

# K O I N O N I A



Photo by Jason Kerby

W I N T E R 2 0 1 9

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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 contributing your art, photos, poetry, or an article about what God is doing in your life or ministry, please contact Michael Hickman, or Adam Nash, or email [adam@dnbc.org](mailto:adam@dnbc.org). We would love for you to be apart of Koinonia!

*A Word From Kevin*  
**4**

*A Word From Ira*  
**5**

*A Word From Lillian*  
**6**

*A Word From Adam*  
**7**

*Church...A Straining and Wondrous Thing*  
**8-10**

*Christmas Camp*  
**11**

*Word of the Issue*  
**11**

*Ministry in Focus: The Melodrama*  
**12-14**

*The Worship of Christmas Performance*  
**15**



For more issues of koinonia, scan the code or visit [dnbc.org/koinonia](http://dnbc.org/koinonia)

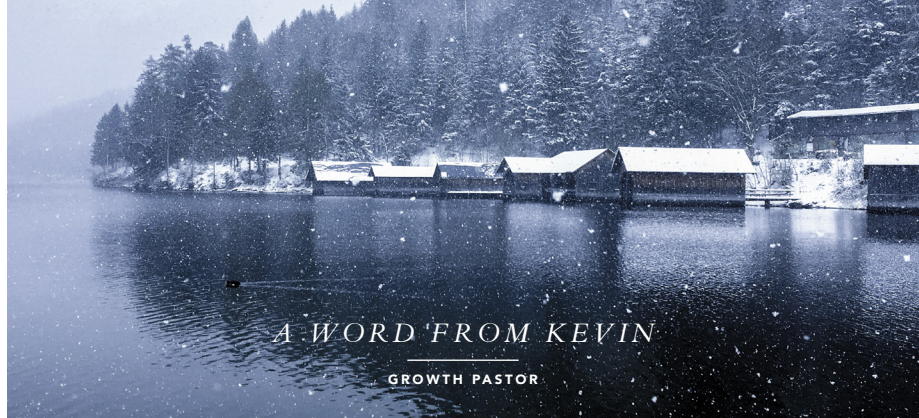


## UPCOMING EVENTS

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Missions Luncheon	November 24th
No Evening Activities	Nov 27th
Children's choir	Dec 8th
Children's Christmas Camp	Dec 13th
Youth Christmas Party	Dec 14th
Christmas musical	Dec 15th
Youth Ministry The Collective winter fest	December 29th
Children and youth activities resume	Jan 5th
Youth Ministry EXP Night	January 15th
Melodrama	Feb 7th, 8th, 14th, and 15th





## *A WORD FROM KEVIN*

GROWTH PASTOR

Welcome to you who may be new to Del Norte Baptist and the Koinonia Magazine. Take time to read every article so you can be informed on all the activities that are taking place in and through our Family of Faith. We are coming off a busy Summer and Fall schedule, and once again we see our God being faithful and blessing us in many ways.

### *NOVEMBER*

We had an "Outreach" Event on Friday, Nov. 8th at the French Quarter Apartments to help serve breakfast to the residents. We praise the Lord for this opportunity.

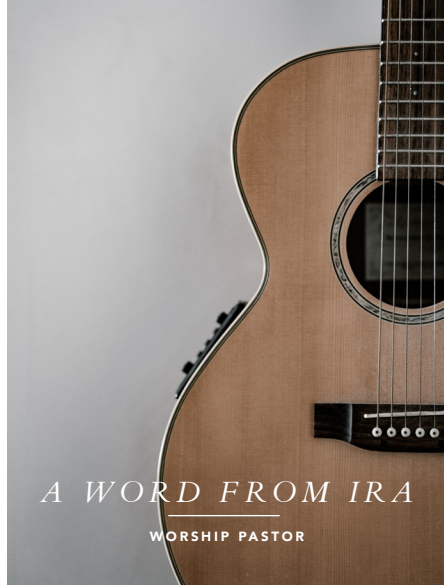
Friday, Nov. 22nd we are back building relationships at the French Quarter Apartments with hot chocolate and apple cider from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 24th we are having a Mission Luncheon and asking everyone to bring their favorite foods for a Church-wide Thanksgiving meal. Money donations will go to the Mission Fund.

