



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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| 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

14th December 2014

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 21st December

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|----------|------------|-----------|
| 9.30 am | Mornington | S Pole |
| 9.30 am | Mosgiel | E Merrett |
| 11.00 am | Glenaven | S Pole |
| 11.00 am | Wesley | E Merrett |
| 1.00 pm | St Kilda | TBA |

GLORIA - Don't miss the City of Dunedin Choir concert on Friday 19 December, at Knox Church, starting at 7.30pm. It features Vivaldi's Gloria and Christmas music by Bach, Handel, Charpentier and Buxtehude. The choice of such excellent and exciting religious vocal and orchestral music under the leadership of the wonderful David Burchell deserves our support. A welcome change from 'Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer', 'Dashing through the (non-existent) snow', 'All I want for Christmas are my two front teeth' and other Santa Claus choruses.



COMBINED EVENING CAROL SERVICE TONIGHT

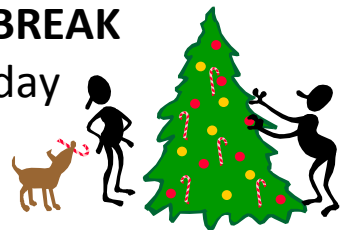
Tonight an ecumenical and combined evening carol service will be held at Mornington Methodist Church, starting at 7pm, followed by a supper. There will be a large choir formed from the Anglican, Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist churches, singing old and new carols, with lusty congregational singing as well. The theme of the service is 'Born in a Battle Zone', and it will be illustrated by striking visual images to match the texts. Don't miss this Christmas celebration, making the Christmas story relevant for our times. Everyone is invited: bring a friend.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On 20 December at 7:00p.m. those who wish to sing a carol or two to those church members and associates, who live within walking distance of the church, please assemble for a wander and sing around the immediate area of the church as we have done before. This year the weather will hopefully be supportive and the walk and sing will be enjoyable. As we will finish with supper a plate is requested to make for an enjoyable ending to this strenuous work out. Please advise if you wish to walk and sing or if you live close to the church and would like to be caroled. Contact Cam Weston 4545600 or 021 995 130

ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Mission Office will be closed from midday Wednesday 24th December until Monday 12th January. Could you please ensure your Orders of Service over this period are sent to Katrina (admin@dmm.org.nz) no later than **12 noon Thursday 18th December**. The final bulletin for 2014 will be the 21st December edition and the first Bulletin for 2015 will be 18th January. Thank you everyone, wishing you a very happy Christmas.



DECEMBER – JANUARY SERVICES:

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|------|-------------------|--|
| Sun | Dec 14 at 9.30 am | Y@M Christmas play at Mornington and Christmas choir Music. |
| | Dec 14 7.00 pm | Combined Carol service at Mornington – everyone welcome. Supper to follow. |
| Tues | Dec 24 10.30 pm | Supper then Christmas Eve Carol service at Glenaven. |
| Wed | 25 at 9.30 am | Christmas Day service at Mornington (none at Glenaven). |
| Sun | Dec 28 | Services at all churches as normal. |

Mornington and Glenaven in January 2015:

Sunday Jan 4 Communion with St Mary's Anglican church
 Jan 11 at Mornington Methodist church
 Jan 18 at Mornington Presbyterian church.
 Jan 25 at Mornington Methodist church.
 Feb 1 Back to normal!

**Mosgiel and Wesley:**

Sun Jan 4 Communion service led by Rev Donald Phillipps.
 Jan 11, Jan 18 and Jan 25 2015 services for Wesley and Mosgiel will be at Mosgiel.

ADVANCE NOTICE of our next Otago Southland Synod meeting:

20-22 February 2015, Camp Columba, Pukerau, Gore.

A time of sharing, learning and reflection. Guest speaker on how to share our faith. Put in your diaries now and more information to come in the new year.



MOSGIEL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP enjoy their **CHRISTMAS** afternoon tea held at the President's house.



A GREAT LITTLE CONCERT was held at Mornington last Saturday night in aid of the fund for Kayima School in Sierra Leone. Organised by Cam and Annabelle Weston the programme brought a lot of laughs, tons of talent, and moments of sober reflection. A good time was had by all.

There's no space for individual photos of all the participants, but here's a happy group of those who combined their talents to ensure that with the help of popcorn & icecream we all went home having enjoyed each others' company. And for extra measure, two of the personalities of

the concert, Stand-Up Comedienne Christina Weston and her friend, Singer and Pianist Sophie Woodley.



STORY FROM THE MISSION

From Arahina: A client came to us after his daughter was removed by CYF from her primary home with her mother and was placed temporarily in care with the grandparents. The client had decided that he wanted to offer the opportunity for the daughter to live with him and his son, and requested support to get ready for a Family Group Conference to be held at CYFS in October. He identified what his child's needs were, changes he needed to make to his household in preparation to her coming to live with him, and what he needed to do to prepare for the FGCM. Sally went to this meeting as support, but he had worked hard towards this goal and was well prepared that he took the lead and as a result has been awarded full time care from the end of this school year. A great outcome, and a very pleased client and child.



