



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 Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663
Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

23rd November 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 30th November

11.00 am	Mornington	Combined at Broad Bay
11.00 am	Mosgiel	Combined at Broad Bay
11.00 am	Glenaven	Combined at Broad Bay
11.00 am	Wesley	Combined at Broad Bay
11.00 am	St Kilda	Combined at Broad Bay

BROAD BAY METHODIST CHURCH closing service, 11am, 30 November 2014. The shared lunch and shared memory time after the service will be at the Broad Bay Community Centre in Clearwater Street, a couple of minutes walk from the church. If possible, keep your food for the lunch in your vehicle and bring it along to the Community Centre after the service at the church. If we've got enough helpers, we may have someone at the hall to take your food before the service. Enquiries to Elspeth McLean 478 0547 or Jenny Winter 478 0491. Full details are on the Parish website.

**OTAGO DISTRICT METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
GOLDEN JUBILEE PARTY**

Saturday November 29 2014

Mornington Church

2pm

WEAR SOMETHING GOLD

A golden programme will be provided

One plate per carload please.

Cost \$5.00



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Lachlan Jones who turns 13 on November 29th!

THE FABULOUS FESTIVE CHRISTMAS CONCERT welcomes all and will be held at Mornington Church on Saturday the 6th of December commencing at 7.30pm sharp. Calling any talented individuals ready and willing to show their skills. The extraordinary evening will be accompanied by popcorn and ice cream, no cost but donations to the Kayima Community Primary School. Please contact Annabelle or Campbell Weston during the evenings on 454 5600 if you're interested in participating.



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Support & Advocacy: We have had children from six new families start at Little Citizens this month and Jenny has visited four of the families at home

so far. It has been a great experience to meet the parents, hear their stories and let them know about the support the Mission can offer. Jenny also enjoys working with clients who have been referred for support from other community services and it's great when people reach their goals and make positive changes with our support.

GET BEHIND GIGATOWN COMPETITION

With our Parish having an interest in Modern Communication let's see if we can get the best fast broadband here in Dunedin.



The Gigatown competition is coming to a close soon. Dunedin has done well in the finals, and there's still one last opportunity to get involved to help ensure Dunedin will win access to the fastest internet in the Southern Hemisphere.

Each of the finalist towns has prepared a 'Plan for Gig Success' that describes how it will make the most of town-wide access to gigabit fibre. From now until **midday on Monday 24 November**, the public has the chance to vote on the plan they like the most. We are encouraging Methodist members to participate in voting for Dunedin's plan.

In order to vote, you'll need to register and verify your mobile phone number (NZ mobiles only). Here's how:

1. Visit gigatown.co.nz
2. If you've previously registered on the Gigatown site: enter your email address in the field indicated and click 'CONTINUE'.
3. If you don't have an account on Gigatown: register your name and email address as indicated, then click 'CONTINUE'.
4. Enter your mobile phone number and click 'SEND VERIFICATION CODE'. An SMS containing your verification code will be sent to your mobile phone.
5. Enter your verification code where indicated and click 'VERIFY MY PHONE'. You will then see a message indicating your eligibility to vote on the plan.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP. The November meeting will take place in the Church lounge/Sunday School on Wednesday the 26th, at 2 p.m. All Members from Mornington welcome Glenaven ladies to join us in a "FUN & GAMES" afternoon. This will be followed by a surprise afternoon tea. RSVP to Helen - 4762850 - by Sunday 23rd November.

A FUND RAISING EVENT that exceeded all expectations as held on Wednesday night, and it took only 30 (approx) members of the Parish to make it happen. Principal speaker was Prof. Tony Binns of the OU Geography Dept, ably assisted by one of his Masters students Hana Cadzow. Both have a very special interest in SIERRA LEONE on the west coast of Africa, and one of the countries most in the news for the tragic ebola toll that is cutting a swathe of human misery. However, neither Tony nor Hana came to speak about ebola. Tony has been visiting Sierra Leone for 40 years, a remarkable effort, aimed at improving the lives of the people of Kayima (a remote township in the far north east of the country.) During that time Tony has headed many initiatives that have made a difference, so much so that earlier this year the paramount chief bestowed honorary chieftom on him, a remarkable honour to be sure. Tony addressed us dressed in the specially made and highly adorned cloak in which he was invested. Tony warmed us to his latest project - to build two new classrooms for the Kayima school, which is bursting at the seams to meet needs beyond its present



capacity. Expenses for the meal were cut to \$180, and together with the profits, additional donations and the proceeds from the October dinner, a sum in excess of \$1000 has been donated to the School room project. Not nearly enough to build even one NZ classroom but we are assured \$1000 will work miracles in Kayima.

Hana has made but one visit, to the capital city Freetown, where she made a 2-month study of the work of the women urban farmers who intensively develop pieces of land in the sprawling city that would otherwise be waste land. She was profoundly moved by the warmth and friendliness of the women, and says she has heaps to learn from them.

Both speakers proved very engaging we shall remember their love and care for the people of Sierra Leone.