### *DECEMBER*

During the month of December you have the chance to buy Gift Certificates for Melodrama tickets, which assure you of getting preferred seating. Look for the kiosk in the East Foyer after each Worship Service. Dates for the dinner Theater will be February 7, 8, 14, and 15. The play is titled, "Where There's a Will There's a Way to Drive All the Heirs Crazy." This comedy is about the Balm family who are way beyond dysfunctional.

Get involved with the Del Norte Church family, meet new folks, and find your place of service.



What a great year we are having at Del Norte Baptist Church. The Spring and Summer are already gone and Fall is here. All of our musical activities are back in full swing.

Our Children's Choirs are doing exceptionally well and the attendance is very strong. The three Children's Choirs combined into one, to take the place of our Celebration (adult) Choir, for both of our morning worship services on October 20. The kids were fabulous. I want to thank all of our Choir workers for giving up their time and talents each Sunday afternoon to lead the kids. Caryn Coppedge and Suzanne Rex lead the three year olds through Kindergarten. Sonja Nelson, Lillian Moon and Amelia Nelson work with our 1st-3rd graders. Jennifer Pinkston takes care of the 4th-6th grade children (I get to help out a little). Thank you, ladies, for doing such an amazing job with our children.

The Student Praise Team is meeting

again on Sunday afternoons, and they lead a brief "worship set" at the beginning of most Sunday afternoon Youth/Student Activities. I am constantly amazed by their talent. A huge thank you to Jason Kerby, Amber Nash and Adam Nash for making our rehearsals go smoothly.

Our Celebration Choir and Celebration Orchestra are preparing for the annual Christmas musical. We will present the Christmas Musical entitled "The Worship of Christmas" during the regular 8:30 and 11 AM Sunday Worship Services on December 15. Please put this date on your calendar and invite your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and others to join you that morning for a beautiful presentation by the Choir, Orchestra and Drama Team.

On a slightly different note, the Helping Hands have been pretty busy this Fall. They have rebuilt a porch, cleaned up lots of weeds, moved a few people, winterized the cabins at Inlow, cut down some trees (and dug up and pulled their stumps), built some park benches for the Del Norte High School Band to use as sets in their Marching Band Completions, provided some wheelchair ramps for an individual, replaced a water heater, trimmed some out-of-control trees/shrubs, and quite a few small "fix-it" type jobs with their spare time. If you have any desire to do those kinds of things, please contact me about joining our team.

Your fellow servant  
Ira Pinkston, Worship Pastor

## A WORD FROM LILLIAN

CHILDREN'S MINISTER



*In* Luke 10:2, Jesus said to the disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” The first part of this verse describes our neighborhood and our church; indeed the harvest is plentiful with the multitude of people that live in the apartments and homes around our church. However, we as a church body have answered this call and said, “Send me.” This summer we have turned out in droves to become friends with, and minister to, the people in the Courtyard Apartments. Through a Water Day, Obstacle Course Day, helping with the fire victims, a dinner in the Conference Center, and Lego Night we have been able to fellowship with our neighbors.

Beginning Friday October 4th, God has opened the doors and hearts to another apartment complex. We will be partnering with The French Quarters Apartments located at

1101 Palomas Drive SE. We helped serve a waffle breakfast to the residents. In the month of November two activities are planned: a breakfast for the residents and a hot chocolate and cider bar. Cookies and hot chocolate and gifts for the children of the apartments are planned for December.

As the school year began we renewed our partnership with Governor Bent Elementary School. 24 adults are tutoring weekly with first and second graders. 6 people are helping in the kindergarten rooms and the library. Each Wednesday evening 10 workers are preparing 50 bags of food for the children at the school. We are following the command, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Thank you for being such a giving and loving church family. It is a blessing to serve with each of you.