KNOWING THE WAVE TO SURF

Recently, I walked down to St. Clair beach and saw surfers surfing in the sea. I watched them with curiosity, observing how they surf and when they surf. I noticed that the surfers congregate in the deep sea waiting for the right wave to surf. Each one of them has their own timing for the right wave to surf, and you can tell that by the time they surf. They are not all surfing at the same time but surfing in different times according to their knowledge of the right wave. I admire the surfers for their skill and experience to know the right wave to surf. Knowing the wave to surf signifies the importance of time [i.e. good timing]. The time has to be right in order for a surfer to enjoy surfing as well as to reach the beach unharmed. Those who do not know the correct wave to surf are likely to be in danger, and risk their lives. They could potentially drown or collide into the rocks.

There is a time for every wave to roll down the beach and it is up to each surfer to choose which one is suitable to catch. This understanding of waves' routine denotes the Tongan notion of '*Peau 'o taimi*' means 'waves

of time'. This notion '*Peau 'o taimi*' (waves of time) is different from the Eurocentric concept of time. European understanding of time is linear. It operates in a parallel line in a consecutive period. *Peau 'o taimi* notion refers to the changes that constantly occur in certain time and in different generations. Tongans view the changes that take as being like a spiral of waves. They are inevitable and they come in different times with diverse impacts upon the life of any society. These changes confront traditions and customs that are the norms in which a society operate. Changes that come in different times are like waves rolling down from the deep ocean. They come unexpectedly, and it is up to individuals to know how to adapt to them. Our failure and successes depend upon our knowing how to function in response to the inevitable changes that we face. Just as surfers need to know which waves to surf, we, as Christians need to know the type of ministry which is appropriate for a time of change.

We need to know the signs of times in order to operate in a way that will be relevant and successful. Jim Davidson in his book, entitled, *Effective Time Management*, writes, "Time is an invaluable resource. When time is not utilized effectively, productivity and money are automatically lost. How you arrange your time is how you arrange your life and in your business, managing time is often synonymous with managing the job." If we accept Davidson's concept of time as the appropriate way to respond to changes that happen, then we would have to control both the time, and the changes that occur. However, that is impossible because change can happen at any time and in any context without our control. William T. McConnell in his book *The Gift of Time* claims that time is understood differently in different cultural contexts. He argues that when we enter to another culture we have to readjust our understanding of time. He writes, "Whenever two different world or time views meet, there is need for an adjustment, a re-education on the part of all involved, in order for each to understand the thought patterns of the others." This view point is line with late Rev Dr Sione 'Amanaki Havea's interpretation of Pacific Time in his article entitled "Coconut Theology" in *South Pacific Theology*. He writes, "Many people when they are late talk about Fijian time or Tongan time, but the best suggestion is to call it the Coconut time, for it does not matter whether one is early or late. The important thing is that the task is done

and the mission fulfilled.” (p.14) While time is interpreted differently in different contexts, our role is to ensure that we take appropriate actions to meet the need of the time, and the change that occurs. Like a surfer who knows which wave to surf, we need to know the signs of the times and respond effectively. If we do not operate in ways that suit the needs of the time, we will fail our mission.

Our Presidential Team addressed the 2014 Methodist Conference with their theme, ‘A time to sow and a time to grow.’ They claimed that in order for the Methodist Church to grow, its people need to know the type of gospel and message to proclaim to meet the need of this generation. They reflected on the 200 years of Christianity established in New Zealand when the gospel was first proclaimed by Reverend Samuel Marsden at Oihi in the Bay of Islands, on Christmas Day 1814. Since that day the gospel has been sown and has grown in many different parts of Aotearoa. Missionaries used different ways and tactics to meet the needs of that time and context. Surely, the method that they used is no longer relevant in our era and generation. The church today has to reshape its ministry to meet the needs of this time and the context of this generation.

The closing of Broad Bay Methodist church was a challenge for this Parish. This closing provides an opportunity for our Parish and the whole Connexion to rethink our ministry in relation to time and context. If as a church we do not understand the needs of the time and practice of ministry appropriate for our context, we will certainly fail. Like a surfer who knows which wave to surf, we should be a church which knows how to operate its ministry in a changing time. Jesus valued the importance of time when he compared time to the cycle of nature. While he was teaching about the end of the age he used the cycle of nature to illustrate the nearness of that time. He says, “Let the fig tree teach you a lesson. When its branches become green and tender and it starts putting out leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things, you will know that the time is near, ready to begin” (GNB, Matthew 24:32-33) I believe if this Parish is to enhance its life and ministry, we have to be flexible. We need to be opened minded and responsive to the needs of our time, and shape our ministry to fit our modern day context.

Siosifa Pole