

KOINONIA

W I N T E R 2 0 1 4

Table of Contents

Schedule of Events	3
A Word from the Pastor	4
Discipleship Training	5
Meet Hannah	6
7 Resons to Serve	7
Melodrama	8
Common Meal	9
Music Ministry	10
MOSAIC	12
VBS	14
DNBC on Facebook.....	15

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!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Feb 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th – Melodrama

March 2nd-3rd – Hispanic Evangelism Conference

March 15th – Orchestra Alive

April 5 – Young Lives Ablaze

April 6 – Singing Men of West Texas

April 20 – Easter Sunday: Praise & Graze

May 3 – State Bible Drill

May 4 – Children's Choir Program

May 25 – Youth Sunday & Church Picnic

June 9 thru 13 – VBS



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

This is the spring semester for Koinonia. Springtime...and our thoughts turn to love. Ah, love! That really powerful emotion that makes you feel good, and makes your stomach hurt at the same time.

A couple loved each other, but they had been arguing about everything for years. Both were tired of living in constant conflict. Finally the wife told the husband about a prayer she had been praying: "I've been praying God would help us stop all this arguing by taking one of us to Heaven. When He answers my prayer I'm moving in with my sister."

Romantic love is not always the strongest love. Nor is the spoken word the greatest communicator of love. The Scripture never quotes Jesus as saying, "I love you," but He communicated love everywhere He went. Here's an example:

As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Matthew 20:29-34

If we show love like Jesus did to these two blind men, what do we do?

First, **we focus on the individuals, not the crowd.** Have you heard the expression, "lonely in a crowd?" Almost everyone is lonely at some time. Notice them.

Second, **we listen deeply to their needs.**

Hear the cry of the lonely person who lives next door

Hear the cry of the one who goes home every night to TV dinners and old movies

Hear the cry of the old person who had a loved companion for 60 years but now must live alone, dreading the loneliness of tomorrow

Hear the cry of the child whose parents are too "busy" to care

Third, **we take time to be there for them.**

Fourth, **we find out how we can help.** Just ask. Jesus said, "What can I do for you?"

Fifth, **we empathize with them.** Put yourself in their shoes. Compassion is more than words; it's an attitude of the heart.

Finally, **we touch them where the hurt and need is greatest.** Jesus did heal their sight, but He also touched their hearts and they followed Him. Let's lead them to Him.

May the Lord bless you richly.

Joe Long

Interim Preaching Pastor



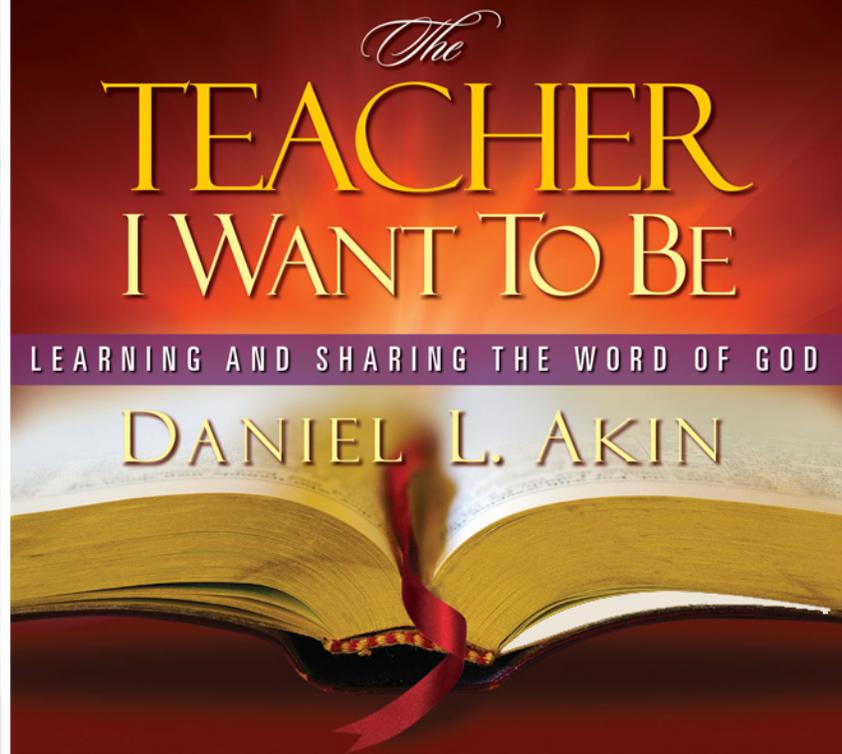
Many of us sense that the start of each year signals a time of renewal. We have a desire to start the year off right. Something every believer should want to do is grow closer to God in 2014. Let us encourage you to get involved in one of the fine Bible Study classes here at Del Norte.

