



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding in everyone Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)

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## PARISH BULLETIN

**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2011**

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> May 2011

9.30am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	Y@M
11.00 am	Glenaven	S Pole
11.00 am	Wesley	Y@M
1.00pm	St Kilda	N Taungapeau
6.00pm	Broad Bay	No Service

### UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO OPEN LECTURE

**Friendship in the Facebook Age: A Christian Perspective** by Lynne

Baab, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago.

Burns Lecture Theatre 1, University of Otago campus.

**Wednesday 25 May, 5:15 pm**

### MISSION BRIEFING ON THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET

**7.30pm Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Bill English presents his second budget on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May. He is already promising cuts and tightening of Government expenditure across a range of social and educational programmes. Come and hear about the impact of the budget as the Mission sees it: Lockerbie St entrance, Middleton Road Community Centre. Please RSVP to Sarah on 466 4600 or [sarahc@dmm.org.nz](mailto:sarahc@dmm.org.nz).



## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The Parish Council will meet at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 25 May at Wesley Church, South Dunedin.

## **EXPLORERS GROUP**

Meets Sunday 29th May at 4-30pm in the Mornington Church Lounge. All interested people are welcome.

## **CELLISTS OF OTAGO**

The 2nd concert for 2011 is being held in the Southern Sinfonia Rooms, 110 Moray Place, on Sunday 29th May at 3 p.m. The programme includes Pachebel's Canon, 2nd Movement from the Mozart Clarinet Concerto, a Tango by Albeniz and the beautiful Adagio by Albinioni. There is an interesting lineup of both solo and instrumental work. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children. Don't miss this fantastic programme.

## **HOME GROUP BIBLE STUDY**

There will be no meeting this week. We will resume our study on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

## **ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED**

Rev Joohong Kim (a Methodist Presbyterian in Christchurch) will be in Dunedin the week 13- 17 June undertaking research for his post graduate studies and is looking for a bed for the week.

If anyone is able to assist with this could they please contact Rachael Masterton on [rmasterton@actrix.co.nz](mailto:rmasterton@actrix.co.nz) or 4764867

## **BEANIES FOR CHRISTCHURCH**

So far we have knitted 145 beanies - 89 from Mornington congregation and 56 from Mosgiel congregation. Many thanks to everyone who has helped. One large parcel has already been sent to Christchurch but we are still collecting. Let Marion (4767767) know if you have any waiting to be sent.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY;** belated birthday wishes to Naomi Pole who celebrated a birthday on the 10<sup>th</sup> May.

*We welcome Rosalie Sugrue as a guest contributor to the CONNECTIONS column. Rosalie and Jack are well remembered for their active involvement in the Parish, and they continue now from their home at Raumati in the Kapiti Uniting Parish. Rosalie is very active as a lay preacher throughout the greater Wellington area, and is a very frequent contributor to the email network of the Methodist Liberal Society.*



When Ken invited me to write a contribution to *Connections* my first thought was I don't have anything to say but daughter Tralee responded, why not, you always have plenty to say on everything. Hardly a compliment - but she also reminded me how *connected* to Dunedin we feel.

Friendships made in Dunedin were woven in non-fade fabric. We were blessed not only with *quality friendships* but by exposure to *quality theology*. Here at Kapiti Uniting we are fortunate in having a group called *Ephesus* that pushes theological boundaries with excellent progressive speakers. It excites those who attend but fails to effect parish life. What surprises Tralee and me is that this material seems so new and revolutionary to Kapiti folks. For us it merely confirms a theology practised in Dunedin for decades. Dunedin provided so many enlightened theological experiences that we didn't recognise how special the spirituality is in your parish. I would like to pay a personal tribute to Evan Lewis for exemplifying and mentoring a way of carefully reasoned, meaningful theology.

On ANZAC Day I stood under my umbrella among an eclectic straggle of stalwarts at the Paraparaumu Citizens ANZAC Service. Nearby was a portly middle-aged man in khaki and medals, standing with two

disconsolate looking young boys, presumably grandsons. I must explain that most people were looking disconsolate - the actual *parade* had been called off, the official guests were inside by dry microphones. The crowd stood like wet cows with nothing to look at. After some band music the disembodied head boy of 'Kapiti College' read a Psalm over the loud speaker system. When the word *God* was mentioned, the younger of the two boys said, quite loudly, *I don't believe in that*. His grandfather said, "Shush" and pulled the child closer in effort to restrain him. I decided the boy was aged about seven. Then the head boy of 'Paraparaumu College' (we only have two colleges at Kapiti, and yes, I did wonder why one reader wasn't a girl) read a Bible passage, and again *God* was mentioned, and the child, even louder than before said, *I don't believe in that*. Where had this opinion come from, and why? I was intrigued and prompted to think - do believers say, **I do believe in that**, as strongly as this youngster was saying he didn't?

In the *Book of Acts* Peter is utterly convinced of a God reality. At Pentecost he discovers unrealised potential as a powerful natural preacher. With me it is hard slog at the computer - thinking, writing and rewording. I will never be an off the cuff charismatic preacher. Yet by prayer, study, experience and reason, I have come to some conclusions that work for me...

*Believing* in a loving God

*Behaving* in a proactive way for goodness

*Being* encouraged to reflect on Spiritual values

*Belonging* to a Christian community

I do not expect these conclusions to suit everyone. My hope is that all people sort out a belief that helps them with their lives. I cannot, and would not, express what I believe in the way Peter did - my experiences are totally different to Peter's. I feel no obligation to believe just what Peter believed. But I do feel obligated to take what I believe seriously. Peter and Paul said things that I feel deserve careful consideration. The life and teaching of Jesus are outstanding examples of Godliness.

The season of *Lent and Easter* remind us of the stories that ground our faith and offer Christians directed opportunity to consider what we believe and why. The lectionary reading after the high of Easter is always the low of Thomas. Times of doubt come to all of us. Trial and despair are part of the human condition but to live as an *Easter Person* having faith that *nothing is beyond the love of God* works for me.

**Rosalie Sugrue**