



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
Parish Stewards:	Dr George Davis	453 6540
	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
	Mrs Earlene Owens	489 8146
Tongan Steward:	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@dmm.org.nz	466 4600
	Katrina: admin@dmm.org.nz	

PARISH BULLETIN

1st December 2013

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8th December

9.30am	Mornington	K Russell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	K Russell
11.00 am	Wesley	E Merrett
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA
6.00pm	Broad Bay	No Service

"MORNINGTON- Lawn Mowing Persons Needed !!

My appeal on 10th Nov. for people to offer their services to mow our Church lawns gained one reply. But 2 more people are still required. Usually, for the month you are on duty, requires only 1 mow. Ian would be pleased to receive names of willing people by phone: 453-6312 or e.mail

dotian@xtra.co.nz



15 DECEMBER CAROLS IN THE GARDENS The North Dunedin churches (including Glenaven) have organized a Christmas celebration in the Sound Shell, Botanic Gardens, for 4pm Sunday 15 December, with story-telling, dance and choir items and everyone joining in the well-known carols. You are invited to come dressed as a character from the Bethlehem Christmas story, and take part in the biggest Nativity tableau ever! Venue if wet: Nga Maara Hall, Sacred Heart School, 63 North Rd.

INFORMATION FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on
Wednesday 20 November

New Parish Steward is Earlene Owens from Mosgiel.

Major report on buildings, seismic strengthening and costs was received from Nigel Pitts.

This will be the subject of a major Parish wide consultation in March next year.

Local congregations need to look at a realistic view of who we are and who we will be in 5-10 years, and what are our dreams and visions for the future, ready for our meeting in March.

Methodist Women's Fellowship celebrates 50 years in 2014. The Fellowship will be holding an afternoon in March to recognise and celebrate this achievement.

Parish Meeting dates for 2014

Wednesday	12 February	(Broad Bay
Wednesday	14 May	(Mornington)
Wednesday	13 August	(Wesley)
Wednesday	19 November	(Mosgiel)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following children:

- Ryan Elkins who turns 13 on 3rd December.
- Ramone Sarup who turns 6 on 6th December.
- Evie Freeth who turns 12 on 7th December.

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 3rd
December 2013 at 1:30pm. Christmas meeting to be held at 40 Forth
Street Mosgiel. Phone 489 7663 if you require a ride.

CHURCH FLOWERS - too often, perhaps, the Church flowers are regarded as incidental to the service. In so doing we often miss the care



and planning that have been put into the arrangement by the Church florist taking his/her turn on the roster. What a shame that is. A good flower arrangement can often carry a message about the season, the theme of the service, or a special occasion in the life of the Church. Today's picture of last Sunday's flower arrangement at Mornington is further evidence of the skill of Robyn Abernethy, who with her mother put together an artistic creation of yellow flax flowers with red rhododendrons. Many said a silent "thankyou" for the witness of flowers on the last Sunday of Spring. (Sorry, but we can't do colour.)

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM THE OTAGO SOUTHLAND SYNOD MEETING:

- Induction of Rev Peter Taylor and Rachael Masterton as Co-Superintendents of the Otago Southland Synod is being held Sunday 2 February 2014, 3.30pm at Lindisfarne Methodist Church in Invercargill. All welcome and a pot luck tea will follow the service.
- March Synod meeting - Queenstown, 7-10 March, cost \$90 towards accommodation and food, subsidised by the Synod. We will be hosting members of Te Taha Maori and the President - Rex Nathan. All welcome. More information to come late January/early February.
- Helen Watson White was presented with her NZ Lay Preachers Association Certificate.
- As part of the Church's Let the Children Live Vision, each Parish received a Booklet called "How Can I Tell? Recognising Child Abuse". Siosifa has this booklet for Dunedin. More copies can be ordered from Child Matters, www.childmatters.org.nz at a cost of \$2 each. Another good website for information is the Child Poverty Action group website - www.cpag.org.nz.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

I have had the privilege to work with a 40+ gentleman who was enrolled in the 26 week Adult course at Approach Community Learning. This gentleman was repatriated to Dunedin as a result of the Christchurch Earthquakes; he had been employed by a large supermarket chain, but has been unable to find employment here.

Through PTSD and relationship issues, this man worked tirelessly to gain employment, he had applied for several positions but each time the door was shut. We discussed why this might be, he wanting to work at front of house -Customer Service; however, his appearance was not conducive to this.

We contacted W & I to ask if they would cover some Dental work so he could meet the criteria for 'front of house employment' he was so desperate to secure. They obliged and he was also given a clothing grant! He is currently under a Dental Therapist and has also gained full time employment as well as being offered two part time positions. This has been a collaborative process between Approach and Work and Income with a great outcome for a person who had enough support to challenge him to risk a better future. He is not employed at a Supermarket, he was offered a position with a Cleaning firm which pays more and where there is an opportunity for him to move up to Management level, given his previous skills. He is totally independent of any Work and Income Benefits now and so proud of this achievement.

He said to me "I never thought I would be lucky enough to be employed, let alone as an assistant Supervisor, now I can work my way up to Management level and live the life that I want".

During the CDOI process, this gentleman struggled to acknowledge his achievements initially, but with consistency from Tutors and Support & Advocacy using the CDOI graph, he was able to see his steady progress. This was an opportunity to celebrate his achievements, to know that if you follow a process you have good outcomes.

ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Mission Office will be closed from midday Monday 23rd December until Monday 13th January. Could you please ensure your Orders of Service over this period are sent to Katrina (admin@dmm.org.nz) no later than 9.00 am Tuesday 17th December.



The final Bulletin for 2013 will be the 22nd December edition and the first Bulletin for 2014 will be 19th January.