Friday, December 13th, from 6-9 will be our annual Christmas Camp. It is for babies – 6th grade. We will serve dinner, create crafts, play games and hear the true Christmas story. This is a great way to start your Christmas season. If you are wanting to help or know of a child who would like to come please give me a call. My number is 881-9711.

Enthusiastically Serving With You,  
Lillian Moon



## A WORD FROM ADAM

STUDENT PASTOR

It is hard to believe, but Amber and I have been here for three years now. Time has flown, and we have loved the time that we have had here. For the past few weeks, as we have told people how long we have been here, we have been met by a mixture of people claiming that there is no way that it has been that long and there is no way that it wasn't longer ago. I take this as a wonderful blessing.

You see, when a new person joins a family, through marriage, birth, or adoption, the family has a difficult time both acknowledging how short a time the new member of the family has been in the family, yet it is also difficult to think of a time without that person in their lives. I am pleased to say that this is our experience here at Del Norte.

We realize the people that we have come to know and love have only been a part of our lives for a short time, but we can't think of our lives without you. So thank you for your love and hospitality in making us a part of the Del Norte family.

The Student Ministry is focusing on living into "The Challenge" that Jesus gave us in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20. We are emphasizing the importance of seeing our schools, social clubs, and other everyday encounters as opportunities to meet new people and build relationships with people that could one day be brought into the family we call the church.

The next series is "Hungry" (taken from the Beatitudes Matthew 5:6 and also from Psalm 34:8) where the Student Ministry will: one, be eating a lot of food (because we're Southern Baptist... it's what we do) and two, we'll be looking at how we, as Christians, should long for God's will like a hungry man longs for his next meal.

Thanks and God Bless,  
Adam





# CHURCH.

## A STRANGE AND WONDROUS THING!

CHUCK MCCULLOUGH • INTERIM PASTOR

I had a conversation with a young friend the other day. In the middle of talking about the important things in our lives, he asked a question that gave me pause for a moment.

“I have not had many positive experiences with churches. Why should I spend any of my time or money or effort in a church?”

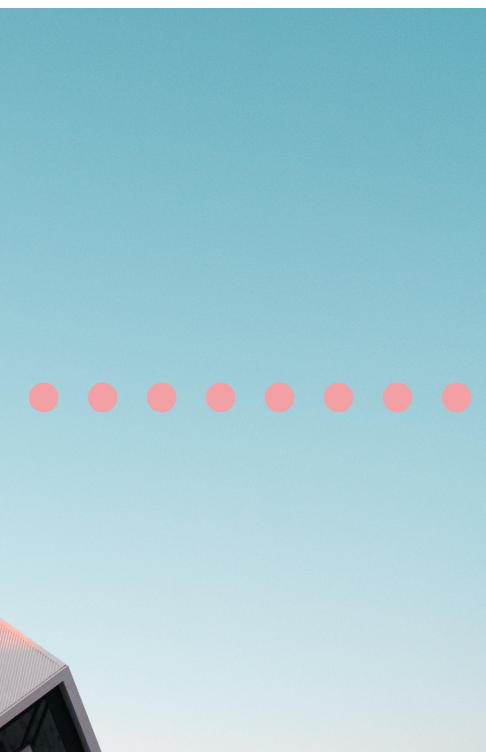
I confess, I am a church guy. I have loved and been part of “church” all my life. I cannot really fathom not being part of a church. But I also realize that this question is a common one in our culture—and it is one that we need to take seriously.

Of course, the observation could be

made that if you are a Christian, you ARE part of the “church”, even if you don’t want to be! God introduced you to the community of saints when you became a believer. You can’t escape it...so you might as well find a local church and get started!

But there is much more we should say about this thing we call “the church”. First of all, it is in the heart of God: He thought of it, He created/creates it, and He has continuing purpose for it. Indeed, the Bible is the story of God using people to reach out to a lost and struggling world. He called Abraham to follow Him and promised to “bless all the nations” through his progeny (Gen. 12:1-3). Israel came into being as part of God’s plan to fulfill this promise: she would be the means by which the Mes-





siah would come (Isa. 9:6ff).