One new group just getting started in January is the Route 66 class. The name is the number of books in the Bible. This class will meet in the Worship Center at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday. It is designed for those who are not in a Bible Study class already. It will be simple enough for anyone with limited knowledge about the Bible, yet we will not avoid the rich theological truths it holds. I will be leading this class and we will begin our study with the Gospel of John.

January will also see the start of 2 classes on Sunday Evenings:



SACRED SECRETS is the newest Beth Moore Video Study. This is a 6 Session study that explores secrets: some forgiven, some covered, and some just between you and God. Come and find out what happens when we let God teach us wisdom in the secret heart. One class will meet at 5:00 pm on Sundays. The other class meets at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays. The workbook will cost \$10.



The Teacher I Want To Be is a Video Study on How to study the Bible and how to teach the Bible. This 6 session series is for anyone who wants to improve their teaching ability and for those who are interested in possibly teaching the Bible in the future. Kevin Warner will facilitate this class Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm

MEET HANNAH



From left to right: Abby, Julia, Hannah, and Adam Bergstrasser

Hi, I am Hannah Bergstrasser and am blessed to be your new Children's Pastor! My husband, Adam, and I have been members of Del Norte since 2001. We have been married nearly 18 years and have 3 wonderful daughters. I grew up here in Albuquerque and graduated from Highland HS in 1989. I also attended UNM pursuing a degree in Child Psychology.

I have been a volunteer in the Children's ministry for the past several years, plugging in whenever and wherever I could. I also have had the opportunity to work in schools in Arkansas and Texas on a volunteer basis doing everything from front office duties to reading stories in the library, though my favorite job was helping out in the classroom, working with the kids one-on-one.

I am so excited about this new position and, with the cooperation of the staff, the congregation and the Lord, will work hard to provide opportunities for the children to grow in their relationships with God and with the church.

In His Service,

Hannah B.



7 ways to SERVE

Too often serving in Extended Care can seem like a thankless job. One of the key tasks for children's ministry leaders is to help volunteers understand their importance. With that in mind, I offer these following 7 reasons why serving in extended care is important.

- 1. God is there.** This may come as a shock, but the Bible has specific promises about God's presence when children are welcomed and loved in Jesus' name.
- 2. It helps others.** Your service in the church nursery and extended care allows church goes to focus on worship, rather than worrying about their children. In a way, your ministry makes it possible for the pastor to fulfill his ministry.
- 3. Babies' first impressions.** The first (and sometimes lasting) feelings a child will have toward church is formed in the preschool department. A positive experience is essential!
- 4. The most special assignment.** When you serve in extended care, you are being entrusted with the most important (and vulnerable) members of the church family. There is no greater treasure on this side of heaven than the little ones God has given us. You must be someone special to have a job that is so important.
- 5. Your own growth.** Your service is essential for your own spiritual growth. You may have never looked at it this way, but a growing Christian is always a serving Christian. Jesus was known for putting others first, when you serve in the church nursery you are walking in His example. (John 13:12-17 CEV)
- 6. Visitors' first impressions.** The preschool department (including Sunday school and extended care) is often the first contact young families will have with our church. Your friendly greeting and exceptional care for their children can make a great first impression for our church. If they don't feel like their children are safe, they will not return—and rightly so.
- 7. Front-line prayers.** Your service in extended care is a powerful opportunity for prayer. If every preschool worker would spend several minutes praying over the children in their care, imagine how God might begin to change this coming generation!

Remember that God blesses those who serve his children!
(Mark 9:37 MSG; Mark 10: 13-16 NIV)

Adapted from Ministry-To-Children

MORIARTY RETURNS

Our 11th Annual Dinner Theater will be presented on February 7, 8, 14, and 15, at 6:30 pm in the Del Norte Conference Center.

This year's play is a new script titled, "The Return of Professor Moriarty" or "Murder and Mayhem at Buckingham Palace: A Dark Comedy Without a Single Shade of Gray." Once again our hero, Shamrock Homes matches wits against the evil genius, James Moriarty, who is bent on world domination. Mystery, intrigue and a cast of hilarious characters will keep you entertained. Tickets are on sale in the Church Office Monday through Thursday, and in the Atrium after Sunday Worship Services.

Ticket cost is still \$15 per person. Don't miss out on the fun—get your ticket before they are sold out!