ADVENT STUDIES

There will be Advent Studies at the Wesley Hall on Wednesday 4th of December. All are welcome to this study. This Study will be based on *Reflections in the Baubles* by Helen Warwick. These studies will continue on every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm until Christmas Day. Siosifa Pole.

ECUMENICAL CANDLE SHARING

This Sunday, as the first Sunday in Advent, Mornington Methodists will receive a candle from members of the First Church. At the same time Shirley Parslow will deliver a candle to the Salvation Army community. This gesture of ecumenical co-operation and hospitality is an excellent reminder for us all as we begin a new Christian Year.

THE ALIENS ARE INVADING (AGAIN) !

Youth at Mornington are pleased to present the 10th anniversary production of Ginny's Christmas play, "What's It All About?" The play features aliens in flying saucers trying to find out what Christmas is really about. There is plenty of action, lots of jokes, singing, dancing, Christmas spirit, and lots of painted cardboard. Sunday 15 December 9.30 am at Mornington and 11 am at Mornington.

SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES

On behalf of the Mornington congregation and the whole parish, I would like to convey a message of sympathy to Lewis Major and his family for the death of Beth Major who was a wife and mother to their children.

It is our prayer that God will grant upon you and the family peace and hope during this period of grieving. May you draw strength from the company of one another and from God.



Oops. A slip-up, and with no article arranged for this week, a last-minute resurrection of Connections from six years ago will have to suffice. Hopefully - still something worth saying on this 1st Sun.in Advent. Ed.

CONNECTIONS December 2, 2007

The peppermint hatted storyteller had his young audience enthralled. He was telling an advent story, but what seven-year-old could possibly be expected to care a fig about the church's liturgical year when the Big Bad Pig was terrorizing the lives of the sweet cuddly innocent little wolves?

Actually, I'm no seven-year-old kid, and I can hardly claim to have given even a passing thought to advent as the animated storyteller got into his stride, and I think that goes for the entire congregation. If only every sermon was as gripping!

But you, dear reader, may not have been in this lucky audience, and even if you were, a synopsis of the plot will acquaint you with the drama of this particular worship experience.

It was time for the three little wolves to go out into the world, so off they went and built themselves a splendid brick house. But they hadn't

reckoned on the big bad pig, who having failed in his first attempt to blow their house down, returned with a sledgehammer and soon reduced it to a pile of rubble. Undeterred, the three little wolves built a much stronger house of concrete, in which they were sure to be safe. But, you guessed it, the big bad pig was equal to the challenge. Having again failed to huff and puff the strong concrete house down, he hired a pneumatic drill and smashed it into pieces. The little wolves by this time knew they needed top of the range security, so they built their third house of heavy steel plating, iron bars, plexiglass windows, surrounded by chains, barbed wire, and doors secured with the biggest, strongest padlocks. They also installed video surveillance. Now they really were safe. But Big Bad Pig was still not done, and after the obligatory huffing and puffing (*and doubtless after consulting his mentor, Percy ben Laden*) he returned with dynamite, lit the fuses, and blew the place to smithereens. The only good news is that the three little wolves escaped the conflagration with only the hair of their chinny chin chins slightly scorched.

That might have been the end of a very violent story. But the resilient little wolves meet a flamingo flower grower, who kindly gave them enough blooms to build a house of flowers. It was a fragile structure that bent with the wind, and when the Big Bad Pig came prowling around he must have laughed in derision. But then he smelled the flowers, and his heart grew tender. He underwent a massive change of character and became a big *good* pig, singing and dancing in the fragrance of the flowers. The story ends as the pig and the three little wolves decide to live together, enjoying tea and strawberries.

Isaiah, the prophet of the advent, would not, I suspect, have scoffed at such a story. He employed radical role reversals to convey his vision of a healed and re-united Israel arising from the ashes of destruction and despair. “*The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion together . . . and a little child shall lead them. . .*” *Is 11:6 ff* Think rationally about those analogies and they’re about as likely as your average pig being a threat to your average pack of wolves. Yet it is these likely possibilities, by human standards, that Isaiah holds up in his vision for a renewed world.

It is the same Isaiah who two chapters earlier conveys his message with other equally startling role reversals. The hope for renewal of a battered and bruised community is conveyed in equally radical terms, where the

swords of war must be changed into the ploughshares of peace, the spears of death into implements for the harvesting of crops. Is 2:4.

This first Sunday of the Christian year calls for a realignment of the Christian community to the same imperatives that called Jesus from the obscurity and safety of his family home at Nazareth. That mission which may well be described as a radical alternative life style, defying popular expectations and addressing seeming impossible odds. Bruce Prewer, an Australian preacher, speaks of a “robust biblical hope, an alternative to the faith of evolutionary optimists, the cynicism of secular pessimists, or the pay-back mentality of those entrenched in bitterness.”

To return to our quirky advent story. The message from our most powerful allies is that we can never have enough security to foil the enemy, despite our repeated protestations that we do not know who our enemy is, nor his supposed motives for doing us ill. What we cannot ignore is the mounting evidence that fear builds on fear, and the cost of ultimate security is beyond our capacity to pay. Like the 3 little wolves, to make our houses stronger, even stronger, and even stronger still is an exercise in increasing futility.

The world cries out for an alternative life style, not cowed by the spectre of ever-increasing terror. Jesus of Nazareth, among many likely role models, surely offers the best hope for a viable alternative, not a house of flowers however fragrant, but a lifestyle embodying endless goodwill, unrelenting trust and unconditional love. That's the Advent hope, that in the face of such an alternative offensive the heart of even the biggest baddest pig will melt, and the world be healed of its pain.

Ken Russell