



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
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Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

14th September 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 21st September

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole (AGM)
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	G Hughson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

SYMPATHY

On behalf of the Mosgiel congregation and the whole of the Dunedin Methodist Parish I would like to convey a message of sympathy and condolences for the family of Emily Gardner for her death on the 11th of September 2014. It is our prayer that in your grieving you may still find a sense of purpose and hope in God our Creator.

Rev. Siosifa Pole

MID-WEEK SERVICE - Wednesday 17th September at 2pm at Maranatha all welcome.

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT 2.30pm today, 14 September, at the Mornington Methodist Church. Come and hear two talented pianists. Vivienne McLean playing works by Schubert and Corwin Newall playing a selection of piano works. All welcome. Adults \$2.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - The Sep Meeting will take place on Wednesday 24 September, in the Church Lounge at 2 p.m. Our Guest Speaker will be Mrs Ainslie Carahan from NZ Women's Institute. Please remember your small change for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. All Welcome.

Change, Mistakes & Lessons

The Methodist Mission 2014 Annual Report Launch

Tuesday 30 September | 12pm - 1pm

Early Years Services Hub

158 Oxford Street, South Dunedin

The Mission has experienced a challenging few years - yet we're now stronger than ever.

We'll be sharing the mistakes we've made, the hard lessons we've learned and the tools we've developed to enhance the work of all social service providers and increase the recognition and respect for the hardworking and undervalued practitioners in our sector.

- Mayor Dave Cull opening proceedings
- Presentation by the Mission
- Light refreshments

Please RSVP to Sue Nash - suen@dmm.org.nz by Tuesday 23 September

THE TAIERI CHRISTIAN CARE TRUST / Mosgiel Community Food bank will have their AGM on Tuesday 7th October at 7.00 pm, followed by our usual bi monthly meeting. Methodist Church Hall Wickliffe Street Mosgiel.

PUBLIC LECTURE: Why Listening Matters in Mission and Ministry

by Lynne Baab, Jack Somerville Senior Lecturer in Pastoral Theology.

Tuesday 16 September, 5:15 pm, Burns 1, University of Otago

Followed by a book launch of Lynne's new book, *The Power of Listening: Building Skills for Mission and Ministry*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Liam Bennett, who turns 11 on 18th September!

FAITH THINKING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

In September:

Music and Worship through the Ages

Presented by Malcolm Gordon (Worship, Music and Arts Enabler, Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand), this course will be held on **Friday September 19, 7-9pm and Saturday September 20, 9-12.30** at Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, Knox College, Arden Street.

Cost: \$30 for waged and \$20 for unwaged/students.

In October:

The Other Church History:

How Christianity went East and South into Asia and Africa from the Beginning until the Present Day

Presented by Dr Tim Cooper (Department of Theology and Religion, University of Otago), this course will be held on **Friday October 10, 7-9pm and Saturday October 11, 9-12.30** in Burns 5 (Albany Street), University of Otago.

Cost: \$30 for waged and \$20 for unwaged/students.

To register contact the Summer School & Continuing Education Office, University of Otago,

Email: continuing.education@otago.ac.nz

Phone: 479 9181.

THE EDITOR of TOUCHSTONE, our Church's newspaper, PAUL TITUS, was the speaker at Wednesday's OPEN EDUCATION lecture at Mornington. An appreciative audience was given a most interesting glimpse of the man himself; how he (a non-church anthropologist) found himself editor of a Church newspaper; the making of the monthly newspaper; and the challenging factors of the Church environment in which he works. Paul is a Californian by birth, and he was brought up in an episcopal family. Like many others who eventually settle here, he met and married a Kiwi girl and came to New Zealand seeking work. He enjoyed writing, and he found himself writing stories for an agriculture machinery magazine and an ecumenical newspaper called **CROSSLINK**. When the Presbyterians pulled out, Crosslink became "Touchstone" and Paul was contacted to edit it.



In answer to a question he said the main purpose of **TOUCHSTONE** is to tell the stories of the Church and its people, an objective of which he never tires. While he himself is of liberal disposition, he sometimes has to tread a sensitive path between the liberal and conservative sides of the Church and their contrasting approaches to many issues. Clearly, he has done much to develop the paper as an organ for conveying the news of the Pacific Island people who are assuming an increasing influence - Tongan, Samoan and Fijian.

While he no longer finds time to write as much as he would like, Paul's time is very busy facilitating and managing two monthly newspapers, and many lively interests competing for space. With much credit to Paul, **TOUCHSTONE** is a real good advertisement for NZ Methodism.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

One of our students came to Approach in early February. He was visiting his mother in Dunedin from another city and came into the Approach office to “find out what we did here” and after a conversation with Stuart enrolled in the youth course.

He had come to Dunedin to help out the family. He helps look after his younger brothers and sisters, and is often the cook and cleaner for the family. Family loyalty is one of his most important motivators. Some years at school were difficult for him – suffering from depression, anxiety, blackouts, memory loss, and very weak eyesight (36% vision without glasses). He finds reading lots of text very hard and finds that he loses concentration and doesn't remember what he has read.