2014 CONFERENCE “TO SOW AND TO GROW”

Last weekend I travelled to Hamilton for our Methodist Conference. On the plane I sat next to a young man flying north to attend the funeral of a young friend who had taken his own life. He needed to talk, and after an hour and a half of sharing, thanked me for listening. The theme of Conference this year was “To sow and to grow”. Conference began on Saturday morning with a *powhiri* at the Claudelands Arena, a huge building larger than the Dunedin Edgar Centre. On Saturday afternoon I conducted an outdoor wedding for friends in heavy rain, in the Hamilton gardens. Then, on Sunday morning I preached at St Francis Co-operating Church (Anglican-Methodist-Presbyterian) in Hillcrest Hamilton. This is the Church from which I was launched into

training for ordained ministry, 30 years ago. This is the Church where Hilda and I met, and where we led the Youth Group together for six years. It was good to be back, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of my ordination with many dear friends who are still members of this Church. (They graciously provided a 25th anniversary cake!) On the Sunday afternoon I returned to Conference for the ordination service. Twelve Presbyters (including Tania Shackleton) and one Deacon were ordained in a 3 hour service which included Holy Communion together. Around 3,000 people attended, including an awesome combined Tongan Choir comprised of around 1,000 people. It was a wonderful celebration of faith, during which I had a strong sense of God's presence. David Ahn was received into full connexion. He sends his regards to everyone.

Conference business sessions were held at the Waikato Institute of Theology. Each day began and ended with carefully prepared devotions, committing our days to God, and at the end of the day, thanking God for all we had experienced. Nicola Grundy was one of the Conference Chaplains. Our new President, Rev Tovia Aumua and Vice President Dr Bella Ngaha led conference with grace, wisdom and humour. There was a profound sense of fellowship, togetherness and connection at Conference this year. For me, Conference was an experience of God bringing a very diverse group of people together to celebrate, worship, strategise and plan for mission together, in the name of Jesus Christ. John Wesley's words "An ounce of love is greater than a pound of knowledge" echoed through the Conference a number of times.

Pauline McKay from Christian World Service spoke passionately about the needs of huge and growing numbers of displaced and troubled people in South Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Sierra Leone and elsewhere. Dr Nasili Vaka'uta was welcomed as the new Principal of Trinity College. Nasili, originally from Tonga, is a Biblical Scholar and a descendant of the Wesleyan Missionary Rev James Watkin, whose son married Nasili's great grandmother.

On Monday night we heard an impassioned plea for morality to undergird and reconnect with economics in NZ from Bryan Bruce. In NZ, the richest 10% of people own 53% of our nation's wealth. Things have become a great deal worse since the mid-80's when neo-liberal economic theory began to be applied in our land. Bryan suggested that the "God is Dead" theology of the 1960's created greater receptivity to the introduction of such ruthless and uncaring economic policies. (see www.bryanbruce.co.nz). Bryan asked us to consider "What is an economy for, ultimately?" and urged us all to advocate for a return to the "**We** focused society" from our current "**Me** focused society". We do not have a moral marketplace and we need one. We have a faceless economy where men and women are sacrificed to the idols of profit and consumption. Devotions on Tuesday morning included the song "God's not dead" led by youth from Sinoti Samoa. May this belief propel us towards economic reform! There was a lot of talk at Conference about doing Justice and applying our faith. This came through strongly in the Methodist Mission reports from Laura Black and others. Christchurch Methodist Mission is involved now with providing housing for low income families. A Tongan Church housing project in Auckland has been a great success.

To sow and to grow our faith from a Methodist Church base we were encouraged at Conference to arrange worship which makes use of modern video clips, worship which is participatory, image-focused, worship which includes group exercises has community building as a goal. We were reminded of the importance of expecting people to **experience** God in worship, and in the whole of life. We were encouraged to think encounter, rather than program.

On Tuesday night the speaker was Mr Opeti Omani a young social worker from Rotorua. The theme was suicide prevention, which I had spoken about earlier to the Conference. We engaged in exercises to remind us that building good relationships within our Church families, and in wider society, is crucial if we are to bring down our high suicide rate. We need to pay attention to our young people and to the

messages we convey to them about what we think of them. There was a musical Youth presentation which urged us all to listen more and to care more to young people today, some of whom are struggling with high expectations, bullying, peer-group pressure, financial pressure and loss of hope. Suicide rates will come down if we become more connected, building relationships of trust which will permit sharing at those times when we are in despair.

I started a conversation at Conference about the possibility of adding “Interfaith” to the “Mission and Ecumenical” division of the Methodist Church of NZ. Liliuokahlani Teofilo reported back on attending the recent WCC Ecology, Theology and Justice in Practice consultation in Geneva held during June. We need to “green” our Churches, and our world, if our world is to have a future. There were many more amazing and inspiring reports presented, many by young people. There is a great deal of positive energy at the Conference level of our Church. We are all encouraged by Conference to “sow and to grow” in our Parishes, depending upon God’s provision, guidance and empowering Spirit. We are not alone. God is with us. Thanks be to God. Conference concluded, as always with a Covenant service, where God’s presence and power was very evident in the sincerity and sacredness of this very special service of commitment to God.

This week I’m in Auckland for the Aoteaora NZ Tertiary Chaplains conference hosted by Rev Uesifili Unasa at Auckland University. Or theme is “Courageous Conversations”. Please pray for us.

Some websites from Conference to check out:

www.interchurchbioethics.org.nz

www.areyouok.org.nz

www.closetogether.org.nz

The official Conference report can be viewed via www.methodist.org.nz

Rev Greg Hughson
University Chaplain