



Methodist Parish

Finding good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

27^h March 2011

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 3rd APRIL 2011

9.30am	Mornington	K Russell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	K Russell
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00pm	St Kilda	Comb. Wesley
6.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

EXPLORERS GROUP

Meets 4-30pm on Sunday 27th, in the Mornington Church Lounge, All welcome.

A MEAL FOR CHRISTCHURCH QUAKE VICTIMS

Judy Russell has offered to prepare a three-course meal (with optional wine) on Saturday 9 April at a charge of \$25 dollars. All profits will go to the Christchurch Earthquake Victims Fund. The meal will be followed by a free movie, *Mousehunt*. a family comedy. (please ring Judy (4553 727) if you want to share this special meal in a good cause. Or sign in at Mornington, where the meal will be held at 6pm.



LEADERS MEETING

The Mornington Methodist Church Leaders' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 29 March at 7,30pm in the church hall lounge. Full attendance requested. Agenda items to George or Joan, please.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE 0.5 MINISTRY VACANCY IN THE DUNEDIN PARISH

There will be an extraordinary Parish Council Meeting to discuss ministry to support Siosifa pole in the Dunedin Parish at 7.30 pm on Thursday 31 March at Wesley Church. The President of the Methodist Church will be attending to offer assistance. The meeting is open to all in the Parish who have an interest in providing effective ministry in Dunedin.

PEOPLE NEWS

Beth Major is in Leith House rest-home until April 6, while Lewis has a break away visiting family. Visitors are welcome.



Not there yet

It was a beautiful wedding, against a backdrop of booming mountains near Lake Hawea. The couple, who described themselves as being in their "autumn years", were each walking down the aisle for the second time. The aisle was made of grass, and they walked down it arm in arm. It was a very relaxed affair.

I like the couple; they are nice, down-to-Earth people. And they are progressives. Their wedding ticked several good, progressive boxes: they had a lesbian minister as celebrant and her partner involved in the

organising; they had invited my partner but also me, even though I don't know them very well, because they recognised my significance to her; and their ceremony excluded rigid religious references.

I was happy for them. But later, after the feasting and the dancing, when we had gone back to our lodging in Wanaka, I said to my partner: "You know, that was a very nice wedding, but I can't understand why progressive heterosexuals still think it's OK to get married."

My partner is very indulgent, and allowed me to rave on.

"I mean, they are gay-friendly people, they even have a lesbian celebrant, and yet they're still happy to take advantage of a privilege – a private law – that discriminates against gays and lesbians. By getting married they assert their superior status in society. Would they think it was acceptable to marry if we had a law that said everyone but Indian people could marry? Or that barred left-handed people from marrying?"

"It probably just didn't occur to them," said she. "Somehow I doubt they gave it as much thought as you're giving it."
"Humph!" I declared.

We went home to Dunedin, where I delivered the same rant to my favourite straight couple. They said they had thought about marriage, but had never even contemplated getting a civil union. They had not thought about the discrimination involved.

"So, sorry, what is the difference between a civil union and a marriage?" asked the fella.

"Oh, they're pretty much parallel," I said. "People in civil unions can't adopt kids. But fundamentally, the difference is heterosexual couples have the right to choose whether they will have a civil union or a marriage, and gay couples may only choose a civil union."

He thought about it carefully. Then he said, "Right, I am hereby never getting married. I might get a civil union, but I will not marry."

I believe he will stick to that, unless the law changes for marriage equality. Good: he's like my own Charlize Theron, the Hollywood star who refuses to marry until her gay and lesbian friends also have the right.

When Labour sold us civil unions back in 2004, the rationale for not allowing gay marriage was that marriage has “religious and historical connotations”. That was a stupid excuse then and remains a stupid excuse now.

It’s great that we have the alternative institution of civil union for those who do feel oppressed by the “religious and historical connotations”, but nevertheless, marriage should not be denied to those consenting adults who, for whatever reason, like the idea of it.

Some moves are afoot to correct the marriage laws. Last month, the British Government announced it would consult on legalising gay marriage. The United Kingdom already has a civil partnerships provision that is similar to New Zealand’s, and our law, when it’s not leading the way, tends to develop along similar lines to those of the UK.

Kapiti Coast Mayor Jenny Rowan made a pointed remark to Governor-General Sir Anand Satyanand in her speech at the opening ceremony of the recent Outgames in Wellington. “I’m a married lesbian woman – just not in this country, Sir.”

The politicians here know about the need for change; they are just gathering up the strength to bring it.

Until they do, heterosexual couples might start to use their noggins and realise they can choose not to participate in a system that unfairly discriminates against their gay and lesbian friends and family.

– **A.C.**