Between the ages of 12 and 14 he mostly stayed at home to look after family. By 15 years old he was getting into trouble resulting in court ordered time at the service academy. About this time a fishing boat sank off Stewart Island with a loss of 7 lives. The 7 drowned people were related to him through the wider whānau. A recent course trip to Otakou Marae was an opportunity for him to visit the grave of two of his family members buried there.

In April he told his tutors that he had to go away for a week to go to family event in another city. This did turn into slightly more than a week but throughout this absence Stuart stayed in contact with him via txt with a view to maintaining the relationship and keeping the door open for him to return – which he did on the 20th May.

While he was away he had time to reflect on what he had been doing at Approach and the support that had been offered and decided that he “wanted to get his credits”. Since returning to Approach, he has passed his NCES – the 2nd student in the group to do so, and has now



also finished the last 5-10 credits of his NCEA 1. He has recently become one of the student reps.

Approach has been a very different experience from school and other courses for this student – “tutors understand how I learn and treat me like an adult.” and “Having Sharon is great to help out with stuff.”

He has recently turned 18 and he has worked through the tricky Studylink process to get his allowance sorted out and is now in a position financially to get his own place to live. His attendance since returning from has been excellent and he is progressing well with his course work towards NCBAC and NCEA 2.



“A QUAKER POET'S REFLECTIONS ON HIS POETRY, ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THE OTHER, AND INCARNATION”

Marvin Hubbard, 12 noon to 2pm, Wednesday 24 September 2014. The Upper Room Chaplaincy lounge Mezzanine floor (eastern end), University Union building. Please feel free to bring your lunch. Tea, coffee and milo will be provided. All welcome.



WHAT IS ‘NEWS’ – WHO WILL INFORM US?

A BBC announcer, on Good Friday, 1930, said “Ladies and gentlemen, there is no news tonight, so here is some music.”

For centuries most of the news in newspapers was foreign. Domestic news carried the danger of attracting government censorship – there was little by way of analysis or comment. What was offered was undigested and unexplained - a miscellany of things that weren't all that relevant. Ships arrived in port, dignatories arrived at court, share prices rose and fell, generals were appointed or relieved of command.

Is that so very different from the celebrity relationships, or the political manoeuvrings, that today's papers so painstakingly report?

In the lead-up to the election this year how on earth can we judge the merits of anything when the centre of attention has been on whether information we are being given has been obtained legally or not. Or whether it is even remotely near the truth because of accusations about the characters themselves, of the purveyors of the facts. It seems today as if nothing can be discussed or reported calmly.

We are assailed by examples of cruelty, injustice, falsehood, hypocrisy, greed and incompetence, sometimes in a single story. We are in danger of getting so distracted by the ever-changing agenda of the news that we wind up unable to develop political or ethical positions of any kind. We may lose track of which of the many claimed outrages really matter to us, or what it was that we felt we cared about so passionately only hours ago.

There is, it seems, especially in Tv news reporting, an anxiety to be first with the news, to maximise reader comments, to create heat, sound and more fury and thus add to the sense of confusion. Today's news is full of loose ends. Events are set out in such a disorganised, fractured and intermittent way that it is difficult to hold on to the thread of the most important issues for any length of time. If people are increasingly cynical and apathetic about public affairs, surely the responsibility lies as much with the news media as with politicians.

But in today's world of online news sites and sophisticated search engines we are able to create our own priorities and pursue our own interests. If there is an important story we want to follow we can expect almost minute-by-minute updates. Errors, misconceptions, and unwarranted speculation can be corrected or modified. There aren't space limitations so we can ourselves get all the background we need by way of expert analysis and documentation.

These thoughts were occasioned by an article in *New Statesman* earlier this year. The author, Peter Wilby, claimed that newspapers are still the most important medium for understanding the world. I would like to agree with him – I certainly can in terms of my preference for newspapers over Tv as a source of understanding.

But what really happened in the pre-printing-press world, in terms of disseminating the news. News was usually exchanged amid the babble of the marketplace, or the tavern, where truth competed with rumour, mishearing and misunderstanding.

Let's think of just one biblical example. There was a day in the life of Jerusalem when the crowd heard of the arrival of a man from the Galilee region who was renowned for the good stories he told, the healing miracles he had performed, and the strange message he had to share. That crowd went to the gate through which he was to enter the city, and with palm fronds in their hands cheered him to the echo. He was, for the moment, the popular hero

Less than a week later that same crowd was standing in the forecourt of the Governor's residence shrieking for the blood, for the death, of that same man from Galilee. How did they so change their mind? Did they get their lead from the 'babble of the market place ... where truth competed with rumour, mishearing and misunderstanding?' Is that the world to which we seem to be returning?

Have you ever wondered, even for a moment, why it is that we call the Gospel of Jesus of Nazareth 'Good News? Is the good news of the Gospel anything to do with news in the newspaper or news on Tv or news we can access on our computer? Surely it has to be. However special it is, it is still good news for every human being – and, strange as it may seem, we are the best people to share it!

Donald Phillipps