



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
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Parish Office:	Siosifa: parish@dmm.org.nz	466 4600
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Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

2nd November 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 9th November

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

MORNINGTON MEMBERS please add to your diary the next **Leaders' Meeting on Tuesday November 4th** in the lounge at 7.30pm. Thanks, Hilda.



MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP'S next meeting is to be Mr. David Woodward speaking to us about bees on Tuesday 4th November at 1:30pm. All interested people are welcome. Please phone 489 7663 if you would like to come.

25th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY - INVITATION

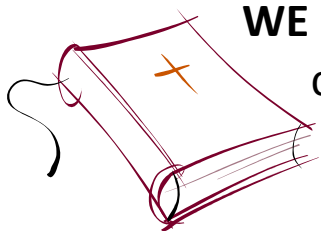
Greg Hughson was ordained 25 years ago (November 5th 1989) in the Michael Fowler Centre Wellington, during the 1989 Methodist Conference. To acknowledge the significance of this anniversary a "gathering of friends" will be held at Mornington Methodist Church on Wednesday 5th November. There will be a pot-luck meal from 6pm-7pm in the lounge and a time of reflection, sharing and Holy Communion, led by Rev Siosifa Pole in the Church from 7pm-8pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

THIS BLOOD-STAINED EARTH

Next Sunday, Rod Mitchell will lead a service at Mornington and Glenaven commemorating the Armistice which closed World War 1. There will be special music and readings, and an opportunity to create prayers for peace. If you have a memento of someone who took part in that war, please bring it with you: you will not be asked to display it but you will be able to prayerfully reflect on it.

WEDNESDAY 12th November 2pm Mid-Week Service @ Maran-atha all welcome.

WEDNESDAY 12th November 7:30pm @Wesley Parish Prayer Group Meeting. Please come to support our Parish.



WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ YOUR BIBLE. You can do this in one year by spending only 15 minutes a day with the ONE YEAR BIBLE in the NEW LIVING TRANSLATION soft cover version. If we can get 20 we can get it for \$19:99 we already have 9 people so would like to get 11 more people. This normally retails for \$39:99. They would make an ideal Christmas gift. This is a Bible Society Promotion. Anyone interested please phone 489 7663.

TRAGEDY IN SIERRA LEONE

On Wednesday 19 November, at Mornington Methodist Church starting at 7.30pm, there will be a special presentation by Professor Tony Binns of the Department of Geology, University Of Otago, who has for some years supported the Kayima Community Primary School in northern Sierra Leone, and has been honoured as a chief of the local village for his humanitarian efforts there. Sierra Leone is one of the poorest counties in the world; it is now suffering from the ravages of Ebola. Professor Binns is hoping to raise money to support the continuation of this vital educational work with African children. All profits from the talk will go to the school, as will all profits from the meal held last month for Open Education and the meal (again provided by Judy Russell) which will be offered at 6pm before Professor Binns' presentation. Everybody in the parish is invited to both the meal and the talk; it is something we can do for children much worse off than we can imagine, an occasion for Christian generosity and compassion. Ring 455 3727 to book a place at the meal which will cost \$15 (more if you are able to give more).

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING DECISIONS

In the Special Parish meeting held at Wesley Hall last Wednesday at 7.30pm the following were discussed and accepted:

1. A general statement of Aims and Strategies for the Parish. This brief statement is still subject to minor additions and alterations by the Parish Executive at its next meeting but was found to be largely acceptable as a measure for directing the future of the Parish.
2. A motion was passed 26 for/ 7 against/ 7 abstaining accepting that there should be an examination of the feasibility of an option of selling Broad Bay and Wesley sites to provide part of the finance required to bring St Kilda, Glenaven and Mornington properties up to the required NBS standard or redevelopment. This recommendation will be passed to the next meeting of the PF&R committee for implementation. It is understood that if this option is not viable other options will be examined.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Take10 Streets:

Take 10 Streets has an overall outcome of 'connectedness'. We have identified four main groups in the community that people can be categorised into; micro-communities, optionally disaffiliated, informal relations and isolated.



From the information we receive we can create a “Connections Map”. This will map, collate and uncover skills, talents, resources, idea’s and groups among the neighbourhood that may be transferable to other residents e.g. gardening skills, good at writing. These skills and locally owned resources have the potential to benefit other residents and the neighbourhood as a whole.

Over the past month there have been examples of that “connection” to others and to that community that struck me. One in particular was while I was walking along Oxford Street and came across a man with a plastic bag and poppa-scoop, removing any rubbish and dirt from the ground.