The Common Meal

In Acts chapter 2 the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples and begins a time of explosive growth for the early church, and in verse 42 of that chapter it says that “They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and prayers.” This verse has long served as the focus of our student ministry as we have spent time living Life Together. Every Sunday morning we gather together as a church family and study the teaching of the apostles together. Not only do we pray together at most of our gatherings as a church, but on Wednesday nights there is a specific gathering just to pray together for our church family (Prayer Meeting). That only leaves “the common meal”, and so this past fall we began meeting on Wednesday nights and joining together to “break bread” as it says in some translations. What began as a student activity has already grown to include much more of our church family, and we would love for it to grow even more this semester. So please join us on Wednesday nights for the Common Meal. We meet in the dining hall beginning at 5pm. Donations are welcome but not required, and for those that want to bring some food along, salads and desserts are always a welcome addition to our meals. So come on Wednesday nights and experience Life Together at the Common Meal.

Music Ministry

I want to begin this article by expressing my love for and appreciation of the membership of Del Norte Baptist Church. And no, this is not a resignation letter. Jennifer and I truly love being part of this special family of God and look forward to the future with you. Thank you for accepting us into your fold and loving our family.

It sort of surprises me every time someone tells me they think the music/worship program at Del Norte Baptist Church is fabulous. I am only surprised because it is so obvious to me that it almost seems unnecessary to say it out loud. Of course, I really do appreciate the affirmations. The music and worship ministries at our church have always been excellent and I trust they will increase and improve in the future. I really cannot accept the credit for any of it because I cannot do any of it alone. I have discovered the best Christian leaders are the ones who have learned to get out of the way and let God's people do what God has called them to do.

The reason for such excellent and successful worship ministries is because we have always tried to place the focus and glory on the only One worthy of focus and glory. God has sent to us an amazing group of people with an amazing variety of talents and skills, and most importantly a willingness to work with others in presenting worthy expressions of worship through those talents and skills. God has given each participant everything they need to "complete" their groups.

Let's look at some of our groups:

We have an amazing ministry to children through music. Our directors and workers are top-notch and the children respond in such positive ways. There are very few Baptist churches in New Mexico that offer choir opportunities for their children and I suspect none of them have better adult volunteers making such a great impact on children.

Our Student ministries offer an amazing variety of opportunities for our youth to learn how to utilize the gifts and talents the Lord has given them for use in His work. Currently the students are learning new skills that they can use for the Lord in areas like: Book Study, Calligraphy, Computer Design, Drums and Guitar, Audio and Visual Tech, and a Prayer Class. Our students, once again, will be encouraged to sing with the Celebration Choir when we present our Easter musical.

Our orchestra, 2nd service praise team, and handbell choir have all continued to improve and each has several new members.

Please consider what God has called you to do for Him. It may not be in the music and worship ministries. If you have a ministry you would like to participate in, or start, please call me and we can see how to get it done. Also, consider inviting your friends, relatives, neighbors, and co-workers to join a group at our church. We offer English as a Second Language, a Spanish-speaking ministry, discipleship training and Bible Study courses, and so many other ministries.

I am praying specifically that the Lord will lead Del Norte Baptist Church to be more effective, in God's eyes, in reaching all His children within our circle of influence, by bringing them to a closer relationship with Him. Join me as we link arms and carry on the "good work" He has established for us.

Pastor Ira



Mosaic: Fall 2013

By: Desi Turrieta

This past fall, the youth group decided to try something new with Mosaic, the Sunday night youth activities which included choir, a book study, art, and Bailamos. After Labor Day, we added a number of classes and omitted a few of the others. We were given the following choices and asked to rank them.

- Calligraphy
- Writing (Articles for Koinonia)
- Vocal (Praise Team)
- Instrumental (Guitar)
- Tech (Working up on the bridge during services)
- Digital Design (Making Backgrounds for the slides during service)
- Small group Manna (Taking Chick-fil-A downtown to pass out to the homeless)
- Percussion (Drums and such)

After we ranked the classes, we were split into them. The groups consisted of about 2 or 3 students per class. We would participate in the class for a month and then switch. This meant that we did 3 classes total for the semester. Each group learned how to do something different and new, which was really cool.

Rearranging Mosaic was a little different, I will admit. It was kind of weird to think we would be doing things as smaller groups rather than as a large group, since that's how we have done it in the past. After starting the semester in the first class, I realized that it was actually a really cool idea to do Mosaic like this. We got to know each other a little bit better; the groups were a little more personal, which was nice. However, I think one of the coolest things about doing Mosaic like this was that we were kind of trying out our skills and gifts. We were figuring out who is good at what and who likes what. Hopefully, having done that, we can now use our newfound talents to better glorify God.

After doing all 3 classes for the semester, I decided that I really liked this way of doing Mosaic. It truly seemed to show what we are all about: Life Together and using our talents to best serve God. I was really glad that I got to be a part of it, and I was also glad that I got to talk to some of my youth group members that I may not have known as well and came to know them better. All in all, it was a really wonderful experience.

