



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

15th November 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 22nd November

9.30 am	Mornington	C Gibson
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole & Mosgiel LMT
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole & Mosgiel LMT
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

SYMPATHY - On behalf of the Mornington Methodist Church and also the Dunedin Methodist Parish, I would like to convey to Leah Taylor and the family our sympathy and condolences for the death of her husband, Leslie George Taylor. It is our prayer that God will give you and the family peace and hope during your period of mourning.

EXPLORERS GROUP - Next meeting, Sunday 22 November, Mornington Lounge, 4.30 pm.

ADVENT STUDY SERIES - An Advent study series will start on Thursday the 26th of November at Wesley Methodist Church, 7pm. Everyone is welcome to participate in this study. This study series will be based on a book written by Liz Babbs, entitled, *Making room for Jesus*. The study will start with a pot-luck dinner.

PARISH COMBINED SERVICE - The Parish will have a combined service on Sunday 29th of November in Mosgiel Methodist Church, 10am. Members of other congregations are expecting to take part in this service. Please bring a plate to share after the service.

5th SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER 29th NOVEMBER - Mornington Methodist is hosting a very special event for the churches of Mornington. Rev. Dr. David Clark, MP for North Dunedin will join us for a meal and the service. Meal 4:30 – 6:30 and Service is at 7pm. David will speak at both occasions on the theme 'Can we afford to be generous'. Please put in your diary.

FOLLOWING ON FROM LAST YEAR a concert is to be held in the Mornington Church on Saturday Nov 28 commencing at 7:00p.m. This is open to all who would like to entertain. To date a wide variety of items have been proposed.

Would those who would like to take part please advise Cam Weston on 021 995 130 or 454 5600 so a program can be arranged. Please come, whether performing or not, as an enjoyable night of surprising variety is promised with some crowd involvement required. Shoes for dancing may assist. Entry is a gold coin to cover costs of a simple intermission delight.

DUNEDIN INNER CITY MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION RADIO CHURCH

Each Sunday morning a pre-recorded service of worship is offered to our wider community by members of the Dunedin Inner City Ministers' Association.

Shut-in folk, people in rest-homes, in hospital, travellers and anyone else who cannot attend church services can tune in to:

Otago Access Radio 105.4 FM , or worship with us online via www.oar.org.nz each Sunday morning from 8.30 am – 9.00 am.

Please publicise these services widely through all your networks, and tune in yourself, to be led in worship by a wide range of Dunedin Church leaders.

Podcasts of services are available (click on the podcast tab on the website) so you can listen to them at any time.

Radio Church also now has a Facebook page. Check it out! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1241647572519138/>

For further information contact Greg Hughson
greg.hughson@otago.ac.nz

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH NZ 2015

At the end of November, the week before the Paris Climate talks, people around the globe will march in the largest climate mobilisation the world has ever seen. People are joining together to hold decision makers to account - to send them a message that it is time to start protecting our families, communities and environment from climate change, and it's time to stop protecting polluters.

The Dunedin People's Climate March will be held on Sunday 29 November. People will assemble at the Dental School, 310 Gt. King St, Dunedin from 12.45pm ready to march at 1pm along George St to a rally in the Octagon. In the Octagon there will be speakers and entertainment. The march will be peaceful and whanau friendly. It is a call for climate justice and peace, while celebrating the beautiful planet we share with all other living beings.

If you would like more information, or to register for the march, visit: <http://www.peoplesclimatemarch.org.nz/>

Parish Links

We have great news from Wesley. Stalwart member, Eva Eaton has finally moved back into her restored home after five long months of waiting and wondering. We all wish her the best as she settles in and gets on with life again. We also remember the many other unfortunate people in South Dunedin who are still waiting for their houses to be fixed.

WELCOME VISITORS at Mornington last Sunday were Swedes Per Harling and Johannes Sternberg. Per is a minister with the Lutheran Church of Sweden and a prolific hymn composer in both Swedish and English. He and his friend Johannes, a businessman, came to New Zealand, among other things, to renew bonds with Shirley Murray, and to meet Colin Gibson. Per preached a most engaging sermon about 3 contemporary hymn writers in different parts of the world, and held a good congregation spellbound. They came over as friendly, and very eager to learn and understand prevailing New Zealand attitudes to world affairs. Johannes (left) and Pers are pictured with Siosifa and Colin.