The Christian church in the New Testament, built around the conviction that Jesus is that Messiah (Acts 3:25-26; Gal. 3:6-9), was created to be the means by which Christ is proclaimed to, and embodied in, the world (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:12; I Cor. 12:27).

How does that work? The local church at its best is the environment in which, through Christ, dividing walls (racial, ethnic, gender, social status) are broken down (Eph. 2:11-19; Gal. 3:28). Christ-followers recognize each other's differences but are enabled to see beyond the differences to the authentic value of each individual.

Through its many forms of worship,

the church seeks to practice the very presence of God. In a very real sense, the church is the "laboratory" in which the ideals of Christ-like character (Rom. 12:3ff; Gal. 5:22-23) and the unique gifts given by the Spirit (I Cor. 12; Eph. 4:11-16) are explored, practiced and refined.

This is a marvelous thing: when Christians invest in the Body of Christ and put their gifts to work, all believers are built up. Unity is preserved, those hurt feelings can be reconciled, God's love is made evident, and the unparalleled good news of eternal life in Christ Jesus is clearly revealed to a watching world (Jn. 3:16; Acts 1:8; Mt. 28:19-20).

But the question from my friend and the ensuing discussion reminded me that we have to agree that "the church" can have a sharp edge. No church is perfect. Things can happen in the local church that are truly hurtful.

Why is this? Because even though every church is comprised of people of faith who down deep want to emulate Christ, people are still people—frail, finite humans given to sin, self, pride, and prejudice. Consequently, some churches can be legalistic and judgmental. On the other hand, some can be too tolerant and morally laissez faire. Many churches struggle over money and personal agendas (sadly resembling every other human entity.) Church people can be intolerant, slow to hear, and quick to anger (there is probably a reason James speaks to this—James 1:19).

This is not new! The early church in Jerusalem (often portrayed today as the

“model church”, Acts 2:42-47) was kind of a mess very shortly after the Acts 2 description! It had its share of serious infractions (Acts 5:1-11), squabbles (Acts 6:1) and inner-church turmoil (Acts 15:1-11).

The Apostle Paul saw this up close and personally. Practically all of his letters are written to churches or church leaders addressing their problems and concerns. These issues ran the gamut from theological distortions to immoral practices to unethical church leaders.

God knows that humans, though saved by grace, Spirit-transformed, and possessing of eternal life, remain capable of acting in self-interest, hurting each other, dividing the church, and looking quite un-Christ-like to the rest of the world...

The amazing part is that He persists in using them (us!) to constitute His Church!

This is why we will always believe the local church is indispensable to our Christian life! And we will keep telling others who have had unhappy experiences with the church to persevere, to keep looking, to step in, to engage, and to be open to what God can do in their life in and through the church.

And this is why you are involved at Del Norte Baptist Church. This local church matters infinitely to God. He is building a spiritual house here (Eph. 2:21-22; I Pet. 2:5-10). He wants to

reveal more of who He is, what He is doing, and how His people fit into His purpose through the worship, teaching, fellowship, service, and ministry that take place here.

This local church, like every other church, will always deal with the tensions that arise when humans get together and try to make divine things happen! But I encourage you not to think of those tensions in a negative light! Actually, it is precisely in these tensions that we work harder to seek clarity and understanding while practicing humility and sensitivity. In the challenging places of church life, we grow in grace and the ability to effect change graciously.

May it be that the people who are this beautiful church reflect the faith of

their brothers and sisters whose story is in the Book. Acts describes groups of people, bound together by their faith in Christ, who devoted themselves to study, fellowship, eating, and praying together. They enjoyed each other's company, with “glad and sincere hearts, praising God” (2:42-47). These people loved and took care of each other. They sought meaningful ways to live out their faith in this world, to be worthy of the calling (Eph. 4:1-2).

That is what is happening here. If you look around, you can see it! I pray that you are excited and committed to walking this road with your brothers and sisters in these days. There are great things to come!

