and continues to have, through the millions of people who have heard him. According to billygraham.org, around 215 million people heard the message that Rev. Graham preached when they attended one of his over 400 events in more than 185 countries and territories. This is not to mention the millions that were reached through television, film, the internet and his 34 books. All because one man was faithful to the calling of Christ on his life.

Rev. Graham's reach was vast, yes, but it was always about simple and faithful obedience to God. Jesus tells us in Matthew 13:23, "But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." Rev. Billy Graham was faithful to sow the seed of the Gospel, and God multiplied it greatly. This begs the question, what could God do with our faithful obedience if we would fully surrender to Him? Rev. Graham was, without a doubt, a great man, but what made him great was not his crusades, his television appearances, or his books. What made him great was his whole-hearted surrender to Jesus Christ. We honor him by continuing his ministry in our daily lives, by being fully-surrendered, and sharing Christ's love with all who will listen. After all, we never know the plans that God has for the people He places in our life.

BY AMBER NASH

Billy Graham had an impact on our family. My older brother, Tom was the first in our family to be saved. During his college days he fell ill, and his doctor could not diagnose his problem. Tom began to fear for his own life. A college friend had been explaining to Tom what it meant to place his faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. God had also used a couple of other events to get Tom's attention. Within days he was home at night, still feeling sick and turned on the television to watch Billy Graham preaching at a crusade. As far as I know, this is the only time Tom listened to an entire Billy Graham sermon. Tom attributed that sermon to being the first time he really understood the gospel and what it meant to be saved. A short time later he placed his trust in Jesus for salvation. He was soon witnessing to the rest of our family. Thank you, Billy Graham for being faithful to the Lord.

KEVIN WARNER



In Mirrors Dimly

Richelle Gilsdorf

As a Christian writer, I can't help but admire the Bible—not only the beauty of its truth, its saving power, but also its craft. Hymns, poems, speeches, and songs innumerable are born from its eloquence and complexity. Perhaps the most exquisite element of the Bible is its relationship metaphors: Scripture is bursting with abstract ideas and associations that God has chosen to communicate in the form of relationships.

But have you ever wondered why?

I certainly hadn't, until recently when contemplating a comment my mother made about missing one of our dogs that had passed away a number of years ago. I was thinking about how much I dislike when people say they hope their pet is in heaven waiting for them when they get there, so that they can be reunited (which, just for the record, isn't what my

mom said—it just got me thinking about it). To me, that's always seemed so—how do I put this nicely?—Hallmark-y. Like the cheesy movies we enjoy because we know they'll end all wrapped up nicely in a shimmer, perfect bow.

Not to be a cynic and to say I don't think heaven will be breathtakingly wonderful; I know it will be. But the more I thought about all the relationships we hope to regain in heaven—lost parents, grandparents, siblings, spouses, friends, and yes, even pets—the more I questioned the role these relationships will actually play there, if any. Then this, naturally, got me wondering why we have these relationships here on Earth, why they become so important to us that we long to have them eternally.

I know the biological and sociological arguments: that humans are social creatures designed—yes, designed—to live in community. As a hardcore

introvert this is a fact I often lament, yet know to be true. I am a better person when I am not alone, when I am living in relationships that ask me to serve, force me to forgive, and humble me to have. But what if we develop relationships for a more poetic purpose?

What if, as in Scripture, our earthly relationships are actually metaphors?

To show you what I mean, let us think about all of the metaphorical relationships scattered throughout Scripture. We have the Church as the bride of Christ. We have God the Father, and Jesus, his Son. Then there is Romans 8:15 (ESV) which says, "... but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" naming those who are saved as legitimized children of God. We see the proper relationship of servant to master spelled out in numerous parables of Jesus. Poetry of the sheep and their shepherd—the king and his subjects—repeats throughout the Old and New Testaments. There are metaphors of inheritance and disinheritance, estrangement and restoration, loyalty and betrayal. There is truly no escaping the relational metaphors.

And I really don't think that's a coincidence.

Pondering all of these metaphors, a verse jumped into my head that in context has really nothing at all to do with relationships. It's 1 Corinthians 13:12, which says "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known" (ESV). Paul is referring here to the mysteries of the Holy Spirit and God, which we can only know in part here on Earth. But what if one of those mysteries is our very relationship to God himself? Don't miss this—how is it that mortal, fleshly, broken, sinning human beings can commune with supernatural, perfect, ethereal God? It is partly known and explainable by us through Scripture, but largely mysterious and indescribable. It's abstract and yet undeniably real, sometimes almost tangible.

The easiest way to describe it is... well, metaphorically.

I'm no studied theologian, but I don't think it qualifies as heresy to propose that our earthly relationships may in fact be the mirrors by which we dimly see our future eternal relationship with God. I'll explain it (you probably saw this coming) with a metaphor.

It's often been said that we humans were designed with a figurative "God-shaped" hole in our hearts, a void which only God was meant to fill. In our sin—even in our naiveté—we attempt to fill this hole with earthly, transient things: jobs, money, food, sex,

cultivate here on Earth teach us the many ways in which we long to relate to our God in heaven.

drugs, attention, fame, etc. But even when we receive Christ into our hearts through his grace and mercy and finally have that God-shaped hole all filled up, we long to be with him face to face, to have him hold us as close as a father his daughter, a man his wife, a weary traveler his friend, or a boy his dog. We yearn for an intimacy that grows more and more the longer we know him, and yet is never achieved.

And that is why we look ahead and keep our eyes fixed on an eternity with God, to finally dwell with Jesus as we never quite could on a sinful, broken Earth. His grace is sufficient for us here and now—do not misunderstand me. But oh, there is the longing for all of Him that we know there is and don't yet have. It is a sweet, joyous longing—like a bride on the night before her wedding, anxiously awaiting the future with her man.