STORIES FROM THE MISSION

Support and Advocacy

Several clients completed service this month at Arahina. One that stood out in particular was a young mum who knew that they were beginning to feel overwhelmed with their feelings of anxiety. She approached staff who put her onto Arahina Support Services and talked through her feeling of reverting to her old habits of self-harm which she was trying to avoid. Using positive coping strategies instead, and armed with information from her doctor, she felt empowered by watching her personal ORS score going up on the graph. Realising she was on the right track, decided to finish services after just three sessions, but knowing there would be support in the future from the Dunedin Methodist Mission if she needed it.



Arahina: Some new children have started this term and it has been wonderful to see the children engage the new ones as though they had always been attending. One afternoon the children had planned to go to the park, but the weather was not great so one of the children suggested turning the lounge into an inside camp. The ideas that flowed were amazing with furniture rearranged; sheets, cloths and towels became tents; fruit kebabs were made to cook over a pretend fire, and camp songs to sing together. What a fun session. When the children realised the blankets and materials were limited they joined together in teams and helped each other share resources. It was a great afternoon with exceptional team work and sharing. We had lots of milk and yoghurt donated by Food Share. This meant the children could have plenty of smoothie making practise, and all kinds of blends and flavours were whizzed up in the food processor to try. Surplus milk was frozen to make slushies at a later date. A 'help yourself box' is now on the counter for any surplus foods that cannot be frozen, and families attending Arahina help themselves if they can use it. It is really good the food gets used up each week and reports back of what the families made the food into is really good to hear.



Our world is full of the strangest interconnections. Sometimes we call these connections coincidence or luck (as luck would have it) or good or bad fortune. In fact medieval people thought that the world was under the rule of Lady Fortune, who forever spun her Wheel of Fortune, giving human beings a fortunate or unfortunate time.

Let me offer a striking instance of coincidence which took place just recently among the massive archival shelves of the Dunedin Public Library. I had taken two charming visitors there to look at the collection of hymn books which is now known as the Gibson Collection. They had come all the way from Sweden to meet New Zealand hymn writers and to see this collection. They were Per Harling, now a retired Lutheran minister and a world-famous hymn writer (both texts and melodies), and his close friend and former member of Per's congregation in Lausanne, Switzerland, Johannes Sternberg, now also retired from a stellar career as a top business man, who who could speak familiarly of meetings with Vladimir Putin and others.

The Dunedin librarian in charge of the collection, knowing in advance of the visit, had kindly pulled out all the Swedish hymnbooks in the collection, amounting to six in all. One of them immediately claimed Per Harling's attention. It carried on its inner cover the now faded stamp of its former owners, the Lutheran congregation of Ervsk, a remote village not far from Stockholm. How it had reached New Zealand, on the other side of the world, is still a mystery. (Have you ever taken a hymnbook from a church by mistake?)

Now there are, Per told me, about 9,000,000 Swedes. Yet he of all of them was probably the only one who could have spotted that book, since, as he told me later, in his young days he had himself led worship in the little village, travelling out to it from the larger city nearby. He was so impressed by this coincidental meeting with a small hymnbook in a public library so far from its home that he sent an email to the minister of the church, whom he still knew and with whom he had kept up communication. Later that night back came a friendly message from the minister. Yes, they had been missing that hymnbook for years, and were glad to know that it had been found by one of his compatriots. And, yes, the library was welcome to keep it in its collection, where it would be much more precious than on the shelves among many others in his little church.

I later discovered what had made the visit of Per Harling to New Zealand possible. It seems that last year he conducted the funeral of a young boy belonging to a wealthy Swedish family associated with the Lausanne church. The family grateful and wished to give him a large fee, but refused, saying that this was just one of the normal tasks for a minister like himself.

But the grateful family in turn contacted Per's friend Johannes, asking what they might do to express their gratitude. Johannes knew from many conversations with Per that he had long had a secret desire to travel to New Zealand, which he had never had the money to do, because he had heard so much about its writers and the beauty of its countryside. Seeing an opportunity to quietly reward their much-loved pastor, Johannes arranged for the family to provide a 'scholarship' that would cover Per's travel costs, and being a well-to do man himself decided to accompany him.

So, Per Harling dutiful and sincere service in the Lutheran Church of Lausanne, had provoked a deep response of gratitude from a grieving family. That family though the kindly offices of a friend, had enabled Per to satisfy a life-long ambition and had brought him finally to Dunedin. There his visit had identified a hymnbook which would otherwise have remained an anonymous 'thing' among hundreds of others books. And Per's email message back to a remote Swedish village church had provoked a gesture of friendship and generosity on the part of a Lutheran minister we will never know or meet.

All this generated in me a sense that although we often (too often) become pessimistic about the world, and fasten on the apparently rapid and unchecked spread of evil, there is a countervailing network of good brought about by good. Let that be part of our sense of connectivity. Didn't Jesus say something about doing good to others?

Colin Gibson