A Trip to Manna

By: Marisa Aragon

Manna is a wonderful thing to witness. I have only done it once, but it is a very fun activity. When you are at the church making the sandwiches, everyone is happy and has smiles. When we get there, we split up and walk around downtown. When you hand the food and water to the homeless, the look on their faces is really happy. There are pregnant women, older people, kids, and parents that are homeless. It makes me sad when they smoke or drink because they are probably addicted.

While we were downtown, I remember handing a sandwich and bottle of water to a guy that was smoking and had tattoos. I was really scared when I gave it to him. I realized that just because he looked scary, it didn't necessarily mean that he was. He told me, "Thank you."

In the end, I learned about being a better Christian. I helped the other youth make the food and that made me really happy. I was excited to help the homeless because they really need it. I would like to do it again sometime.

The Love of a Child

By: Sydney Turrieta

I remember the first year I got to work during VBS. I signed up for working the 2 and 3 year old class. I was working with Arlene Glasson. I was so scared that I was going to mess up and that the kids were not going to have fun. I was responsible for taking care of them in the classes they went to while Arlene prepared for the next activity we would be doing with them. I knew that I would have to show them the pictures during story time, and that I would have to give them their snack and play with them.

I was most nervous on the first day. I remember taking the kids to each of the classes. I remember how fun it was to work with them. Some were outgoing and loud, and others were silent and drawn back. The silent ones always looked up at me, waiting for directions while the loud and outgoing ones always tried to do their own thing. They were all excited to do music, make crafts, and then play with Aaron Warner in Rec. At the end of the day I remember asking them if they had fun, and they all said yes. I was so excited and I felt like I did a good job. I then knew that I wanted to do this again next year.

The next year I got to teach 2 and 3 year olds again. This time I was with Stephanie Acton and I knew that because both of us love kids, we were going to rock VBS that year. I was less nervous the second time working because I knew what I was doing. I no longer had to worry that I was going to fail. In other words, I was getting the hang of it. The rest of the week went smoothly and every time I asked the kids if they had fun, they would smile and say yes. It was a great feeling! All week the kids would have a smile on their faces. Every time I saw their faces, my heart lit up with happiness. I could not believe how lucky I was because I got to work with these kids. They were always happy and ready to do things in different classes.

At the end of the week I realized something. God spoke to me and said “Look around you. This is what you are called to do. Make disciples.” With what He told me always on my mind, I hugged the kids goodbye. It was the last day, and so I was asking them questions. I asked them things like “Did you have fun?” “What was your favorite part?” Or “What was the best Bible story this week?” I got some fun responses. They all had fun and they all liked Rec. Most of them liked all of the Bible stories. As they left, I realized that they had showed their love of God and God’s love for them. They understood that Jesus helped people, and they should do the same. They walked away helping each other or their siblings.

I learned that you never know what you are going to get when you try to teach small children about God. You never know if they are going to fully understand, or if it will go right over their heads. You just have to “let go and let God” as my mom would say. You have to show God’s love to the child—and hey, you never know, you might just get the reaction you were hoping for. So here is one piece of advice. Go out and make disciples.



DISCOVER DECIDE DEFEND

Join Agency D3 Special Agents for a week of fun as they examine eyewitness reports, physical proof, and Biblical accounts to uncover and defend the truth about who Jesus really is.

Online registration opens March 1st
Teacher training is March 18th

Talk to our Children's Pastor, Hannah Bergstrasser, about how you can be involved.

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.

Del Norte On **facebook**®

In the book of Acts, Jesus tells the disciples that the Holy Spirit is coming and that after they receive it, that they will be His witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” In 2014 the “ends of the earth” seem a lot closer than they did when Jesus spoke those words. We can connect to people from all over the world in so many different ways. One of the most popular ways that people connect with each other is through Facebook. Did you know that there are around 500 million people on Facebook? That’s 500,000,000. And estimates show that collectively they spend 700 billion minutes every month on Facebook. That means that on average there almost 16 million people on Facebook every single second of everyday. That is quite an audience, one that includes many of you and that includes some of the ministries of our church, and we would love for you to join them and stay up-to-date on what they have going on.

Del Norte Baptist Children’s Ministry

Like this page on Facebook and be kept up-to-date with what is going on with our Children’s Ministry. You’ll get updates and reminders of upcoming events and weekly activities, see pictures and recaps from things going on in our children’s ministry, and get links to helpful articles about things like movies that your children see. It’s a great way to stay connected and informed about our Children’s Ministry.

Del Norte Youth+

Come and join this group to stay up-to-date on all the happenings of our student ministry. See pictures from past events, be reminded about the upcoming schedule, check out links provided by several students, be a part of our Bible reading and prayer plan, and share Life Together.

You can find these groups on Facebook either by searching for their name, or by contacting the respective ministers in charge of each group, and they can invite you.



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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