Gee, where have I heard that analogy before?

So it is in my mind for more than biological or even edifying reasons that we seek relationships here on Earth. I believe we are peering wide-eyed into a mirror dimly, searching for the one relationship that fulfills the need all these earthly ones reveal. And this, more than a poetic sentiment or inspirational musing, is a signpost pointing us in the direction of our true love, the only relationship worth pursuing with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Not until heaven will we know it in full rather than in part; but for this life, for the years we have, may we never lose the longing for it. May all the relationships we cultivate here on Earth teach us the many ways in which we long to relate to our God in heaven. And may this lesson never cease, but rather expand our understanding of God's awesome nature and love ad infinitum. May it allow us to fall more deeply in love and devotion to him—and to his people—every day until he takes us by the hand and says, "Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21, ESV).



MINISTRY IN FOCUS

DNBC Men's Ministry

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Shortly after his arrival, Pastor Brad Kelley formed a small group of men so that, according to him, he could pour into them and they could pour into him in return. The idea was to create a group of men focused on growing in their relationships with God together, through Bible study, fellowship, and accountability. After that group's initial success, Brad approached a few men, both in and outside the original group, about expanding the idea churchwide. The ministry began out of the recognized need for discipleship and accountability within the Body of Christ, and Christ's mission to minister to the needs of a lost and dying world.

A goal of the Men's Ministry is to strengthen the church as a whole through relationship building. It is acknowledged that as we get older it becomes increasingly difficult to create and maintain meaningful relationships, especially outside of one's established social group. The ministry encourages men of various ages and walks-of-life to come share their lives in Christ together. The desire is to create a community of Christian brotherhood and accountability where the young in Christ can learn from their more experienced brethren, and in turn, the more experienced can be reinvigorated by the fire of the next generation. Additionally, the Men's Ministry would like to be known as a ministry-of-outreach, serving the community as much as it serves the members of DNBC.

With these goals in mind, the Men's Ministry is comprised of four parts:

1. large events/outreach (e.g. retreats, campouts, and get-togethers)
2. men's breakfast
3. small groups
4. ministry to ministries -- helping other ministries within the church, such as the Security Team, Helping Hands, etc.

The Men's Ministry has been around for a couple of years at this point, and as every ministry does, it has had both successes and struggles. Starting with its kick-off Super Bowl party in 2015, the events, such as the retreats and breakfasts, have always been well received and have even lead multiple men to the Lord. Conversely, the ministry has struggled to get traction in regard to the small group ministry. Most small groups fall apart after about three months due to lack of leadership or interest. In general, men can struggle to share their problems and feelings with others, so the accountability and vulnerability necessary to a small group can be intimidating. However, once those barriers are down, members of successful groups report that they are then able to enter into a confidant relationship, resulting in freedom and fulfillment that strengthens their walk with Christ.

Upcoming Events:

1. Men's Retreat 2018 -- April 6-7 at Inlow Camp; cost \$40 - contact Wade Peck
2. Men's Breakfast -- First Saturday of each month starting in May; 8:30 AM at the Conference Center; cost \$5 - contact Mike DuBerry
3. Small Group Leader Training and small groups -- contact Richard Nunez or Mark Hannigan for more information.

A photograph of two women with long, wavy blonde hair hugging each other from behind. They are standing outdoors near a river or stream, with a blurred background of trees and water. The text 'Special Blessings Women's Ministry' is overlaid in a purple, cursive font.

Special Blessings Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry was started four years ago, with their first event being an overnight retreat in the Fall. God began to speak to both Pastor Brad and Renee Marshall about the need for a Women's Ministry. The initial leadership team included: Renee Marshall, Miranda Marshall, Stephanie Acton, Lillian Moon, Kristy Peck, Connie Patterson, and Jodi Hendricks. They felt it was important to have representation from various groups of women on the leadership team. Each member of the team brings special gifts and talents to the group, and each contributes things that are needed for their age group.

The focus of the ministry is fellowship. Renee likes to explain it by saying that before washers and dryers were common, women talked to each other at the laundromat or while out in their yard hanging their clothes to dry, but we've lost that ability. We no longer make time for each other, just to talk. The purpose of the Special Blessings ministry is to bring back that community and bonding among women.

The Women's ministry has a variety of goals, all stemming from the belief that God loves the women in our church dearly and wants nothing more than their hearts. They want to bring women closer to God, providing an environment where they can grow in their relationship with Christ and where they all feel welcome. Additionally, they want to encourage the ladies who attend to get outside of their box, because when you grow your box you have more room for God. They also want to encourage women to let God work through them. Finally, they want to assist women in discovering the joy of Christ which is beyond anything we could ever imagine.

If you've been involved in a ministry you know that they each have both successes and struggles. Renee shared openly that, as she was starting this ministry, she struggled with a fear of working with women and not feeling confident enough in her walk with God. God quickly eased the second of these concerns by telling her that, "it doesn't matter who you are, what is important is who I (God) am" - a truth for all of us to take to heart. Additionally, she initially struggled with the pride that often accompanies leading a ministry. The successes of the ministry start with the team. They are a wonderful mixture of big picture people and detail oriented people that work really well together to create the fabulous events that the women of the church get to enjoy. Another success is that God is faithful to always send the ideas for the events to the team in a timely manner. One example of this was when the movie War Room came out, and God was leading them to do a study on prayer.

The women's ministry has a few events on the horizon. This summer they are hoping to have a couple of Worship Aerobic Exercise Dance classes and a few Paint and Friends gatherings. Also, in October they will have the Fall Retreat in Glorieta. Additionally, the women's ministry has small groups that run continuously throughout the year.



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

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