***This local church matters infinitely to God.***

# Christmas Camp

FOOD • GAMES • CRAFTS • THE CHRISTMAS STORY



**All ages  
through  
6th grade**



## WORD OF THE ISSUE

### Antediluvian

an·te·di·lu·vi·an | \ ,an-ti-də-'lū-vē-ən | adj.

1. existing or happening before the Deluge or Flood
2. resembling the state of things before the Flood

In the book of Genesis in both the Christian Bible and Hebrew Torah, the antediluvian period begins with the Fall of the first man and woman, the story of how sin entered the world, and ends with the destruction of all life on earth by flood except those saved with Noah in the Ark. The elements of the narrative include some of the best-known stories in the Bible — the Creation, Adam and Eve, and Cain and Abel, followed by the genealogies tracing the descendants of Seth, the third mentioned son of Adam and Eve.



Ministry in Focus:

# The Melodrama

By Amber Nash



If you have been at Del Norte for long at all, you have heard about the Melodrama. It is an event that many look forward to every year. While most have heard of the Melodrama, many aren't aware of how it started. In the Summer of 2003 Kevin Warner was in his first year here at DNBC. He went to Glorietta for a training, and while there took a track on theater. The leader of the track recommended a dinner theater, specifically a comedy. This peaked Kevin's interest, so he stayed after to talk about this further. The gentleman offered to send him a play that he had written, and with that taken care of, Kevin put the first Melodrama on the calendar with the idea that it would be a one time event. They wanted to host it around Valentines Day as an alternative to the typical couple's dinners that many churches host. As the event drew nearer, Kevin realized that the man that lead the track must have forgotten to mail him a script, so with Toni's encouragement and help, Kevin wrote his own script. The first Melodrama sold out for Friday and Saturday night, and

they ended up scheduling a dessert only showing for Sunday night to accommodate all those that wanted to attend. While, at the time, Kevin thought this was going to be a one time event, he quickly realized that this was something people enjoyed. That was seventeen years ago, and the melodrama is still going strong today!

When thinking about the purpose behind the Melodrama, Kevin said that people have always affirmed his sense of humor, so he wanted to find a way to use that in his ministry. He also found that this was a way to provide a fun night of entertainment for people, as well as being a great fundraiser for other charities. In fact, since the Melodrama started, it has raised nearly \$100,000 for charity.

Kevin also hopes that seeing individuals use their gifts in the Melodrama will inspire creativity in others. He reminds us that the first glimpse we get of God in scripture is of Him creating, so we all have that spark of creativity inside us. When thinking of the Melodrama,

Kevin is also reminded of the scripture where God asks Moses, “what’s in your hand?”. Moses says that it’s a staff, and of course he goes on to use that staff for God’s purposes in his ministry. We are to use what we have to minister and serve God. It’s important to remember that ministry can look a variety of ways. It’s not only preaching and missions. Sometimes, it’s people on stage, performing a Melodrama to provide the audience with joy and a fun night out.

When asked about the highlights of the Melodrama, Kevin was quick to say that he loves how so many people feel that they are a part of it. It is truly something that belongs to the church, not only to the people on stage. When all is said and done, there are close to one hundred people involved each year. He also mentioned that while some of the actors have had some drama experience, there are others that come into the Melodrama without any

acting experience, and everyone has done a fantastic job.

With every ministry there are also some difficulties. When asked about this, Kevin mentioned how they have to have a different cooking and clean up team every night, so coordinated all of those volunteers, as well as ensuring there are back ups if someone gets sick, can be difficult. Also, since Kevin has written every Melodrama, coming up with new ideas to write about can sometimes be difficult.

It is Kevin’s hope that as the Melodrama approaches this year, you will make this a gift to your friends. It’s a great way to show people a different side of the church and to open people’s eyes to the joy that can be found in Christ.

If you would like more information on the Melodrama or would like to help with it in some way, contact Kevin.



THE WORSHIP OF  
*Christmas*

Join us for a special musical presentation by  
our Celebration Choir and Orchestra



*December 15th*  
*8:30am & 11:00am*



# 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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