What an amazing 'asset' to the community, a skill and leader-style commitment to South Dunedin. This is an invaluable skill of initiative, he saw it was needed so he did it, however it also brings to light a pride in South Dunedin this man has.

This pride and happiness is also exerted in one resident who remarked on his street as a “big family”.

Having lived in different cities across 3 continents I can’t remember when I was last stopped by a stranger walking along the street. With many people having a fear of crime we are somehow under the impression it would be a threat. However another day while out and about in the 10 streets, I was stopped and asked the time by a young female. I instantly felt the comfort she had in South Dunedin and her community; it is still a place these random acts occur.



SOMETHING FROM NOTHING

One of the most important connections we can make is with our past. And learning from our past, that is, carrying its acquired wisdom forward into our own behaviour in the present, is a fruitful way of making such connections.

Now the wisdom of the people who went before us is often stored up in their stories—both the story of their lives and the stories they invented and passed on to their children’s children. Here is an old Yiddish story (no one knows just how old it is) that is still told today. It was introduced during the recent Open Education session on grandparenting, but like any good story it stands much re-telling.

When Joseph was a baby, his grandfather (who was a tailor) made him a wonderful little coat to keep him warm and dry. But as Joseph grew older the wonderful coat grew older too. One day his mother said to him, ‘Joseph, look at your coat. It’s frazzled and it’s worn and it’s unsightly and it’s torn. It is time to throw it out.’ ‘Grandpa can fix it’, Joseph said.

So Joseph’s grandfather took the little coat and turned it round and round. ‘Hmmm,’ he said as his scissors went snip snap and his needle flew in and out,’ there’s just enough material here to make a wonderful jacket. Joseph put on the wonderful jacket and went outside to play. But as Joseph grew older the wonderful jacket grew older too. One day his mother said to him, ‘Joseph, look at your jacket. It’s shrunken and small, it doesn’t fit you at all. It is time to throw it out.’ ‘Grandpa can fix it’, Joseph said.

Joseph's grandfather took the jacket and turned it round and round. 'Hmmm,' he said as his scissors went snip-snap and his needle flew in and out,' there's just enough material here to make a wonderful vest. Joseph put on the wonderful vest and wore it to school the very next day. He was so proud of it he wore it all the time. But as Joseph grew older the wonderful vest grew older too. One day his mother said to him, 'Joseph, look at your vest. It's spotted with glue and there's paint on it too. It is time to throw it out.' 'Grandpa can fix it', Joseph said.

So Joseph's grandfather took the vest and turned it round and round. 'Hmmm,' he said as his scissors went snip-snap and his needle flew in and out,' there's just enough material here to make a wonderful tie. Joseph wore the wonderful tie to his grandparents' house every Friday. But as Joseph grew older the wonderful tie grew older too. One day his mother said to him, 'Joseph, look at your tie. This big stain of soup makes the end of it droop. It is time to throw it out.' 'Grandpa can fix it', Joseph said.

Joseph's grandfather took the tie and turned it round and round. 'Hmmm,' he said as his scissors went snip-snap and his needle flew in and out,' there's just enough material here to make a wonderful button. Joseph wore the wonderful button on his braces, to hold his pants up. One day his mother said to him, 'Joseph, where is your button?' Joseph looked. It was gone.

He searched everywhere but he could not find it. Joseph ran to his grandfather's house. 'My button, my wonderful button is lost!' he cried. His mother ran after him. 'Joseph, listen to me. The button is gone, finished, kaput. Even your grandfather cannot make something from nothing!' Joseph's grandfather shook his head sadly. 'I'm afraid that your mother is right,' he said. Even I cannot make something from nothing!'

But the next day when Joseph went to school, ‘Hmm,’ he said, ‘There’s just enough material here to make a wonderful story.’ And he sat down at his desk and his pen went scritch-scratch, scritch-scratch over the paper.

I love stories, and I am intrigued by this one as it wrestles with remorselessly shrinking possibilities and yet emerges with renewed hope for the future. I admire Joseph’s shining faith in his grandfather; I have to admit to his mother’s constant and unflinching sense of reality. And I rejoice in the creativity of the human spirit—that light in the gathering darkness, which refuses to be put out. I also think I learn something about the unbroken faith and indomitable courage that has enabled the Jewish race to survive through generations of persecution and horror.

‘But you can’t make something from nothing.’ Was that the challenge that led to the creation of our universe? What do you make of this story? Is it worth adding to the wisdom you are gathering together and will hand on some day to your successors?

Colin Gibson